

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
**Thursday 21 June 2012**  
**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**

**Chair:**

Hon. M.J. Wright

**Members:**

Mr M.J. Atkinson  
Dr S.E. Close  
Mr J.A.W. Gardner  
Dr D. McFetridge  
Ms M.G. Thompson  
Mr D.C. van Holst Pellekaan

*The committee met at 09:00*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE, \$681,531,000**

**Witness:**

Hon. J.M. Rankine, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr C. Beattie, Chief Officer, South Australian State Emergency Service.  
Mr G. Lupton, Chief Officer, South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service.  
Mr G. Nettleton, Chief Officer, South Australian Country Fire Service.  
Mr D. Place, Chief Executive, South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission.  
Mr N. Stephenson, Manager, Financial Services, South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission.

**The 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 approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate changeover of departmental advisers. I ask the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition if they could indicate whether they have agreed on a timetable for today's proceedings and, if so, provide the chair with a copy. Has that occurred?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. If the minister undertakes to supply information at a later date, it must be submitted to the committee secretary by no later than Friday 21 September 2012. I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to make opening statements if they so desire. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions, based on about three questions per member, alternating each side. 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 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. All questions are to be directed to the minister, not the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to advisers for a response. I also advise that for the purposes of the committee television coverage will be allowed for filming from the areas clearly marked on the floor of the room.

I will now proceed to open the South Australia Police line for examination. The minister appearing is the Minister for Emergency Services. I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to Portfolio Statement, Volume 4. I call on the minister if she wishes to make an opening statement.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, I do wish to make an opening statement. The South Australian community is indebted to the many brave men and women who risk their life to keep our community safe. Over the past 12 months, some significant milestones have been reached by the emergency services sector, milestones such as the launch of Alert SA, a successful new social media collation page dedicated to social media feeds from emergency services via Twitter, Facebook and RSS; the continuation of the 'Prepare. Act. Survive' campaign; the establishment of a new SES community engagement unit; and a seamless and cordial enterprise bargaining process for MFS, just to name a few.

During 2011-12, the state was confronted with a number of high-risk events, which demonstrated the effectiveness of our emergency services and the strength of the SAFECOM model. The cooperation which is fostered under this model was on display right on our doorstep during the Wingfield recycled oil plant fire on 13 March. The circumstances were particularly tricky, given the nature of the fuel and the potential environmental impact on the Barker Inlet. With the MFS as primary responder, the CFS provided additional incident support and back-up across metropolitan Adelaide to ensure emergency response capacity was maintained. The SES was there also helping with the critical issues of oil disbursement.

Since Labor came to office, annual funding for the sector has risen from just \$104 million to \$227 million this coming financial year. This extra level of support is helping to deliver a modern, well-resourced sector, with dedicated and highly-trained people, using modern technology and equipment. An example of this is the new \$33 million South Australian computer-aided dispatch system. This replaces outdated technology with a modern, reliable system which has a higher capacity and interoperability across all dispatch agencies, through communication centres operated by SAPOL, SAFECOM and SA Ambulance. Its aim is to enable the best possible response to emergencies and calls for assistance.

As with any major systems upgrade, there will always be some issues which need to be addressed. However, since the SACAD became fully operational on 1 December 2011, it has operated reliably 24/7 and is providing the functions and capabilities expected of it. I acknowledge that some of the response data needs to be updated and programmed into the system, and this will remove rare cases of duplication or overallocation of resources being sent to a job.

Last year, our 15,000 volunteers and over 1,000 MFS employees attended more than 33,000 callouts. With so much at stake, it is important that we give these brave people the resources they need to get the job done. This financial year, \$26.4 million was budgeted for asset replacement across the agencies. This ensures that the sector has the funding it needs for capital projects, such as buildings, vehicles and rescue equipment. Since coming to office, 41 CFS, 11 MFS and 20 SES facilities have been either built or upgraded.

Looking ahead in a tight financial climate, I am delighted with the extra \$8.3 million boost over four years the sector received in this budget. In addition to maintaining the core emergency services that protect our community every day, the government has announced in this budget: \$500,000 for one new coastal vessel and two river vessels for the State Emergency Service; \$1.5 million to replace CFS volunteers' breathing apparatus; \$1.7 million over four years for South Australia to access the national emergency alert location-based solution system during emergencies, and this allows an emergency warning message to be sent to mobile phones, based on the phone's location, rather than a customer's billing address.

There is also \$2.6 million over the next four years for the CFS and SES to deliver nationally endorsed front-line training for our volunteers, which includes six new front-line training staff, and an extra \$2 million over four years for the MFS to accelerate the upgrade of firefighting appliances and support other priority capital projects, such as upgrades to the Wakefield Street fire station.

Our emergency service workers are heroes, there is no doubt, and I am very proud to be associated with them. While I look forward to overseeing these investments we have made in those workers, I most certainly do not look forward to the times when they will have to be used.

**The CHAIR:** Does the shadow minister wish to make an opening statement?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He does, Mr Chairman, and I acknowledge you as a former minister for police and emergency services, and a very good one you were.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This morning, coming to work I saw the Stirling pumper coming down the freeway to a car crash, and overnight there was a terrible tragedy, with the MFS having to attend a unit fire at Edwardstown where a man died, so the bottom line is that we cannot do without our emergency services, and to undervalue them, to underfund them, would be an absolute tragedy.

Can I just say that I am a member of the CFS. I will not show any particular preference towards the CFS in this committee, and I have the highest regard for all the emergency services. My earliest memories as a child are at Wakefield Street fire station when my father was in the MFS. Can I also say that the Liberal parliamentary party could actually crew a CFS truck with myself, the member for Stuart, the member for Hammond and the member for Finniss being members of the CFS.

I will try to put the questions today in blocks so that the chief officers can be available in blocks. Depending on the time, though, we may need to switch around a little bit. We will start with SAFECOM, which is the umbrella organisation for these emergency services. I emphasise the fact that the Liberal opposition has the utmost regard for the work that our emergency services do. They all do it in a professional capacity, whether they are paid or volunteers. It is a fully professional organisation, and we will do our best to support it. As to the questions today, certainly we will try to get answers to concerns for volunteers and concerns for full-time firefighters and emergency service workers. With that, we will start the questioning.

Minister, in Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 74, there are three listed functions for SAFECOM. There used to be a fourth listed function, and the fourth one stated 'the provision of appropriate strategic, administrative and other support services to the emergency services sector'. Why did you remove that fourth function? To me, 'the provision of appropriate strategic, administrative and other support services to the emergency services sector' is one of the most important functions of SAFECOM.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding is that changes were announced to the roles that SAFECOM would undertake last year during this very process, when the then minister was Kevin Foley, and the agency has gone through a process of reorganisation as a result of those announcements. SAFECOM has undertaken a very rigorous review of the services it delivers and developed a workforce plan that achieves the budget targets that were outlined last year, and that has been done in a way that very much minimises the impact on front-line services.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Minister, thank you for that. I think you will see other questions about the significant impacts on front-line services because of the changes in SAFECOM but I will move on. In Budget Paper 6, Part 2, page 48, Savings Measures, can you tell the committee how you think that SAFECOM will better achieve the \$834,000 in savings and efficiencies, considering—and you mentioned Kevin Foley, the former minister—the announcement, I think it was last year in estimates, of a \$2 million cut, much to the alarm of Mr Place? The further cuts that we are seeing in this year's budget are really putting the other emergency services under the pump.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** SAFECOM is going through the process of staff reductions. SAFECOM staff reductions total 66.9 FTEs over the period 2009-10 to 2015-16. The workforce in 2009-10 was 108.6. As I said, they have undertaken a rigorous review of the services that they deliver and they have developed a workforce plan that achieves the budget targets but minimises, (and I stress, minimises) the impact of front-line services. Extensive consultation has been undertaken with all of the key agencies including SAFECOM staff, emergency service agencies, unions and the volunteer associations; and the budget reduction target for 2012-13 is 59.5 FTE and \$5.329 million.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** You say that the savings will minimise impact on front-line services. Can you tell us which impacts on front-line services have been identified?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will let Mr Place advise you about that.

**Mr PLACE:** We focused upon our core requirements, which is meeting legislative requirements and also meeting our support requirements to support corporately the front-line services. To achieve the targets, we looked at the backroom functions within the commission, such as the sector strategy which has already been discussed, the policy and administration areas, and those areas have been heavily reduced which has, probably, a fairly minimal impact on front-line services. But other areas such as occupational health and safety, or IT, which is a critical part of supporting our front-line services during a fire campaign, for example, were mostly left untouched.

The cuts have most heavily come from the areas that have the least impact, or sometimes even minimal to no impact, on the front-line services.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you, Mr Place. So, strategy, policy and administration are the key areas that will be negatively impacted by these budget cuts.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Strategy, policy and minimal impacts, that is interesting. In Budget Paper 5, Capital Investment, page 22: minister, do you believe that there has been an under-investment for the replacement, renewal and upgrade of certain assets, plant and equipment, given that the total capital investment for emergency services for the 2012 financial year is \$26.878 million but the depreciation over the portfolio is \$22.594 million, a net of around \$4.282 million? Really, there has not been a significant increase. It is almost an under-investment, I would have thought.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I outlined in my opening statement that since coming to office, we have either built or upgraded 41 CFS stations, 11 MFS stations and 20 SES stations in the last 12 months for a total cost of nearly \$5.4 million. There have been building projects completed in Tumby Bay—and I am going over there, I think, in August to open the Tumby Bay SES—Balaklava CFS, Hamley Bridge CFS, Marrabel CFS, Appila CFS, Burra CFS/SES, Pekina CFS, Wilmington CFS, Cadgee CFS, Kybybolite CFS, Buckleboo, Cockaleechee, Karkoo, Mount Hope, Mount Wedge, Rudall, Sceale Bay, Tuckey, Wharminda, and Wirrulla CFS. So a massive investment even in the last 12 months. Again in this budget, there is provision for, as I said, the boats for the SES and renewal of the breathing apparatus equipment, \$1.5million I think for that.

The split of capital funds by agency this year: the CFS, \$13.547 million; nearly \$7.5 million for the MFS; nearly \$4 million for the SES; and a little over \$2 million for SAFECOM. The CFS this year will be receiving 26 fire appliances and five support appliances, replacement of 15 four-wheel drive command and dual-cab logistics vehicles; \$3.4 million has been allocated to replace fire stations, including four new facilities at Eden Hills, Lyndoch, Port Victoria and Nangwarry; and \$1.5 million has been allocated to replace the government radio network equipment.

The MFS will receive \$2.5 million to purchase cab chassis for the five general-purpose pumper appliances and one new medium aerial ladder appliance, and this includes an additional \$500,000 from the 2012-13 budget; \$1.164 million to complete the construction of the new Glen Osmond fire station; and \$208,000 has been allocated to replace the government radio network. For the SES, there are the boats, as I said, and also \$1.9 million to complete the construction of two new facilities at Campbelltown and Whyalla and \$200,000 for the replacement of four four-wheel drive command vehicles.

SAFECOM has received its capital allocation towards the continuing development and implementation of the location-based emergency information warning system alerts. I know there was a member in the house (not one of the three here today) who, during a budget reply speech, criticised the purchase of some of these vehicles, claiming that we were paying for bells, whistles and sirens for the upper echelons of these volunteer organisations, which I am sure you would agree is just an absolute nonsense.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I would not agree with my honourable colleague on that comment. The bottom line, minister, when you look at the financial investment for this year and then at the depreciation, it really is a net of \$4.282 million. Although all those projects you have mentioned certainly are necessary, in many cases they are overdue, as we will see in the CFS, where 22 stations in the South-East do not even have proper toilets, they have portable toilets, and some did not even have power until recently. They are overdue. I am not knocking the spend, but I am concerned about the real spend, and I have more questions on that.

I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 80. The number of FTEs under this business excellence program has been almost halved, from \$39.5 million to \$23.8 million. How can half the people produce the same level of output and service?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I guess it is the same answer as before: we have simply reduced the number of people in the agency.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 6, Volume 2, page 79, the FTEs, emergency services. SAFECOM itself is a very small part of the whole delivery of services and policy to the emergency services, and it has been reduced to four people in this budget. I know Mr Place is working very hard, but the others also must be working very hard.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** When you look at these numbers, in the 2011-12 budget it was budgeted for four FTEs and it is now budgeted for 3.6. So, it is 0.4 of a person, and I am advised

that that is basically the administrative roles that were being undertaken and that the service to the agencies has not been reduced.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 72—Workforce summary. Just quoting from the annual report of SAFECOM: 'SAFECOM has continued to review the way we do business and restructured our workforce to provide contemporary services.' I know, minister, you said with 'minimal impact', but it seems to me minimalist services.

I am really concerned that the CFS, MFS and SES are now having to do the job that SAFECOM was set up to do when we passed the legislation. Can you comment on that? What is meant by providing 'contemporary services'? To me, contemporary smacks of minimalism.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that it is a combination of not doing the non-critical issues and working smarter in the agency. Mr Place can outline further examples of that for you.

**Mr PLACE:** This goes on with the answer I gave earlier but just goes into more detail. As I said, we have reduced some of the backroom, if you want to call it that, as opposed to the support services that directly support the front line—so it is in the administration and policy area.

To give examples of how we have approached this, in terms of occupational health and safety, there have been no cuts to our staff at all because that is a critical function to support front-line services. As I have suggested, there are no cuts to our IMS or IT support because it is a critical function during major events.

We have worked smarter in some areas. We have centralised our asset management team and centralised our volunteer support team to make sure we retain the critical mass that can deliver the service that it needs to deliver. Some things have devolved to agencies, such as very manual things like managing insurance claims and things like that.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Can I just add a little bit more to the answer? During the state election campaign, there was a document put out around emergency services where SAFECOM was described as the government's central bureaucracy. The statement in the key emergency services election campaign document for the Liberal Party was that, since 2005, front-line services only received a 7 per cent increase in funding—which may or may not be correct; my understanding is it has doubled now—while the government's central bureaucracy (the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission) has had a 30 per cent increase in funding and an 18 per cent increase in staff. Since 2002, we have actually doubled the commitment to emergency services. It was \$104 million in 2002. It is now something like \$227 million.

**Ms THOMPSON:** My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 89. In what capacity does the Weatherill government provide support to Surf Life Saving SA?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Reynell for this question. Since 2002, the state government, through the Community Emergency Services Fund, has provided over \$14.2 million to support the invaluable work of Surf Life Saving SA. Each year, a grant from the fund is paid to help assist in delivering key services, such as beach patrols. The total annual operating grant payments that have been made since we came to office are \$5.1 million. Next year alone, \$1.8 million will be allocated to Surf Life Saving.

Since 2002, on top of this a further \$837,980 was provided from the department of recreation and sport. Funding is also provided to support Surf Life Saving's shark surveillance helicopter service. During the summer of 2011-12, this provided 84 hours of surveillance between North Haven and Goolwa, and since this service started in 2005 \$740,000 worth of support has been provided by the state government. Surf Life Saving plays a pivotal role in shark detection over summer weekends and public holidays, and it is joined by the University of South Australia's fixed-wing shark surveillance service. Together, 734 surveillance hours were provided.

The government also makes an annual allocation for major capital works, which are used for rebuilding or major refurbishment of the 18 clubs across South Australia. In general, the government provides 56 per cent of the funds required for 635 square metres for each project, in line with the standard emergency service requirement. Local government contributes one-third, and the remaining 11 per cent is provided from the particular surf club.

Since 2002, \$7.1 million has been allocated to rebuild or redevelop six Surf Life Saving clubs at Christies Beach, Somerton, North Haven, Brighton, Noarlunga and Seacliff. Of particular note is the Seacliff club; as part of the government's commitment to deliver top-quality facilities for surf lifesavers, we have honoured our election commitment to redevelop the club's facilities in the 2010-11 state budget at a cost of \$1.7 million.

The existing Henley Surf Life Saving Club facility was last developed in 1993 and has been listed by Surf Life Saving as a priority since 2004. I have been advised the Henley Surf Life Saving Club has had \$2 million set aside for the project and, whilst I know there have been a few hold-ups around the consolidation of property titles, I am told that the demolition of the existing club started yesterday.

Following a request from Surf Life Saving SA, the government also approved funding of \$1.1 million in the 2009-10 state budget towards the construction of Surf Central. This will be a Surf Life Saving state operational, coordination, training and storage facility at West Beach. This work is complete, and I understand is due to open in August this year, in conjunction with their new training and administrative centre.

Fundraising and corporate support are vital to Surf Life Saving. The team should also be commended for moving the organisation ahead in leaps and bounds. In close to five years, Elaine Farmer and her team have increased their base from a little over 5,000 to close to 8,000 members. The state government is proud of our association and looks forward to continuing our work with this great organisation.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I refer the minister to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 96. Can the minister please outline the state's capacity to respond to flooding?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We might need it today.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes. I thank the member for Croydon for his question. If I heard the news correctly this morning, Port Road was suffering some difficulties with flooding. Members of the committee may not be aware that floods are the most economically damaging natural hazard in South Australia. This reflects their risk ranking in Australia as a whole where floods cause more damage on an average annual basis than storms or bushfires. The South Australian SES alone responds to an average of 1,300 requests for assistance each year due to flood.

To bolster our resilience to the threat of flooding, in 2011 the state government provided additional funding of \$500,000 for the acquisition of six mobile contemporary flood response kits. Each kit comprises a sandbag filling machine, pumps and 90 metres of temporary flood levees. As a complementary measure, the SES holds approximately 160,000 sandbags at strategic locations around the state and, in addition to this, each SES unit holds about 2,000 bags for routine operations. The SES also maintains cooperative arrangements with councils which allow quick delivery of sand and plant and equipment to support flood response operations. The majority of SES units also store up to 10 tonnes of sand locally and have negotiated arrangements with suppliers for resupply or delivery to local sites.

Effective response to recovery from a major disaster also relies on a well-prepared and resilient community and, to build community understanding and awareness of flood risk, the SES manages the Community FloodSafe Program. This program is delivered by volunteers who are now making up the newly established SES Community Engagement Unit. They work with communities in flood risk areas and provide information at community events and presentations to community groups and enterprises. The focus of their invaluable efforts is to increase awareness and understanding of flood risk and improved community safety outcomes through enhanced household and community preparedness.

In 2005 the creation of the State Emergency Management Plan fundamentally changed the way South Australia prepares for and responds to emergencies by creating the whole-of-government roles of control agency and hazard leader. Under the plan, which is established by the Emergency Management Act 2004, the role of flood hazard leader was created and assigned to the Department for Water. The State Emergency Service took on the new responsibilities as control agency for flooding and, while the risk from flooding in South Australia is ever present, our emergency management arrangements are robust and there is a strong level of cooperation and collaboration between the emergency services, police, local councils and supporting agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology and the Department for Water.

The SES has also developed a very strong links with local defence units. Only last month a major exercise was conducted in the Adelaide Hills with more than 200 soldiers working closely with the SES in response to a simulated flooding disaster. This exercise was a fine example of a high level of interagency and interjurisdictional cooperation and planning that has been progressed by the service.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Point of order, Mr Chairman. This is important information that the minister is putting on the record but we only have two hours for a large section of the budget—a

very important part of the budget, in my opinion. I am happy for the minister to put her answers in *Hansard* without reading them, if she wants, because it is important information that should be available.

**The CHAIR:** What is the point of order?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am most appreciative of that. In fact, we offered not to have questions come from my side of the chamber, but I understand that was rejected by you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That was because I think we were cutting back on time, though, Jen. That was why.

**The CHAIR:** There is no point of order. The member for Port Adelaide.

**Dr CLOSE:** I refer the minister to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 75. Can the minister outline South Australia's involvement in the national system to warn people during emergencies?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Port Adelaide for that question; it is an important question. As I said in my opening statement, as part of the recent state budget, \$1.7 million over four years is allocated to fund our share of the upgrade of the Emergency Alert System. The capability of this will be enhanced by allowing SMS messages to be sent to mobile phones based on their last known location. Currently, the messages can only be directed to mobiles based on customers' registered service address. Since its introduction in December 2009, Emergency Alert has issued in excess of seven million messages nationally.

South Australian emergency services have used the system 19 times since its introduction. In doing so, they have sent messages to over 10,000 landlines and 21,000 mobile phones. The upgrades will be implemented in phased stages, with the first telecommunications carrier expected to be in place by November this year. I have to stress that this is just one of the many ways South Australians can be informed about emergency services. The best thing anyone can do is be prepared, which is why communities should not rely solely on receiving a telephone warning or any one means of communication during an emergency.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just on that, I currently have on my iPhone the CFA app from Victoria, and it locates me on North Terrace Adelaide from Victoria. I hope that our CFS app will be very similar because it is an excellent program. Sending alerts to people on their mobile phone is important, alerting them to incidents, as the CFA is doing, I think is excellent. I could tell you all the incidents going on in Victoria right now.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Can I make the point that that relies on you registering with them. What we are introducing is a system that will locate you in an emergency, not you having to register.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** As well?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I have a question on payment of accounts, Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 81. With SAFECOM, there are 113 accounts worth \$1.663 million that were paid more than 30 days overdue. What are you doing about getting these accounts paid? I am receiving a number of complaints from people and, as we saw recently in the media, a fellow claimed to have been put out of business by accounts being paid late.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You are obviously referring to the fellow in Riverton.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not think his was purely about being late but, I am concerned that, according to the annual report, there are 113 accounts—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You do not think his were late?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** His were late, but I am not sure that his demise was completely due to that, from my information. However, I am concerned that, according to the annual report of SAFECOM, there were 113 accounts paid more than 30 days from the due date.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The payment of accounts for these agencies is now in the hands of Shared Services—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And don't we know it!

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —as you understand. The process for purchasing, as I understand it, is that manual purchase orders from CFS groups and brigades are forwarded to the

regional office to electronically convert into an official purchase order in Basware. Once the goods are ordered and have arrived at groups and brigades, they are receipted against the purchase order in the Basware system by the regional office. The invoice from the supplier is sent electronically to Shared Services and accounts payable where the purchase order, receipt and invoice match in the system, and the invoice is automatically workflowed and transferred for payment to the supplier.

I guess one of the potential problems is that we are dealing with volunteer brigades preparing a manual purchase order and delivery of goods, so there is a complicated process here. It is obviously one that—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Needs streamlining.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, but I think it is fair to say in the case of the Riverton example, for instance, there were 16 invoices from Riverton Rhynie 4WD that were processed for payment by CFS and Shared Services; of the 16 invoices, 12 were paid within the government standard 30-day terms.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Perhaps there is a need to put some more admin people back in SAFECOM.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The target of payment within the prescribed 30 days is 90 per cent of accounts. In 2010-11 and 2011-12, 86 per cent of CFS were paid within that 30-day time frame, so below the target but only just below.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I will make this the last question on SAFECOM, and then we will move to the CFS. Referring to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 72, the Workforce summary, how has the reduction in the volunteer support strategy of volunteer support officers affected the CFS and SES volunteers? In the annual report, the volunteer support strategy and support branch supports emergency service volunteers by providing practical assistance and advice on the recruitment, retention and recognition of volunteers and the delivery of non-operational training. This has gone from six to two. They are based in Adelaide. I think they share a car. I have been told they may even lose their vehicles. This is a very important issue for volunteers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** During 2010-11, state emergency volunteer numbers actually increased. During that period there was a decline in CFS volunteer numbers, but there was quite a substantial increase in SES volunteers. In the exit interviews, the most common reasons that people were resigning from emergency services were that they were moving out of the area, commitments to their work or ill-health. We have provided additional money in this particular budget for training of our SES and CFS volunteers, and part of their job is also to help with recruitment and retention.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There are only two of them, though; there used to be six.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, there will be six.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Training officers, but there are only two VSOs now.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Part of their work will be that as well. There are six in total currently. I am told there are six currently in the volunteer services branch. They provide hands-on assistance with recruiting.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is that being cut to two, though, as was announced a few months ago, and are they going to be based in Adelaide? That is what everybody out there thinks.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We did have 11 in there. It was reduced to six. There are two field officers, but any one of those six can undertake that role where there is a priority need.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So we are still having six VSOs?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There are six in the volunteer support service branch.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And they are staying? They are not these new trainers who are coming? This is six spare.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That will be six new people. There are six in total.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It still sounds like it is not clear, but we will move on.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told there are six in total in the team. There were 11; there are now six.



**Dr McFETRIDGE:** All based in Adelaide? They were in the regions. And will they all have vehicles?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But they go out as required.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Will they have vehicles to go and do that job? I understand that they may lose those vehicles.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Two vehicles plus a pool vehicle.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not think that will satisfy the volunteers, because they really do appreciate the support the VSOs have been giving in the past. We will move on to CFS if we can. Thank you, Mr Place.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** One of the issues that volunteers talk about is the need for more training, so the additional money for training for six people for SES and CFS is also going to have an enormous impact, I think, on what you would deem to be volunteer support.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think you will find, minister, if you work it out, that \$2.6 million over four years over the total number of CFS and SES volunteers works out at \$43.02 per volunteer per year. Each volunteer does an average of three training courses a year. It is about \$15 a time. You have bought them lunch; you have done not much more, unfortunately. That is if those training officers are not being paid out of that \$2.6 million. As far as the front line funding of training is concerned—which is a huge issue for CFS volunteers; a huge issue—it really has not increased. Not in real terms. As I say, you have bought them lunch; \$14.34 for morning tea and lunch.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I can give you some details around the amount spent on training by emergency services. In the 2011-12 year, up to 31 March this year, it is \$6.4 million and it is estimated to be \$8.5 million in 2011-12. The split by agencies is estimated to be SES \$600,000; MFS, \$4 million; CFS, \$3.8 million; and \$100,000 by SAFECOM. In the last budget, there was an additional \$500,000 provided, and the CFS received the vast bulk of that, and that is indexed on an ongoing basis. That in itself also provides an increase of \$2.7 million over the next four years, on top of what we have announced this year.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That all sounds good, but the problem I and others have is that the Report on Government Services 2012, a report done for the federal government, shows that in South Australia we have actually gone backwards. In terms of real funding of fire service organisations in 2010-12 dollars, it has gone backwards from \$170 million in 2006. It went up to a peak of \$185 million, and then it dropped significantly between 2009 and 2010 by \$16 million to \$166.4 million. So, we have actually gone backwards in real terms—and this is not me saying this; this is an independent report done for the federal government. So, fire service funding actually has gone backwards. The \$2.6—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is not so.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Well, here it is—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Hang on a minute. The report—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —page 9.5 of this—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The Report on Government Services measures different things in different jurisdictions, so it does not always have exactly the same measure. If you want a clear measure of increase in funding to our emergency services, it has increased by over 100 per cent since you were in government.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, this report is completely wrong then, is it, when it says it has gone—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —from \$170 million—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What I am saying is that it does not always compare exact—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, it did not drop—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —figures with exact figures.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —\$16 million between 2009-10 and 2010-11—\$182.3 million to \$166.4 million; these are the figures they have here.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not have those pages in front of me, but the simple fact of the matter is that the budget has continued to increase.

**Dr CLOSE:** I refer the minister to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 59. Can the minister please outline South Australia's urban search and rescue capacity?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Our government has proudly supported the good work done by the Urban Search and Rescue team. In the 2011-12 financial year, \$938,000 in recurrent funding was allocated for the continued development and maintenance of our USAR capability.

The task force is available to manage an incident beyond the local rescue capabilities of any one emergency response agency. It is a coordinated team-based capability that incorporates the use of specialist personnel and equipment to locate, provide initial medical care and remove people from damaged or collapsed structures and other hazardous environments. There are currently 164 USAR personnel, and a further course for an extra 24 technicians is planned for July.

The USAR capability in South Australia is a multi-agency program. So, on top of the personnel from the MFS and SES, rescue paramedics from SA Ambulance Service, trauma doctors from the Department of Health, explosive and forensics experts from SAPOL, and canine search specialists, supported by volunteers from the Australian Swiss Search Dog Association, are all vital members of the team.

The task force operates from the MFS Learning and Development Centre in Angle Park, which also has significant storage and administration facilities. The onsite training centre is recognised nationally as being second to none. The rubble pile has been designed to simulate the collapse of a five-storey building. Interstate USAR teams regularly use these facilities for training. It is an added bonus to have such a facility so close to our capital city.

The USAR Task Force has established a comprehensive equipment cache comprising search, rescue, medical and task force self-sustainability equipment. This gives the task force the ability to operate independently for 10 days. Significant deployments include a deployment last year to assist the Queensland flood disaster. This included two swift water rescue specialists and 10 other USAR technicians deployed to Brisbane and surrounding areas.

Nine specialist USAR technicians, including two rescue paramedics and a structural engineer, were deployed to New Zealand and this formed part of a multijurisdictional task force to support the response to the Christchurch earthquake disaster. The task force is ready and capable of deploying to any incident as a stand-alone unit or as part of a multistate composite team. This preparedness is to enable potential response to any request for USAR assistance locally, nationally or internationally, subject to receiving an authorised request for assistance from another government or appropriate agency.

South Australians can be assured that in the event of a significant incident involving major structural collapses its USAR personnel are well trained and equipped to deal effectively in response to any disaster.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I refer the minister to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 39. Can the minister please outline South Australia's aerial firefighting capacity?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I stress that, whilst aircraft play an important role in firefighting, they do not replace the need for our great firefighters on the ground, but here in South Australia we are fortunate to have both. The CFS annual budget for aerial firefighting in 2011-12 was \$7.3 million which included \$1.8 million of funding from the commonwealth. For the 2011-12 fire danger season, the CFS had access to seven fixed-wing bombers, one high-volume helicopter bomber (an Erickson Air-Crane), two medium volume helicopter bombers and three fixed-wing surveillance aircraft, one utility helicopter and access to the state rescue helicopter service.

Next year the budget will rise to \$7.5 million but this will not alter the resources made available to us. Aircraft are procured through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. This is a company set up by the states and territories to provide an internationally competitive tendering process which allows the states to gain the most cost-effective, yet appropriate, service. It is worth noting that only New South Wales has a larger aerial capability based within its borders, with 18 planes or helicopters. Thanks to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, if our interstate neighbours experience trouble, South Australia will be ready to deploy as many resources as we can without compromising our own capabilities. The same arrangements are in place to ensure more support is available whenever we need a hand, as well.

Bushfire conditions can vary significantly across the state and that is why some aircraft began operating from September 2011 until mid-April 2012. Firebombing aircraft commenced their service periods on 1 November and all aircraft were in place by 12 December. Contracts have been written to allow for extensions of up to three months due to early or late bushfire seasons. This year alone a number of aircraft were extended due to protracted dry conditions. I am told that the cost for these service extensions is estimated to be approximately \$1.2 million.

During the season, aircraft were used for reconnaissance and surveillance of outback fires, several initial attack firebombing missions in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South-East regions, and camping fires in the Gawler and Flinders Ranges. The Erickson aircraft assisted the MFS with asset and exposure protection at the highly visible Wingfield fuel depot fire in March, and I am told this was the first time in Australia that an air crane had been used for such purposes. Whilst we do never need a reminder of the worth of our aerial firefighting capability, this event showed South Australians, who would not normally see these resources in action, that the \$7.3 million to get the job done is money very well spent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Would the CFS chief officer like to assume the position, as we are moving on to CFS in our limited time. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 38, Operational Preparedness. What additional resources have been provided to the CFS to deal with the problems the CFS has identified with the South Australian call and dispatch system, making it fit the CFS purpose?

In the March SACAD issues paper for region 1, 19 items of concern were outlined, particularly the lack of support re additional staff for CFS to manage the implementation of SACAD. I understand that the chief officer has written to the minister about this, and it is an ongoing concern for the CFS. People keep saying that it is teething problems: I think we should have orthodontists rather than bureaucrats in this case because it is a serious issue.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** SACAD is a \$33 million investment in making—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You said \$36 million in yours.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, it is \$33 million.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, was it cut from \$36 million to \$33 million?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, it has always been \$33 million. I do not know where you get \$36 million from.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, minister Wright said it, I am sure; anyway, keep going, minister.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If I said \$36 million, I meant \$33 million but, as far as I am aware, it has always been \$33 million. This is a massive investment in upgrading our response capabilities, and I well recall that when the government radio network was implemented it caused a great deal of anxiety amongst local brigades in particular areas. There were some difficulties with coverage and using new technology, and it took a long time for that to settle down. I think that there has been something like a two-year implementation phase for SACAD.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was \$36 million, minister. On the 7 February 2010, the Hon. Michael Wright and premier Mike Rann made an announcement of \$36 million for a computer-aided dispatch system in their press release.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, he probably made a mistake.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It has been cut by \$3 million. Well, \$3 million is \$3 million, and it has gone somewhere.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Perhaps the Chair can explain his mistake. I am told by Mr Place that, as far as he is aware, the project budget has always been \$33 million. Anyway, a change in technology always causes some difficulties. I have been consistently assured that not one South Australian has been put at risk. The issue that has been raised with me directly by volunteers is that they feel that there has been, in some instances, a duplication of response. So, the way that the whole thing works—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I am happy to give you the 19 issues, Jen.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The program, I understand, is working exactly as it should work, so there is not an issue.

*Dr McFetridge interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Don't laugh, Duncan. The program itself, when a call comes in, pulls up the responses to that incident that were provided by all the agencies.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** By the programmers, I think.

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, the dispatch system pulls up the appropriate response, and the appropriate response has been determined by the agencies themselves—that is the information that has been put into the system—so the system is working. What needs to be refined, and what the CFS and the MFS are working through and refining, is that there are some areas where dual response is required. In some of those incidences, by the time the CFS gets there the incident is either over, or they are part way there and they have been told they are no longer—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Stop calls are just a pain in the neck for volunteers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They absolutely are, and we are working through each of those areas, I am told, as quickly and safely as we can possibly do it to reduce—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Have you responded to the chief officer's letter?

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Have you responded to the chief officer's letter?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What chief officer's letter are you referring to?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** According to the 26 March meeting of Region 1 group officers, item 9 I think it was, it talks about problems with SACAD—and I will give the minister a copy of this—'lack of support resources for SACAD'. It says here that the CFS Chief Officer advises there are 10 (now 11) staff working and that he has written to the minister about staffing matters because it is a serious concern. I am not trying to put Mr Nettleton in it because he is doing an excellent job.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have increased the number of people in the response centre by 12. We have 12 additional staff working in there.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** In Comms or on SACAD?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In Comms.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is different, though.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Four directly from the CFS.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** They left the CFS for higher paid jobs in Comms.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, they were recruited. They have CFS backgrounds.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Has Mr Nettleton had a response so that he can pass it on to Group 1?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not believe Mr Nettleton has sent me a letter at all. I had a letter from Wendy Shirley, the volunteers association. If I received anything from Mr Nettleton, it would be a brief advising me what he is doing not what I am doing.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I apologise to Mr Nettleton if I have put him in the picture here. I am just reading what has been sent to me by about 20-odd people from Group 1. I am happy to give this to the minister for her records, if she wants. It is an interesting document.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You can give it to me for my records and I will check whether I have received a letter from Mr Nettleton, but that would not be the way that a chief officer would generally correspond with the minister; it would generally be a brief or a minute.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31, the bushfire management committees. There was a comment in the annual report:

The establishment of three bushfire management committees within the regions—  
this is region 1—

has placed an extreme workload on the administrative and prevention staff. This is not perceived to diminish over the coming months when the planning implementation phase has commenced.

Are you able to tell us what government assistance is being given to make sure that the bushfire management committees are able to do their job?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will refer that to Mr Nettleton.

**Mr NETTLETON:** In relation to bushfire management committees, we have a number of bushfire management committees across the state responsible for the local bushfire management plans. Bushfire management committees are made up of a number of representatives, not solely CFS. They are made up from representatives of their local government, Farmers Federation, environment groups, DENR and other people who have an interest in the land. Those bushfire management committees report to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

In relation to the workload for those committees, a significant amount of work needs to be done. Quite a bit of that work is specialised and, in some cases, it is technical. Most recently, at the last State Bushfire Coordination Committee, we were establishing an ecological technical reference group. It is not just work done by CFS staff; there is work done by a range of people from a range of specialties to be able to put together those bushfire management plans.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Do you have the resources you need, through you minister to Mr Nettleton, because the comment in the annual report was that an extreme workload had been placed on the administration and prevention staff?

**Mr NETTLETON:** The bushfire management committees have produced a number of interim bushfire plans. The first one of those was for Kangaroo Island. It is the first venture that has been made into preparing bushfire management plans of this nature. As a result of that, we have identified that there is quite a bit more work involved in those plans than was previously the case.

Things have moved on quite significantly since other bushfire management plans were in place, particularly as a result of the royal commission into the bushfires in Victoria. We have taken on board a model which is used by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service which helps us work through our bushfire management planning and which informs us of bushfire safer places.

We have really only got an idea of the amount of work that is required. At the last State Bushfire Coordination Committee, which was held last week, we identified that the work required to produce bushfire management plans across the state will take some considerable time and some considerable effort.

At that meeting, I was instructed by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee to write to the minister, advising the minister of the workload that bushfire management plans will be placing on the CFS and other agencies. I have not written to the minister in relation to that yet.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Nettleton. This is Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31. I hesitate to go back to the former minister, who is now the Chair, but in his press release back in March 2010, the then minister for emergency services said that once SACAD is in place, there would be an announcement that, reading from this press release from premier Rann and minister Wright:

The State Government will introduce Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) on emergency services vehicles when the State's new Computer Aided Dispatch System is fully operational.

Minister, you told us it is fully operational; so, are we getting the AVL for CFS vehicles and what is the budget for it?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that we are working through the business case for that. Part of the issue is that the technology is changing rapidly, so we do not want to bring in something that, by the time we bring it in, is outdated and outmoded, but it is still on the agenda.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the agenda. Minister, is there any time plan so that the volunteers can know that they are going to be out there and be safe?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We always said 'after SACAD'. With SACAD, as you know, we are still going through the implementation phase of all that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It said in this press release that the 'AVL will increase the level of safety for emergency service workers, as well as improving command and control resources during an incident'. So, I would have thought that, although technology is changing—I will be getting a new iPhone shortly—that does not stop you doing something about getting—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Handheld GPSs are being used at the moment.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It was stated 'after SACAD'.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You would think there would be some forward planning, because hopefully SACAD was going to work.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The business case is being undertaken.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31: the investment summary. With personal protective equipment, clothing particularly, why is Remlap, a small South Australian company, not being used to supply PPC for the CFS? They have been doing it for 15 years and will close if the now sole supplier, Stewart & Heaton, do not buy from them. I think there will be seven jobs gone.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding is that, for the personal protective clothing contracts, we go through the same processes as any government agency would when calling for a contract. So, there is nothing preventing them from tendering.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** They did tender, but I understand they are only a relatively small company. They have been doing a terrific job. In fact, I understand they have actually had to make alterations to equipment that has been supplied through Stewart & Heaton. They will close, minister, and there will be about seven jobs gone.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding is that, in fact, you can't do that—make alterations to clothing that you have not manufactured—because then it has to be recertified.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Well, they have had to do it, and it has been through—Stewart & Heaton have done it.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What have they done?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Had to adjust the fit of a uniform for, I think, a large CFS officer. That is what I understand. Anyway, on the PPE, particularly the clothing: is the stuff being supplied by Stewart & Heaton made from Tecasafe, or are they having problems supplying Tecasafe and they are going to use Proban? My experience with Proban is that it is great at the start, but then after you wash and wash you end up with cotton clothing that is going to catch fire.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am sorry; I do not know what the uniforms are made of. I will ask Mr Nettleton to answer that.

**Mr NETTLETON:** Greg Nettleton, Chief Officer, South Australian Country Fire Service. Proban is a cotton treated with a chemical to give it some flame resistance, and you are correct: it does wash out over a period of time. We are moving to more modern materials, and Tecasafe is one of those materials. It is a material which is used in military uniforms as well; it is extremely hard-wearing and has good thermal protection properties. I am not an expert in the testing of garments and mannequin testing of garments, but it has been tested and found to be as effective as Nomex, which is also another material that is used in firefighting garments.

At this stage, we have a number of garments that have been manufactured and redesigned to meet CFS requirements. I was at the Region 1 Volunteer Management Committee meeting last night at Willunga, and a number of those uniforms were passed around for delegates there to see. That uniform has been designed with the assistance of the uniform committee, and they are the ones who recommend certain changes to it.

In relation to the material, Tecasafe is brought in from the US, where it is manufactured by Stewart & Heaton, and all garments that we have are made in Brisbane by a contractor for Stewart & Heaton. All the garments that we now issue are compliant with the Australian standard for wildland firefighting garments.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is Tecasafe available at the moment? I understand there are significant delays, so Stewart & Heaton are supplying Proban.

**Mr NETTLETON:** My understanding is that there are still some residual stocks that Stewart & Heaton have of Proban clothing that meets the Australian standard for wildland firefighting. In relation to the Tecasafe garments, when I was speaking with Stewart & Heaton a couple of weeks ago, they were moving another roll—1,000 metres of material comes in a roll—from their warehouse in Melbourne to their garment manufacturer in Brisbane. They also had, on order, additional rolls of Tecasafe material from the US.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31—Investing expenditure summary. Minister, will all the 30 new CFS 34 tankers that are being manufactured in New Zealand be delivered by next week, which is the scheduled date?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told there are six on the docks in Melbourne as we speak, and the remaining five are being tested in New Zealand. So, if they are not here on 30 June, they will be very close to it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just on the manufacturers, once again sticking up for South Australian manufacturers, does the New Zealand company have the same occupational health and safety standards, and do they pay the same comparable wages as we do in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, I do not know the wage structure of their employees, but I did take the opportunity, when I went to New Zealand, to visit the engineering firm that was putting those trucks together. I am sure you will be pleased to know that it is owned and operated by a South Australian in New Zealand.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** What is he doing there, then? It must be cheaper.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Life circumstances mean that people end up in different places throughout their lives, but he is a South Australian from the Riverland. He and his wife operate this relatively small engineering firm. I have to say that I was very impressed with their passion and commitment to ensuring that they produced the highest quality product they could possibly produce. If my memory serves me correctly, I understand they were also getting contracts from other states and, all going well, were looking to set up an arm of their firm in Australia. Of course, I did a big push about why they should come back to South Australia.

The thing that impressed me very much about this firm was that every piece of equipment that was going on those trucks, if they could make it they made it. They were making the hose reels for nearly \$2,000 less than contracting the purchase of them by making them themselves. All of the tiny plastic components they were engineering themselves because they wanted their trucks to be high quality trucks that were going to ensure they continued to get contracts.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Which begs the question that we are going to have a ready supply of spare parts for vehicles that inevitably will break down because of the work they are doing.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Let's hope they don't break down. I was witnessing the manufacture of these trucks. I have never seen an operation quite like it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The Isuzu cab chassis, are they being supplied through South Australians?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are purchasing them through North East Isuzu here in South Australia. We took delivery of 23 this week.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So are we shipping them to New Zealand?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes. They are shipping them direct to New Zealand from Japan.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Direct from Japan?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, but we are purchasing through North East Isuzu here in South Australia.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31 and the investing expenditure summary. In the annual report (page 45) it says here that the CFS capital program is used to replace ageing fire appliances, fire stations and other operational equipment. Additional funding to accelerate the replacement of firefighting vehicles ceased in 2008-09. Additional funding was provided in 2009-10; additional funding was provided in 2011. But I understand that there is no further funding being provided in this year's budget once we have this contract completed. Is that right?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There is recurrent spending?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that that was part of our election commitment. That was an increase on top of what was generally provided for capital, so it was a two-year boost to capital and that is what has funded a lot of the refurbishment of the stations, particularly over on Eyre Peninsula. I had the opportunity a few weeks ago of going over and either opening new stations or celebrating the refurbishment of a number of them, so that was an additional capital injection which was promised at the last state election and has been delivered.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31. Minister, were you or anybody in your office consulted by the transport minister or anybody in his department about the impact upon the CFS of their proposed closure of the Cadell ferry?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Sorry, I don't see where that is in the budget line.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Because it might impact on funding. You might need extra total funding in that budget line if the ferry closes.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, we were.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** And what was your advice please.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The advice we received was—and I specifically sought this when I saw the proposal. I am advised that Cadell is on the southern side of the Murray River and its key community infrastructure, including the prison, is served by the Cadell CFS. So the CFS brigade, the township and the prison are all located on the same side of the river as the brigade. The other side of the river consists primarily of pastoral country with some conservation parks, and there are a few shacks and small farms near the river. I was advised that there would not necessarily be a big impact on that community by not having the ferry for the CFS.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** So you believe there will be no impact on the provision of any emergency services on the northern side of the river by virtue of the fact that the Cadell CFS would then have to go through Waikerie or Morgan to attend that side of the river?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** None of the agencies that I am responsible for advised me of a concern around the closure of the ferry, because I specifically sought that advice.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you.

**Ms THOMPSON:** Minister, I know you have already touched on this area but I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, pages 31, 51 and 95. You have talked a little bit about the emergency services capital program for the coming financial year, but I would like you to provide more comprehensive details across the whole range of the capital program, please.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Reynell for her question. For the 2012-13 year, the emergency services sector has an approved capital program totalling \$26.9 million. This contributes to the \$227 million budgeted for the services next year. As I have pointed out, that is compared to \$104 million in 2002. The split of the capital funds by agency is \$13.5 million for CFS, \$7.4 million for the MFS, \$3.8 million for the SES and \$2.1 million for SAFECOM.

To ensure this spending is properly scrutinised, a sector capital plan for the next three years has been endorsed by the SAFECOM board, and this consists of heads of each of the services, along with representatives from the CFS and SES volunteer associations and the United Firefighters Union. The plan details the buildings, vehicles and equipment purchases needed to ensure that we give our emergency workers what they need to get the job done.

I have previously outlined for you the upgrades that have occurred to date. Of the CFS's \$13.5 million capital budget, \$6.5 million is to be spent on 26 fire appliances and five support appliances; \$1.6 million to complete the replacement of 15 CFS four-wheel drive command and dual-cab logistics vehicles; the replacement of Eden Hills, Lyndoch, Port Victoria and Nangwarry; money for the communications and ICT; \$1.6 million to replace the government radio network equipment; and \$1.5 million as part of the recent state budget for the new breathing apparatus.

The MFS will be spending its money on cab chassis for five general purpose pump or appliances; \$4.1 million on land and buildings, including completing the construction of a new Glen Osmond fire station; \$408,000 for communication and ICT; and \$208,000 to replace the government radio network equipment.

The SES, as I said, will receive an extra \$500,000 for its new rescue vehicles, but it also has \$1.7 million to complete construction of two new facilities at Campbelltown and Whyalla; \$1 million has been allocated to replace 20 four-wheel drive command vehicles; and \$610,000 has been allocated for the replacement of an IT server, GRN radios and road crash rescue equipment.

SAFECOM will receive \$2.1 million towards the continuing development and implementation of a location-based emergency information warning system, more commonly known as Alert SA.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31, Investment Expenditure Summary. What was the final budget outcome for the Port Lincoln emergency services building that co-locates MFS, CFS and SES? Was a probity auditor assigned in the end because of the issues that were associated with the contracts?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The original budget for the construction of new facilities for the CFS and SES in Port Lincoln was \$2.974 million, and the total cost of the works completed in



August was \$5.3 million. The project did have significant budget overruns due to substantial increases in the project scope, including additional electrical, mechanical and civil works, and these increases were approved by the project manager.

There has been no additional capital expenditure on either the CFS or SES facilities in Port Lincoln in the last financial year. A building project control committee, with representatives from CFS, SES and SAFECOM, has met regularly to provide oversight of all CFS and SES building projects to improve the project controls. I think that was done as a result of the Port Lincoln construction.

Once the overruns were detected, the conduct of the project manager was reviewed and it was identified that he had failed to comply with government construction procurement policies, Treasurer's Instructions and SAFECOM policies. An investigation has been undertaken by the Government Investigations Unit, and I understand that the matter has been referred to SAPOL, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is currently determining whether any further action might be taken.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** A number of subcontractors are owed money, and I know one in particular who is still owed over \$50,000. Are they being looked after? Former minister Foley said in a letter to this subcontractor that he would do all he possibly could—apart from pay him. Are these people being looked after?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am sorry, I do not have any information about the detail of payments to those subcontractors, but I am happy to take that on notice and find out what the situation is for you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There certainly should be a paper trail from the former minister. We might move on to the SES now. Is the SES still staying in the Port Lincoln facility?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They are part of the new facility.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is the regional office staying in there, or are they moving out?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They have a district officer located there as well as the unit.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And their future is safe there? They are not moving out or anything like that?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, we have just built a new one at Tumby Bay.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So they are not moving from Port Lincoln to Tumby Bay?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No. Tumby Bay has a whole wonderful new station, though.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Mr Nettleton has just gone, but perhaps Mr Place will be able to answer this question. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 31. How many CFS stations still rely on portable toilets and how many CFS stations do not have power connected? You can take that on notice if you want to.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, I think we have a brief on this. Prior to 2002, approximately 155 CFS stations did not have toilets. I understand that many stations do not have toilets because they are co-located with a community hall, a sporting facility, public toilets, or because the station itself is little more than a garage used to house a fire truck, so it is not necessarily a proper fire station. Since 2002, 51 new stations have been built and 48 have been upgraded. In 2009-10, we provided \$3.5 million to accelerate the building works and maintenance program. That is the money we were talking about previously, the election commitment money. A lot of work has been done to remedy that situation, where it is required.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We will move on to the SES. I see that Chief Officer Beattie is here. Thank you, Chief Officer, for the work you and your volunteers do. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 100, Operational Preparedness. In the annual report, on page 42 of 74, it says—and this is from the Volunteers Association:

State budget cuts to SAFECOM and the flow-on effects to the SES, occupational, health and safety and SES training.

What have been the direct effects of budget cuts to SAFECOM on the SES?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Sorry, Duncan, can you give me the page—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 100 is the reference I have here, and it is under Operational Preparedness.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What did you want to know about the operational preparedness?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How have the budget cuts to SAFECOM affected the SES in relation to training and what are the flow-on effects to the SES for occupational health and safety? In the annual report, the—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that SAFECOM has never provided training to the SES, and it has not reduced its occupational health and safety to it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The SES Volunteers Association is very concerned that there are effects, so perhaps we need to follow that up.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And we have increased the training budget this year for the SES, as I told you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The problem, though, is that in Budget Paper 6, Part 2: Budget measures, Emergency Services—SES, page 51, Savings, the SES will now have to cope with a further \$196,000 cut from its budget bottom line when it is already having difficulty in providing services for significantly increased numbers of incidents—and I am sure the SES will be out today and tomorrow. In fact, there has been a concern expressed to me that the number of units and the number of training courses will be reduced because of these budget measures.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Duncan, we increased the budget for training last year, and we have increased the budget for training again in this budget.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But the training demands for the CFS, MFS and SES are all increasing, and the cost of running that training is getting up there. The problem the SES has is that it has had \$196,000 cut from its bottom line. I would like to know how you think the SES is going to cope with that.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We cannot see where you are getting that from.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It is in Budget Measures, Emergency Services, Budget Paper 6, Part 2.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What page?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Page 51, Budget Paper 6, Savings initiatives—\$32,000 this year, \$65,000 next year, and \$99,000 in 2015-16.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Are you talking about the efficiency dividend that all agencies are required to—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, that is the one: \$196,000.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Budget Paper 6, Page 51?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, 'Savings initiatives': \$32,000 in 2013-14, \$65,000 in 2014-15 and \$99,000 in 2015-16.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is not for this year's budget; none of those initiatives kick in until the 2013-14 year.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How are they going to achieve that, because they are already pushed to the limit at the moment?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I guess that is an argument that every agency across government could mount. Again, it is about looking at what we do and making sure we manage the operations appropriately.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I would argue that there is no room for these efficiencies in emergency services, that they should be quarantined, but that is a decision the government has made.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am sure that every minister has an argument that their agency should be quarantined.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Again, what is the effect on the SES of the changes to the volunteer support officers? There are concerns that the volunteer support officers of the VSS Branch will not be able to provide support through practical assistance and advice on recruitment, retention, training and recognition of volunteers, and the volunteers say this on page 26 of the annual report.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** To a large degree it is the same answer as I gave before: there are six volunteer support officers working in SAFECOM. Also, the community engagement unit that

I have outlined to you has been established and given a base at Adelaide Airport. Part of their role will be assisting within the SES with recruitment and retention of volunteers, so providing that additional support.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I am watching the time here. On a very important matter for all volunteers, particularly volunteers in the SES, and the example of this volunteer at Port Pirie—at Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 94, 'Workforce summary'—is a case that I am sure you are aware of where a female volunteer in the SES was injured. I do not know what the correct term is now—'home duties' or 'housewife'—she was looking after her kids and working very hard (I know that) and was not getting a wage. She hurt her back and her husband had to take time off work to look after her and her children. He was not getting any compensation at all, although he was an SES member as well. What happens in those circumstances, and have we looked after this particular family?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Thank you for that question. If I am not mistaken, she was from Port Pirie.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** As the member for Stuart has quite rightly pointed out, the CFS do cater for this particular situation, but not the SES.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, he is not right; he is incorrect in relation to that. The systems that are established are that SES and CFS workers (volunteers) are compensated under the Workers Compensation Act.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But she has no income; that is the problem.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is exactly right, she does not; it was quite a unique situation. If you are in the Country Fire Service, as I understand it, the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association has an insurance policy that will top up workers compensation payments. The SES Volunteers Association does not have similar policies available so, if you are talking about differences between the SES and the CFS, that is the key difference.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** There is a difference, then?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Because of the volunteer associations.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** So, in terms of the cover afforded a CFS volunteer versus an SES volunteer, whether it comes from the organisation itself or the volunteer association, there is a difference.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is no difference to the cover provided by the government.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** But there is a difference provided by the agency, more broadly, to the volunteer?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No; not by the agency, more broadly, by—

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —including the volunteer service organisation.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The volunteer association's system had been that the brigades could opt in or opt out, and we had a case where one district officer chose not to opt in and a volunteer was injured in the course of his work; that has been dealt with and rectified. The association now covers all its volunteers.

It is a choice, then, by the volunteer association, much the same as the Police Association might run a particular fund. From my memory, I think they used to run a sick bank so that every year each police officer would donate two days of his sick leave so that if someone got really sick and lost all their sick leave they could access that accumulated leave. The service provided by the associations is different, and the support provided by the state government is exactly the same. The difficulty—

*Dr McFetridge interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —no, hang on a minute, Duncan—in this case was that this lady was injured and she was not earning an income. She had been assessed, and my understanding is that we offered in-home support and care for her while her husband was working but that that was not accepted. So, it was not that she was left without an offer of support: there was support offered, but it was not accepted.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Was it adequate, do you know?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding is that it was quite significant and, I am told, consistent with state government provisions for any employee. We were prepared to employ someone to do her domestic duties while she was recovering from her injuries and cover a 10-day roster while her partner was working.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** With 14 minutes left, I do not want Mr Lupton to feel—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Unloved?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —unloved. Budget Paper 6, Part 2, emergency services, MFS, page 46 is the same volume we were looking at before with—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Duncan, can I interrupt? I have just had a note thrown under my nose. For your interest, I am advised that the SES Volunteer Association is in the stages of looking into establishing a top-up insurance scheme.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you. Referring to the same volume and references as the SES efficiency measures, but page 46 this time for the MFS, there is a total of \$4.56 million, although it does not start this year, minister, you are quite right, but it has to be factored in. Over \$4.5 million in efficiencies are being imposed on the MFS, and I would like to know what is going to happen. How is an emergency service, which is providing a fantastic service with now increasing demand, going to cope with that?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am happy for Mr Lupton to make some comments about this, but I think, to be fair to the agencies, this has just been announced, and the first efficiency dividend for the MFS in the next financial year is \$741,000. I would imagine that over the next few months Mr Lupton will have his people working very diligently on what needs to be done in the next few years; if he has any ideas about what he is doing, I am happy for him to share them with the committee.

**Mr LUPTON:** As the minister stated, there is a phased-in series of efficiency measures over the next four years. We have just been notified about this in the budget announcements, and one of the guidelines we were provided with was that we have 12 months to try to identify how we will do this. Obviously, there is a significant saving and we have been very diligent in meeting the requirements of the Sustainable Budget Commission, so we have done that. To be frank, I do not have a clear answer at the moment, but any time that I have been faced with efficiency dividends in the past we re-prioritise and make sure that the front-line service to the community is not impacted. It is a significant challenge and I do not have a clear answer.

I have been tasked to put together a plan for the SAFECOM board as to how we will manage this requirement, and we are working on that now, as the minister said, but that will be coming forth shortly. I have not given you any indication because, as you can see, it is—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Lupton, I appreciate the position you are in.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It needs to be taken in the context of, again, something like a 79 per cent increase in the MFS budget since 2002, a \$54 million increase over that period of time.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** When you compound CPIs over the 10 years the government likes to quote—anyway, we only have a few minutes left.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But, like you say, \$54 million is \$54 million, Duncan.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We only have a few minutes left, but thank you, Mr Lupton.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Mr Lupton, I understand your situation: you are just going to get into this piece of work. Will you be considering shutting any regional MFS brigades as part of that saving?

**Mr LUPTON:** That would be the last thing I would want to do. The reality with the MFS budget is that about 80 per cent of our costs are salaries and wages, so we have a budget of approximately \$110 million. If you take 80 per cent of that, it does not leave a big operating budget. The provisions we have to provide the industry and community standards of response, which is a 90 per cent response rate within seven minutes in the metropolitan area and 90 per cent within 11 minutes in the regional areas, we need the staffing we have now to meet those.

Outside the 80 per cent salaries and wages there is not a huge amount of scope for savings, but I do not have any plans of reducing services or stations, especially as you say in the regional areas, because in many of the regions we are the sole service provider in the major centres. That is not on the radar screen at the moment.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is the total number of responses to property and structure fires at Seaford MFS station for the whole year 192? Is that correct? Is that a whole year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What page are you looking at, please, Duncan?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This is 'Program net cost of services summary': Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 51, and it follows on from the previous question—it is almost a supplementary—about the cuts. I am not exactly sure, but I think that a MFS station is about \$3 million to run. The Seaford MFS had 192 calls. The Happy Valley CFS, when I was a captain, had 350 calls a year.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Let us just find this.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This is page 77 in the annual report.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** So you are quoting from the annual report, not from the—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The figure is from the annual report; the issue is from the budget about how they will make the cuts. If you are building full-time MFS fire stations, which may be worthwhile in some areas, you would want to think that the response is going to be—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That you will have more fires than that?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The CFS were doing a fantastic job down through there and have been replaced by the MFS, and there are arguments about that, but 192—is that the whole year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The CFS has not been replaced. As I do not have the annual report in front of me, I will take your question on notice about the activities of the Seaford MFS.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Salisbury has a CFS out there, and I think you are a member, minister, and Salisbury MFS had 1,620 calls.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And probably about 300 for the MFS as well.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And O'Halloran Hill, we had an enhanced mutual aid with them. When I was in the CFS Happy Valley they had 660 calls, and we attended a lot of those in the CFS. My question goes back to how the MFS is going to save money and, if it is building fire stations where the CFS is doing a terrific job, perhaps we need to look at those again.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not think the MFS go out and build fire stations where they are not needed.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think the government might do, if there is a marginal seat.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If you think for a minute that an emergency services minister sits around with a map of South Australia thinking, 'This is where I might like to build a fire station,' you have got another think coming. It just does not happen like that. In fact, the building program—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** If there is a marginal seat, I think it does.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That might be how your government operated.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Not at all, minister.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I think there were lots of examples of that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I don't think so.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Point of order: I would like the minister to withdraw that comment, please, that that might be how our government operates. It is completely inappropriate.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, how it operated. It did. I am sorry; it did.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** I don't accept that.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You don't have to accept it, but one of your members—

**The CHAIR:** I think there has been an assertion made by both sides.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —gave a budget reply speech where they referred to a particular minister going to them each budget saying, 'What would you like done in your electorate this budget?' We do not do that, all right? With the MFS, if you think for a minute that I can go to our fire chief or our police commissioner and say—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I don't think they are making the decisions. Anyway, I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 56: prevention and community preparedness programs. Can I just say, I

will read the omnibus questions in later in the day. For Hansard, I will do that in my usual slow manner. The question is: does the new Property Risk Information System Manager system (PRISM) have the capacity to cope with the data that is being put into it? I understand that, in region 2 in the CFS, they had some issues.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will let Mr Lupton answer that question, if he can.

**Mr LUPTON:** Grant Lupton, Chief Officer, Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Fire Service. Sorry, honourable member, can you repeat the question, please?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Does the new Property Risk Information System Manager, which forms the acronym PRISM, have the capacity to cope with the data that is being put into it? I understand that, with the CFS, because of the volumes of data, PRISM is having some problems.

**Mr LUPTON:** I cannot speak on behalf of the CFS data. The PRISM is used for a wide range of functions. The reference in our budget paper is to the high-risk properties. We are bringing in a system that will allow us to use that information in the event of emergencies so that, when our community safety staff are out doing inspections on the high-risk occupancies, they capture data such as where the firefighting connections are, storage of hazardous materials—anything that might assist us if there is an incident there.

So, that is one aspect of PRISM that we are using as a firefighting tool. From the MFS perspective, it has the capacity to manage that data, but I cannot speak about region 2 in the CFS and the amount of data that is going through there.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Lupton. Just a final question, which is just a nuts and bolts issue really for MFS and CFS: do all MFS firefighters get senior first aid training?

**Mr LUPTON:** Yes, we have a staff development framework that has been in effect for over 10 years now. It is a comprehensive training program from entry level right up to what is now the commander rank. It is aligned with the Australian national competencies and covers all aspects of firefighting.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But particularly senior first aid, Mr Lupton?

**Mr LUPTON:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you. Mr Lupton, I am conscious of the time. I am sorry to interrupt you. Minister, can you tell me then why CFS volunteers cannot have senior first aid training because it is being rationed? The MFS can have it but not the CFS. It is a vital part of the CFS. You get to a job and sometimes you are the first ones there. So, if you have got CFS volunteers without senior first aid training, I think it is an abrogation of a duty of care by the government.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that the CFS has a prescribed requirement for first aid training under the CFS standards of fire and emergency cover and that you need to have a maximum of four members for a one-appliance brigade, rising to eight. First aid training is available to all volunteers, but we comply with the requirements to ensure that we have at least one on the truck—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So really the answer is no, they do not all have it—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —but I think they should all have it because they are not only on the truck but also out in the community.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What I can tell you is that no-one is precluded from training. Each—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** A one-appliance brigade is four, and I think two is eight, and it goes up from there.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is right.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But you do not always have the same people turn up on the job; that is the only problem. That is the whole thing with volunteers, particularly during the day.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are complying with the CFS standards of fire and emergency cover.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Well, they are being reviewed at the moment, so let us hope that all CFS volunteers get it.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And we are looking at the volunteer portal, providing some e-emergency contact, which is part of a connect project to help people with learning and online first aid training.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, minister, and I thank your chiefs and the other staff members who came in. There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments for emergency services adjourned until 2 o'clock. We will return at 11.15.

*[Sitting suspended from 11:01 to 11:15]*

## **DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, \$241,934,000**

### **Membership:**

Ms Sanderson substituted for Mr Gardner.

Mr Griffiths substituted for Mr van Holst Pellekaan.

### **Departmental Advisers:**

Mr P. Severin, Chief Executive Officer, Department for Correctional Services.

Mr C. Sexton, Executive Director, Finance and Asset Services, Department for Correctional Services.

Mr B. Boyer, Chief of Staff.

Ms J. Casey, Manager, Executive Services, Department for Correctional Services.

Ms M. Wells, Executive Services Officer, Department for Correctional Services.

**The CHAIR:** I declare the proposed payments open for examination. If the minister would like to make her opening statement, please.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The previous financial year has produced some excellent outcomes for the Department for Correctional Services—an area of government which provides an important and often unrecognised role in the community safety portfolio. For the fourth year in a row the Report on Government Services published in January of this year showed that South Australia had the lowest return-to-prison rate of any jurisdiction—29.8 per cent compared with the national average of 39.7 per cent. More importantly, this rate continues to get lower. This is the ultimate measure of success for our corrections system and shows the role it plays in reducing recidivism.

Plans and upgrades to infrastructure across the state's prison system are well underway with the new cell block accommodation at Port Augusta Prison scheduled to be commissioned in September this year. This new block, which I understand the shadow minister has toured personally, will be called—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** They let me out as well.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That was a mistake! The new block will be called the Banksia Unit and will accommodate about 90 medium and high security prisoners. The \$42.6 million Northfield site upgrades are also progressing well and these affect Yatala Labour Prison, Adelaide Women's Prison and the Pre-Release Centre. Plans are also underway for the expansion of Mount Gambier Prison.

Following Cadell Training Centre's successful trial of modular accommodation, the infrastructure upgrades at Mount Gambier will now include a 108-bed medium security cell block using shipping containers. A 20-bed cell block will be constructed at the Adelaide Women's Prison and this will greatly assist in the management of women with complex behavioural issues and mental health needs. The new cell block is due to be operational by November next year.

One of the most pleasing and significant announcements from this year's budget was the high dependency unit which has been approved for the Yatala Labour Prison. The high

dependency unit was originally approved for construction through modifying two existing units. Building the unit as a standalone facility now allows for a better design and creates an additional 50 beds at Yatala.

The government has also developed a number of new and innovative offender rehabilitation programs to complement the existing suite of interventions for offenders. This includes trialling a new program for sex offenders with learning and/or intellectual disabilities at Mount Gambier Prison. This is an important program run with Disability SA. I look forward to sharing the results of the first evaluation of this program in the coming months. An intervention program for female prisoners with borderline personality disorder and other mental health issues is also being developed. This program will focus on reducing self-harming behaviours and suicidal tendencies, reducing behaviours that impact on delivering therapy, and increasing coping skills and techniques to assist in improving the general quality of life.

Effective reintegration of prisoners back into the community is always a focus for the department and this financial year both the PREOP and Sierra programs were successfully run. These initiatives not only offer fantastic opportunities for prisoners to get work with companies like BHP Billiton but also give them work skills and opportunities for employment when they leave gaol. Just two weeks ago I was at the Port Augusta Prison and spoke to staff and prisoners involved in the PREOP and Sierra programs, and it was inspiring to hear from prisoners who had begun to turn their life around by learning a trade and securing work.

Prisons, however, are just one part of the department: there is also an obligation to ensure that, when offenders leave the prison walls, they are supervised in the community. Repay SA, the department's community service initiative, and Detag, its graffiti removal program, continue to be successful initiatives with great community benefits. Community service offers a way to give back to the public and repair some of the damage offenders have caused through their crimes. Since its inception in 2008, the Repay SA program has resulted in over \$7.7 million of work value to the state.

I am also pleased to say that the department is planning to implement a mothers' and children's program at the Adelaide Women's Prison in 2013. This program will allow women in custody, where it is appropriate, to have the opportunity to build on their parenting skills in specific accommodation that will be separate from the general prison population. It will provide a structured and supportive environment for women and children and will involve key child-focused agencies, both government and non-government.

Last, but certainly not least, is our ongoing plan to ban smoking in prisons. This is a very complex issue for the department, particularly considering that approximately 80 per cent of prisoners smoke. In making this transition we will be looking at New Zealand and how recently it successfully banned smoking across its prison system. We know the Department for Correctional Services is faced with many challenges and some of these have been dealt with in the media and parliament recently, but the number one priority is safety: safety of our correctional officers who do an outstanding job; safety of prisoners; and safety of all South Australians who, whilst they may not know it, are directly affected by the great work that goes on in this portfolio under this government's leadership.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you. Does the shadow minister have an opening statement?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Just very quickly I would like to thank Mr Severin and his officers for facilitating visits to the various establishments under their care. It is interesting to see how these types of operations work and to get an understanding of the difficulties that they are dealing with, no more so than that recently highlighted case of the intensive care required for one particular prisoner.

The cost of running prisons is escalating. During questions I will ask the minister to give us an outline of how much it costs per prisoner. I understand that in South Australia it is about \$190 a day per prisoner for adult males and the Australian average is \$290 per prisoner per day. That is an amazing difference.

The first question is Budget Paper 6, Part 2, Budget Measures, the savings. How does the Department for Corrections expect to achieve the \$9.2 million in savings and efficiencies that have been imposed upon them over the next three budget years? It is \$955,000 in 2013 and \$1.94 million—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding is that the department has achieved all the savings that it has been required to achieve in past budget measures but, as we discussed with my



other agencies, these savings, the increase of the efficiency dividend, do not come into play until 2013-14, so the department will be developing a plan over the next 12 months about what it needs to do to implement those savings.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is it \$190 a day per prisoner? I was told the other night at a function I was at that it cannot be that because the Australian average is \$290 a day.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We actually do very well in relation to our management of prisons here in South Australia. I do not think I have all the data in front of me, but, as I said, we have the lowest return to prison rate of the nation, and that has occurred four years in a row. I think we have nearly 50 per cent of prisoners involved in education, training or programs. Again, I think that is above the national average, so we are dealing with all those really important programs. I am told that in 2010-11 it cost us a little over \$200 a day for each prisoner in South Australia.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I know it is not bread and water, because I have seen the meals in the kitchens and they look really good—not that I would like to be in there having that. It is almost as good as the Blue Room. I refer to Budget Paper 6, Part 2, Correctional Services, Budget measures. It says there, minister, that 39 FTEs will go within the agency. What is going to be the impact of this and where will they come from? Do we have any indications at this stage?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I guess I can only give you the same answer as I have just given you in relation to developing a program around those savings.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister. I move on to one very topical issue at the moment. Under Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 145, the net cost of services summary, under Rehabilitation, when was the prisoner Jacqui Davies first examined by Department of Correctional Services psychologists and what were the recommendations for her care? In the annual report of DCS on page 19, it says:

DCS psychologists utilise...internationally recognised best practice...They provide...specialised assessments for offenders affected by...personality and mental health disorders.

When was prisoner Davies first examined?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The process is that prisoners are assessed on admission and I am advised that that was the case with this particular prisoner. When it was identified that she had some extreme behavioural problems, she was assessed on a monthly basis, and there were some weekly assessments as well when she was identified as being a high-risk prisoner.

Bear in mind that this particular prisoner posed really difficult issues for this department to deal with. Every brief that I have read around her incarceration has been about how they could deal with issues of escalation or how they could transition her into a less rigid regime, but it would appear that every time that occurred there was an escalation of incidences and, as you know, since being in prison, she has been convicted of serious assaults against prison staff.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, minister, what were the recommendations of the DCS psychologists initially, and, I assume, on her weekly exams?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Again, I do not have those documents in front of me, but essentially the consistent diagnosis for her, as I understand it, was that she was not mentally ill but that she had an extreme borderline personality disorder and that she was suffering psychogenic fits. I think that on two occasions she has been admitted to James Nash House and returned to the Adelaide Women's Prison, and they have attempted to lessen the strict regime around her, but more and more incidents have occurred.

When this was raised in parliament just recently and I was giving some examples around the sorts of things that prison staff were dealing with, I said that 'she smashed someone's head on a concrete floor'. What I understand now is that, in fact, it was her head that was smashed on the floor; she harmed herself. She continued to smash her head on the concrete floor until she knocked herself unconscious, I think.

The situation with her assault on a staff member was during a regular pat down, where the officer needed to get a glove from a dispenser. She said that she had completed the front part of her body when this prisoner:

...unexpectedly starting punching my lowered head with both fists, then pulled me by my ponytail—

that is where the hair grabbing came in—

I pressed my duress, yelled out and grabbed her hair. She gouged both of my eyes simultaneously and her fingernails hooked inside my lower eyelids for several seconds as I tried to keep my eyes closed.

She was eventually subdued, and this officer was taken to hospital for assessment and treatment. That is just one example of the sorts of problems these officers have been dealing with. The issues of self-harm have been extreme, and they are distressing to read. She used a small piece of glass perspex from her alarm clock to inflict a wound in her neck, literally to cut her neck, and she—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It does not sound like the actions of a sane person, though, does it? This is the thing I just do not understand.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, and do you know what? Prisons are not particularly nice places. There are crimes that some people commit in our communities you would have to say exactly the same thing about them. But people commit bad crimes, and they are perfectly sane in doing so. It sort of defies logic for a normal person, but that is the situation.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I am just concerned that they are DCS psychologists. I would be interested to see what the recommendations were for care after those sort of incidents.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It is not just DCS psychologists. She has been in the health unit at Yatala Labour Prison, and that is operated by SA Health staff—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I have a question on that.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** She has been in James Nash House. They are SA Health psychiatrists. So, it is not the prison system saying that this person does not have a mental illness. In fact, if she was diagnosed as having a mental illness, her care would transfer to the health department. It is not in anyone's interests to say that she does not have a mental illness if she does.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think all we can do is quote from the Public Advocate, John Brayley, when he said on Tuesday that 'she has been failed by the system'. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 149 to 150, Custodial Services. I again refer to a quote out of the annual report about the prisoner health service, which, as you say, minister, is part of the Central Adelaide Local Hospital Network. It states, 'The Department of Correctional Services and prison health services have developed joint system protocols,' so it is DCS and Health, 'which were reviewed in 2011'. South Australian Forensic Mental Health is part of the joint service protocol, so what protocols were developed for prisoners such as Jacqui Davies and, in particular, for Jacqui Davies?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will let Mr Severin give you the detail of that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Can I preface these questions by saying that I really understand what prison officers have to face every day. That is why we need to make sure that, as Mr Brayley says, the system is not failing.

**Mr SEVERIN:** If I could make one comment in relation to joint system protocols. They are general protocols between the various service providers and our department in relation to joint approaches to sharing information to organise treatment for offenders. That could be any kind of health care including dental care. They are very generic protocols and they are a public document, basically.

The individual care plans, of course, relate to individual offenders and once a prisoner like the one we are talking about has been identified as presenting a significant personality disorder, we engage with health, mental health and in this particular case we also consulted external experts as to how to best manage the person. We engaged a company called The Spectrum Organisation which has particular expertise in this field and which provided a report.

The dilemma for Correctional Services, of course, is that for a person who presents with needs that are so complex and at the same time is a significant risk to the safety of staff, as the minister has pointed out, we are required to ensure that we have a care plan that offers her an environment within which she can be normally managed, or as normally as possible, at the same time as we maintain the safety of staff.

Achieving that is clearly dictated by one principle in the first instance, and that is the safety of the prisoner. Unfortunately, that required some quite drastic measures, as has been reported. At the same time, without those measures, this person would have, in all likelihood, taken her own life. Clearly that is a risk that we cannot, in any way, take, so we have to put measures in place under the circumstances to ensure that that cannot occur.

Future measures are going to happen—and these are projects that have already been announced—in particular, the development of the high dependency unit which, hopefully, will

provide within a custodial environment a therapeutic accommodation arrangement where all the complex needs can be met and all the risks can be reasonably managed.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On that same budget line, in relation to these protocols that are being developed between the Department for Correctional Services and the health department, it is obviously not just for particularly difficult prisoners such as prisoner Davies. I refer to the South Australian government advocate for the mentally ill, Maurice Corcoran, who, on radio the other day, regarding women prisoners giving birth, said:

...prisoners were then again handcuffed and shackled...women who were pregnant and were going to give birth to their child in hospital settings where they were handcuffed and shackled right up to the second stage of birth.

He goes on:

The one that really stands out is the case of a prisoner who was dying in a hospice...they couldn't get themselves out of bed if they wanted to.

I assume he meant they were shackled as well. My father worked in Z ward of Parkside in the fifties; he told me about padded cells and straitjackets. We do not seem to have come very far in 50 years.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Duncan, I am sure you will recall that 12, 18 months ago there was an attempted escape from the Royal Adelaide Hospital by an extremely violent prisoner.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, and I have no problem with him being shackled. In fact, I was in the USA and I saw a guy come through with shackles and chains to his wrists and everywhere. This guy was not going anywhere and I had no problem with that. However, women giving birth and people on their deathbed, I do have personal issues with.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am informed, very clearly, that no-one was shackled on their deathbed; that is not the case. In relation to women giving birth, there are protocols around women. At the time of birth, I am advised, they are not restrained, but there was one case of a particularly violent woman that a number of agencies had concerns about. She was not shackled during the birthing process, but the baby was removed immediately because of concerns of what she may do to the baby.

I think I have got that right. We are talking about the extreme end and, when people go to our public hospitals now, the department has a clear obligation to keep the community safe, particularly to keep people safe who are in hospital seeking assistance. My understanding is that, if someone is transported to hospital within a relatively short time, an assessment is made of their security risk, and a determination is made of what security needs to be around them during their time in hospital.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Does that not make a really good case, then, for a secure ward at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital rather than having them handcuffed to the bed and then, I assume, G4S or prison officers having to guard them all the time?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have a health unit at Yatala operating now, which is where many prisoners are taken and they have their medical needs met, but in times of emergency they are taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital or the closest public hospital for their treatment and we put the required security around them. Some people, even if they were potentially in a secure ward, would need some restraint.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Was there consideration for a special prison ward at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital? You are spending \$2.2 billion on this new hospital.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are building a new health unit at Yatala to accommodate these prisoners.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But when you get prisoners like prisoner Focarelli who gets shot and then has to be held in Adelaide for major surgery—you are not going to have that out at Yatala, as much as we might like to—but you could have access to that post-op care in a closed ward at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have our new health unit coming to Yatala, and proper assessments are made of the risk of these prisoners. Not all of them would be required to be in a unit like that, and it is probably not the most effective way of dealing with them.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same issues, Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 145, Rehabilitation and reparation: I have some real issues with the system failures. In the annual report, page 19, it says that in the Sentence Management Unit:

SMU psychologists, are involved in the High Risk Assessment Team (HRAT) meetings—

so the SMU and HRAT meet together—

and Behavioural Management Forums...providing a format for urgent referrals for prisoners requiring immediate treatment, crisis intervention and specialised management strategies.

So, when did the SMU and HRAT first discuss and assess Jacqui Davies, and what strategies were put in place for her?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that it is likely she was assessed on admission to prison.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Would she have been reviewed then?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes; she has had constant reviews.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are you able to tell the committee what are the reviews of those assessments?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** She has had constant reviews and many things have been put in place to try and protect her. As Mr Severin said, in the end we engaged people from interstate to come and provide further advice to the department and, quite frankly, we were praised in the report which said that if it were not for the steps taken by the department she likely would not be alive.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 149-50, Custodial services. How many South Australian forensic mental health patients who are not convicted of a crime are held in the Yatala infirmary, or is there an infirmary in G Division? I thought there was a clinic or an examination room?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No infirmary? Are they held in G Division at any stage—people who are not prisoners but who are severe mental health patients?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The people who are accommodated in G Division are prisoners who need to be separated because of behaviour problems, whether they have been involved in assault, or what have you, and those people at risk of suicide who are put on intensive watch.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The stories I am hearing about mental health patients who are unable to be controlled in James Nash being put in G Division, they are not true?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There may be people who are placed in prison because they cannot be managed in James Nash House either.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same issue, same budget line, for breaches of parole are some prisoners then going straight to James Nash House, which then forces people in James Nash House to be put out into public hospitals, acute mental health units or prisons?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Breaches of parole are dealt with by the Parole Board, but those people who would be admitted to James Nash House would be directed there by the health system and not by us.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Not by the Parole Board?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to community-based services, Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Program 1, page 150. Can the minister report on the progress of the community service program Repay SA?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Port Adelaide for that question. I am proud to report on what I think is a very forward-thinking, rehabilitation-focused initiative. Community service programs such as Repay SA are not just about the punishment of offenders. Repay SA is a fantastic example of the positive outcomes that can be achieved by engaging offenders in meaningful work activities. Not only is the general public rewarded with an efficient and low-cost service but offenders themselves are given the opportunity to give back to the community, to build positive relationships and learn new skills, all of which are necessary for successful rehabilitation.

The focus of Repay SA is the detag program. Detag offenders get stuck into a number of services, including removing graffiti, cleaning up transport hubs and train stations, picking up roadside litter, landscaping community areas and local cemeteries, and even house painting. Some

detag participants are offenders who have been found guilty of graffiti-related offences, and they are therefore given the chance to directly pay back the community for their crimes.

Currently, detag workers are busy removing graffiti along the Southern Expressway, the northern rail line between North Adelaide and Gawler Central, and on the Outer Harbor, Belair and Noarlunga rail lines. The program also has offenders at work cleaning up TransAdelaide interchanges at Paradise, Modbury and Klemzig. In addition to the work for Transport SA and TransAdelaide, I am told that the department's Community Corrections division has successfully established detag agreements with local councils, including Playford and Salisbury, and in regional areas, such as the Copper Coast and Wakefield councils.

I am also pleased to advise that the program is now underway in Gawler, and there are plans for a similar expansion into the Barossa. Repay SA is for offenders with a court order as an alternative to paying a fine, or as a requirement set by the Parole Board, and it can also be used as part of a structured day activity for prisoners on home detention. I am delighted to advise that so far, in the 2011-12 financial year alone, over 110,866 hours of Repay SA work have been completed.

Furthermore, since the program's inception in September 2008, 499,328 hours have been undertaken—so nearly 500,000 hours. This equates to a remarkable \$7.7 million worth of value to the community, and it is an outstanding achievement. The Department for Correctional Services continues to expand the delivery of its Repay SA and detag services across the state. I take this opportunity to congratulate the efforts of the department's Community Corrections division on Repay SA, as well as encourage all councils in the state to take advantage of this valuable program.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Program 1, page 150, Highlights 2011-12. Can you provide the committee an update on the plans to expand Port Augusta and Mount Gambier prisons?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The Department for Correctional Services aims to provide prisoner accommodation that meets best practice in the safe, secure and humane treatment of prisoners, and this government has committed to significant works to increase prisoner bed numbers at a number of sites across the state. Included in these works is the building of the new 90-bed high-security block at Port Augusta and the construction of a 108-bed medium to low-security block at Mount Gambier. Both projects are critical to addressing an increasing prisoner population.

The Port Augusta Prison Banksia project has an approved allocation of \$16.2 million. The new cell block accommodation is configured as two wings around a central officer station and will include accommodation for a disabled or high-needs prisoner with a bunk for a carer. This is critical, considering the ageing prisoner population we have here in South Australia.

In May 2011, cabinet approved the letting of the Banksia project tender to Tagara Builders. I am really pleased to report that, whilst the contracted construction completion date was 26 November 2012, construction is currently proceeding ahead of schedule. Operational commissioning of the new cell block is now expected in the first quarter of the 2012-13 financial year.

The Mount Gambier Prison expansion will also provide an important increase in bed numbers, with a cabinet approved allocation of \$22.9 million for the 108-bed cell block. Included within this project is an extension to the secure perimeter fences and a new kitchen to service the increased numbers of prisoners. Based on the successful trial of modular accommodation at Cadell in late 2011, the department will utilise this innovative strategy by following a similar modular design for the Mount Gambier cell block. DPTI is risk managing this project and the appointment of the managing contractor has now been awarded to Badge Constructions. I am told that construction completion is anticipated for midway through next year.

Combined with the newly opened Bluefin Unit at Port Lincoln Prison, the modular cell at Cadell Training Centre and the extensive program of works at the department's Northfield precinct, these new initiatives demonstrate the commitment by this government to provide secure and cost-effective projects in South Australia. These projects meet future prison capacity needs as well as enhancing security and existing infrastructure. I look forward again to reporting progress on these developments in the future.

**Ms THOMPSON:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, Program 1, page 153. Can the minister provide information on the joint pilot program implemented by the Department for Correctional Services and South Australia Police that targets serious or high-risk offenders?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** This government has always been committed to public protection and community safety here in South Australia. To achieve these targets, criminal justice agencies must work together not just to share information but also target offenders who present the greatest risk to our community.

In order to enhance the cross-agency collaboration, in late 2008, both South Australia Police and the Department for Correctional Services put forward a proposal to introduce better coordinated offender management in South Australia. This proposal incorporated the best features of already successful strategies operating in the UK.

In 2009, the Commissioner of Police and chief executives from the Department for Correctional Services, the department of health, the Attorney-General's Department and now the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion agreed to implement a multi-agency approach to manage serious or repeat offenders. I am talking about hardened offenders who continue to cause crime and harm in our community. The resulting pilot program in Port Adelaide and subsequent second program in Christies Beach are significant steps towards improving public safety, enhancing victim protection and reducing serious harm in the community.

The initial pilot program commenced in June 2010 and is ongoing. It includes offenders who are high-risk or prolific offenders, and I am happy to advise that a second program, as I said, has been established in the southern suburbs. The plan works by adopting a case management approach where agencies share information, make informed decisions, assess and manage risks and implement case management plans that are tailored to meet the specific risks and needs presented by individual offenders. The focus is on those offenders who have previously committed violent offences or have repeatedly reoffended.

At the core of the program is the Department for Correctional Services offender rehabilitation and case management. Critical to the success of the program are the intervention strategies in respect to therapy, housing, employment, offender associations and substance abuse. Also integral is law enforcement based response to reduce the opportunity for reoffending or to increase the probability of apprehension. This involves the vigorous enforcement of orders such as parole and other community-based, court-imposed order.

The initial evaluation of the program was undertaken by the Office of Crime Statistics and Research and published in February 2011. The report identified widespread support from all agencies that were involved. A second report by the Office of Crime Statistics will soon be available, in addition to an evaluation of both programs which is currently being conducted, and will be available in mid-2013.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the Department for Correctional Services and SAPOL for the early success of this important program, as well as thank the other agencies involved in its implementation.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, pages 149 and 150—Custodial services. Minister, I understand that IMVS is doing the drug testing in prisons. I am told that 60 per cent of prisoners test positive for drugs, and frequently for two, three or four drugs at a time. Is that correct?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that our program is targeted; it is not a random testing regime, so to use those statistics does not indicate the success or otherwise in relation to preventing drugs coming into our prisons. The people we target are the people we suspect may be involved in consuming drugs.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So 60 per cent of those tested are testing positive for one, two, three or four drugs?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will have to take that on notice and get back to you, but understand that it is absolutely a targeted program.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are prisoners tested for synthetic marijuana? I understand that it is a serious issue in the industrial field, with one in ten people turning up positive for synthetic marijuana, but I am told it is not tested for in prisons.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that we do not have any evidence at the moment that that is actually an issue in the prisons. We do not, at this point in time, have the appropriate mechanism to test for it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, no. If a prisoner does test positive to one, two, three or four drugs, or whatever, who hears the charge? Is it a prison officer, a visiting special justice or a visiting tribunal, or is it through the courts?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told they are dealt with by a visiting justice and charged under the Correctional Services Act. I have a brief in front of me that might give you some information about the test results. This tells me that for the current financial year up to April this year a total of 3,505 tests had been undertaken in South Australian prisons, with 641 of those (approximately 18 per cent) tests returning a positive result. So, that is 18 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Eighteen per cent. When the urine samples are collected, are two samples taken, an A and a B sample, so that one can be stored if there is a dispute?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have an instant test, I am told, which is where the sample is provided in a cup and that can give us an indication of whether there are drugs in the prisoner's system. If it indicates there are, then another sample is taken for further testing.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And that is done in front of the prisoner, is it?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There are protocols in place that ensure they cannot tamper with the sample, but I think it is pretty well done instantaneously.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So the testing program does comply with the Australian Standard for urine drug testing?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told the collection of the samples complies, as does the testing in the laboratory.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So the prison officers are accredited to the Australian Standard for urine drug testing—AS4368, I am told?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told they are not accredited in a formal sense but they are trained in how to take a urine sample.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** For prisoners who are on parole and home detention, is it true that they have to buy, or someone else has to buy on their behalf, the urine containers now as a cost efficiency measure?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is it a prison officer who goes to their home or wherever they are to test the urine? They don't front up with a sample and swear on a bible that it is theirs?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will let Mr Severin give you the detail of this. We have two mobile units, as I understand, that collect these samples.

**Mr SEVERIN:** In the metropolitan area we have two alcohol and other drug management units. They are staff teams of two who visit various community correctional centres, all of which are equipped with a facility where urine samples can be taken. In the regions those samples are taken by staff who work in the office. The schedule of the alcohol and other drugs management units is random. It is not one that we discuss to offenders, but offenders are required to attend their normal meetings with their community corrections officers and on various occasions they are required at the same time to provide a urine sample. That is in accordance with the requirements of their court order in cases where they are on a probation order or indeed the parole order that stipulates the requirement for urine testing. The same would also relate to prisoners on home detention where the conditions of their home detention are set by the department.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is the incidence of drug use in prisons being controlled? Eighteen per cent seems—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, 18 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Eighteen per cent, yes.

*The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:*

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, I would never. I believe Mr Severin and the minister. Is that going down? The police are working with DCS with their dogs as well, aren't they, checking out the visitors?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** As I said, in this current financial year up until April there were 641 positive tests. This compares with 798 in 2010-11 and 831 in 2009-10. As you would be aware, the legislation that we discussed very extensively over several weeks to provide greater tools to our corrections and police agencies in relation to the management of prisoners is going to provide greater ability to search people who are coming into the prisons, search their vehicles and search those who are coming in, as close as the car park, so they will have a lot more tools in their kit to deal with the introduction of drugs into prisons.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Why did only 52 per cent of offenders complete educational and vocational programs in 2010-11? The target is set at only 60 per cent, which may be a realistic target, but it would be good to see more prisoners participating in educational and vocational programs. The number of educational programs has been revised down from 20 in 2010-11 to 17 for 2011-12. I acknowledge that the focus has changed to literacy and numeracy programs but surely there should be educational programs on offer as well for those offenders who are literate and numerate to increase engagement.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Thank you for your question. I make the point that we very much want our prisoners to be involved in improving themselves while they are in prison. South Australia has, I think, the highest or second highest level of involvement around the nation, so our record in getting prisoners involved in education, training and rehabilitation is a real success story for people in South Australia.

When I went to the Port Augusta Prison and visited the Sierra program and the PREOP program the stories I heard were quite amazing. I visited the Sierra program for young offenders aged 18 to 25 who have committed quite serious crimes. I saw them stand to attention with pride and be willing to talk to me. Also, young Aboriginal men were willing to look me in the face and talk to me about what they are doing and what they have achieved, rather than slink into the back of their cells, and this shows that we are having some real success with them.

The PREOP program is where people get work experience up in the mines. I spoke to one fellow who must have been in his mid-30s who, on release, will be taking up a boilermaker/welder apprenticeship second year and will get accreditation. Another young fellow who did his work experience in the kitchen has been offered a job to start at \$74,000 a year. He is leaving prison and going up there where he will be on \$74,000 a year.

The improvement in our figures, if I remember correctly, are something like going from a low level, of around 30 per cent 10 years ago, to around 50 per cent of people being involved, so quite a lot of work has been done and a lot of investment has been put in place.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I did hear the prisoners complain that you would not give them a bulldozer as part of their mining training.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No. I understand that the last fellow who left Cadell did so on a grader but was quickly apprised of his mistake and returned.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Further to that, I recently visited the Remand Centre and, from what I could gather, there were not any educational programs being offered there, yet some of the inmates were there for up to a year or very long periods of time.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There are programs run one-to-one with prisoners in the Adelaide Remand Centre. When I visited the Adelaide Remand Centre, there were two educational officers working there, but it is not the same as when you have been sentenced. The people there are on remand and have not been found guilty, so they are just being held until their court case comes about. There are two people who work at the Adelaide Remand Centre to provide those services, but it is obviously not going to be as extensive as if you are in for a sentenced period of time.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** In the few minutes that are left, I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 147, Rehabilitation and reparation programs. What is the department doing to ensure it meets the target of 100 per cent for offence focus programs? You mentioned the Sierra program and I spoke to some of the prisoners at Port Augusta about that. At the moment the target is 80 per cent, and I have some serious concerns that we might be missing some people who need some significant offence focus program induction.



**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I have just recently sat through an interview with a young man. He had committed a serious assault and he was offered by the department to be involved in the Making Changes program to help him make better decisions about his life when he eventually got out of prison, and he just said, 'No, thank you.' What I have seen, however, is that the department will re-approach people, talk to them, and if there is something they need to do that will ensure that their reoffending does not continue or to help them not continue to reoffend when they leave prison, they do their best to convince them to undertake those programs.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Budget Paper 5, Capital investing, page 15, Prison accommodation. How many additional prisoners are expected to be accommodated in this financial year's project funding of \$52.834 million, and has there been a variation to this project compared to last year's budget? Last year's capital outlay for additional prisoner accommodation was a bit over \$31 million, so you have an extra \$20 million.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We expect to have 90 at Port Augusta, 108 at Mount Gambier, 20 at the women's prison, and we already have 36 new ones at Port Lincoln.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are all the prisoners doubled up?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, not all of them.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The vast majority are. I think at Port Augusta I was told the only one that was not was Bevan Spencer von Einem; the rest were doubled up.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In high and medium security they are doubled up, but not in low security at Port Augusta.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We were talking about the food in prisons before. The budget for the Adelaide Remand Centre kitchen upgrade has increased significantly, and I think it has been delayed by a year. Can you give us the reasons for that? I think it has gone up by \$1.9 million.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There was \$2 million allocated and \$1.9 million due to be spent this year, and they are evaluating tenders at the moment.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** When is it expected to be finished? It has been pushed out a year, I think.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We expect it to be finished by the end of this coming financial year. It is scheduled to commence in July and scheduled for completion in December. The kitchen upgrade will achieve efficiencies and improvement in the production and storage of food, and the upgrade has been necessary due to the mandatory food regulation amendments.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Last question—and this is a doozy, this one. I do not know how the minister is going to cope with this. It is not Liberal Party policy as yet. I have not discussed it with my colleagues. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 149, Custodial services. What is the incidence of tinea in prisons and what is the cost of treating it? Has the Department for Correctional Services considered supplying rubber footwear, such as thongs, for prisoners to reduce the problem?

I understand the incidence is high. The cost of treating it with antifungal medication is about \$400 per prisoner, and you could prevent it significantly by giving them some rubber thongs to wear.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that we do provide rubber thongs.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You do?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We do.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Well, they are not wearing them, not in the shower anyway.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In summer, we provide rubber thongs. In situations like that, I would expect that we would be working with the Department for Health and Ageing, so I am taking your question on notice and will refer it to the Minister for Health.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It is a significant cost issue, I understand. It is very uncomfortable for people who suffer from it, they tell me. Thank you, Mr Severin, very much for your input.

**The CHAIR:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments for the Department for Correctional Services completed. I thank the minister and her advisers.

**Membership:**

Mrs Redmond substituted for Dr McFetridge.

Mr Gardner substituted for Mr Griffiths.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr R. Lean, Acting Director, Multicultural SA.

Ms J. Mazel, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr J. Ullianich, Chief Financial Officer, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

**The CHAIR:** We will now move to multicultural affairs in the portfolio of communities and social inclusion. The minister appearing is the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I declare the proposed payment open for examination and refer members to Portfolio Statement, Volume 1. When the minister is ready, she can introduce her advisers, and she may also wish to make a statement. Will the minister introduce her advisers, please?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Certainly. On my right is Mr Roger Lean, Acting Director of Multicultural SA; immediately on my left is Joslene Mazel, the Chief Executive of the department; and to Joslene's left is Mr Joe Ullianich, the Executive Director of Financial Services.

**The CHAIR:** Do you wish to make an opening statement?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** A very brief one, thank you, Mr Chair. It is a great privilege to be the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. During the very short period of time I have been minister, I have had the opportunity to visit with and enjoy the hospitality of many wonderful organisations and groups across South Australia.

We are very blessed, I think, to have Mr Hieu Van Le as the Chairman of our Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission. He really does provide valuable insight into the significant issues new arrivals face when they come to our shores. I think it is fair to say that multiculturalism is probably one of our greatest achievements here in South Australia, particularly since World War II.

Multicultural SA has been involved in promoting multiculturalism, encouraging and supporting organisations and arranging their participation in iconic events, such as the Christmas Pageant, the Australia Day Parade, the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil, the SANFL Grand Final and the City to Bay Fun Run. We support multicultural groups with a \$600,000 multicultural grants scheme, as well as land tax relief. So, there are significant programs we have in place to help multicultural groups here in South Australia.

**The CHAIR:** Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to make an opening statement?

**Mrs REDMOND:** Only to endorse the comments of the Minister. In fact, Hieu Van Le gives exceptional leadership, particularly with himself and Lan having such a special background. It is one of the areas of government where there is very much bipartisan support. That said, I do have some questions, and my first one, Chair, is to you, and that is to clarify whether I need to reread the omnibus questions into the record or whether the ones already read in for the minister are sufficient.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not think they were read in.

**Mrs REDMOND:** They were not read in, so I will read them in before the end of this session. I have a couple of questions on Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 96, and I think the rest of the questions will be on page 100. At 'Program net cost of services summary', item 2 on that list is Multicultural Services. I am wondering why the reduction this year of about half a million dollars, and what is the intention in terms of where cuts are going to be made? It looks as though the program that was delivered this year came in, remarkably, within \$1,000 of its budget, but there needs to be quite a significant cut this year, and I want to know the reason for that cut and where the savings are going to be made. The budget for the year just finishing was \$3,155,000 and it came in at \$3,156,000, but next year's budget is \$2,646,000.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The cumulative impact of prior years savings measures identified by the Attorney-General's Department applicable to Multicultural SA in 2012-13 is \$394,000. In 2012-13 the impact of these savings measures will see a reduction of 3.8 FTEs.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Can the minister explain who is likely to be affected by that loss of 3.8 FTEs? What jobs do they do currently?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Some people have taken redundancy packages but, with the movement of Multicultural SA into the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, they are going to amalgamate a lot of the back-office functions, including grant management, communications, event management and business support, so that is how they will make those savings but still provide the support we need to provide to our communities.

**Mrs REDMOND:** The next question may be my inability, even after 10 years, to understand the way these documents are prepared. Further down that same page is a heading, 'Reconciliation to agency net cost of providing services', and it has net costs that are added in being transferred out (again, that seems counterintuitive to me) less net costs transferred in. I do not understand why, when in 2010-11 there was \$10,801,000 actual, then the budget for 2011-12 was \$10,471,000 the actual cost was less than half that and nothing was budgeted for the next year, when in fact it seems to me it has been transferred in. There is something screwy, to me about the way that is all put in there.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will let Mr Ullianich explain that to you, but it is to do with the—

**Mrs REDMOND:** Double entry bookkeeping?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —timing of the machinery of government changes.

**Mr ULLIANICH:** It is not double entry bookkeeping. Essentially, what that reflects in the 2011-12 estimated result is six months of operations because it has come to our department from 1 January, so we are only reflecting six months, whereas the previous numbers you were looking at reflect a whole year's budget.

**Mrs REDMOND:** If it has come to your department and it is costing that six months' worth, why is there nothing for the next year? That is where I am lost. Why do we go from 10½ to just over four to zip?

**Mr ULLIANICH:** Because that table is seeking to reconcile the numbers in 2011-12 with 2010-11, as well as the estimated result. You can see, if I refer to page 100, what the actual budgeted expense is for 2012-13.

**Mrs REDMOND:** If we can go over to page 100, the rest of my questions, I think, will be on that page, and there is quite a number of them. The fundamental question relates to the total expenses of the department in the budget for this year—again, they appear to be half a million less than what they have been for the actual result in the current year. When you look at that overall expense of \$5,974,000, less than a quarter of it is grants and subsidies, and the vast bulk of it is employee benefit expenses.

What I do not understand is that, if you were running the Red Cross, The Salvation Army or something like that, I doubt that they would get anyone donating money to them if it turned out that 75 or 80 per cent of every dollar you donated went to paying the wages of the people running the system, rather than providing on-the-ground support. I am looking for some sort of explanation as to why the cost of the wages is so high compared to the overall cost of the programs delivered?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The agency has a relatively small grants program—bigger than it was but comparatively—and it is a service provider, so those are the wages of people who are providing translating and interpreting services, as well as the people who are managing the day-to-day operations of the office. In the main, it is translating and interpreting services.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Can I get a breakdown of how many people are engaged in which activities within the department? There is an overall full-time equivalent of 53.2.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, that is right. We have 12 people who are permanently employed in the interpreting and translating centre, plus 29.1 casual interpreters. In the administration section we have 27 who are not interpreters.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I am wanting some more information in terms of what those 27 do.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What their classifications are?

**Mrs REDMOND:** Presumably they are not all back office and they are out there doing some work on the ground rather than just—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They have been coordinating grants, and there are financial officers, business managers and admin people.

**Mrs REDMOND:** So they are back office?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, not all of them. Policy officers, events managers, all of those sorts of position, but we can take that on notice and get that detail for you. As I said, there are 12 full-time interpreting and translating positions and 29.1 casuals, so that is the vast majority of the cost of the wages.

**Mrs REDMOND:** You are saying that the 29.1 casuals are counted in some way in the 53.2 equivalent?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Mrs REDMOND:** If I can go back up to the top of the page, with the description objective of promoting community capacity and those sorts of areas, I wonder if you can tell me what is being done in terms of finding employment? I know, for instance, that in the Sudanese community the last time I spoke to them they had 85 people who were graduates of universities in South Australia but who could not get employment. It seems that fundamentally we are failing if we do not manage that transition not just to settling into the community and getting an education but actually getting employment afterwards.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The commonwealth funds and provides the settlement services for new arrivals, and that would be part of that program. The Migrant Resource Centre is the main provider of those services. I also understand there are programs within SA Works that deal with people. It is not a role that Multicultural SA understands; it is not a job placement agency, but we work with all those other services. We recently developed a system, an internet web page, where people can actually access information about the services they need. There are job service providers that provide that specialist service, I am told.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Is the minister able to indicate whether she gets information into her department in relation to any success that is being achieved, because that figure of 85 had stayed pretty static for at least a year that I am aware of.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that we do not have specific numbers on that, but one of the things we are looking at working on is the retention of our skilled migrants here in South Australia. We see that as a focus and something on which we will be concentrating in the next 12 months to two years.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I have a couple of general questions in relation to the nature of multicultural services. One I thought I would ask today is that, at numerous functions over a period of years, it is often said that we have more than 200 different ethnic communities in South Australia. I know the minister will not be able to list them off for me, so I expect her to take it on notice, but I wonder whether I could get a list of those 200 different ethnic communities. With less than 200 countries in the world I struggle to see, even if everyone was represented, how we get 200 different ethnic communities. I would like a list of the 220 if we actually—

*The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:*

**Mrs REDMOND:** That is what I want—I want a list of—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I think it is provided in ABS data, so if you get the ABS you will probably get the information you want. There are people who come here from India. There would be a number of different community organisations, depending on—

**Mrs REDMOND:** I know there are different organisations, because there will be different people with different needs.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There are Sikhs, there are Telugus, there are Hindus.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Yes, and I want a list of the 200, because the department keeps talking about more than 200, and I am simply asking—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It is available, as I am told, in the ABS statistics information put out, so perhaps if you get one of your researchers to go on ABS they will get that for you.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Clearly you have not spent a lot of time in opposition when you refer to 'one of my researchers'.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, only one term, Isobel.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Well, let me tell you—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Hopefully it will only be one term.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Thus far.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But I did all my own work when I was in opposition, so I know what it is like, and that is the job. That is where we get information as well.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Are you saying that you won't provide this?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I'm just saying it is publicly available.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I'll put it on notice.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, well, you can put it on notice.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Wikipedia is good.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, Wikipedia.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Unreliable.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It will give you a starting point. I still get invitations to go to functions from communities that I was not necessarily aware of, so I am sure you would have been collecting—not that you are at all of them, of course—a lot of information about some of the groups around South Australia and would be seeing that diversity.

**Mrs REDMOND:** We have a list of over 800 different groups, absolutely.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, there you go.

**Mrs REDMOND:** In fact, my shadow parliamentary secretary for multicultural affairs, the Hon. Jing Lee, has done a magnificent job, but I still cannot identify more than 200 different ethnic groups who are represented in this state. Since it is often said—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** You should get out more.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Since it is often said that there is quite a lot—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Jing does a good job. She is at everything.

**Mrs REDMOND:** She is.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, nearly everything, not at quite everything but nearly everything.

**Mr GARDNER:** I think we have all been to a few where one side or the other has not necessarily been there.

**Mrs REDMOND:** We go to rather a number.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I can go through the list if you would like.

**The CHAIR:** Any more questions?

**Mrs REDMOND:** Yes, I have quite a few more questions, Mr Chairman. Thank you for drawing us back to what we are meant to be talking about. Minister, in terms of commonwealth revenues on that same page 100 on the program summary, in 2010-11 \$124,000 was received by way of commonwealth revenues and, thereafter, apparently nothing. I wonder what the explanation is for that, and I have the same question in relation to intragovernment transfers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It was a specially funded commonwealth project for that year, I am advised.

**Mrs REDMOND:** No other money comes in from the commonwealth payments?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, it was for a one-off project.

**Mrs REDMOND:** And the intragovernment transfer on the next line?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Again, it was a one-off special grant from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet when the agency was under the Attorney-General's Department.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Thank you, and, going down to the very next line, what is the nature of the goods and services that are sold by the department?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Interpreting and translating.

**Mrs REDMOND:** So that would be for courts and things like that?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Given that it has gone from an actual of \$3,289,000 to an actual this year of \$3,205,000, do we have any reason to expect that it is going to go up in the coming year, or is that just a CPI type increase that has been slotted in there?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told it is CPI.

**Mrs REDMOND:** On the very next line, what comprises the other income and how come it jumps suddenly from a mere \$5,000 in 2010-11 up to \$50,000 and now an expected \$52,000 for the next year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will have to take that on notice. Because that \$5,000 was under the Attorney-General's, we will have to get some detail around why that has been increased.

**Mrs REDMOND:** In the descriptor at the top of the page, you talk about various aspects of providing advice to the government. I will ask about that advice in a minute, but I have a couple of questions on religious diversity. I am sure we all welcome religious diversity, but I just wonder whether the department is looking at getting or has taken any advice on questions regarding recognition of marriage and divorce and those sorts of things through alternative religions.

You would be aware that, with the commonwealth government, the one thing we have in our Commonwealth Constitution that is guaranteed is freedom of religion. For just about the whole time I have been in this place I have been aware that in another state there was a situation where someone, by virtue of a particular religion, claimed the right to perceive their spouse as a chattel, something completely under their control and so on.

I think that there will increasingly be questions about the religious recognition of marriage, divorce and other things and I just wonder how much attention the department is paying to the questions that are likely to arise around religious diversity, which is largely welcomed but which could come at a counterposition to that which is normally accepted as our cultural norm in some areas and our legal responsibilities.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am advised that it has never been raised with us, and it is certainly not anything I have seen in advice or any queries coming through from any community. I think the very strong message that has always been expressed is that, in fact, you are entitled to celebrate your culture, enjoy your language and be involved in your religion, whatever that may be, but you do need, above all else, to obey the laws of this country. There may be some things under the guise of religion in other countries that may be acceptable, but if they are against the law here then they are against the law.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Do we have any knowledge of things such as female circumcision occurring in this state?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My understanding from previous estimates when I was the minister for women was that we had not had any reports of female genital mutilation. Certainly, through my Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, there have been none.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to cultural diversity and community harmony, and I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, pages 100 and 101. Could the minister please advise what the state government is doing to preserve and expand the values of harmony and diversity that underpin the South Australian community?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Since 2006 our South Australian Strategic Plan included a target on multiculturalism which aims to increase the percentage of South Australians who accept cultural diversity as a positive influence in our community. The level of this acceptance has been measured in the South Australian government household surveys.

I am pleased to advise the house that the results of the 2010 survey show that 87.9 per cent of respondents believe that cultural diversity is a positive influence in our community. This compared with 89.4 per cent in 2009 and 87.7 per cent in 2008, so they are roughly around the same figures. In the updated Strategic Plan that was launched last year, Target 5—

Multiculturalism aims to maintain this high rate. Another household survey is currently taking place and 6,000 households are being surveyed.

An important strategy for achieving community harmony is to increase awareness and understanding of diverse cultures. The Showcasing Multiculturalism program is an excellent example of this. The program aims to encourage ethnic community organisations in iconic events, such as those I mentioned in one of my previous answers, including the City-Bay Fun Run, the Moon Lantern Festival, Australia Day Parade, the Christmas Pageant, etc.

Multicultural SA continues to support the involvement of communities in mainstream events through the Multicultural SA Grant Scheme. This provides funds for not-for-profit community organisations for projects designed to celebrate and value cultural diversity. Approximately \$600,000 is provided for around 200 organisations, and this is an eight-fold increase on the \$75,000 that was allocated back in 2002. As Minister for Police, I should also point out that SAPOL has developed and delivered a cultural awareness training package. There is also funding for ethnic community organisations under the Land Tax Relief Grant Scheme.

The annual Governor's Multicultural Awards continue to recognise and celebrate multiculturalism, and in 2011 a new arts and culture award was introduced. The eighth South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Women's Leadership course began on 3 November last year and will be completed by the end of August this year. The course is jointly funded by TAFE SA, Multicultural SA and the Office for Women. Sixteen women from Bangladesh, Greece, India, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, China, Iran, Rwanda, Kenya, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Japan, Philippines and Nigeria are receiving the training in a wide range of areas.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 101. Could the minister advise the committee on how the government consults ethnic communities so that it has a detailed understanding of the issues currently facing those communities so that it can be more responsive to specific community issues?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) is keen to ensure that the South Australian government is aware of issues and views of diverse communities around our regions, particularly in the South-East and Riverland regional areas. SAMEAC has held community consultations in Berri. Those attending included a broad cross-section of the Riverland community including members of the Italian, Greek, Sikh, Afghan, Croatian and Turkish communities. There were also representatives from Riverland local councils and service providers.

Issues raised during the consultation included issues around mental health and migrant communities, the opportunities of learning English, and sometimes the issues around interpreters. Several community members said they were keen to attract and retain people to the Riverland. SAMEAC held a regional meeting and community consultation in Mount Gambier. The consultations included members of the local migrant and refugee community, service providers, support groups and government agencies.

The chair of SAMEAC wrote to the government and community agencies seeking their assistance with matters raised during the consultations. Whilst in Mount Gambier, they met with the South-East Regional Advisory Committee and convened community and youth consultations. Again, issues were around employment services, as the leader has raised; targeting the needs and circumstances of refugees; cultural awareness training for government agencies; housing issues; recognition of overseas qualifications; and the ability to be able to access driving courses to allow them to get their driving licence.

Following this approach, there have been several significant improvements. The Skills Recognition Service has begun holding a series of workshops and consultation in regional areas to provide a single point of contact. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has introduced changes to its Adult Migrant English Program. The chairman of the commission has contacted a wide range of service organisations to get their assistance to help refugees get their learner driver requirements. DPTI is currently undertaking work to translate the learner's theory test into five commonly used languages. Cultural awareness training has been provided for agencies in the South-East.

More recently I was able to host a dinner in Whyalla with the chair of SAMEAC and had the pleasure of meeting about 40 people from a cross-section of my portfolio. SAMEAC held its most recent community consultation at the Playford Civic Centre where approximately 80 local authorities, ethnic community leaders and service providers attended. Again, that was another

successful meeting, and things that have come out of that are, for example, the SES improving its communication with ethnic communities and involving migrants and refugees as volunteers within the SES.

**Ms THOMPSON:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 101. Could the minister please outline how Multicultural SA is supporting the government's response to the recommendations of the Taskforce on Religious Diversity?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In May 2010 Senator Cory Bernardi published material on his website which led to the 'ban the burqa' newspaper article. The former minister for multicultural affairs met with members of the local Muslim community about the issues on 20 May and during this meeting it was suggested that public education is needed about why women felt the wearing of the burqa was important.

In response, the former minister asked the chair of SAMEAC to lead a task force on religious diversity. The task force included representatives from the Muslim community, business, SAPOL, universities and educational institutions and from the commonwealth and state government. That task force forwarded a report to the former minister for multicultural affairs in January last year which was then released on 19 February and is publicly available on the website.

The Taskforce on Religious Diversity recommended that an emphasis be placed on the role of community education in encouraging a broader understanding of different religious beliefs. The recommendations call on not only the government but also religious community organisations, schools and businesses to support community education about the religious diversity of our state. The report proposed a range of measures aimed at raising the level of education and awareness, protecting the rights of people to practise their religion without discrimination, and providing greater opportunities for the full community engagement and participation of members of all religious communities.

A consultative process was undertaken in 2011-12 and this involved writing to key stakeholders including government, ministers, agencies, non-government organisations and religious leaders. Everyone contacted confirmed that they supported the intent of the report's recommendations and advised the government of ways in which they were implementing the recommendations. Meanwhile, Multicultural SA has successfully applied for further funding through the federal Attorney-General's Department to undertake the building, practical inclusion and participation project.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Thank you. Going back to the response that you gave to the member for Croydon in relation to the community consultations, you mentioned Berri, Mount Gambier and Playford, and a dinner at Whyalla. Were they the only consultations conducted in the community or were there others and, if so, where?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They were the only regional ones undertaken last year.

**Mrs REDMOND:** And around the suburbs?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** At Playford. I think it is fair to say that the commission is very representative of community organisations in South Australia. We have regional representatives on SAMEAC and Mr Hieu Van Le is constantly out meeting with leaders in our ethnic communities. SAMEAC is very much in touch with our ethnic communities in South Australia.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I accept that Hieu Van Le and, indeed, Lan are both out in the community and that SAMEAC is broadly based in its membership, but there are only three dot points for highlights and the second point is those community consultations and you are confirming that Berri, Mount Gambier and Playford were the consultations that were conducted last year.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And Whyalla.

**Mrs REDMOND:** And a dinner at Whyalla.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There were meetings held in Whyalla as well.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Right. You also said that after the Mount Gambier meeting you had had a letter to the government as a result of those meetings. What did the letter tell you and what was done specifically in response to whatever was requested as an outcome?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thought I outlined those actions for you. Let me just go back and look through them again.



**Mrs REDMOND:** I understood that you said what was done; I want to confirm that in fact what was done was directly in response to what was highlighted by the letter.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, they were specifically in response to the issues raised by Mr Hieu. I read through for you all of the sorts of things that occurred such as cultural awareness training, organising driver's licence information in different languages, arranging for volunteers to help people to get their driver's licence, greater access to English language—they were the results of exactly those issues that were raised by the commission.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I accept what you have already told us, minister. I am just trying to make sure that what they asked for was what they got.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Can I go to the next dot point in the highlights at the top of page 101, and that is 'Continued the coordination of settlement services for the Humanitarian Entrants initiative'. What is that initiative? Who pays for it? What is involved in coordinating settlement services for that? Is that a federal program that we are involved in?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have been working on a project to improve the coordination of the settlement services. The project identified that there were lots of settlement services but that there were gaps and sometimes not necessarily a shared understanding of who was doing what, where, responsibility, policy funding and service provision. In 2011-12, project priorities were to consult with entrant communities to identify whether or not they were receiving the support they required and to bring together service providers to establish enduring networks and processes to ensure the ongoing coordination of settlement services.

During this process, individual and shared action plans were developed by service providers and a master action plan was finetuned. A major report was prepared during 2011-12, and on 31 January this year I released the progress report and also launched a new tool, the Settlement Services Finder, which is part of the Multicultural SA website; I referred to that earlier. The finder is designed to maintain and improve coordination and assure people of our continuing determination to help humanitarian entrants, but it also lists the agencies that are available. It is a useful guide for anyone who needs information about what is available, so it is useful for agencies and useful for individuals.

**Mrs REDMOND:** Can I just dig down into that a bit further? You mentioned individual and shared action plans by service providers. Can we have that translated out of bureaucrat-speak into what that actually means? When you talk about individual action plans, are you dealing with specific individuals and/or families? When you talk about shared action plans, are you talking about groups or communities or what? Who are the service providers? Are they within the department or someone else?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The report is on the website, and I will refer you to it; I do not have it here at the moment. It is about individual agencies being able to work in collaboration to better address the needs of those people seeking assistance.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I have one more question before I read the omnibus questions. I think I mentioned last year in Multicultural Affairs that one of the issues that stands out in terms of our new African communities—and, of course, our more established communities have entirely different issues—is simply the fact that they tend to have very large families and that our smaller houses, in terms of the number of bedrooms for two and three child families, just do not work when you have 10, 11 or 12 children. What is being done to address that sort of issue for a community such as the various African communities we have?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is probably a question best directed to the Minister for Housing. I can say that when I was minister for housing, under our program we were building four, five and six-bedroom houses as part of the national partnership, and the department is, I understand, developing partnerships with homelessness services to provide a greater variety of accommodation for people who require it.

**Mrs REDMOND:** I will read the omnibus questions, if I may.

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors above \$10,000 in 2011-12 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment?

2. For each department or agency reporting to the minister in 2011-12, please provide the number of public servants that are (1) tenured and (2) on contract, and for each category provide a breakdown of the number of (1) executives and (2) non-executives.

3. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, how many surplus employees will there be at 30 June 2012, and for each surplus employee what is the title or classification of the employee and the Total Employment Cost (TEC) of the employee?

4. In the financial year 2011-12, for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2012-13, and how much was approved by cabinet?

5. Between 30 June 2011 and 30 June 2012, 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?

6. For the year 2011-12, will the minister provide a breakdown of expenditure on all grants administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the grant recipient, the amount of the grant and the purpose of the grants, and whether the grant was subject to a grant agreement as required by Treasurer's Instruction No. 15?

7. For all capital works projects listed in Budget Paper 5 that are the responsibility of the minister, will the minister list the total amounts spent to date on each project?

8. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, how many Targeted Voluntary Separation Packages (TVSPs) were or will be offered in total for the financial years 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

**The CHAIR:** There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments for the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion adjourned until tomorrow at 2.45pm. I thank the minister and her advisers, and I thank the members of the committee.

*[Sitting suspended from 13:02 to 14:00]*

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE, \$681,531,000**

**ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE, \$171,000**

**Membership:**

Mr Griffiths substituted for Ms Sanderson.

Dr McFetridge substituted for Mrs Redmond.

**Witness:**

Hon. J.M. Rankine, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr G. Burns, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South Australia Police.

Mr D. Patriarca, Director of Business Services, South Australia Police.

Mr I. Hartmann, Financial Manager, South Australia Police.

Mr C. Andrews, Manager, Business Services, South Australia Police.

Mr M. Hicks, Adviser.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** The estimates committee is a relatively informal procedure and as such there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. The committee will determine an approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate change over 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.

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 21 September 2012. This year the *Hansard* supplement which contains all estimates committee responses will be finalised on Friday 12 October 2012.

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 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 to the house; that is that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length. All questions are to be directed to the minister, not the ministerial advisers.

The minister may refer questions to advisers for a response. I also advise that for the purposes of the committee television coverage will be allowed, with filming from the areas clearly marked on the floor of the room. I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to Portfolio Statements, Volume 3. I call on the minister to make a statement, if she wishes, and to introduce her advisers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will make a brief opening statement. In the past year the government and SAPOL have contributed to community safety by hiring more police officers, improving cooperation between police and the community, delivering new equipment and resources for police, and strengthening laws to make sure police have the powers they need.

Data released in the past year by SAPOL from the Productivity Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other external agencies shows that South Australia continues to have a nation-leading police service. Measures of efficiency, crime, officer numbers and the community's perception of police either show improvement or maintain previous positive results. In 2011-12, the police budget was \$722 million and this is increasing to \$767 million in 2012-12, more than double the budget allocation from a decade ago.

Further, 129 additional officers have joined or are expected to join SAPOL in 2011-12 as part of our commitment to add another 313 extra officers by the end of 2015-16. These numbers are on top of approximately 1,000 extra staff who have joined SAPOL in the past decade. This boost to our numbers reinforces our record of having the highest rate of operational police of any state for five years in a row.

The 2010-11 SAPOL annual report released in September last year, and ABS figures for the 2011 calendar year released this month, confirm a continued long-term reduction in victim-reported crime: SAPOL figures show a reduction of around 37 per cent across the decade and an estimated reduction of around 4 per cent in the past year. More resources and fewer victim reported offences have provided an opportunity to focus on public order offences that are usually detected and prosecuted as a result of proactive police work.

Results in the past year include more than 500,000 random breath tests, applying a new targeted model; more than 40,000 roadside drug tests, the highest ever; and 7,303 cars impounded or clamped, 40 per cent more than the year before. In late 2010, the government quadrupled the impound period from seven to 28 days. More cars are being impounded, they are staying off the road longer, and 11 impound yards are now in place around the state. Other hoon vehicles are being crushed or sold.

On 9 December 2011, the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 came into effect and police are at the forefront of implementing this new law to protect vulnerable victims of domestic and family violence. SAPOL has been at the core of the family safety framework that brings government agencies and non-government organisations together to address the many and complex issues faced by victims.

Throughout the year, SAPOL worked with stakeholders on legislative reviews of the Firearms Act and other critical legislation relating to serious and organised crime, amongst many others. In the past year, SAPOL opened a brand-new \$41 million headquarters and the first ever

purpose-built police academy in our state's history. The police commissioner described this as 'possibly the most important police investment in our state's history'.

The Water Operations Unit also recently took delivery of a new \$2.5 million flagship *Investigator II*. At the community level, WatchSA groups continued to grow, up 30 per cent in the past four years, and neighbourhood policing teams have been established in vulnerable communities in our northern and southern suburbs. The new teams will be established in coming months, including a group in the western suburbs for the first time. The employment of an African community liaison officer in the Adelaide Crime Prevention Team is helping build positive relationships between the authorities and new arrivals to South Australia.

SAPOL continues to work with multicultural and Aboriginal groups in our community, and this was showcased at the SAPOL graduation ceremony on Harmony Day. On this special day, SAPOL celebrated the first Aboriginal community constable becoming a fully sworn police officer through a new transition program. SAPOL has also recently established Indigenous traineeships in five LSAs across the state.

In recent months, SAPOL has been working with the Australian Crime Commission on a special project to analyse and track guns and ammunition used by criminal groups, and I expect further developments in this important area in the coming year. This joint effort builds on previous cooperation to combat major fraud and organised criminal groups and provide cross-border support in remote and regional areas.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** I now call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Acting Chair. It is with great pleasure that I sit here in police estimates, and I congratulate the police department and all the officers, men and women, on the job they do. I am disappointed that commissioner Hyde cannot be with us today. It would have been his last estimates. I understand he is away on police business. He has given excellent service during his time as the commissioner, and I look forward to his replacement continuing along the same lines because South Australia has a reputation of having one of the finest police forces in the world, and I have no hesitation in concurring with that general opinion.

One of the great things about being the shadow minister is that you get to go to the functions and support our officers. Yesterday afternoon the minister and I were at the new police academy, which is a wonderful facility, to see course 8 of 2011 graduate, and the young men and women from diverse backgrounds are again an excellent example of the way our police force is going. I will single out one particular probationary constable who, because of my other portfolio of Aboriginal affairs, was of particular interest to me, and that is Probationary Constable Allan Miller, who was a community constable. Allan is an Aboriginal man and he was a community constable and is now a sworn officer, which is a fantastic thing to see. I wish him and those other graduates all the very best. I believe next week we are seeing a lot of the Pommy coppers graduate, minister.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** English.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I am a Pom, I can say that sort of thing. The job police officers do nowadays is not only just a matter of being out there and catching the crooks but it is far more sophisticated than that, so we need to make sure they are given the resources and that is why we need to examine what this government is doing and question them on their priorities.

My first question refers to Budget Paper 6, Volume 2, page 84, the savings that are being put in place. The police force between now and 2015-16 will have to find \$27.697 million in savings and efficiency dividends out of the budget. Can the minister give an outline of where these savings will be implemented, and can the minister guarantee the people of South Australia that front-line services will not be affected?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What I can tell you is that this year alone there has been another \$45 million increase in the police budget. There was an efficiency dividend that SAPOL had to meet, the 0.25 per cent. I understand all those savings have been identified and have been met or are in the process of being met. The additional 0.75 per cent does not commence until 2013-14, so I expect the department will be doing some work to identify ways of reaching those savings targets. It has always been the very strong focus of this government to ensure that we have the police numbers on the beat to keep our South Australian community safe, and by 2015-16, the end of these efficiency dividends, we will have employed an additional 313 police officers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same budget line, the issue still is that there are total budget cuts of \$116 million.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Sorry, Duncan, where are you seeing \$116 million?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is the figure that has been put about the total cuts.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No—show me where that is.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is a widely known figure in the media—\$116 million. If it is not that, can you tell us what are the total cuts? I am happy to be guided by you.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If you look at the budget paper you quoted, Budget Paper 6, page 85—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, a total of \$26.697 million, but there are so many other cuts in place already.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But you are just making up that figure. It is not in the budget. There have been small efficiency dividends that the police department has had to deliver. The vast majority of those efficiency dividends have been delivered by delaying the recruitment of all the 313 from 2013-14 out to 2015-16. I think that was in the vicinity of a \$80 million saving, roughly.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Minister, I will just quote from a media transcript from 6 June when, on radio FIVEaa, Keith Conlon asked—

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Member for Morphett—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Same budget line, Mr Chairman.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Member for Morphett, can I just remind you that we are examining the Budget Papers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The minister questioned the value of the cuts.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** We are not interested in radio reports: we are actually examining the document that is in front of us.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think they are.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Was this a caller to talkback, was it?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This was the commissioner in response to Keith Conlon. The commissioner was asked about the cuts and the figure that was mentioned then was \$110 million. The commissioner said, in response to whether this will affect frontline services:

It is going to be hard to find ways which preserve the operational side of the organisation. I can't forecast what might happen...

That is what the commissioner said. He actually mentioned another \$14 million on top of other things, so I am happy to hear from the minister what the total cuts are.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Over this period of time, the annual police budget increases to \$851 million over the forward estimates.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think that, if we look at the Sustainable Budget Commission cuts, you will find that that is where that \$116 million figure is coming from.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** So, you are not talking about this budget: you are talking about several budgets ago.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Former budgets, this budget—the bottom line is that, this year, they have got another \$27.697 million in cuts and the bottom line is that you have the President of the Police Association, Mr Mark Carroll saying on FIVEaa on 5 June:

There is no doubt in my mind that it will affect frontline services. I think anybody who believes it won't have got rocks in their head.

That is what Mr Carroll said. I do not believe you have got rocks in your head, minister, but if other people, including the police commissioner, are saying it is going to be hard to find ways to maintain and preserve the operational side, then there is a real question that South Australians want to know about.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What I can tell you is that, in this budget alone, there is an additional \$45 million and, by 2015-16, there will be an additional 313 sworn officers. So, that is in

excess of 1,000 additional sworn officers, as well as additional staff on top of that, who have been employed since we have been in government.

It is hard. I understand Mr Carroll's disappointment that the recruitment of those 313 was taken out over six years rather than the four years and I know that he has expressed some concern that he is worried that we will not be in government to deliver on that come 2015-16. So, you might give him some comfort if you can guarantee, should you take government at the election in March 2014, that you will continue the program of increasing the number of sworn police officers here above attrition and make a commitment.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Provided the money is there, obviously we will be doing anything we can but, until there is an audit commission put in place to find out what you have left us—if it is like Queensland, it will be a basket case; that is the problem.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Come on, Duncan, let us look at your policies so far. The last time I looked at your website, when I looked at police or community safety or any of those sorts of issues it just said, 'Coming soon.'

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Well, it is like in 2002—your transport policy. At the election they were not there.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What are you prepared to do? Are you prepared to commit?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Let us move on, minister.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, put Mark Carroll's mind at rest and make a commitment that you will honour the 313 police come 2015-16.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You are the minister; you are in government.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Come on.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You are the one who is delaying—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are committing to it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You are the one who is delaying the recruitment.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are committing to it; will you?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Why have you delayed the recruitment program?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Because it was a way—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You had to save some money. You have blown the budget.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I mean the state budget.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Increasing the budget at a slower rate is what we have done. This is 313 on top of the 170 to 180 police officers who are recruited every year to ensure that we maintain our numbers. So, the police department will grow slower than what we had planned, but it will continue to grow. We are committed to doing that. All I am saying is: we are committed to doing it; are you? Put Mark Carroll's mind at rest.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We want to know where the cuts are going to be made now.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Member for Morphett.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The same budget reference, Mr Chairman.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Member for Morphett, I count three questions that you have asked in various different ways, so now I am going to give the government an opportunity to ask a question if they wish.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Here we go.

**Dr CLOSE:** Thank you. My question relates to recruitment and police numbers. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 189, with particular reference to the first dot point in each of the tables, entitled Highlights 2011-12 and Targets 2012-13. Can the minister please advise the committee of SAPOL's activities to recruit an additional 313 officers to the end of 2015-16 and how the most recent recruits will support community safety?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Port Adelaide for this question. As I have said, 700 additional officers—that was up to the end of 2009-10. We made a further commitment at the election for an extra 300 officers; that has now increased to 313 officers. I am pleased to be able to tell members of this committee that, come 30 June, we expect to have an additional 129 fully sworn police officers working here in South Australia, taking the numbers to more than 4,600 sworn officers and cadets. I understand these new officers will allow SAPOL to deploy additional police in the following areas, and these are really important front-line services:

- 28 Transit Police;
- 7 electronic crime police;
- 13 in organised crime;
- 12 working in family violence;
- 3 at Roxby Downs;
- 14 in police communications;
- 2 in the warrants program;
- 1 youth justice;
- 1 security adviser;
- 10 in Hindley Street;
- 7 in metropolitan LSA CIB offices;
- 13 in neighbourhood policing teams; and
- 18 in metropolitan LSA patrols

In 2012-13, I am advised SAPOL expects to recruit around 170 to 180 officers to balance attrition and maintain the increased strength of the service. In 2014-15, SAPOL will continue to recruit for attrition, plus an additional 29 new officers, followed by 80 extra officers in 2014-15 and another 75 in 2015-16.

I must stress that any claims of cuts to police numbers are just simply false. The initial commitment of 313 officers over four years was extended to a six-year period. As such, the numbers are increasing more slowly than initially planned, but this government is committed to providing more police to keep our community safe. As I said earlier, the Productivity Commission has reported that South Australia has had the highest rate per 100,000 residents of operational police of any state in Australia for five years in a row.

Since 2005, SAPOL has conducted a number of recruitment exercises to attract serving police officers from the United Kingdom and New Zealand: 97 UK officers joined SAPOL in the past year; however, I understand SAPOL does not have plans for any further UK recruitment at this time.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My question is about crime trends. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 193, with particular reference to the total expenses for crime prevention and criminal justice services, as reported in the 'Program summary—expenses, income and FTEs' table. I note expenditure in this area is expected to increase by around 10 per cent over two years, from \$307 million in 2010-11 to \$338 million in 2012-13. Can the minister explain to the committee how effective this investment has been in reducing crime?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is an important question from the member for Croydon. Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and SAPOL both indicate a long-term reduction in a variety of crime in South Australia. In 2000-01, SAPOL was reporting more than 209,000 victim-reported offences in South Australia, and in 2010-11 this was down to around 131 offences.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** A massive decrease.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** A reduction of more than 37 per cent. This period corresponds with an increased police budget, more police officers, and expanded police powers. Of the two dozen victim-reported offence categories listed in SAPOL's annual reports, all but two are down over the past decade. SAPOL has not simply decided that fewer offences mean less work, they have taken the lead across Australia in areas such as major fraud and serious organised crime, ramped up efforts to detect and prosecute offenders before they harm a victim.

Offences against public order such as drug offences, disorderly conduct, various firearm offences and a number of traffic offences are normally detected as a result of proactive police work. A reduction in victim reported crime has given police more opportunities to be proactive and focus on prevention rather than cure. As such, public order offences detected by police have increased by about 17 per cent in the past decade.

SAPOL advises me that victim reported crime is expected to drop by another 3 per cent to 4 per cent in this current financial year and there will be a very minor change in public order offences. Apart from seeking out crime as victim reported crime reduced, SAPOL has also trialled new programs to boost their engagement with the community. This is a long-term strategy to build and maintain trust and respect, and I cannot stress enough the importance of this work.

Adelaide has seen a number of disturbing and violent crimes committed in the past year and in some cases victims and witnesses have given no assistance to police. In other situations where witnesses were confident to come forward, police have taken remarkably quick and effective action to seize evidence and lock up the alleged offenders. Whilst our investment in criminal justice services is paying dividends, assistance from the public is priceless. We have seen 20,000 be solved through Crime Stoppers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I have a supplementary. Are we allowed supplementaries in estimates?

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** At the discretion of the Chair. You can ask a question in a moment, member for Morphett. Member for Reynell.

**Ms THOMPSON:** My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 189 and the neighbourhood policing team, and I believe I am going to have some coming to my area after the great success I have read about in Huntfield Heights and Hackham West. Minister, can you please advise the committee about the background to this initiative and the details of the doubling that is expected and how this will contribute to community safety in 2012-13?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** SAPOL commenced the trial of neighbourhood policing teams in August 2010 as a means of improving service delivery, confidence in and engagement with police in vulnerable communities. The neighbourhood policing team model consists of three core components: police being permanently assigned to a set geographic area, creating a police/community partnership and problem solving in addition to crime solving.

The initial deployment consisted of two teams based in the South Coast and Elizabeth local service areas (LSAs). Each team included a supervising sergeant and four constables or senior constables, each dedicated to a particular suburb. Participating suburbs in the Elizabeth LSA were Davoren Park, Munno Para, Smithfield and Smithfield Plains. South Coast LSA suburbs were Hackham West, Huntfield Heights, Seaford and Seaford Rise.

Each local team has been accountable for increasing police visibility and supporting victims, managing public expectations, providing a local point of contact for concerns, working with the local community to identify concerns and provide problem solving initiatives, informing communities about local issues and including them in the problem solving process, and forming proactive community safety committees with other government and non-government agencies.

The trial and subsequent evaluation were both completed in 2011-12, and I am pleased to advise that results included reductions in victim reported crime and improvements in local community satisfaction, and importantly confidence, in the police. Other outcomes included an increase in community intelligence being provided to the neighbourhood policing officers through their increased interaction with community groups. In one case an officer involved in a school program was provided with information from Facebook that led to the arrest of two offenders for an arson attack on a playground.

Other officers facilitated local programs such as Labs for Life, and sports programs to strengthen relationships between police and young people. The evaluation report also recorded positive outcomes from partnerships developed through the community safety committees, and whilst not part of the neighbourhood policing team trial, I note that community safety committees also operate in the APY lands and assisted in developing the Amata night patrols.

In Hackham West I am advised that a neighbourhood policing team officer worked in conjunction with the local council to hold a family fun day at a previously disused reserve that was attended by 600 residents. Several grant applications, through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, totalling \$200,000, were approved to redevelop the area. With results like this it is not surprising and very pleasing that the following recommendations were made: to approve neighbourhood policing teams as a policing model; expand at Elizabeth and the South



Coast; include the western Adelaide LSA for the first time; and create 15 additional neighbourhood policing team positions, 13 from the additional 129 officers recruited in 2011-12, plus two from existing positions.

With the new teams in place for 2012-13, I am advised that the Elizabeth LSA will continue to provide neighbourhood policing teams to the existing northern suburbs and expand to Mawson Lakes, Munno Para West, Munno Para Downs, Parafield Gardens, Paralowie and Salisbury North. Similarly, in the south they will maintain existing services and expand to Aldinga, Christies Downs and Morphett Vale. The new team in western Adelaide will cover Woodville, Woodville West, Woodville North, Bowden, Brompton, Ovingham, Seaton, Royal Park, Semaphore, Semaphore South and Semaphore Park. I expect these new officers will be warmly welcomed and make a significant contribution to safety and the feeling of safety within their community.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just continuing on the same budget line, Budget Paper 6, Part 2, page 84, the other issue that has been raised with me on policing numbers for front-line police officers is that, of the expected 129 recruits by the end of this month, Mr Carroll (from the Police Association) said that only 18 would be on the front line. He also said that short-term vacancies were taking up to 12 months to fill so, in reality, there was an actual depletion in front-line policing. Can you assure the committee that we will not be having any reductions in front-line services?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I can assure the committee that I do not direct the police commissioner as to where he puts his resources. It is absolutely at his discretion where those people go. I have just gone through a list of where these officers will be placed and I am happy to repeat that if you like. There will be 28 additional transit police officers. There will be extra officers in organised crime—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is quite okay, minister, I did hear that answer.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I gave you the list of where the 129 are going.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The concern also is that short-term vacancies are not being filled. Is that true?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If someone goes on short-term leave, I am told that we do not recruit to fill that. That is understandable; I cannot imagine any department would do that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think if we had the numbers. The next question is on Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 195 and refers to the statistics on crime and the activity indicators. There are some where projections for 2012 are not available. I note that it says, 'No target has been set as counting rules are under review for 2012-13.' Have the counting rules been changed with many of these targets? The reason I say that is that the commissioner said on radio 891 on 7 June, 'If you look at the broad context you've got to be careful of the data as statistics can't always tell the complete picture.'

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, statistics cannot always tell the complete picture, but the picture that we do have, that is very clear, that has come from a range of different sources— independent sources—is that over a period of 10 years crime in South Australia has dropped significantly. I can give you some indications of that, if you like, with offences: serious criminal trespass in a dwelling has, over the last 10 years, from 2001-02, dropped by 37 per cent in South Australia.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I am happy for the minister to table the document, Mr Chair.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I think you should hear these numbers. Serious assault is down 55 per cent; murder is down 30 per cent; non-aggravated robbery is down 58 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The counting rules have not changed? It says here the counting rules have changed.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What I am telling you is, the counting rules might have changed in relation to a number of things, and they have done that over a period of time, and if you need some detail around that I am happy to hand over to Mr Patriarca, who can explain that to you. The one thing that is very clear is that across just about all categories of crime, just about all of them, we have seen significant drops.

All I can tell you is that the department is reviewing its counting mechanisms. That is basically an estimate anyway; that is just the projection in any case, so it is not how many have occurred. I can give you the detail of the number of offences that have occurred. These are just projections that you are questioning.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On that same budget line, minister, you are happy to take the credit for those figures there, but will you also shoulder the blame if there is any increase in recorded crime because of the changes to recruit 300, going up to 2015-16?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not know which bit of this you do not get, but we are growing the numbers of sworn police officers here in South Australia. We have resignations every day of the week. We are maintaining those numbers and we are continuing to recruit additional police. That is why—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was the commissioner who said that he does not know what is going to happen.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is why we are seeing increases in detection of the crimes where police are proactive, but we are seeing a drop in victim-reported crime. If you want to talk about numbers, they are the numbers that you need to look at. The police department will take an additional two years to get the additional 313 on top of the 700 that have already been employed and the 300 other support staff, so it is not growing quite as quickly as we had originally envisaged, and I understand Mr Carroll's disappointment at that, but you can put his mind at rest today and commit to your government, should you take office, employing those additional police officers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was the commissioner who also said it was going to be hard to maintain front line operational services. It is not just Mr Carroll or me saying that: it is the commissioner as well. We will move on, if we can. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, Workforce summary: as part of providing extra incentives for police officers to stay in the job, what is SAPOL doing to improve flexible working arrangements? I understand that there are 463 employees in part-time or job share arrangements according to the last annual report. I do not know how many of those were sworn officers, though.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It is really interesting for me when I go to police graduations now and see the diversity of the officers who are coming into our force, and I think you would be seeing exactly the same thing. The first police graduation I went to, I think they were 20 or 21-year-old Anglo males, all at least six feet tall. Now we are seeing women and people of all ages and ethnicities coming into the force.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There is a mum with three kids who is coming down to Sturt, and I am looking forward to her coming down there with that experience. She must be pretty tough.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Exactly. The police department has come a long way, in my experience of the department. In fact, I was around when people were allocated jobs on the basis of whether or not they were married, and the wives were expected to provide prisoners' meals and clean police stations for no recompense whatsoever.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Did you do that?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, I didn't do that. I wasn't in a one-man station. But women were expected to do those things. Women police officers were expected to resign if they got married. Like any modern organisation, the South Australian police department has to provide relatively flexible working arrangements for people.

We have families, and we now have husbands and wives who are police officers, some working in the same country town. There is a range of programs in place, I would say, depending, of course, on the position the officer would hold, as in any work environment, but we can get detail of all of those programs that are in place now for you, take that on notice and provide that for you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to domestic and family violence. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, with particular reference to Domestic Violence Legislation System Support within the 'Investing expenditure summary'. I note that SAPOL expects to invest around \$650,000 on this item in 2012-13. Can the minister advise the committee what work this investment will support?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have placed a very high priority on addressing domestic and family violence, over many years. Amongst other achievements, SAPOL developed in 2005 an overarching strategy to address domestic violence. The family safety framework was approved by cabinet in 2007, and the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion restructured specialist domestic violence and homelessness services, resulting in a funding commitment of \$213 million from 2009 to 2013, and the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009 commenced operation on 9 December.

In the two years between the passing and implementation of the intervention orders legislation, SAPOL examined other jurisdictions, which had experienced a 200 to 300 per cent increase in intervention orders compared with the previous restraining orders. It was imperative to ensure appropriate staffing, training and resources to manage the expected increase in workload. A significant portion of the preparation was the development of a three-stage IT system to accommodate the legislative changes and to support information sharing within SAPOL.

I am advised that the predicted increases in intervention orders has become a reality, predominantly due to police being able to issue interim intervention orders on the spot under the new legislation. I understand that a comparison of the period between December and June showed 535 court applications in 2010-11 compared with 984 intervention orders and 684 court applications for the same period in 2011-12.

SAPOL is currently developing and testing stage 2 of the IT system, which will streamline the processes for operational police. SAPOL has also commenced consultation with the Courts Administration Authority and the Attorney-General's Department to develop a fully integrated system by mid-2013 to ensure that information is shared quickly and accurately between agencies that have responsibility for the recording and enforcement of orders. I also note that SAPOL is allocating an additional 12 family violence officers across 10 local LSA areas to assist with the management of the new orders.

The intervention orders are part of the government's overall response to domestic and family violence, which includes SAPOL playing the leading role in the Family Safety Framework. I understand that family safety meetings chaired by SAPOL are now being conducted at 12 sites across 10 LSA areas, bringing together health, justice and welfare agencies to manage complex and high-risk cases.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My question is about high-tech crime fighting equipment. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, with particular reference to 'Hi-tech Crime Fighting Equipment' as listed in the 'Investing expenditure summary' table. I note that more than \$3 million is expected to be invested in the 2012-13 financial year. Can you advise the committee what new tools this investment will provide to police and the effect on public safety?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In the past decade, police have added a variety of new tools to their kit, including electronic control devices, new firearms, improved vehicle-mounted mobile data terminals and electronic fingerprint scanners, amongst others. At the last election the government committed to expand the range of high-tech tools available to police, including 20 automated numberplate recognition cameras, 100 hand-held mobile data terminals and 150 portable fingerprint scanners. SAPOL has conducted a variety of scoping, legal and technical work in the past two years and I expect there will be significant progress in delivering these tools in the coming year.

I had the pleasure of accompanying an officer for a demonstration of one of four vehicles fitted with the automated numberplate recognition cameras that have been trialled by SAPOL over the last two years.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Did you get tasered?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I did not trial a taser, no; this was just the cameras. These cameras operate while the vehicle is stationary or moving. They can scan oncoming traffic or vehicles moving in the same direction and can scan cars parked in a variety of ways on the side of the road. Literally within seconds, the officer receives a notification of whether a vehicle is registered and whether the registered owner is a person of interest, for example, if their licence is disqualified. It is quite amazing to see. SAPOL advises that these new units being deployed in the coming year are even more advanced than those that have been trialled.

In relation to mobile fingerprint scanners, I am advised that regulatory issues are being worked through to ensure that police are able to legally obtain and cross-check fingerprints on the street. High-tech crime fighting is reliant on the systems that support the management of large and complex databases. I note that the same budget paper to which you referred also indicates an expected investment of around \$3.6 million in 2012-13 for the police records management system, which is part of a long-term project to upgrade SAPOL's information technology infrastructure and systems. SAPOL also continues to expand the DNA register, an earlier high-tech crime fighting initiative which now comprises around 93,000 suspect samples.

**Ms THOMPSON:** My question relates to the new police academy, and I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, the table entitled 'Investing expenditure summary', with particular

reference to the 'Police Academy Redevelopment'. I note that the papers show expenditure of approximately \$46 million on this project in the past two years. Can the minister advise the committee of the status of this project and its expected impact on SAPOL in the coming year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I thank the member for Reynell. I was very pleased to be able to go to the official launch by the Premier of our new purpose-built police academy, the first in our state's history. SAPOL formally occupied the premises the week before Christmas last year. I understand SAPOL delivered the project under budget for \$53.4 million rather than \$59 million, however, the buildings, training facilities and open spaces show no expense was spared to ensure that we have a learning institution that will endure for decades.

The academy includes a library and e-learning centre; dedicated training rooms for radios and specialist equipment; modern accommodation for visiting country officers; a scenario village including a bar, bank, pharmacist, petrol station and multi-storey residence, all linked up to CCTV so trainers can record and review practical examinations; a firing range, obstacle course, gym and hand-to-hand combat training rooms; an auditorium and open hall, which would have been nice yesterday rather than being out on their beautiful parade ground in such cold weather; and a beautiful wall of remembrance.

Several groups of officers have already graduated from the new academy and, as I said, I was there yesterday along with the member for Morphett to congratulate the latest members of our community to commit themselves to a career in community safety. Another two courses are expected to graduate next week and the academy will be in regular use to train new officers and, importantly, upgrade the skills of serving officers in the coming years.

For the benefit of the committee, training new police recruits represents a small portion of the overall functions of the academy, which also provides training and career development services for around 4,500 active officers and 1,000 civilian staff. I also note the academy has installed technology that may allow courses and information to be delivered in remote locations in the future.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, program Net cost of services. Minister, who does the cleaning now of SAPOL sites? The original contractor, Phoenix Cleaning, had the contract for six years at \$11 million and they have gone broke. Who is doing it now? Can you tell us how much money went to Phoenix, have they been able to deliver on the contract, do we need to get any money back from them, and what is happening now?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that there are no financial implications for SAPOL in relation to transferring the contract over. Another contractor, Zippy, has been engaged for three months so that SAPOL can go through a proper procurement process.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How far into it was Phoenix? They had just started, hadn't they? Had they been doing it for a while?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told for quite a while.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same budget line, minister, the SA Police vehicle service and repair contract for 2010-11 was worth \$22 million for a three-year contract with two two-year extensions (and we hope they do not use that \$22 million). How is that contract managed? It is worth \$22 million, but is that just for management of police vehicles and then you pay more for crash repairs on top—a bit like our parliamentary and government travel where we pay a huge amount for the management, and then we pay on top for travel?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that all of the servicing is provided under that contract.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is \$22 million the total for the seven-year contract? So, \$3 million a year for servicing and crash repairs. I hope it is not all crash repairs.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, it is for servicing the vehicles as well.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** For seven years?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I have not got the details of the term of the contract here. We do not have that advice, sorry.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same budget line, what will be the effect of budget saving measures on the ability for officers to participate in overseas study exchanges, professional development and professional placements, where they swap with overseas officers who come to South Australia?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that SAPOL is still very keen to continue that, but like a range of other areas they will be reviewed as necessary. I can give you some information, too, about flexible working arrangements. I am advised that from 1 July a voluntary flexible working arrangements policy was implemented, and it included purchased leave, compressed weeks, working from home, flexitime, part-time and job share, and special leave without pay. A lot of sworn police officers, weekly paid and Public Service Act employees have access to all those things. Police officers do not get flexitime or compressed weeks, as I read this document, but other than that there is a range of areas that have been put in place.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I thank the minister for her reply to the member for Morphett on overseas study opportunities and professional development. You have talked about its still being available, but surely there is some budget figure across forward estimates that you are able to detail to the committee. If there is no budget line, how can it happen?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told it is part of the training and development budget line.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** And the amount involved in that fund is?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We can take that on notice and get it to you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** To help the committee, in the annual report there were a number of trips, excursions and exchanges that ranged in cost from \$1,800 to \$44,000, when the band went to Switzerland for the tattoo there. There were also exchanges overseas—the US, New Zealand, Hong Kong and—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Where are you getting that from, Duncan?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is from the annual report, just to assist the committee.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** For clarification, is the minister taking my question on notice?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to the new police headquarters. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 189, a paragraph entitled Highlights 2011-12, with particular reference to the construction of the new police headquarters as described in the fourth dot point. Can the minister update the committee on the status of this project and its expected impact in 2011-13 and beyond?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** This was a major project and may well have been the largest project for some time for SAPOL. However, it occurred at the same time we were delivering the new police academy, so the new headquarters was a \$41 million project. Despite the new academy receiving significant attention, the new headquarters will also provide major benefits for decades to come.

Whilst the Labor government has consistently supported the recruitment of additional officers, we understand the success of our police is not just about how many there are, but modern training, management, equipment and buildings all make our police more efficient and effective. The new headquarters at 100 Angas Street were completed on 29 July last year and formally occupied in September.

This state-of-the-art building consolidates three former police buildings at 30 Flinders Street, 26 Flinders Street and 30 to 46 Wright Street, and has become home to units from 60 Wakefield Street and the Thebarton Police Barracks. Close cooperation between SAPOL and the designer Woodhead created a 10-floor, five-star, Green Star rated building. Original designs allowed for around 1,000 staff and 18,000 square metres of office accommodation, but this increased to more than 1,150 staff and almost 19,000 square metres throughout the design and build process.

The building includes modern features such as a fitness centre and indoor plants to help make it a healthy building. It also uses new design features to support traditional policing. Each floor has a large cafe style space that gives SAPOL employees the chance to share information and provide support to each other in an informal atmosphere.

As part of SAPOL's continued focus on engaging with the community, the new headquarters provides an open plan foyer and coffee shop on the ground floor to make a welcoming place for those visiting the headquarters. This is consistent with SAPOL's program to refurbish customer contact areas and make police stations more accessible to the public. Most importantly, bringing more of the central investigative units and statewide management functions together under one roof gives SAPOL an opportunity to improve coordination and support a safer community.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My question is about the new Yalata Police Station. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186: the investing expenditure summary table with particular reference to the Yalata Police Station, as noted in the final line under existing projects. I note that about \$3.5 million has been invested in the project over the past two years. Can the minister advise the committee of the status of the project and its expected effect in the 2012-13 year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** This new police station, I am pleased to say, is now complete. It is up and running and I had the great pleasure of going to Yalata on 3 February to officially open the station. The previous Yalata Police Station was destroyed by fire in 2007 and officers then worked from temporary accommodation owned by the Yalata community, so it was a great celebration over there in February when we opened this.

In late 2008, the Coroner recommended that the government consider incorporating safe cells in a new police station to improve the safety of vulnerable detainees. I am pleased to advise that the new station incorporated this and many other features. The new station has been specially located to allow access to people travelling on the Eyre Highway without entering the actual community itself. This reduces traffic in the township and improves the safety of pedestrians and children in the community. The whole complex includes the police station, holding cells, court facilities, two apartment style units to provide accommodation for relief officers or specialist visitors, a carport and a double garage, CCTV for prisoner and personnel safety and a radio tower.

Whilst the station provides an important safety service for the Yalata community, it is also the last police station as you head to the Western Australian border, so local officers work closely with Ceduna police and their Western Australian colleagues to conduct road safety operations over a vast area. I understand Yalata has been the recipient of significant funding to improve housing, the school, the pool and the police station and these improvements are delivering a better life and more opportunities for families and young people in this remote community.

**Ms THOMPSON:** My question relates to the new Murray Bridge Police Station and the road safety school relocation. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, under the investing expenditure summary. I note that SAPOL expects to invest almost \$5 million in 2012-13, in addition to nearly \$7 million in 2011-12, on the Murray Bridge Police Station and around \$2.5 million in 2012-13 on the relocation of the road safety school. Can the minister advise the committee what the community can expect as a result of these investments?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Thank you; yes, the new Murray Bridge Police Station commenced construction in November last year and is expected to be completed by October this year. This project will provide improved services for the population of Murray Bridge and its surrounding districts, which has grown from 14,000 to more than 20,000 in the past decade.

The new police station will accommodate approximately 76 staff and improve coordination across the integrating policing units based at the complex. As with our new academy and headquarters, the new station will incorporate the latest in building design, and the site has also allowed space for a future court facility. In addition to continuing its 24-hour service to the local community, I understand the new station will become the headquarters for the entire Murray-Mallee LSA.

In relation to the Road Safety Centre, SAPOL has been working with the Adelaide City Council and the Adelaide Parklands Authority to relocate the safety centre to the south-west corner of Bonython Park. I am advised construction will continue throughout the 2012-13 financial year, during which time SAPOL will offer mobile education programs and other services to ensure that schoolchildren still receive crucial education about safe road use. Importantly, I understand the construction of the new bike track will extend outside the boundary of the new centre and be available for families to use on weekends or other times when the centre is not operating.

These projects are part of the \$180 million investment in SAPOL infrastructure over the past decade, including the redevelopment of the Port Adelaide Police Station and, as I have mentioned numerous times, the construction of the new academy and headquarters. In the coming year, SAPOL will also continue with its program to upgrade customer contact areas in police stations across the state.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just on that, minister, did you say the road safety school at Thebarton would be finished in 2013? I thought it was supposed to be finished in August 2012.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Construction will continue throughout the 2012-13 financial year, so a completion date for that—it is well underway; I have driven past it on numerous occasions. I will just check whether we have a completion date for you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And is its budget \$3.55 million? Is that right?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Tenders were called for the construction phase early in May of this year, and it is anticipated that the entire facility will be completed in early 2013.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And was the budget \$3.55 million?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If you look at Budget Paper 5, page 41, it has the expected completion dates there, which is in the March quarter 2013.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 209—Statement of comprehensive income. Minister, I understand there were 871 accounts paid late, more than 30 days from the due date, totalling \$2.35 million in 2010-11. How are we coping this year, and why were 871 accounts paid more than 30 days overdue?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My recollection is that the target is that 90 per cent of accounts are paid within the 30 days. If I recall correctly, SAPOL is only just shy of that. Accounts payable, July to May: over 90 per cent were paid by the due date so far this year; another 8.5 per cent were paid late but paid within 30 days of the due date; and a small percentage, 1.14 per cent, were paid more than 30 days after the due date.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many did you say were paid by the due date, Minister?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** 90.36 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So it has gone down from 96.07 per cent in the 2010-11 year, so it is not as good as it was.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, paid by the due date and paid late but paid within 30 days of the due date. If you add those two up, you will get to nearly 99 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Paid by the due date, and?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Paid within 30 days of the due date.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, but I am just saying paid by the due date in 2010-11 was 96.07 per cent according to the annual report.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I reckon just over 1 per cent more than 30 days from the due date is not doing too badly really.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was 0.75 per cent, so it has got worse. Just moving on from that to—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We haven't finished the year yet either.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Let's hope it improves.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is time to catch up.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I will have to speak to minister O'Brien.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is time to catch up.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Talking about getting the money in—and this is Budget Paper 6, Part 2, page 85—what legislative requirements are needed regarding clamping, impounding and forfeiture of vehicles? There were 3.2 million reasons to fix the legislation because that is what was budgeted on in last year's budget.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Sorry, what is your question, Duncan?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** What legislation or regulation is needed to enforce the clamping, impounding and forfeiture of vehicles to get that money that you expected to get? I think it was about \$3.2 million. There was a comment that legislation—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** If it takes as long as it took to get the corrections legislation through, it will—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It'll work, though. We will crush these cars, will we? It is not so much about the numbers or anything like that. There was a comment in there.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The legislation as I have it here means that members of the public can collect their vehicles at the end of 28 days and fees are not levied until a court has considered the case.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** So police do not always collect the scheduled fees because the court may reduce or waive the fee in lieu of another penalty such as community service. There is often a delay in the finalisation of court cases compared to the police paying a towing contractor or other expenses. Some offenders simply abandon their vehicles in the impound yard. We are looking at how we can overcome those challenges.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** According to the budget papers—Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186—the actual figure was \$1.748 million in 2010-11. The estimated result in 2011-12 was \$1.035 million, so there is some significant money coming in, but there was a comment about another \$3 million that could have been collected. So, let's see the legislation.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In the first nine months of 2011-12 the total fees requested were \$3,597,450 compared to total costs recovered of \$2,060,952, so there is likely to be a shortfall of about \$2 million. It could be as high as \$3.2 million. The 2011-12 shortfall has previously been budgeted for, and it was expected that the new legislation would have been in place by the beginning of 2012-13 to review fee collection; however, this is now expected in the 2013-14 year.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, the program net cost of services, and this is quite topical at the moment with the fellow from Inverbrackie being taken to Melbourne. The federal government has deferred \$25.9 million in funding for 500 extra federal officers (AFP officers). What effect will that have on SAPOL's ability to do its job in South Australia? Will they be diverted off to our airports and immigration detention centres?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that the Australian Federal Police have picked up all of the airport responsibilities and that SAPOL has worked with AFP and immigration to make sure that any impact is minimal as far as SAPOL is concerned.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Do you know how many AFP officers we have in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, I do not have that figure.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** They are at the airport and immigration detention, I suppose, or is that 'rent-a-cop'?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** G4S is at the detention centre, I think. They have an operations centre, I am told, in Adelaide but we do not have information about their staffing levels.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 197, Program 2.3: Illegal Drugs. What drug diversions, as part of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative, are there specifically for Aboriginal people in South Australia and what specific Aboriginal drug diversion services are there?

The reason I ask this is that there was one particular group that had been providing this service for quite a while, a group called 'Makin' Tracks'. I understand they had the only mobile alcohol and other drug service in Australia. I am a bit concerned, as are a number of people in the Aboriginal community, that they are not going to have this service delivered to the same level as it was before.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told that since the commencement of the Police Drug Diversion Initiative, to the period ending 31 December this early intervention initiative has provided: 20,826 drug assessment, education and treatment sessions to South Australian individuals, and that includes adults and young people; 840 drug assessment, education and treatment sessions for Aboriginal people; for 3,516 individuals to receive more than one opportunity for drug assessment, education and treatment; and joint school and police decision-making and intervention for students who have offended or are at risk of offending.

It is overseen by a state reference group which comprises senior representatives from various government and non-government services. The progress of the initiative is closely monitored and, where appropriate, modifications are made to ensure timeliness and accessibility of health assessment services across the state. As a result of these managerial efficiencies, along with well-constructed data entry and reporting processes, the Police Drug Diversion Initiative data provides South Australia with an overview of compliance along with drug seizure data.

From inception to 31 December 2011, the data reveals that 87.6 per cent of youth and 74.7 per cent of adults complied with diversion requirements; 69.4 per cent of youth diversions related to cannabis, while 1.8 per cent related to amphetamines and methamphetamines; and 62.7 per cent of adult diversion related to amphetamines and methamphetamines offences. This initiative is a nationally funded program under the Council of Australian Governments Illicit Drug



Diversion Initiative. Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia in SA Health receives funding for the assessment, education and treatment sessions.

In relation to substance abuse for Aboriginal people, there is a substance abuse intelligence desk that is a federally funded partnership between Western Australia, Northern Territory and South Australia Police, with the objective to detect and prevent substance abuse within the NPY lands. The SAID is based in Alice Springs and it is supported by offices in Katherine and Marla. They work together to coordinate resources and intelligence to focus upon the disruption, detection and apprehension of people engaged in the smuggling and dispersing of alcohol, petrol, cannabis and other illicit drugs amongst communities within the NPY lands.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There are groups like Makin' Tracks which are providing a mobile alcohol and other drug service that was going out to some of the more remote communities. I am not sticking up for this group in particular, but we want to make sure that programs are working. I think they had something like 4,500 contacts last year, but they have missed out. As long as the groups that are doing it can deliver that is going to be important.

On the same topic of Aboriginal people, Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, Program net cost of services summary, can the minister tell the committee what is being done to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people as offenders and victims of crime. To quote the commissioner on commercial radio:

Some causes of crime are beyond our control. Crime caused by the Indigenous communities, some of those social issues police can't deal with.

Page 29 of the police annual report 2010-11 states:

SAPOL continues to recognise and respond to the issues of Aboriginal overrepresentation in crime as both victims and offenders.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are establishing, as I have said, neighbourhood policing teams, teams in vulnerable communities here in metropolitan Adelaide, where they are location based, working with the local community to identify local problems and local solutions. Yesterday you and I enjoyed the graduation of the second sworn Aboriginal police officer, who had formerly been a community constable, and we hope to see more of that. A greater presence in vulnerable communities like the APY lands, where there are 19 sworn officers, three new police stations, plus additional police on top of that, with supports from places like Marla. We have particular crime prevention groups that are established in local LSAs that look at, again, particular problems with particular groups and cultures of people in our communities.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just on that, to quote the commissioner again, he said that 'some of those social issues police can't deal with'. I understand that it is much broader than just policing. It is, as we have seen in many cases, a multidisciplinary, a multidepartment approach. The need to have community constables is there. Referring to the Workforce summary in Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, how many of the 12 community constable positions are currently filled, particularly on the APY Lands?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There are 10 positions on the APY lands; they have been rotating through. Maintaining appropriate people on the lands in a whole range of agencies is particularly difficult—it was particularly difficult in Families and Housing—to get people up there, and on the lands you are dealing with all of the cultural issues on top of that. SAPOL is also putting in place a program where, rather than people just going straight into a community constable position, SAPOL would have something like a cadetship—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Aboriginal liaison officers?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, they were not Aboriginal—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was different again?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —liaison officers, either. There is a new initiative being put in place. We have 35 community constable positions across South Australia, and we have the police Aboriginal liaison officers as a supplementary method to engage local communities in working with SAPOL to improve community safety; it is an opportunity to develop the transition of the role into a traditional community constable. For many people, the step has been too much and a bit daunting, but we are hopeful that this particular strategy will see some improvements in our attracting Aboriginal people interested in working in their communities in that particular role.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to the launch of the *Investigator II*. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, with particular reference to the replacement of the STAR Group vessel, in

the 'Investing expenditure summary' table. I note that more than \$2 million has been invested in this project in the past two years. Can the minister please advise the status of this project and advise what impact it is likely to have in the 2012-13 year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** SAPOL had been operating the *Investigator*, the flagship of the STAR Group water operations unit for a number of years after purchasing it from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In 2011-12, many new things came online for SAPOL, including the replacement for the *Investigator*. I had the pleasure of launching and naming the vessel the *Investigator II* on 1 June, along with senior police, volunteers from the sea rescue squadrons from around the state and the member for Port Adelaide.

Much like the new academy, the *Investigator II* was purpose-built, and it is expected to deliver benefits to SAPOL and the community for decades to come. I understand that the member for Morphett enjoys the water, so I am sure that he will agree that a \$2.5 million vessel, displacing 36 tonnes and extending to 20 metres in length, will be a fine addition to SAPOL's resources.

Among *Investigator II*'s greatest features are those that enable police to spend more time at sea during long searches. It accommodates six people (two more than its predecessor), with more room for storage, and it has a desalination system, allowing unlimited fresh water for extended operations, and dual fuel tanks provide a range of 700 nautical miles. The command centre is adjacent to but able to be separated from the main helm and, although some equipment and electronics are integrated between the two sections, this gives each their own space, which can be imperative for large-scale and long operations.

The vessel has the latest electronic equipment, including individual 35 and 65 nautical mile range radar units and an automatic identification system to identify and track other vessels. Most importantly, *Investigator II* is the epitome of safety. It has CCTV, allowing those at the helm to see areas such as the engine room and the very welcome addition of a drive-on/drive-off capability for its onboard support craft.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On that, is it just a scurrilous rumour that she broaches in a following sea?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That what? It probably is just a scurrilous rumour. I am not a sailor, so do not ask—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** When the boat is going with the wind and the sea is coming from behind, sometimes if the waves overtake the boat they will tend to push the stern sideways and the boat actually goes sideways. Somebody who knows more about this than I said that this design tends to do that; in a slow-motion rescue, as in manoeuvring slowly, in a following sea it could be quite dangerous.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am told it has had its full marine survey, and I know that all the—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I just hope it does not for those on board and those being rescued.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, it is a purpose-built design—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How come we did not build it here? We build submarines and things. It is like New Zealand fire trucks, I suppose.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My question is about communications and social media. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 186, with particular reference to investment in communications infrastructure, as noted in the final line item of the 'Investing expenditure summary' table. I note that SAPOL expects to invest more than \$1½ million in communications infrastructure in the next financial year. Can the minister advise how SAPOL is harnessing new media platforms to deliver improved communications within the organisation and with the public?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Like many organisations, SAPOL relies on the flow of accurate and timely information to keep our community safe. Changes in technology and society are placing ever-increasing demands on communication systems, and police are seeking high-speed mobile data capabilities to improve emergency management. More mobile phones in the community mean that police may receive 10 calls to report an incident, compared with one or two in the past. Smart phone users expect immediate and detailed information wherever they may be, and people with mobility restrictions are increasingly using information technology to overcome age or disability barriers.

In relation to emergency management, I can advise that police and emergency services ministers around Australia are currently discussing the establishment of a dedicated national broadband network to provide the next generation of communications for our first responders. With respect to reports from the public, police are allocating an additional 14 officers to the police communications centre as a result of recent recruitment. Further, SAPOL has launched a new web reporting tool for minor vehicle accidents and minor theft to provide more convenience for reporters and minimise competition with urgent requests for assistance over the telephone. This follows the earlier introduction of email reports for Traffic Watch and Crime Stoppers.

To improve communications with the wider public, SAPOL restructured its media section in March 2010. Each year, the section manages more than 12,000 press inquiries, produces approximately 1,500 press releases, and organises hundreds of press conferences. Following the restructure, SAPOL developed a dedicated news website in February last year ([www.sapolnews.com.au](http://www.sapolnews.com.au)) and then set up Twitter, Facebook and YouTube channels to communicate directly with the public. I understand that SAPOL now has a reach of around 50,000 people who actively follow news on these platforms.

The establishment and improvement of these new online services can have a significant positive impact on public safety. In the Queensland floods, police social media became a central source of information for both the public and other emergency services. In South Australia we launched the Alert SA website in the past financial year that brings together public information from SAPOL, the MFS, the CFS, the SES and the Bureau of the Meteorology. SAPOL will continue to examine new ways to boost transparency and community engagement using emerging platforms and technology.

**Ms THOMPSON:** My question relates to firearm prohibition orders. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 189, and the third row of the table entitled 'Activity indicators', with particular reference to the number of offences recorded against public order. Minister, I understand that firearms offences are generally recorded as offences against public order where the firearm has not been used in the course of another offence or against a particular victim. Can you please advise how firearm prohibition orders are contributing to a reduction in the public order offences?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** For the benefit of the committee, crime statistics are generally recorded as victim reported crime or offences against public order, with the latter usually being detected and prosecuted as a result of proactive police work. As such, the combination of 1,000 extra staff joining SAPOL in the past decade and a 37 per cent drop in victim reported crime have provided police with an increased opportunity to focus on crime prevention and detecting offenders before they harm a victim. At times this may lead to an increase in the recorded number of public order offences; however, I was pleased to see a significant reduction recorded in the past year. This reduction may be in part due to the strong deterrence affecting criminal behaviour.

A significant deterrent to firearm offences has been the implementation of firearm prohibition orders, breaches of which carry maximum penalties of up to 15 years in prison or a fine of \$75,000. I understand there are more than 50 FPOs currently in place that have been issued by police or courts, and more orders have been approved by the registrar and are waiting to be served. Whilst I cannot provide details publicly, I am advised that offenders have been incarcerated as a result of breaching FPOs. Among other conditions, recipients of FPOs are listed publicly on the SAPOL website; subject to unprecedented powers of stop, search and seizure; barred from being in the presence of a firearm; and required to notify any co-residents that they have an FPO.

During 2011-12, the opposition regularly called for more FPOs to be issued and argued that orders could be issued simply on the basis of someone not being a fit and proper person to possess a firearm. The opposition failed to state that this provision only relates to interim orders and they made these whilst they were objecting to the reasonable use of criminal intelligence in the assessment of FPOs. It is fair to say that Mark Carroll, having been quoted extensively today, said the Liberal obstruction was 'bizarre in the extreme' in relation to the criminal intelligence legislation.

Due to the extraordinary powers associated with FPOs, appeals may be made to the administrative and disciplinary division of the District Court. As such, police exercise considerable diligence and care in the management of FPOs and reviewed all existing orders in 2011-12 to ensure that they met the highest level of scrutiny. Unfortunately, police were faced with the unusual situation where they could keep criminal intelligence confidential when assessing liquor licensing applications but not if they were assessing FPOs due to legislative restrictions.

The government's criminal intelligence bill was recently agreed to by both houses of parliament and I look forward to this making FPOs even more effective in the coming year. I can

also advise that other jurisdictions are looking closely at our experience with this crime fighting tool, and FPOs will be a matter for discussion at an upcoming meeting of police ministers. As a final note, Assistant Commissioner Madeleine Glynn reported on 6 June that offences against people involving firearms had reduced from 270 last year to around 220 this year and that this reduction is even more encouraging than the reduction in public order offences.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** As the minister said, Mr Carroll cannot always get what he wants, and Mr Carroll also said that anybody who thinks that budget cuts will not result in front-line policing being affected has rocks in their head.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But your objection to sensible legislation is bizarre.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He has some views that he is entitled to but we don't always have to agree with.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am glad we have cleared up that point. So, you agree with him sometimes, but not always, okay.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The need to have a strong police union is something I strongly support. They are not always right. You might have to have rocks in your head not to believe that they are working for their members.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, that's why they want good legislation and not have it held up.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 194-95, personal crime: the new initiative for drunk and disorderly behaviour I think was described as disorderly and disruptive behaviour. What constitutes disorderly and disruptive behaviour? I was only half listening to the news at the time, but I think there was an on-the-spot fine of \$210 for the first offence and I think it was \$1,100 for the second offence—an on-the-spot line fine.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You are taking this from page 195?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, personal crime, pages 194-95.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will ask the Deputy Commissioner if he can explain what constitutes that offence. We do not know where you are getting it from, Duncan.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The budget line is about personal crime.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes, but where are you getting that description?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The description was on the media the other night. I cannot recall which police officers they were interviewing, but they were doing an item on a new initiative to issue on-the-spot fines for, I think, disorderly and disruptive behaviour. It was to target drunks in and around Hindley Street and other places. There was an on-the-spot fine of \$210. Questions were raised as to how you actually define disorderly and disruptive behaviour.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We will take that on notice—as you have not got this from the budget papers but from a radio interview from someone, and you do not know who he is or where he was from.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I can ask you about disorderly and disruptive behaviour: how many offences were there under personal crime on that budget reference?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We will take that on notice as well and get back to you.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The estimated result for 2011-12 shows a reduction in the level of alcohol-related crime when there is a view in the community that this is an increasing problem. What are the actual figures for last financial year?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I have some crime rate figures here, but the ones I have do not actually identify the numbers for alcohol-related crimes. On the 2011-12 outcomes we expect disorderly and offensive behaviour to decrease by 7.05 per cent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think it is under 'Activity indicators' where this would come in. It says 'No. of offences against the person detected by police and recorded on apprehension reports' and 10,703 was the estimated result for 2011-12, and that would include disorderly and disruptive behaviour, would it?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That could be a range of things. It is not broken down into all the categories.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But there is a program or an initiative now to have on-the-spot fines for disorderly and disruptive behaviour, targeting public drunkenness; is that right? I am not criticising it: I just want some information about it, that is all.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am just trying to clarify the answer for you so you do not get the wrong answer. I am told that there is work being done on that to see whether it can be progressed, but it has not been activated. It is a work in progress, as I understand it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister. The police are often accused of having quotas, so I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 203, Road Safety. In the February 2012 issue No. 28 of *Talkin' Traffic*—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Sorry, the what?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The February 2012 issue of *Talkin' Traffic*. Are you are familiar with that?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There was an item about the changes in road safety priorities. The main ones were drink and drug driving, speeding, seatbelts, distraction, driving unlicensed or disqualified, misuse of motor vehicles and recidivist dangerous drivers. While there was not going to be an emphasis on unregistered, uninsured or defective vehicles, these others were going to be given priority. The comment was made, though, that, 'We won't just set a benchmark number of contacts for those things.' Benchmarks, quotas, people out there would say that a benchmark is a number that is being set, so are police having quotas set for them?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I think it is appropriate for the deputy commissioner to answer that question for you.

**Mr BURNS:** You would notice for some time now that, since 2008, when you look at serious injuries in terms of casualty crashes and fatalities, they have actually been coming down. Part of that will obviously be improved infrastructure in terms of roads and education, and a large part of it actually relates to enforcement activities by police.

When we enforce, we have contacts. Contacts are either arrest, report, caution or expiate. What we have done over a period of time is actually benchmark LSAs (local service areas) so that we have a look at the number of casualties in the area and the amount of work they do in terms of contacts. When we have a contact, we do not expect to see a police patrol drive past someone who is not wearing a seatbelt in a car: we expect them to make contact. The discretion of the officer will take it where it goes in terms of expiate or caution. We measure to make sure that they are inputting into those areas and that they do contribute to the downward turn in road statistics, which is all the better for South Australia.

What we looked at recently in that *Talkin' Traffic* newsletter was benchmarking those offences that we believe contribute significantly to deaths or serious injuries, and you mentioned speed, seatbelts, distraction, alcohol, etc. All we do is benchmark to see that we get a response in terms of police out there doing enforcement, and we are all about enforcement when it comes to road safety. There is no quota. No-one gets hauled over the coals for quotas, but we do benchmark to see that every local service area contributes to road safety.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think that some people might think that is a quota—a quota of contacts, if you want, not a quota of pinches.

**Mr BURNS:** Could I just clarify that then?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Certainly.

**Mr BURNS:** It is not a quota: it is actually a benchmark, which is a legitimate business tool in terms of making sure that people contribute to the effort that is trying to be applied. When people are talking to you about quotas, it is a benchmark, it is a contact, and the contact becomes the discretion of the officer. We are not telling them to expiate, report, arrest or caution. It is up to them at the time and what they believe will be the best means of conveying that road safety message. That is a contact and that is what gets benchmarked.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The reason I am concerned about it is that, okay, it was anecdotal evidence, but it was from a police officer, who said that there was pressure being put on to go out and 'make pinches', in his words.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is no point in me telling you that is not the case; the deputy commissioner tells you that is not the case.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This is what a bloke out there was telling me, anyway, and I do not disbelieve our police officers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You listen to blokes out there, and blokes on—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He is a police officer.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —the radio—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He is a police officer, and I do not think he makes things up; he is a policeman—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I can assure you that the deputy commissioner does not make up things.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, I know that; I certainly was not—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And he is very clear that we do not do that. The simple fact of the matter is that anything that is expiated, in any case, the funding goes into the Community Road Safety Fund. So it does not disappear into Treasury coffers, it goes into a dedicated fund.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, I understand that, Jen. I understand that perfectly, but I just want to make sure that the police are not being accused of being tax collectors for the government, because that is not their job.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Duncan, you know—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You and I both know that.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** My sensitivity to traffic offences has been heightened, I have to say, since I have been Minister for Police—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And mine, trust me; I 'fessed up the other day.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And right you should.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** In fact, the initial advice from the police was that they did not believe it was an offence.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Of course it is an offence, Duncan; you are not allowed to use a mobile phone while you are in control of a vehicle.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It was a camera, but anyway, it does not matter. As I was trying to say, the initial advice—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You did it on your mobile phone.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —from the police was that it was being used as a camera. It was a mobile device, though, so that is where it comes in.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Thank you, member for Morphett. We are going share—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Nice try, Duncan.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, I 'fessed up and it cost me \$700, Mick, just in donations to The Salvation Army and Victims of Crime.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** And so, effectively, you got a caution; was that the case? Let me tell you, if we had insisted on quotas, you would have been included in the quota because that would have been an easy pinch. That just goes to show—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I wish people were as honest as I was, minister.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What happened with you was—

**Mr GARDNER:** You are an example to the community.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** An example to the community. I paid twice the fine, because I did not want to be accused of it being tax deductible, and I donated 100 bucks to the victim support unit.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —it was simply a contact. That was a contact; so discretion was shown by the officer that you confessed to not to give you an expiation notice, so it just goes to show. But, if we had quotas, you would have been done like a dinner.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I don't know about that, but anyway.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Thank you, minister. The member for Port Adelaide would love to ask a question.

**Dr CLOSE:** My question relates to Traffic Watch. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 207, with particular reference to the 'Activity indicators' table, and the number of Traffic Watch complaints received. I note SAPOL has been and is predicting to continue receiving around 16,000 Traffic Watch complaints per year. Can the minister advise what role this program plays in supporting police to improve road safety in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Despite our increased police numbers over the last decade, you cannot have a police officer sitting on the corner of every street at every hour waiting to make a contact. However, there is usually someone out there somewhere with knowledge of criminal or dangerous behaviour, and that is why the government and SAPOL have continued to promote Watch programs in this state.

Most people are aware of Neighbourhood Watch, and there is a growing understanding of School Watch, Hospital Watch, Business Watch and Transit Watch. Through these programs, concerned members of the public can provide information that helps to protect what they value. Importantly, the programs also provide a structure for the information to be managed, shared and actioned within SAPOL.

Traffic Watch is a recent addition to SAPOL's community engagement, and was launched in 2006 and significantly upgraded in 2010. Under the program, members of the public can call 131 444 at any time of the day or night, visit a police station, or send an email to report dangerous, negligent or reckless driver behaviour. The information is then loaded into a dedicated database.

Members of the public are encouraged to provide as much information as possible to help police, such as a numberplate, description, time and location of the behaviour. If deemed urgent, a police patrol may be despatched immediately. To the end of May, SAPOL had received 14,645 complaints in the 2011-12 year. Of these, 4,747 were filed due to insufficient information; 6,158 warning letters were sent to registered owners; and 3,740 matters were referred to the local service area for action. Follow-up work by the LSA has resulted in 20 arrests, 606 reports, 493 cautions, 25 defects, 21 clampings and two loss of licence. Traffic Watch is of particular value in identifying and tracking down repeat traffic offenders, and I understand that 129 of these drivers have been investigated as a result of Traffic Watch complaints since June 2010.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My question is about road safety enforcement. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 203, specifically to the total expenses for SAPOL road safety activities. I note expenditure in this area has increased from \$84 million in 2010-11 to more than \$100 million projected for the next financial year. Can the minister advise the committee of the work SAPOL is doing in this area to comply with its legislated purpose to regulate road use and prevent vehicle collisions?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** This is a significant investment in road safety, but I think it is important to note that this is only the SAPOL funds for road safety and does not include investments from across government. It is important because the cost of trauma to the South Australian community from road crashes is more than \$1 billion each year.

The road safety strategy Towards Zero Together guides SAPOL's work. It focuses on safer roads, safer speeds, safer people and safer vehicles. As with crime trends, success in road safety is measured over the long term, and I am pleased to report that our roads are now safer than at almost any time in the state's history.

To put things in perspective, in 1951 we had a population less than half of what we have today—797,000 versus about 1.65 million—and vastly fewer vehicles, but the road toll was double today's level at 200 versus 100. The road toll almost doubled in the following 20 years to be almost four times our current level of fatalities.

In 2011 there were 103 fatalities on South Australian roads compared to 118 in 2010, and serious injury crashes reduced to less than 1,000 for the first time. In 2012 a target has been set for less than 105 fatalities and less than 993 injuries. I am sure members of the committee would be pleased to see that target beaten by a very wide margin. But whether you count total fatalities and

injuries, the rate per head of population or the rate per distance travelled, South Australia continues to improve.

Vehicle technology and mandated safety standards have made a major contribution to the improvement; however, technology cannot cure poor driver behaviour and we rely on police to enforce and educate to encourage improvement. I am constantly amazed at the number of serious crashes that involve people not wearing a seatbelt, speeding, being distracted, having drugs or alcohol in their system or driving while unlicensed or unregistered, all of which are under the driver's control.

Police focus their enforcement efforts on these dangerous behaviours, and I want to be very clear: despite people referring to these activities as revenue-raising, they are nothing of the sort and they do nothing to support community safety by making those assertions. On page 205 of the same budget paper, SAPOL predicted that expiation notices would reduce by about 60,000 (more than 10 per cent) in 2011-12, despite there being more fixed cameras and more time devoted to speed detection. This is a very positive indicator that driver behaviour is changing for the better.

Police conduct more than 500,000 alcohol breath tests each year, 40,000 to 50,000 random drug tests, tens of thousands of licence registration defect checks and deliver a variety of road safety education programs. These include work by neighbourhood policing team officers who provide information on road safety and personal safety to senior high school students before Schoolies Week.

We continue to deploy new technology to support safety on our roads, including the automatic numberplate recognition cameras that I spoke of earlier. All of these initiatives are being put in place and we are seeing the trend of road trauma continuing to come down. Fingers crossed, I think we are currently tracking at 11 fewer deaths now than at the same time last year.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Reynell, the member for Morphett has indicated that he would like to ask one further question. We are almost out of time so would you accept his request?

**Ms THOMPSON:** I will, although I did want to know about drug practice.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We can do that in road safety if you want to.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Thank you, member for Reynell.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you to the committee. Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 199 deals with crime prevention. We know how successful Crime Stoppers has been: do we have a new major sponsor yet?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, I do not think so.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are we any closer? Obviously the program is still going to continue, though.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** There being no further questions I declare the examination of the proposed payments for the South Australia Police completed. Thank you.

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, \$954,509,000**

**ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, \$4,041,000**

**Membership:**

Mr Goldsworthy substituted for Mr Gardner.

**Witnesses:**

Hon. J.M. Rankine, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.



**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr G. Burns, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South Australia Police.

Mr R. Hook, Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr M. Small, Director, Road Safety and Environment, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr B. Tuffnell, Acting Chief Executive, Motor Accident Commission.

Mr B. Cagialis, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr M. Palm, Manager, Funding and Investment Strategy, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Ms S. Goldsworthy, Executive Director, National Policy and Intergovernment Relations, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Ms P. Norman, Manager, Safer People, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr J. Fulbrook, Ministerial Adviser, Road Safety.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to the Portfolio Statement Volume 3. I shall now call on the minister to make a statement and introduce her advisers.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Deputy Commissioner Burns remains with me and to my left is Mr Rod Hook, the Chief Executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, and Mr Martin Small, Director of Road Safety and Environment in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. I will just make a brief opening statement.

This government is committed to road safety and reducing tragedies associated with road trauma. In monetary terms, it costs the community about \$1.2 billion a year, but the grief from the loss of a loved one is immeasurable. Whilst we recorded our second lowest fatality rate on record in 2011, there is no way we would accept 103 deaths in a war, nor should we accept it on our roads. Our commitment to reducing road trauma is documented in the new South Australian road safety strategy, Towards Zero Together, which was released in October 2011.

Governments, vehicle manufacturers, road users and the broader community all have a role to play if we are to achieve our target of fewer than 80 fatalities and 800 serious injuries by 2020. Obviously, we would like to achieve those targets before 2020. With the input of key stakeholders such as the RAA, local government, and the Centre for Automotive Safety Research, working together with SAPOL, the Motor Accident Commission and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, significant progress has been made already.

A brief look back shows what has been achieved since Towards Zero Together was released last October. A default rural speed limit has been applied to more areas outside Adelaide and Yorke Peninsula. I am told that on average this will prevent 12 casualty crashes each year. A new set of speeding penalties has also been announced, and they will come into effect on 1 September. The changes substantially increase the loss of demerit points to better reflect the risk of speeding. At the same time, we have introduced new speeding fine penalties.

Legislation has been passed to allow for the installation of safety cameras at rail level crossings. This will ensure motorists can be charged with the dual offence of running a red light and speeding through a level crossing. A bill has also recently been passed through parliament to allow for South Australia to adopt the use of average speed cameras. I am told that work is now needed to finalise the associated regulations and that they should be operational towards the latter end of this year. I want to thank the opposition for the constructive role it played in ensuring both these bills passed unopposed.

Proposed changes to the graduated licensing scheme have been the subject of a thorough consultation process. This led to over 1,000 submissions being received. The government has also expanded the Stars on Cars dealership program to cover 75 per cent of all new cars sold in South Australia. A total of \$26.5 million went on the continued rollout of our Rural Road Safety program, \$7.9 million; Responsive Road Safety program, \$5 million; shoulder sealing program, \$5.1 million; and the Black Spot program, \$8.5 million.

Working alongside the department is the Motor Accident Commission, which has played a pivotal role in raising awareness of key road safety issues with campaigns such as Drinkwalkers, Matemorphosis and Watch out for Creepers. In 2011-12, \$5.75 million was spent on these important campaigns, and for the coming financial year a similar amount is expected to be spent.

South Australians should be applauded for the results we have achieved together in improving road safety. However, this work must continue. It is important to recognise that the vast bulk of fatalities and serious injuries happen to everyday people. One moment of inattention and, in the flick of an eye, lives can change forever. This government is committed to funding research, implementing reforms and maintaining enforcement to further reduce the road toll and serious life-changing injuries.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** I now call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Chair. It goes without saying that road safety is everybody's responsibility, and we all learn by experience as to how far that responsibility goes, but nobody can be abrogated of that responsibility at any stage once they are in the vicinity of a road, whether that is behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, riding a motorbike or even walking near or on the road. Anything we can do to make our roads safer is commendable.

We should never forget the lifelong impact of accidents and injuries. It is a staggering figure of over \$1 billion, I think you said, minister, was the cost of accidents and injuries in South Australia alone, and when you work that out on a daily basis it is tens of millions of dollars every day. Road accident prevention programs need to be well and truly thought out so that they are effective and supported.

I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 121, Program net cost of services summary. I do not agree with the former minister for road safety, but I will ask whether the current Minister for Road Safety agrees with the former minister's comments in relation to his blaming all accidents on drivers. Was he correct?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not think, from memory, they were the former minister's words. But one of the—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I was not quoting, Jen; I just—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** No, as usual.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not quote him.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You must not come in here and verbal people, either. I went through—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I will check the *Hansard*, it will be easy enough.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —a little while ago—

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** I remember what he said because I was the shadow minister for road safety for a time.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** What do you have now?

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Lots of other things.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I always liked working with you.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Can I remind members—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You have 19 minutes left.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Can I just remind members that we do have only half an hour allocated—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes; it is a very important topic.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** —so it would be pertinent to get on with it.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** In the police estimates, I went through a number of circumstances where people die on our roads, where the cause of the death has been inexcusable. It is inexcusable not to be wearing a seatbelt, for example; it is inexcusable not to be driving a

registered and insured car and not to be licensed. There are a range of things for which there are absolutely no excuses—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No excuse; exactly.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is no excuse for speeding; no-one has to speed. To die in a car while exceeding the speed limit by 10, 20, or 30 km/h, there is absolutely no excuse for that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Poor road maintenance and poor design are all part of it.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I think the former minister was trying to—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He was very trying.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —convey a frustration that, on average, we are seeing 30 people die in car accidents in this day and age when they are not even wearing a seatbelt.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 5, Capital Investment Statement, page 38, School Pedestrian Crossing Safety Program. Where will the eight red light and speed safety cameras be located? In my own electorate, there is a very dangerous school crossing at the Glenelg Primary School, where at least one child was hit by a car not long ago. I would have thought the Glenelg Primary School would have been one of the top priorities for a red light and speed light safety camera.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** It is fortuitous that you have asked me about the safety camera program today, because the Centre for Automotive Safety Research released a report today showing how effective those cameras have been in reducing speeds at intersections. They are working well; we have 73 of those safety cameras placed around metropolitan Adelaide. Over a 12-month period, the number of people exceeding the speed limit up to about 10 km/h, from memory, reduced by about two-thirds.

Expiations for people exceeding the speed limit by more than 30 km/h dropped from 44 down to five in a very short period of time. CASA research is showing that these cameras are having an impact, and we go through a very strict assessment of sites in order to prioritise where they might go. It is clearly not possible to go out and put them on every intersection or at every school crossing, so we prioritise where they go, so we will put them wherever we see the greatest need.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Glenelg Primary School is how far down the list, do you know?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not know where Glenelg Primary School is on the list.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is there a list at all?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I do not know where they are on a list, but if they had contacted us while we were assessing that crossing there would have been an assessment of the number of children who—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think Mr Gelston has been out there to have a look. This has been going on for a number of years because it is a very dangerous spot.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The fact is that there are many dangerous spots, so we have to put them where we are going to have the greatest impact on the safety of children in this state, and that is the way it is allocated.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** If you could let me know, minister—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I am happy to do that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —where we are in line; a ninth one would be nice, in this budget. I remember, four or five years ago, Commissioner Hyde, to his great regret, revealed the Victoria Police speeding tolerances. Today, under Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 204-5, 'Road use regulation', without revealing the tolerances, will the tolerances for the new 10 km/h speed brackets be the same as the 15 km/h speed brackets? Is the tolerance for a 50 to 60 km/h bracket the same as for a 100 to 110 km/h bracket?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The problem with talking about so-called tolerances is that you are setting a false speed limit. If I sat here and said—

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** That is what we hear every year.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, it is the truth, Mark. If I sat here and said, 'You won't get pinched unless you're hitting 65—'

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not want to know the tolerances, just are they the same?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, but it is the truth: you are setting a false speed limit. The fact of the matter is that we have speed limits and I would be saying to every motorist out there, 'Obey the speed limit.' If you are going to set yourself a benchmark, set it under the speed limit, not over.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We only have 12 minutes left so I cannot go into the uncertainties of speed measurement, but I am sure you are aware of the fact that we have been working on that for many years.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Suchy gets onto that fairly regularly!

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Why would that be!

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It is a proven scientific fact that there are uncertainties: like me, in another case, you thought you were not breaking the law but you were—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** You were.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —and you get done and, in some cases, there is not any intent. Just on the speed cameras—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** But no-one intends to have an accident either, Duncan: that is the issue.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is right, and that is why we try. Talking about that, coming down the freeway this morning was a truck with seven or eight axles, I think, in the centre lane. The traffic, I suppose, had slowed down to 80 at that stage, and he was overtaking another truck. What happened to the promised cameras that were going to be installed there to pick up the trucks speeding down the South Eastern Freeway? I think it was minister Koutsantonis in December 2010.

*Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:*

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Minister Kenyon, was it? There are some cowboys out there who still go down there.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** They have been constructed and they are about to be handed over to the police for testing, as I understand it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I understand that there are issues with phantom axels, and if you get two cars together and things like this, so we want it to be right.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We have to go through a process of testing, but that is about to happen. They are imminent.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You have these 40-tonne cowboys. I think the member for Goyder has a question.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** I have a question from that too.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Minister, I am not sure of the reference, but I presume it is Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 203. It is about speeding, particularly, and the reduction in speed limits to 100 km/h for any road within 100 kilometres north of Adelaide. I am interested in the feedback you might have had since that announcement a bit over six months ago. Have accidents dropped in number? Do you have fatality figures? Has there been an increase in speeding offences detected on those roads?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The first three months was basically an education phase, so the speed limits were not enforced. There were contacts made with drivers to educate them, so I think it is too short a time frame to have any realistic data yet, but we expect it to save 12 casualty crashes a year.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Just within that area that has been reduced?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Yes.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Are there any plans to extend that reduction in speed limit to other areas of the state?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** We are going through an ongoing process of assessing appropriate speed limits according to road condition.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** In relation to questions concerning speed limits, speeding on the freeway and the location of cameras, are these cameras going to be put only on the freeway to detect speeding heavy vehicles, where heavy transport is breaking the speed limit, or are they going to pick up normal vehicles, cars and so on?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Cars that are speeding?

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** As we know, there is a 90 km/h speed limit through the tunnels, but I reckon I am about the only motorist who comes down to 90 km/h to go through the tunnel because everybody whizzes by me doing 100 km/h to 110 km/h, so I wonder whether there are going to be any cameras at either end of the tunnels?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The cameras that are being handed over to the police now to be tested are for heavy vehicles only.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Are there any plans to progress that to detect speeding normal vehicles like cars?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** There is possibly the potential to explore expanding its operation.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** If the police were short of raising revenue on speeding fines, they would just have to set up at either end of the tunnel and they would clean up.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Let me be really clear: the police are never short on collecting revenue because that is not their role. Their role is to keep people safe on our roads, and enforcement is one of the major ways we do that. I went to Malaysia last December and, with a population like Australia's, they have something like 7,000 deaths on their roads. The major issue there is enforcement: it generally is not enforced. In fact, since my visit, Mr Hook has been back to Malacca, and they sent out their largest ever delegation to Australia, and we have had a delegation from Kuching as well—all about road safety and looking at our road safety initiatives because they are really beside themselves about the number of deaths on their roads.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Sure, but that does not do anything about speeding through the tunnels. I refer to page 187, Program 1: Public Safety. Is SAPOL now going to reinstate the Bay to Birdwood traffic control for the vintage cars to allow them to travel safely to Birdwood? Will the minister consider providing adequate resources to control one-way traffic on the Bay to Birdwood route between Tea Tree Gully and Birdwood?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I will answer part of that question and allow the deputy commissioner to finish off. The Minister for Police does not direct the commissioner where he places his resources. He makes a determination about what he considers to be safe, what he considers to be appropriate use of his resources. It is not about me giving him the required resources. In fact, we have gone through a very long estimates committee hearing where I have gone to great lengths to explain to your colleagues that we have employed an additional 700 police in the last few years and 129 additional officers have been employed or will be graduating by 30 June this year, and in total an additional 313 by 2015-16. It is not about not having the resources but about what is the best use of police resources in relation to events such as that. I am happy for the deputy commissioner to let you know what he is going to do about that.

**Mr BURNS:** In relation to the Bay to Birdwood, that has been under review by our major event planning section and also the Assistant Commissioner, Southern Operations, Bronwyn Killmier, with the aim of facilitating the current practice of running the race from the Bay to Birdwood and facilitating one-way traffic. Whilst the initial information was provided to the organisers that there may be some difficulties with that, that has been reversed and now we are working with them to provide them the route and access they require.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** From Tea Tree Gully to Birdwood, one way?

**Mr BURNS:** Yes. That is still under planning, but the aim is to provide at least part of it one way and potentially all of it one way. But it has to be worked through in terms of road safety and other user requirements as well.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Have you had complaints that the road has been shut off?

**Mr BURNS:** There were obviously some issues raised about the roads being shut off, but we will look at that in terms of our risk assessments. We have to consider not only the people

wanting to use it for their rally but also for the other people in the area. We are working through that to come up with the best solution for everyone.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 185, under Program net cost of services summary, Road Safety. I do not want Mr Hook to be left out here. Mr Hook identified, I think last week, the introduction of new types of pedestrian crossings where there was going to be a countdown to give people an idea of how long they have to cross safely. Can you give details on that, minister?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** No, perhaps Mr Hook can. I think you have verballed Mr Hook again. I think he made the assertion that he was not opposed to countdown pedestrian crossings and was happy to work with the Adelaide City Council. I may be verbalising him as well. I am sure he is capable of speaking for himself.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He is a big boy.

**Mr HOOK:** We have written to the city council about installation of two countdown clock cameras for pedestrians at the two crossings outside the railway station, so pedestrian crossings only. Council has written back and agreed to the installation of them, so we may well be in the process of changing the lights at the pedestrian crossings. It could be a trial basis, but it is trying to increase and empower the pedestrians to give them more time to cross the road when the pedestrian cycle is on. We would then look at them at either end of the Mall.

We do not propose that they be seriously pursued yet where we have traffic making turning movements, because at least the few seconds before you start flashing red gives an opportunity to clear the turning traffic. Where there are scramble crossings and where there is the full pedestrian cycle at the Railway Station, we have been discussing with the council an opportunity to give greater power to pedestrians to give them more time to get across the road.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I have one nuts and bolts question to finish off with. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 155: supplies and services. Why has there been such a marked reduction in expenses for supplies and services between the 2011-12 budget and the 2012-13 budget of \$1.729 million?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Duncan, it is a reclassification of two lines there. So, if you go down to other expenses, you will see there is a large increase under other expenses. It has gone from \$828,000 to \$2,119,000, so it is just a reclassification of some of those items.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Sibbons):** Time has expired. There being no further questions, I declare the examination of proposed payments for the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure adjourned to Estimates Committee A.

At 16:32 the committee adjourned until Friday 22 June 2012 at 09:00.