

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**Tuesday, 21 June 2022****ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B****Chair:**

Mr E.J. Hughes

Members:

Hon. J.A.W. Gardner

Mr M.E. Brown

Ms N.D. Clancy

Ms A. Hurn

Ms P. Pratt

Ms E.L. Thompson

*The committee met at 09:00**Estimates Vote***SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION, \$88,530,000****ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE,
\$2,365,934,000****MINISTER FOR TOURISM \$5,701,000****Minister:**

Hon. Z.L. Bettison, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr R. Harrex, Chief Executive, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Ms S. Rozokos, Chief Financial Officer, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr E. De Roos, Executive Director, Marketing, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr N. Jones, Executive Director, Destination Development, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Ms H. Rasheed, Executive Director, Events SA.

Mr A. Kirchner, Chief Executive, Adelaide Venue Management Authority.

Ms M. Hannaford, Chief Financial Officer, Adelaide Venue Management Authority.

The CHAIR: Welcome to today's hearing for Estimates Committee B. I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which the committee meets today and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

The estimates committees are a relatively informal procedure and, as such, there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. I understand the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition have agreed an approximate time for the consideration of proposed payments, which will facilitate a change of departmental advisers. Can the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition confirm that the timetable for today's proceeding previously distributed is accurate?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes.

The CHAIR: Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure 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 Clerk Assistant via the answer to questions mailbox no later than Friday 2 September 2022.

I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to make opening statements of about 10 minutes each, if they so wish. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions. A member who is not a committee member may ask a question at the discretion of the Chair.

All questions are to be directed to the minister, not to the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to an adviser for a response. 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*. I remind members that the rules of debate in the house apply in the committee. Consistent with the rules of the house, photography by members from the chamber floor is not permitted while the committee is sitting.

Ministers and members may not table documents before the committee; however, documents can be supplied to the Chair for distribution. The incorporation of material in *Hansard* is permitted on the same basis as applies in the house; that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length.

The committee's examination will be broadcast in the same manner as sittings of the house are broadcast, through the IPTV system within Parliament House via the webstream link to the internet and the Parliament of South Australia video-on-demand broadcast system.

The portfolio is the South Australian Tourism Commission and Adelaide Venue Management Authority. The minister appearing is the Minister for Tourism. I declare the proposed payments open for examination. I call on the minister to make a statement, if the minister so wishes, and to introduce advisers. I call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement, if the member wishes. I call on the members for questions.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you very much, Chair. I would like to introduce the team with me here today. To my right is Rodney Harrex, to my further right is Hitaf Rasheed and to my left is Steph Rozokos. Behind me, I have Erik De Roos and Nick Jones. They are from the South Australian Tourism Commission. Further behind me, from Venue Management, are Anthony Kirchner and Marie Hannaford. I thank them for their time in being here today. I do not have an opening statement and I am happy to proceed with questions.

The CHAIR: Do you have an opening statement, the Hon. Mr Gardner?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, I have no opening statement. If we can go to Budget Paper 5 to begin with, page 107 identifies the departmental operating efficiencies, which are listed as \$17.6 million over the next four years. Can the minister explain how these operating efficiencies are intended to be made?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I thank the member for his question. The Tourism Commission plans to achieve these savings through the cessation of funding that was allocated to one-off projects that occurred in 2021-22 and will not continue in 2022-23, such as the Great State Voucher stimulus measures, the working holiday-maker campaign and SATC's new contracts and procurement CRM. There will be a reduction in event sponsorship funding for various events, and we will be implementing a number of corporate services and operational efficiencies.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In relation to the reduction in event sponsorship, is the minister able to identify how much event sponsorship was expended by the Tourism Commission in the 2021-22 financial year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will get that figure for you before the end of the session, but I can tell you that for 2022-23 it is \$18.5 million, for 2023-24 it is \$12.5 million and for 2024-25 it is \$7.5 million; that is the sponsored coming up.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I clarify, are you saying that those 18.5 in 2022-23, 20.5 and 7.5 are what—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is 12.5 in 2023-24.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Are 18.5, 12.5 and 7.5 the correct numbers over the three years?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is correct.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is that event sponsorship that is already committed?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Perhaps I can elaborate on that. They are being committed and contracted. These events include both one-off and multiple years of annual events that will attract additional national and international visitors and thus increase visitor expenditure, which supports the state's economy and creates jobs year round.

Regarding upcoming events, this financial year includes Illuminate; the Robert Wilson exhibition at the Gallery in July this year; the inaugural Harvest Rock to be held in November; and the double-header of the Rugby Union international test matches, featuring the Buildcorp Wallaroos and New Zealand and the Wallabies and South Africa, which will be in August of this year. Also coming up is the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in October and November and the 2023 Australian Masters Games.

We are very excited because other events that were secured include the 2023-24 FIFA Women's World Cup, which will be next year, and the Rugby World Cup in 2027. If I can just come back to you, for 2021-22 it was approximately \$19 million.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Event sponsorship has to reduce as a result of these budget cuts—\$19 million this year and \$18.5 million in the year to come—and the minister has listed some very worthy expenditure. In the two years following, you identified we have \$12.5 million and then \$7.5 million contracted. How much do you anticipate the Tourism Commission spending on event sponsorship in those years, or is the \$12.5 million and \$7.5 million potentially going to be the total spend?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The way it happens is often you would put in bids for events coming up that would require you, in the years before the event is happening—and I will give you an example: the Rugby World Cup—to spend within the years leading up to that. We would expect, probably in 2023-24, to have additional spend within that, depending on the different events that will give us that opportunity, not necessarily just to bid. 'Opportunity' is the word we have been using lately. Opportunities come up and then we will look at whether that is something that fits where we are.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: With the \$17.6 million in operating efficiencies that are required of Tourism from the Treasurer in this budget, how much of that \$4.7 million per year, effectively, in three of the four years, is anticipated to be met by reducing event sponsorship?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I answered initially, I would not say that is where the majority of the savings come from. While we are talking about different events, we made a quite significant announcement during the election, and of course in the budget it came out of the additional \$40 million fund over four years for the Major Events Fund, which is under the banner of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. That will also be available to grow homegrown events and to grow our existing owned and managed events. There are also opportunities for business events to be there as well. So while you are talking about those savings targets and where we will be spending and sponsoring, there are also other areas of funding available.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is there a notional allocation of how much of the \$4.7 million per year will be met out of the reduction in event sponsorship and the other efficiencies that the minister identified? Do you have a notional breakdown, or is the Tourism Commission still to do that work?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am advised that, because the details of sponsorship payments are subject to contractual confidentiality restrictions, we would not disclose how much goes into the

sponsorships. Because it has commercial value to the Tourism Commission and its partners, the disclosure of this information would diminish or destroy its commercial value. It would also prejudice the future supply of such information and would weaken the state's competitiveness. I understand that has been consistent through all governments, not revealing the money around those sponsorship payments.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The minister revealed it was \$19 million last year, \$18.5 million next year, \$12.5 million the following year and \$7.5 million for what is contracted so far for the year after that. In relation to Budget Paper 5, page 107, are there any areas of expenditure that are ring-fenced or protected from those efficiencies that are required?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You may be aware that we had already made the decision not to continue our sponsorship for the Barossa Contemporary. That was a decision that we had made as part of the budget.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: How much was that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am not at liberty to tell you how much that is.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Presumably less than \$4.7 million.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I have said, those savings will come from other areas as well.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: But you are not prepared to identify any of the quantum?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Not at this point.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: To be clear, are there no areas within the Tourism Commission that are not going to be subject to a level of operating efficiency? Are there areas that you can say are absolutely protected from these budget cuts?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I said very clearly, and I am happy to repeat, where those efficiencies will come from. The cessation of funding was allocated to one-off projects which occurred in 2021-22 and will not continue in 2022-23, such as the Great State Voucher stimulus measures, the working holiday-maker campaign and SATC's new contracts and procurement CRM.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I note that the Great State measures are recorded in the budget as separate expenditure on the line above the operating efficiencies in Budget Paper 5, page 107—I am looking at it now—so their cessation was already written into the budget. I will move on to another set of questions.

I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 96. This is the general tourism development lines. There is the line about continuing to work with Adelaide Airport and international and domestic airlines to reinstate direct flights to and from targeted markets. I am wondering, given the announcement by Rex Airlines about the cessation of flights to Kangaroo Island on 30 June, what is the government doing and what is the minister doing to ensure that the number and accessibility of flights to the island are sustained?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Can you just repeat the last sentence? You are asking about air flights and talking about Rex?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes, air flights to Kangaroo Island. What are the government and the minister doing to assist people wishing to travel to Kangaroo Island?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Kangaroo Island, sure. As I understand it, recently Rex reaffirmed its decision that it was going to cease flying. It had already been very open that it would not continue without that additional support that it received from the federal government. Of course, we are disappointed in this. It would have been great if they had continued that.

At the moment, we know that Rex and Qantas serve eight routes and they also serve interstate routes, including Broken Hill, Mildura, and Melbourne via Mount Gambier. We know that to support the Kangaroo Island Qantas flights the commonwealth government, through Austrade, provided \$3.5 million to assist the recovery of KI after the bushfires and COVID. That started in January 2022 and will conclude at the end of November.

The Recovery for Regional Tourism program allocated \$770,000 to SATC to work with Qantas. This program includes a risk share agreement that provides a reducing scale of support subject to the number of passengers on flights. This will allow Qantas to operate a reliable schedule even when passenger loads are below break-even levels. It also provides much-needed confidence to booking agents who are trying to rebuild bookings to the island.

Also, \$200,000 of that funding was allocated to a cooperative marketing campaign with Qantas. Currently, Qantas flies four times per week between Adelaide and Kangaroo Island, and these services will increase from September 2022.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I thank the minister for that answer. Can I just clarify: what was the time frame on that agreement with Qantas? I note that she does finish by saying that services were set to increase in September. What is the end date on the current agreement that she was describing?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will get that detail. It is September 2022, which is obviously the new agreement or they are going to increase their services.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Okay, so the current agreement has that support that ensures that Qantas will continue flying regularly, even if they are not at break-even. That ceases in September, and then post-September Qantas has identified that it is going to be increasing its services without that support. Is that what I understand?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Just to remind, the program started in 2022, in January this year, and it will continue until September and the new agreement will start from then.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: What conversations has the minister had with the new federal Minister for Tourism about pursuing opportunities for new airline routes to or within South Australia?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry, which part of the budget are you—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: This is still in the line at page 96, the same line as the last questions:

Continue to work with Adelaide Airport Ltd and international and domestic airlines to reinstate direct flights to and from targeted markets, increase airline seat capacity and pursue opportunities for new airline routes to and within South Australia.

I wonder whether the minister has taken the opportunity to speak to our federal counterparts in relation to that target, which is the first target on her list.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do frequently talk to the new federal Minister for Tourism. I recently wrote to him to congratulate him on his new portfolio area, including trade and Special Minister of State. We have had some conversations about the opportunities for aviation, in the time line of those in general. We have had those conversations in the past, but I have also proposed to his office that we host all the tourism ministers here in South Australia.

I do not think there has been a tourism ministers' meeting for some time. I had a verbal request that that might be, and I will be following that up with a written request—or a written consideration, one might say. We are very keen to get it back. If I was looking at the most recent—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am sure Queensland will bring a whole pile of people.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Sorry?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Queensland will bring many advisers and sell many beds.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will be happy to do it. Maybe they can come down for Illuminate. Just talking about aviation, I think it is really important for you to ask this question because we have, to some extent, a two-speed economy when one might look at flights. Domestically, we are virtually back—well, we are back to where we were pre-COVID—but international flights are at 48 per cent of where we were. Sorry, we are 62 per cent down on the pre-COVID levels. There are 18 international flights into Adelaide, whereas previously we had 52 flights a week.

At the moment, we have four airlines flying here: Qatar, Singapore, Malaysia and Air New Zealand. I would like to thank them for their commitment to us. Jetstar is probably the other

one that flies international. In early July, we will have another two airlines coming in: Fiji Airways and Air New Zealand will come back on as well. I am really pleased that bit by bit we are building back, but there is no doubt at all that international aviation will take some time to come back to the level it was.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes, and no doubt many of those international tourists would love to get to Kangaroo Island. That is why we are very enthusiastic about the idea of pursuing with our federal colleagues any opportunities there.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Ideally, on that point, in the pre-COVID days we looked at direct flights from Melbourne to KI, to Kingscote, and from Sydney to Kingscote, so we are ambitious. They did actually operate seasonally, obviously during the summer months when it is most popular. We will be seeking to advocate for those to come back as soon as possible.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: So Melbourne and Sydney to KI is on the agenda for the year ahead; are there any other new routes that you are looking to see open in the coming year, according to this target?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think we are always in discussion with airlines about the possibility. Probably from an international perspective we will be looking at working with those airlines that are currently coming here to expand the amount of flights and how often they come. That will be one of the first instances that we look at.

Perhaps I can talk through what it is currently: Singapore Airlines has six flights a week from Singapore; Qatar, three from Doha and three from Auckland; Malaysia Airlines, two from Kuala Lumpur; Jetstar, four from Denpasar; and as I mentioned, from the first week of July we have Air New Zealand, which has three flights from Auckland; and Fiji Airways, two flights from Nadi.

We have some new routes that were added during COVID. Of course, we were very pleased that—and I recognised at the time as shadow minister when Qantas realigned part of its fleet with smaller aircraft which are more efficient and economical to operate—Qantas based five of its 94-seat Embraer E190 aircraft in Adelaide, and this also provided opportunities for new routes. Those new routes include flying to the Gold Coast, Cairns, Townsville, Hobart and Newcastle.

I understand there will also be a new season interstate service between Adelaide and Albury starting on 4 July. I look forward in the near future to making a few more announcements about the extension of flights or when they are coming as well. But we still have a long way to go to build back international to the peak of 52 per week.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: What sort of funding does the South Australian government, through tourism, put towards this work with airlines? How many FTEs, how many people in tourism work in this area?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You are asking about staffing. I will ask Rodney to speak to that.

Mr HARREX: We worked really closely with the airport on this one. There is a lot of effort that goes in. We have within our Destination Development team people who work directly with the airlines, they work with the route planners, but then we also work across the organisation. We look at marketing initiatives. The minister mentioned the cooperative work we have been doing with Qantas, as an example, around Kangaroo Island. We do that internationally as well.

I think it is really important that there is a holistic approach to how we grow these services and grow these routes. A good example might be the recent Working Holiday visa work that we have done in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and France. We have worked cooperatively with Qatar Airways, with a tour operator, and again that is about building back these services. We have people who work with the airport with route planning and then we have marketing staff who drive these through joint cooperative initiatives with the airlines.

I think this is really crucial, building back that air access, because it is about people-to-people but it is also about those freight opportunities for our fresh produce. We also work with other government departments when we are looking at routes and capacity. We work with the Department for Trade and Investment. We look at those opportunities so it is a statewide initiative in conjunction with the airport. We do have staff, but it is spread quite widely across the organisation.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: So you have staff spread widely across the organisation and, in addition, route planning staff and marketing staff who work on this. I am just wondering if any of those roles are potentially at risk given the \$4.7 million budget cut this year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No. Obviously, Destination Development and building back is a key priority for the government.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Understood, thank you. Is there any work that Tourism is interested in doing or is currently doing to identify the opportunity created by the movement of the Vickers Vimy, the epic flight plane, into the Adelaide Airport terminal or is that work all being done by Adelaide Airport itself?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I had the opportunity recently when I was down at Adelaide Airport for a lovely briefing to understand where we were at and the opportunities that presented. I got the opportunity to see where the Vickers Vimy aircraft will be. We do have a lot of interest in looking at the history of South Australia. When we talk about the different areas that we market ourselves on, obviously we talk about our wildlife and our beach life and our wine and our food, but history is a key part of that as well. We will continue to work with the Adelaide Airport on how we can involve that in our marketing.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Very good. I move to page 97—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am just informed that SATC provided funding towards the Adelaide Airport to support the project. I am very keen for us to continue talking to them about how we can make it a must-see for people when they come through.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Hopefully very easily accessible.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously not just waiting for the plane or leaving, but to have a look at it as well. Having previously worked in tourism myself, although quite some time ago, where I was working for Great Southern Rail, we have avid train watchers just as there are very avid plane watchers. I think they will find the Vickers Vimy, in the capacity that it will be displayed, a great attraction to them.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am sure it will. Going to page 97, at the bottom of the page it talks about the \$0.4 million for the Tourism Industry Council's Tourism Industry Capability Building program. How does this capability program work in practice?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: This is a particular area that is of interest to me. We made an announcement as part of our election commitments that there will be an additional \$400,000 per year—\$1.6 million over the forward estimates—for the Tourism Industry Council of South Australia. I was incredibly impressed with the work they did during COVID. They now have more than a thousand members and they were very agile at providing very practical, just-in-time training to their many members. There was certainly a desire to continue that business capability.

Pre-COVID there were about 19,000 businesses in South Australia that were involved in tourism. That has dropped down a little bit. Most of those businesses are microbusinesses, or small. People involved in those businesses are very much working in the business. The business capability support enables them to work on the business.

We have had a particular focus around bookability and accessibility. Social media gives us some great opportunities, but not everyone is equally as confident about the best way to use it. That business capability program will sometimes be about what the members have identified as their gaps and areas they would like help in, but it is also about areas in which we feel they can improve their business. To remind ourselves, it has been an incredibly challenging two years of uncertainty.

I spent quite a lot of time talking to people within tourism. When COVID first hit, overnight—for many of them particularly focused on international—their businesses just shut. When JobKeeper came along, it was a recognition of how many businesses were impacted. But when JobKeeper ended, tourism and hospitality was still quite restricted in performing in the way they had prior to COVID, whether it be border closures, restrictions of people in a particular area or just a feeling of people being unsure whether they should book a holiday or not.

We have seen a lot of change to the culture. People book very late now. Unfortunately, as we know, people are getting COVID and the flu and they do cancel quite frequently as well. We have seen our tourism businesses having to be agile and to pivot—words they ask me not to use anymore—because they feel like they have had to do that a lot. Recognising how we can support them with business capability is something that I feel quite strongly about, and TiCSA will deliver that.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The \$400,000 is being provided presumably as a grant to TiCSA. Does the minister have an understanding of how that \$400,000 will be used? Is it to employ staff to deliver that coaching or professional development or merchandise, or anything else?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are just in the final stages of negotiating with TiCSA about the KPIs around that. The other half of that money is about an identified need of skill shortages. This is something I have heard quite clearly. It is not just in tourism and hospitality; we hear it in agriculture and primary production. The other area of that \$400,000 is about encouraging young people particularly to consider tourism and hospitality as an industry. It is an opportunity for us to consider why tourism has lost some of its attractiveness, and that has really been down to the lack of certainty within the industry.

I was talking to Phil Hoffman the other day, a very long-term established travel agent in South Australia, and he has lost many of his long-term staff because of the uncertainty. He has gaps. He has told me he could put on another 25 staff members tomorrow. So we have a challenge, whether it be in the accommodation sector, whether it be in travel agents, whether it be in tourism operators, of encouraging people back into the industry.

If you like talking to people you can either become a politician or you could work in travel and hospitality. There are only 69 of those political jobs in South Australia but far more available in tourism and hospitality. I would like to do a campaign. I often tell a story that, when I finished school 30 years ago, tourism was seen as the hot new industry to work in. In fact, there was a waiting list to do the diploma of travel and tourism at TAFE. Obviously, it is not at that point now. So the question is: what is it that we can do?

People often have a specific view about what a job in tourism is. Part of the job for TiCSA is to get out there, sell into different younger communities, to younger people, about the variety of jobs. The opportunities are not just here to work in South Australia but throughout Australia and potentially overseas in the future. There is work to be done in that area to build back that industry.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I take you to a couple of lines above the \$400,000 for TiCSA's capability program. It identifies that the lower income in the 2022-23 budget compared to the 2021-22 estimated result, which has had a lower income—we are talking about \$10 million to nothing—is primarily due to the income associated with the Tourism Industry Development Fund, which ceased in 2021-22. Why has the Labor government cut the Tourism Industry Development Fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It was only budgeted for two years, and one would have thought that it perhaps would have ended at this financial year, but we do know that people have experienced delays to their buildings and to construction. One hundred and fourteen projects successfully received funding, and that was across all of the 11 tourism regions. As of 26 May, 41 of those projects have been completed, so quite a few of the projects have been unable to be completed by the end of this last financial year.

Payments to the grantees are allocated according to the requirements of each project time line, and payments are made on a reimbursement basis. You will see that there is money in this year's budget because those projects have not been completed, and they will only have that money when they are completed.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: When those 114 projects are completed, then the revenue created for South Australia, or indeed the visitor expenditure, does the minister have advice on how much visitor expenditure has already been generated by that work?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, as I understand, it was expected to generate \$74.5 million to the state visitor economy each year. That is when the projects are fully completed, and as I said at this stage only 41 have been completed of the 114.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: That will be an outstanding benefit to South Australia, I am sure.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Give yourself a clap.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to page 99, targets. There is a reference to the Regional Events Fund, or this might actually be in the highlights. The last highlights established the Regional Events Fund. What is the total amount of funding allocated to the Regional Events Fund in 2022-23 and over the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is \$500,000 that is allocated in 2022-23 and that continues over the forward estimates.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is there a quota or an expectation of how much funding will go to each of the 11 regions across South Australia or is it changed from year to year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not think there is an actual quota, but it is quite well distributed. If you would like I am happy to read into *Hansard* the 54 regional events that were sponsored last year.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am sure you can table it, if you like, minister, but I did not ask you to go through the details.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Can I say, looking through the list, it is quite diverse, but perhaps I can take that on notice and come back to you about the percentage in each of the regional areas.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, and if it is on notice you are welcome to provide as much detail as you would like.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is also a submission process—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Excellent.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: —but I think your question is, is it well distributed?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Of course, it would depend on the nature of the submissions.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Maybe if you are taking it on notice I can ask for the allocation of funding to each project in the 2021-22 period and whether there is a planned allocation for 2022-23. If that can be provided at that time as well that would be helpful.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have already given you the allocation, it is \$500,000, so I will not take that on notice.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to the Barossa Contemporary festival then, which the minister identified before. The minister identified its cessation in the context of the budget cuts—the operational efficiencies, sorry. What reason was provided to the festival organisers for the early termination of the three-year contract?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: This is obviously a very tough decision. When we were having our discussions around the budget—there are a lot of competing priorities within this. Just to be clear, we are a sponsor of the Barossa Contemporary and even though we have made the decision not to continue with our sponsorship that does not necessarily imply that it will not go ahead. As I understand it, we are still having some conversations with the people who are running the Barossa Contemporary and trying to work and support them, but that will be a decision for them.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to the bottom of page 99. The last target on the page is 'support the development of the new major events on the events calendar, including Harvest Rock'. It talks about the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. The minister earlier talked about Illuminate and a couple of other items. I note that Harvest Rock, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the Illuminate Festival, for example, were all announced prior to the election. Are there any new major events that SATC is attracting and developing that you are able to tell us about?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is \$40 million for the Major Events Fund. We have made it very clear, as a Malinauskas Labor government, that we want to grow events and increase events, and that will be now under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, okay. So we will ask—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You may recall that we made it very clear that the Adelaide 500 was a priority for us. We consider that a new event. We are looking for the streets of Adelaide to be alive between 1 and 4 December this year. I look forward to seeing you attend the event.

What was announced from SATC, however, and I was very excited to announce, was the Wallabies v South Africa (the Springboks) and the Wallaroos v New Zealand (the Black Ferns). That was announced by myself on 2 May. It is an historic rugby double-header, a blockbuster, at Adelaide Oval on 27 August. At the moment, the Black Ferns of New Zealand are ranked No. 2 in the world behind England, and we are expecting to have quite a large crowd to that.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Earlier on page 99, the highlights identify supported major events. We have just been talking about the Major Events Fund, which has been moved to the Premier. Page 99 states 'supported major events through the Leisure Events Bid Fund' and then lists a reasonable number of those. Does the Leisure Events Bid Fund still exist?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, it does exist.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: What is the total amount of funding allocated to the Leisure Events Bid Fund in 2022-23 and over the forward estimates?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I have already covered that in the amount for the sponsored events; those are the same figures there. That is in the Leisure Events Bid Fund.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: So is the events sponsorship amount that the minister identified before—which I think was \$19 million, \$18.5 million, \$12.5 million and \$7.5 million although, potentially, the minister identified there may be more to add—the Leisure Events Bid Fund money? Is that one and the same thing?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is the committed and contracted events from the Leisure Events Bid Fund.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: So those numbers do not contain any money that is not part of the Leisure Events Bid Fund? That is the Leisure Events Bid Fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is from this budget forward.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Okay, thank you. Can we get a breakdown of the funding that has been allocated to each project funded by the Leisure Events Bid Fund in the 2021-22 period and the planned allocation for 2022-23?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As per previous ministers for tourism, and I have already said this today, the details of sponsorship payments are subject to contractual confidentiality restrictions and therefore cannot be disclosed.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I thought if I asked it in a different way I might get a different answer.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Nice try.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Who makes the final determination for projects applying for funding under the Leisure Events Bid Fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We had a conversation about this yesterday because, obviously, understanding how the industry works and how decisions are made is really important. As I said before, some opportunities, as we call them, are a formal bid process and others are more opportunities that present from relationships that have been built up over some time. It seems, particularly in that sporting field where we have excellent facilities, we are seen as a good location.

So that decision is made within SATC and recommendations are made. But quite a bit of work is focused upon the economic impact on South Australia.

Obviously, we would look at return on investment and we would look at the opportunity to attract international and interstate tourists for a particular event. When an event is held, quite a bit of focus is upon those economic indicators—and not just economic, the focus is also on filling out and looking at the calendar: who we would like to attract and the diversity of different events. So that Leisure Events Bid Fund remains within SATC.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: So SATC's expertise is used for the Leisure Events Bid Fund. Can I ask who makes the determination for projects applying for funding under the Major Events Fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Premier I think spoke at length about that yesterday; it is in his *Hansard*.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is SATC's advice sought in relation to those bids under the Major Events Fund?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As Minister for Tourism, I will be part of those conversations. Obviously, I am a cabinet minister, and when we make those decisions in cabinet I go in there fully informed by the South Australian Tourism Commission.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In relation to the workforce summary on page 94, there is a cut of six FTEs from SATC compared to the 2021-22 estimated results, from 129 to 123. Can the minister explain those roles, why they have been cut and what positions and programs are affected?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will go through this and perhaps you will have more detail. The FTE cap at 30 June is 129. The FTE cap will reduce to 123 in 2022-23, so it will be within the cap. SATC has achieved all previous FTE savings targets and will work through workforce strategy to realise any future FTE savings at this time.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I understand that, during the briefing about the SA Motor Sport (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, the opposition was advised that two FTEs would be transferred from SATC to the Motorsport Board as they were the only staff with relevant skills and experience. Can the minister explain which positions these are and how that will impact the effective operation of other managed events?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will ask Hitaf Rasheed to detail that.

Ms RASHEED: We have two roles that have transferred to the Motorsport group, and one of those roles was directly related to the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, which will now be run by Motorsport. So that will impact, and we will fill the other position as it relates to our other managed events.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I go to page 102:

Invest in domestic marketing campaigns that deliver a distinct and consistent message to challenge people's perceptions of South Australia and generate demand for South Australian holidays.

How much is going to be invested into domestic marketing campaigns in the coming year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The 2022-23 domestic marketing budget is estimated to be \$19.8 million.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Which regions will be targeted?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As in domestic marketing regions? I will get some details. Obviously, with the borders open, we are very focused on supporting people from interstate to come to visit South Australia. We have some key marketing campaigns in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and obviously we will do things here in Adelaide. Those campaigns typically include television commercials, outdoor advertising, digital advertising supported by social media, and publicity to raise awareness of South Australia. Where possible, a travel partner operator is included as a featured booking operator to encourage consumers to book a trip.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: What is the process for determining who will deliver those campaigns—which external contractors or in-house expertise will be used? How does that work?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We have a creative services contract, and that services contract will do that. The current creative services contract includes a primary agency and a panel of secondary agencies. The primary agency provides strategic creative services and is the lead agency for SATC's overall creative strategy and any large-scale campaigns.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: What is the methodology SATC uses to measure the success of these campaigns? What KPIs or targets are required to be met?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will get the CE, Rodney Harrex, to detail that.

Mr HARREX: We use a lot of data to analyse our performance, and we do that through what are called the NVS and the IVS, the National Visitor Survey and the International Visitor Survey. We use this data to track our performance. As the minister has mentioned, we particularly target key markets like Sydney and Melbourne, and we look at our performance. We look at flight performance. We look at conversion.

We also look at how we are tracking in a range of areas in terms of our key messaging interstate. Again, we use that data to look at our performance. We use information that is fed through from hotels, as an example, as to how South Australia is performing. What is our hotel occupancy? What is our regional dispersal? We use all these metrics to look at how, as a state, we are performing, how we are driving that visitation from interstate and also here within South Australia and internationally as we now rebuild internationally.

I think this is a really important point. As we emerge internationally, we work with the national tourism marketing body, Tourism Australia. We also look at where those opportunities are for us as a state. A good example I mentioned earlier was the youth campaign. We felt that this was a first mover in terms of people prepared to travel, and so we really worked. We looked at that data. We saw that there were good volumes of Working Holiday visas that were being issued, and we felt that that was appropriate to really target and stimulate visitation.

So it is using consumer analysis that we have of the markets and the opportunities, and then we use this data to track our performance. We use this data to inform us in terms of how we are getting cut through with our target audience. I think this is a really important point for us. We use data to inform this. We have good-sized budgets, but it is important that our activity is targeted through data. I think that is really key for us.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I take you to page 104. One of the targets on this page is:

Help drive the recovery of working holiday makers to South Australia to help address workforce shortages and grow the visitor economy.

What was the total cost of the subsidised flights and marketing for the ten-pound Poms working holiday-makers campaign?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It would not be appropriate for me to talk about that figure. What I can talk about is the fact that it was an exceptionally well-supported and well-recognised campaign. That campaign was announced in April, giving eligible working holiday-makers from the United Kingdom and Ireland the opportunity to secure one of 200 £10, or €10, return airfares from the UK or Ireland. The registration process saw at the campaign 16,000 people register their interest. It was above and beyond what we expected.

I did an enormous amount of media all over the world about this, and obviously it was picked up here as well on our national TV, and 200 people went on to have that opportunity. Because there was so much interest in that, we also took another opportunity to offer £499 fares to Adelaide for the working holiday-makers, and we are seeing additional strong results. It was 200 in the first cohort, and we are expecting about 700 to 900 people potentially coming here in the second one. Just to remind ourselves, it was quite restrictive. People already had to have a visa to come to Australia, but they had not enacted that visa.

What we were doing was giving them the opportunity, or the encouragement, one might say, to start their backpacking journey here in South Australia. It also came with a support package including three nights' accommodation. They had to buy into this support package. They would get a tax file number, they would be able to set up a bank account, and we are also giving them support to find their first jobs here when they arrive.

It was a particular program designed to get people's attention. People have asked subsequently in the house, 'Why the UK and Ireland?' That is where the vast majority of our backpackers have come from traditionally. In fact, in 2019, 27,000 backpackers came to South Australia, so this is a key part of our tourism sector. We really wanted to stimulate people coming back here.

A really nice part about it is, while we were targeting those backpackers who had to be under 35, the campaign kind of was targeted at their parents, to let them know that our borders are open and we are ready for business again. That was twofold: we wanted to get those younger people coming here. We know there are jobs in tourism and hospitality and there are jobs in primary industries, but we also wanted to let their parents know, who hopefully will come out and visit them while they are here.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The original question was what was the cost of the campaign. I appreciate the benefits the minister has identified and the numbers who have used it. The earlier answer that the minister gave where the minister did not want to provide budget was largely to do with commercial-in-confidence. I cannot see how that applies to this one. Can the minister explain why she does not want to reveal to the people of South Australia what the cost of this campaign has been?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We did this promotional airfare in partnership with Trailfinders, so we obviously had a commercial-in-confidence agreement with them. We also had some of the airline companies with us as well. This is consistent with every minister for tourism who has been here. We do not talk about how much these commercial contracts are. It is a very competitive field out there. We feel that we drew attention and that is why we did it. I will maintain the same consideration as previous ministers of tourism have.

Can I just say to you that we have had our first person. Niamh Mulkerrens, who is 29, from Dublin, Ireland, arrived on 31 May, and our first UK contingent arrived on 2 June. That was Zac and Victoria from London. As I understand it, they have already secured jobs picking apples in the Adelaide Hills.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am not sure you are answering the question.

Ms PRATT: I am referring to page 96, tourism development, picking up on your budget language of driving additional expenditure in regions, working with tourism operators, and I reflect on the supply chain to tourism and hospitality, accommodation, local businesses. I am a regional MP, of course. They tell me where they want to recruit, because we have seen an increase in activity. They are often advertising housing, so my question is what conversations are you having with your cabinet colleagues or federal counterparts to address and support the housing requirements to recruit for tourism?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Certainly. I think that is a relevant question. Like all the other industries where there are skill shortages, there are barriers to entry. As I said, from a tourism point of view one of those areas has been regarding the uncertainty in the industry and people exiting the industry. As a former minister of social housing, I have, I guess, a background and an understanding of how housing makes an incredible difference, not just to the opportunities to work and that investment.

Just recently, the cabinet was down in the Limestone Coast, meeting with the councils. I understand there are potential housing strategies that some of the councils have and we will continue to work with them and look at that. We know that this is one of the barriers that we have, not only attracting people to the industry but particularly that the seasonality of tourism is often when the housing, particularly if it is for holiday-makers, is often full as well. I am very aware of it and those

conversations are continuing. It is something that I am very much aware of and have raised many times.

Ms PRATT: I think the wine regions of Mawson, Schubert and Clare Valley would welcome the government's attention on supporting those industries as well as the Limestone Coast wine regions.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I refer to page 97 and the targets to develop and plan a range of strategies. What is the process and time frame for the recreational fishing tourism strategy and will that strategy be developed in conjunction with PIRSA and other stakeholders, such as RecFish SA?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will be in the Riverland this weekend launching a boat, which will be part of the Murray Trails, and I will obviously be meeting with the council while I am there and I will talk to them about their housing needs.

The fishing strategy: we are committed to developing this recreational fishing strategy as it was part of our election commitment. It will be developed in consultation with peak fishing bodies and will aim to increase visitation motivated by fishing to increase visitor spend and length of stay. The expectation is the strategy will be published no later than the beginning of 2024, and obviously that consultation will be extensive.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. There being no further questions—I am sure there are but there are not going to be—I declare the examination of the portfolios of the South Australian Tourism Commission, the Adelaide Venue Management Authority and the estimate of payments for the South Australian Tourism Commission and Minister for Tourism completed. The estimate of payments for the Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance to be adjourned until Thursday 23 June.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET, \$377,085,000

ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET, \$20,505,000

Minister:

Hon. Z.L. Bettison, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr S. Woolhouse, Executive Director, Communities and Corporate Services, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Ms J. Kennedy, Director, Multicultural Affairs, Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The CHAIR: The portfolio is multicultural affairs and the minister appearing is the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I advise that the proposed payments remain open for examination. I call on the minister to make a statement, if the minister wishes, and to introduce advisers. I call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement, if the member wishes. I call on members for questions.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Thank you very much, Chair. I would like to introduce the staff next to me: Steven Woolhouse is the Executive Director of Communities and Corporate in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and Justine Kennedy is the Director of Multicultural Affairs. I thank them for their work leading up to today. I do not have an opening statement and am happy to go straight to questions.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I will go to questions very shortly but I think multicultural affairs is an area in the South Australian community, let alone its state budget, where the Liberal

Party and the Labor Party for a number of decades have worked cooperatively with the community, I think very well, to ensure that South Australia is a leading light in the world when it comes to a harmonious multicultural community. Certainly, I thank the officers in the department who have supported that work. I am sure we will continue for many decades to come to be the envy of Australia and the world in this space.

Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 27, program summary: there is obviously a \$4 million election commitment. Can the minister provide a breakdown of how that additional expenditure of \$4 million will be allocated?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, I have a particular interest in multicultural affairs, having the honour of being formerly the minister in the Weatherill government and now the opportunity to continue that role in the Malinauskas government. Leading up to the election, I spent time talking with leaders in our community about their needs and what they would like to see in our multicultural policy. I know there was much disappointment that there was not an alternative policy from the Liberals, but it was recognised that we had spent considerable time to look at that.

The additional money—\$16 million over four years, which was an election commitment that has now been placed into the budget—will go to these key commitments, including introducing the Multicultural South Australia Ambassador program. This is a particularly significant program because of the challenges and the barriers to entry into the workplace for some of our migrant communities in South Australia. Many of them are not working within their area of profession and training. They really like living in South Australia and are welcomed here, but do have some frustrations in finding work within their experience and their training.

We have the South Australian Multicultural Charter, which will be introduced and tabled in parliament by the end of this year. This is an activation of that charter. The charter will be something I am sure all of us will agree on, but I want it not just to be a set of words but to see it into action. The ambassador program will activate the charter and embed its principles within the workforce and business practices of our state's leading organisations.

Primarily, what that will mean is going out and talking to South Australian businesses about diversity and about unconscious bias in recruitment. We do know that we have a lot of small businesses in South Australia. Some have been concerned about culture and how people will fit in. It is an opportunity for us to have a 360 conversation about multiculturalism and jobs in South Australia.

I will also be introducing a new multicultural media grant stream to drive skill development and communication across the state's multicultural communities. We have some very long-established media outlets here, and I am thinking about 5EBI as a radio station in many different community languages. We have two Italian radio stations and we have a variety of newspapers as well. However, what we often see is that there is an older demographic of people who are running these outlets, many of whom volunteer their time to do this.

The media grant is something that I saw as an opportunity for us to engage younger people who are very interested in getting those transferable skills; for example, within social media, podcasts, blogs, etc. So I am very excited about that new stream. We will produce and maintain an online South Australian multicultural resource directory, and that will list organisations that offer information, advice, support and networking opportunities for our diverse community.

A key part of that campaign, and I know the member for Morialta and the deputy opposition leader and I share this interest, is our community languages schools. We have 94 registered community languages schools in South Australia. This is a significant increase in their funding: \$4 million over four years to keep their languages alive among the younger generations through additional investment.

Once again, these languages schools are headed up by volunteers. They are often held on a Saturday at a host school, usually a public primary school or a high school. I have been talking at length about how we will look at that funding, particularly with the communities and languages not-for-profit association that is there. They have been doing this work for a very long time and

provide great leadership. They support people through governance, capability and training, but it is time to lift it.

This money, which is a significant increase in money, will go to look at those various areas: the support that students receive, the training that teachers receive, some of the challenges and the barriers to having a location to do community languages schools. I have also had conversations with people who are new arrivals to Australia. They find there is quite a barrier to entry, to establish a formal community languages school, and we need to understand how we can make that pathway more supportive and support them doing that.

There are also languages schools that are active but are not actually registered as community languages schools. We need to understand why they have not taken that process up. For me, this is a significant part of the election commitment, and I hope at the end of the four years we will see an increase in the number of languages schools. There is a real feeling in the community that we value people being bilingual in South Australia. It is incredibly important for trade and tourism in the future. We also want to acknowledge that being Australian is equally as important to a young person as their culture, their language and their ethnicity, and to be confident that they are a person who can acknowledge both sides.

Also, we are going to support the volunteer work of the community leaders with the community boards and governance program, and we will be reinstating the multicultural women's leadership course. Many people spoke to me about that course when it was cancelled by the previous government. It played a very strong role in women developing their leadership skills, not just in their own workplace but primarily about their leadership role within their own community group.

We are also going to invest in community infrastructure upgrades, including upgrading security and community transport. It was a significant election policy, and I was very pleased when I presented it to hundreds of people. I sent it out to many more. The time Labor took to do that was appreciated, and now the budget we brought down on 2 June will mean that we can deliver on those programs.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The question was about the breakdown of expenditure. Is there a notional allocation—there were people talking to small businesses about a multicultural charter, media grants, online multicultural resource directory, community boards and governance program, the multicultural women's leadership program, security and transport infrastructure for organisations and community languages schools. Are community languages schools a separate initiative or is that out of this \$4 million?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is out of the \$4 million.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In relation to the \$4 million, is there a notional allocation to each of these streams that has been identified, or is that work still to be done?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Just to be clear, as I said before, the community languages schools is \$4 million over the four years, so \$1 million per year.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: That is \$1 million out of this \$4 million; is that correct?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is from that \$4 million. We are still going through the budget allocations and scoping those programs. Obviously, it was considerable policy that we put forward, so we are doing that work now.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In relation to the community languages schools, which have been funded through the education department for a long time, is this funding going to be provided to the education department and presumably the community languages schools association, or is that going to be provided as grants from DPC to individual community languages schools?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are having those conversations now. This is obviously a significant increase in the funding. We have had many conversations with the not-for-profit community languages schools association. I intend to go out with a survey to the community languages schools so that I identify clearly the areas of need. That work continues to happen now.

When we spoke to them, challenges were raised of venues and location, and cost and access. It was expressed to me that there was sometimes a reluctance of public schools to make

resources or time available to them, funding for schools and facilities to incentivise and to host the community languages schools.

There were challenges around the teachers maintaining quality standards, student behavioural issues, accessibility to training and appropriately supporting them in those roles. It was expressed to me that there has been increased cost due to COVID (cleaning, security, etc.) and challenges sourcing appropriate materials, including books and IT, and furniture—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order. Can I just clarify: the question was whether it was being provided as grants to the schools or whether it was being provided to Education to distribute and—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, and as I said very clearly we are still having those conversations.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes, so thank you.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I know your interests, so I thought I would talk to you about the variety of—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I have broad interests, but we have limited time, minister. I am very grateful for the support, but—

The CHAIR: Okay, let's get on to the next question, if you have finished that one.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Perhaps I could just finish my points here—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Well, in that case my point of order is relevance.

The CHAIR: Okay.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You have asked me where that money will go and I said we are still discussing it, but the challenges that have been provided to me are what I have detailed here, so the registration process is considered to be complex, and the drop of engagement of older students and funding per student. So there are several areas of challenge.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you. In relation to Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 27, explanation of significant movements, the \$4 million that we have just been discussing. The Labor Party has committed, and very welcomed by the Port Adelaide Greek School no doubt, \$2 million to support their development. Is that being funded out of this \$16 million over four years, or is there a separate allocation of new money being provided to deliver that commitment?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, it is funded out of that money.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Sorry, that is funded out of the \$16 million?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Out of the \$4 million per year, \$2 million is going to the Port Adelaide Greek Community Language School?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Okay. Can I ask, in relation to—is there a list of other organisations that were given specific commitments before the election, for grants of this nature, either \$2 million or less, that are being funded out of this allocation of funding?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There were a number of election commitments made for other projects and initiatives that were considered to be a high priority that met specific community needs, and contribute to our whole community. Yes, there are other projects.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is the minister able to identify that list, and I am interested in relation to the Greek school and any other commitments that were made as to what financial years that funding is going to be provided, for example, and the allocation to each of those projects?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, we are still working through over those four years in conjunction with the different communities about when that money will be funded. Those conversations are continuing now.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to probably the same budget line, or we will continue on the Community Languages Schools, the work of which we all value. I should apologise to Darryl Buchanan, Angela Scarino and everyone else who—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Binh Nguyen?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Binh Nguyen was involved in the discussions as well, but it was particularly Angela Scarino who was arguing for the language change from Ethnic and Community Languages Schools to Community Languages Schools, which I was able to facilitate as minister, so I know that she will be watching this and will be very pleased to hear that new language used. Do you have a clarity on what the per student funding for Community Languages Schools will be going forward at this stage? I think it is \$153 per student at the moment. Is that one of the areas where the new funding can be committed to as well?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Obviously, as I detailed in the list, there are several challenges for our Community Languages Schools. When looking at additional funding, we are looking at different areas, and that includes the per capita funding per student as one option. I am keen to make sure I have a very clear view of all of the needs and the potential areas of funding that could go forward, so at this point that work is being done. We are working very closely, as I said, with the Community Languages Schools Association to understand the formula that currently exists that is paid through the education department.

I was delighted to see that the new federal Labor government has also indicated additional funding to Community Languages Schools throughout Australia. What we see here is a commonality of recognition of how important these languages are. As I understand it, we look forward to hearing how that will be distributed as well, but at this point we have not made set decisions.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: My understanding is that, earlier this month, the Minister for Transport announced that the Labor government would be providing \$500,000 funding to maintain Greek language studies in South Australia. Is that funding from Education or is that part of the commitment for Community Languages Schools?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: You said it was earlier this month?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I think it was earlier this month; I could be mistaken.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Perhaps you could provide more detail, but it is part of our election commitment and it will come from that funding.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Out of the \$4 million funding for Community Languages Schools?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The additional \$16 million over four years incorporates the election policy commitments and some of those individual election commitments, and that was one of those. Obviously, there is an interest—in fact, I think you played a role in it—in looking at tertiary education and tertiary languages that looked like they were not going to go ahead. Those conversations were also had with us about sustaining them in the future and there will be funding for that.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I think I asked a similar question earlier, but can I seek a list of those funding commitments that have already been confirmed?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Our election commitments as I detailed earlier? Is that what you mean, like the ambassador program, the media grant—

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The specific allocation of funding that has been confirmed.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I will take that on notice.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you. On page 27, grants and subsidies: is there an allocation available for grants program funds for the 2022-23 financial year and across the forward estimates, or is that still to be determined?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: My recollection is it is \$7.4 million for this financial year.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Are there any changes to the current grants streams of Advance Together, Celebrate Together, Expand Together, Stronger Together and Connect Together?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We will be making formal announcements as we go along. Obviously, we need to incorporate our election commitments, particularly incorporating the investment in community infrastructure upgrades, including security and for community transport. We will introduce a new grant line, which is the multicultural media grants.

As you may be aware, there was a process that was already in place leading up to the election and, because my focus is on supporting communities, we continued that process. That money has gone out with Expand Together and Advance and Celebrate. At this point, we will continue with those grant programs but incorporate the new grants program and of course expand those to include the community infrastructure upgrades.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Outside the delivery of the election commitments just identified, will there be any changes to the funding criteria of any of those grant streams?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: At this point, we are always going to look at the grants and see whether they are continuing to apply in the way they were expected to, so we will look at those. At no time will I intend to hold up those grants that come out. Our communities were very interrupted by COVID and the ability to come together and celebrate was incredibly interrupted. I know how much they are looking forward to, if they have not already, coming together to celebrate, and I will endeavour to work closely, but of course I am going to look at the grants and see whether they are still fitting for the purpose for which they were created in the first place.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Under the Labor government, will the grants continue to be assessed by an independent grants panel, which makes funding recommendations based on eligibility and merit?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Who will be on this grants panel, or is it the same as it has been?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is the same panel that was established when I was a minister previously. However, I am advised that there were different panels for each of the grant rounds; it is a context of an independent SAMC and people from the department and externally.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Did the government go through the same process when allocating the delivery of the election commitments or, as has been identified by some other ministers, is it just an instruction to use that funding for the purposes of delivering on the election commitments?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, they are election commitments.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I ask if the minister is able to provide a list of successful recipients across each grant stream, including any project or event that has received multicultural grants funding, perhaps one for the last financial year that we are about to finish and any that are identified—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Would you like me to read them out?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I would be happy if you would provide it; you can take it on notice or you can—

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I think it is available publicly on the website, so I will direct you towards the website.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: If that has the detail I will be satisfied with that, thank you. Does the minister have any grant lines that are not open and competitive but rather are allocated directly by the minister?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There is the Multicultural Priorities Fund that has always existed and that enables us to have some flexibility to respond quickly to the community needs. Perhaps I could touch on 2021-22, when there was significant funding, just shy of \$2 million, in the Multicultural Priorities Fund. It was used quite extensively by the previous government. It does provide direct allocations of funding, which are considered to be high priority, to look at strong and inclusive diverse communities—it was quite significant.

Upon coming to government, I was taken aback by the significant funding within the Multicultural Priorities Fund. As you know, the Multicultural Priorities Fund does enable the government to respond quickly to community needs, but it was exceptional, one might say, to have that much funding in that fund.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I think the minister has just identified the urgent need that communities wanted to come together and celebrate after COVID, and I am sure the former government understood that. Given the need for that fund to be available for flexibility and urgent responses, is there any expectation or intention to directly allocate funding for long-term agreements in that fund, such as a three-year funding agreement? Is there anything like that?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: No.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I might ask if the member for Frome would take the opportunity to do the omnibus questions first.

Ms PRATT: Sure.

1. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the total cost of machinery of government changes incurred between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022?

2. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, which administrative units were created, abolished or transferred to another department or agency between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022 and what was the cost or saving in each case?

3. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many executive appointments have been made since 22 March 2022 and what is the annual salary and total employment cost for each position?

4. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many executive positions have been abolished since 22 March 2022 and what was the annual salary and total employment cost for each position?

5. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what has been the total cost of executive position terminations since 22 March 2022?

6. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister provide a breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors with a total estimated cost above \$10,000 engaged between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022, listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, the method of appointment, the reason for the engagement and the estimated total cost of the work?

7. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister provide an estimate of the total cost to be incurred in 2022-23 for consultants and contractors, and for each case in which a consultant or contractor has already been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the name of the consultant or contractor, the method of appointment, the reason for the engagement and the total estimated cost?

8. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister advise whether it will be subject to the 1.7 per cent efficiency dividend for 2022-23 to which the government has committed and, if so, the budgeted dollar amount to be contributed in each case and how the saving will be achieved?

9. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, how many surplus employees were there at 30 June 2022, and for each surplus employee, what is the title or classification of the position and the total annual employment cost?

10. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the number of executive staff to be cut to meet the government's commitment to reduce spending on the employment of executive staff by \$41.5 million over four years and, for each position to be cut, its classification, total remuneration cost and the date by which the position will be cut?

11. For each department and agency reporting to the minister:

- What savings targets have been set for 2022-23 and each year of the forward estimates;
- What is the estimated FTE impact of these measures?

12. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister advise what share it will receive of the \$1.5 billion the government proposes to use over four years of uncommitted capital reserves held in the budget at the time it took office and the purpose for which this funding will be used in each case?

13. For each department and agency reporting to the minister:

- What was the actual FTE count at 30 June 2022 and what is the projected actual FTE account for the end of each year of the forward estimates;
- What is the budgeted total employment cost for each year of the forward estimates; and
- How many targeted voluntary separation packages are estimated to be required to meet budget targets over the forward estimates and what is their estimated cost?

14. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how much is budgeted to be spent on goods and services for 2022-23 and for each year of the forward estimates?

15. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many FTEs are budgeted to provide communication and promotion activities in 2022-23 and each year of the forward estimates and what is their estimated employment cost?

16. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the total budgeted cost of government-paid advertising, including campaigns, across all mediums in 2022-23?

17. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, please provide for each individual investing expenditure project administered, the name, total estimated expenditure, actual expenditure incurred to 30 June 2022 and budgeted expenditure for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

18. For each grant program or fund the minister is responsible for, please provide the following information for the 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years:

- Name of the program or fund;
- The purpose of the program or fund;
- Budgeted payments into the program or fund;
- Budgeted expenditure from the program or fund; and
- Details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or fund.

The CHAIR: Thank you.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: You will take them on notice?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I remember a former minister once trying to catch us out. I would not have ascribed that motivation at all.

The CHAIR: You can feel free to answer that if you want, minister.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to Budget Paper 5, the Budget Measures Statement, to the operating efficiencies on page 99. There is \$14 million, \$20 million, \$19 million and \$11 million over the next four years to be saved from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Has the multicultural affairs program within Premier and Cabinet had any of those operating efficiencies assigned to them?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The proposed savings to be allocated to this program for 2022-23 are \$126,000, about 1.3 per cent of the expenditure.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is there an understanding of what methodology the program line will use to meet that target savings?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: That is currently under consideration by the department.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: How many FTE currently work in this program area?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: It is identified in the budget: 13.7, on page 27.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is the minister confident that the \$126,000 will be able to be retrieved in efficiencies without impacting on programs or services?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Can I go to page 26, the target to develop and implement the South Australian Multicultural Charter. What is the time frame for the development and implementation of that charter?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The charter obviously is part of the new act that we debated in the house last year. It provides the opportunity to set the foundation for our multicultural direction for the future of the state. There is a three-stage engagement approach in collaboration and consultation with stakeholders across South Australia. The engagement process began formally in April of this year, and a charter working group has been established to lead the first stage of the charter's development.

The charter working group consists of Ms Jodeen Carney, Commissioner for Equal Opportunity; Adriana Christopoulos, Chair of the South Australian Multicultural Commission; Dr Jessica Gallagher, Deputy Vice Chancellor (External Engagement), University of Adelaide; Carmen Garcia, member of the South Australian Multicultural Commission; Helena Kyriazopoulos, CEO of the Multicultural Communities Council of SA; Rajendra Pandey, member of the South Australian Multicultural Commission; Erma Ranieri, Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; Associate Professor Angela Scarino, Chair of the Multicultural Education and Languages Committee; Tamara Stewart-Jones, CEO of Multicultural Youth SA; Deb Stringer, CEO of the Australian Refugee Association; Dr Roger Thomas, Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement; Quin Tran, member of the South Australian Multicultural Commission; Eugenia Tsoulis, CEO of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre; and Associate Professor Anna Ziersch, College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University.

The charter group met on four occasions, completing inter-session tasks during April and May, and they collaborated and brought their expertise to develop the draft charter. The draft charter being developed is based on input from the charter working group, provisions in the South Australian Multicultural Act 2021, feedback from the Multicultural Legislative Review and examples from other jurisdictions.

The working group has drafted the multicultural principles and other provisions of the charter, as required by the act, ready for consultation and feedback from a wide group of key stakeholders. The second stage of the engagement process involves stakeholder engagement forums, multicultural community organisations, South Australian government agencies, local government,

business and industry bodies. The third stage of the engagement process involves public consultation.

The working group will consider feedback received during the second and third stages to finalise the multicultural charter. It will be submitted to cabinet for approval. As outlined previously, as part of our commitment to the charter we announced a multicultural South Australian ambassador program to activate the charter, to embed its principles within the workforce and business practices of South Australia's leading organisations.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: We have established that there is a listenership of thousands to these estimates proceedings, and I noticed that one of the members was Helena Kyriazopoulos, who last week was awarded a Queen's Birthday honour and is now Helena Kyriazopoulos OAM. She is a constituent of mine and so I want to take the opportunity to say congratulations.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I had the opportunity to write a letter to Helena to congratulate her, amongst other winners.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Her letterbox is overflowing.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I congratulate Brad Chilcott as well, and several other people who were recognised for their efforts. I think we can speak proudly of those South Australians who have stood up to support our community.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The second stage the minister identified was stakeholder engagement and the third stage is public consultation before it goes to cabinet. Can the minister identify when those public consultations will take place and when it is expected that those consultations will be completed and cabinet will authorise its presentation publicly?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: They started in April of this year to develop the draft charter, and in July of this year the stakeholder engagement forums will happen. I expect a public consultation process in September.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: One of the outcomes the minister identified was the ambassador program.

The CHAIR: Still on the same page?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Yes, the ambassadors are a consequence of the charter that the minister was just talking about. When will the ambassador program be implemented? Is there an expression of interest process for individuals to apply? How many people are we talking about and what are the criteria for becoming an ambassador?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are obviously still in some discussion about how that will operate. I am particularly pleased that the South Australian Multicultural Commission members were very interested in the ambassador program. I spoke to them in the first week of being a minister. They held one of their meetings and I went through in detail our significant election policy and the money in addition.

There are obviously quite a few, as I outlined, who are on the working group of the charter, and they are keen to do that. I would expect to table the charter to parliament at the end of this year and, after that, we will continue to look at the ambassador program. Obviously, the program will raise awareness and promote greater understanding of the charter across the wider community, showcase best practice in the implementation of the principles, advance diversity and inclusion issues in the workforce—public and private—and strengthen multiculturalism and social cohesion.

The design and development objects of the project are being scoped but we are influenced by the Multicultural Queensland Ambassador Program, a program that has been in operation for some time, but we will continue to have those conversations.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Is it expected that the ambassadors will be volunteers or staff?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I do not expect them to be staff, no. It will be businesses in general, public and private, signing up to be in the ambassador program.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: When does the minister anticipate she will be providing details about that process for people or businesses that want to become ambassadors?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: In due time. We are working on it now.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: This year perhaps?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I expect that it would be appropriate for me to table the charter first, with cabinet approval, and then have the support of the parliament before proceeding to that next stage, but work continues to happen.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Also on page 26, one of the targets is to produce and maintain an online South Australian multicultural resource directory. Can the minister outline the resources and funding allocation for that development, whether there are FTEs allocated or external consultants?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The funding is part of that additional funding that was detailed in the budget and we are obviously having discussions about the budget and how that will go. We are going to look at producing and maintaining an online South Australian multicultural resource directory to list organisations that offer information, advice, support and networking opportunities for our diverse community.

It was raised with me, by one of our service delivery groups in South Australia, that when people come here, whether as a skilled migrant or a humanitarian migrant, moving from interstate, that it was often difficult to find services in a particular language—a doctor who speaks your language or food that you are looking for or connecting up with the community—and the idea of a one-stop shop is where the directory came from.

The way it would work particularly, rather than having significant FTE time to upgrade it, is for people to proactively upgrade and provide that information to have that best knowledge. That encourages us to have a deeper connection within the community. The lack of information in one location was certainly raised with me, and this will give us the opportunity to advertise it to our migrant community who are already here and those who are newly arrived.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: In relation to this directory, what criteria will be used to determine which organisations are listed and which are not?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are obviously working through those details now. We will talk with members of the Multicultural Commission about how we intend to have this directory and keep it activated and up to date, and we will be guided by that. Often what we see are those people who have arrived probably in the last 10 years have a higher need of that directory and information, so that might guide where we go, but we are still open to it. As I understand, other states have a similar directory and we are looking at that as well.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I go to the same page and the line above, the multicultural media grant stream. How much funding is going to be allocated to this new media grant stream?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I said previously, we are still working out the budget on that. That is a particular new line of grants, and obviously detailed not just in our election policy but then in the budget just brought down on 2 June. The focus of the media grants is to drive skills development and communication across the state's multicultural communities.

It also came to our attention that while there was success in managing COVID here—particularly making sure we had messages in languages and embedding someone from the Office of Multicultural Affairs within SA Health helped with that, and also I think we are on the hesitancy board—we could see how important it is to get messages out in a timely manner in different media, in languages as well. It reinforced the importance of delivering up-to-date cultural and linguistic appropriate health messages during COVID. We know that there is interest in people developing these communication skills.

As I elaborated on before, we have quite a few newspapers and radio stations that connect with their communities in language. They are looking for younger people to be involved and they are interested in those skills. My focus around that is about skills and also about the purchase of equipment and strengthening their communication skills through training. We endeavour to run it out

this financial year. Obviously, we will continue to audit, review it and see if the way it is going out is working. We know that there is a great need for it and a great interest in this program.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I am interested, minister, you have identified that you are still working out how much funding is going into this multicultural media grants stream. We had the budget on 2 June and we have the election commitments, which were obviously all funded out of the global \$16 million over four years, but there are many strands of work underneath that where we are still working out what the allocations are. Is there a date by which the minister expects that the 2022-23 financial year budget for multicultural affairs will be determined within DPC, in terms of how much is going to each of these grants programs and the other bodies of work and the election commitments?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I expect to have that settled in the very near future.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Alright. Well, maybe we can apply to the parliament for another estimates. In relation to the media grants stream, if the quantum of funding is not yet determined, have there been some of the details around those grants yet delivered? Do we know what the application criteria are going to be, for example?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are working on that now. We are nearly ready to present that, so in the near future I will be making an announcement.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Are we expecting that any multicultural organisation, such as might appear on the resource directory, can apply for these funds, or is it expected to be an existing multicultural media provider or a peak body that will be eligible, or will anybody be eligible?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I am advised, it is in line with our current eligibility.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The minister mentioned communications equipment before. Is it expected that the grants stream will provide funds for communications equipment purchase as well as skills development? Are there any other activities to which funds can be put?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, they are the two priorities: training and equipment.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Were there any others was also part of the question.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Not at this stage. When we run it out the first time, those will be the priority areas. As I said, after that, being a new grant program, we will review it in consultation with those people who receive the grants and the people who have shown interest.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I go to the bottom dot point on page 26, 'Invest in community infrastructure upgrades including upgrading security and for community transport.' Is this in reference to a new grants stream or are we talking about a continuation of or expansion of or reduction of the Expand Together infrastructure grants program that was already in existence?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I intend to incorporate it within the Expand grant system.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Will the funding that was committed last year under Expand Together be increased, decreased or maintained under this target?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We are having those conversations now. Obviously, even with the additional funding, we have an extensive policy: lots of different programs and grants within the multicultural area. The attention that we obviously paid to our diverse community, and it was recognised during the election, is something that we will work through. I know that there was great interest in the focus and the time that we took to produce a multicultural policy for the election. We are delighted that we were elected, we have a lot of work to do, and this includes looking at how we will deliver those programs and the grants that we have there.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I refer to the following page on grants and subsidies. Does funding for the South Australian Multicultural Festival come out of this grants and subsidies budget line?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes, it will come out of that line. I am advised it comes across three lines: grants and subsidies, employee benefits and supplies and services. You might recall it was also part of our election policy, with a focus on taking it to an annual event. I have to say that I was quite inspired when I went, in November last year, to Victoria Square, where 7,000 people

attended the fifth Multicultural Festival. That was held on Sunday 14 November 2021. That one-day event featured 70 community groups, highlighting more than 50 cultures. While the weather was not particularly kind I have to say, there were 30 performances, 15 activities and 30 stalls.

I thought that festival and the way it was presented was an excellent way of connecting to the wider community and talking about and sharing our diverse cultures. Thus, I was inspired to support it to be an annual event. That was part of our election policy to do so. Obviously, that is how that grant line works in order to do something of that size, and I think we are aiming to be the largest Multicultural Festival in Australia. As Minister for Tourism, I will also happen to drop that around the place from time to time. It will need support obviously to make that happen.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I agree the festival was spectacular. The weather was warm, and my family loved it. I know the Hon. Jing Lee worked very hard to improve that festival. I think it was previously in Rundle Mall, and Victoria Square turned out to be a great location. I note the minister's commitment to make it annual. This is the same set of budget lines from which there has been a \$126,000 cut this year, so can I ask how much funding will the government be providing to ensure this festival is as spectacular every year as it was last year; and when is the Festival going to be later this year? Do we have a date?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: We continue to work through that budget line. Unfortunately, Victoria Square was unable to be obtained for this calendar year, so we will start annually from next year.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: It will not be taking place this year? It will be starting next year, but in Victoria Square next year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Yes.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Do we have a date?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: Unfortunately, it was already taken.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Do we have a date for next year?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: November. We have put those dates and already booked them in.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Excellent. How much money has been allocated to the multicultural women's microbusiness fund, which was also promised prior to the election?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: As I said, we continue to work through those processes. At the same time, the Department for Innovation and Skills has put considerable funding towards women's microbusiness support as well, so we will be working with them to talk to them about the program that they had. It has exceptionally increased funding. I do not even know if the Innovation and Skills funding existed before, so we will be looking at that as well.

There was a COVID program, which received additional funding from Good Shepherd microfinance, which actually built on previous microbusiness support programs, so it was some additional money during the COVID times. There are several programs around that have shown fantastic outcomes in this microbusiness support, so we will continue to have those conversations, but I am very confident that we will find the right fit to achieve this election commitment.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: How much of the \$4 million per year funding has the minister allocated to fund the election promise to establish a multicultural chamber of commerce group, and what is the time frame for its establishment?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: I am so glad you asked about that. I just recently had a meeting with the heads of the Chambers of Commerce about what they would like to do because there currently is not an umbrella body that incorporates all the Chamber of Commerce, so I spoke with them. It was a very free-flowing discussion about what they would like to see, and the reality is that they do not come together very often themselves. They are quite siloed in their approach, so we will start with some of that opportunity to come together.

The other area is, rather than having a formalised association, which is what previously existed but which no longer exists—the Council for International Trade and Commerce

South Australia—at this point they do not want to go down that pathway and have that model. What they do want to be armed with is information about the great investment opportunities in South Australia. At that meeting they talked to me about hydrogen. In the past, wine has been a particular area of interest of investors who have come here. They know that investors are interested in our renewable energy opportunities that are here, but what they felt is that we could speak more effectively when an investor comes here to widen out their areas of interest.

They felt that they would like to have a deeper knowledge of the areas of priority of this government. Like I said, hydrogen was a key thing that they were quite interested in, and wanted to know more. Space was another area to understand those opportunities. So when people come to them to invest here, to connect, they want to make sure they have the most up-to-date information. Just as importantly, they raised with me the ability to connect and collaborate with each other. For example, people who are exporting to Malaysia may easily then export to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore, and by connecting with those Chambers of Commerce here those opportunities would go on.

It was a really good conversation. I went in there with a very open mind knowing that once again you are talking to volunteers. We only have a few people in paid positions of the International Chamber of Commerce here, AmCham being one of the most established. As I understand, the British Chamber of Commerce, or the UK Chamber of Commerce, is going to get more active, but I have had quite a bit of involvement. They certainly are interested in connecting, collaborating, and having clear details about the investment areas of focus for this government.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Have you spoken with the responsible department, for managing this, and who is the responsible minister? Is it going to sit under the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and DPC? Is it going to be part of one of the other departments with a grant or is it going to be an NGO? Is it going to be like CITCSA was before the former Labor government cut its funding? Who is going to be managing it?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: At this point, I will be the lead as it was part of the multicultural—but obviously in conjunction with the Minister for Industry and Trade, and they will be providing support as we go forward. At this point, the connection and collaboration was the key focus of the groups, and that is what they talked to me about, and that is what they would like. I suspect in coming years they might want to finalise it, formalise it in a different capacity. Most importantly, they want it to happen, and I intend to make sure that it does.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I realise you said you are working on it, but is there a notional allocation of FTE from within your department or an anticipated summary of funding for this program?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: There will not be a specific FTE for this program. Obviously, of the 13.7 FTEs they generally work across the grants and programs.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. The allotted time is up. I declare the examination of the portfolio of multicultural affairs completed. The estimate of payments for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet are adjourned until Thursday 23 June 2022.

Sitting suspended from 11:00 to 11:15.

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILD PROTECTION, \$721,449,000

Membership:

Mr Teague substituted for Hon. J.A.W. Gardner.

Mrs Pearce substituted for Ms Thompson.

Minister:

Hon. K.A. Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms C. Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Department for Child Protection.

Ms F. Ward, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Department for Child Protection.

Ms J. Male, Chief Financial Officer, Department for Child Protection.

Ms T. Armiento, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer, Department for Child Protection.

Mr T. Rich, Parliament and Cabinet Coordinator, Department for Child Protection.

The CHAIR: Welcome to today's hearing for Estimates Committee B. I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land on which the committee meets today and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

The estimates committees are a relatively informal procedure and, as such, there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. I understand the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition have agreed an approximate time for the consideration of proposed payments, which will facilitate a change of departmental advisers. Can the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition confirm that the timetable for today's proceeding previously distributed is accurate?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

The CHAIR: All good, member for Heysen?

Mr TEAGUE: Yes.

The CHAIR: Excellent. Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure 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 Clerk Assistant via the answer to questions mailbox no later than Friday 2 September 2022.

I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to make opening statements of about 10 minutes each, if they so wish. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions. A member who is not a committee member may ask a question at the discretion of the Chair.

All questions are to be directed to the minister, not to the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to an adviser for a response. 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*. I remind members that the rules of debate in the house apply in the committee. Consistent with the rules of the house, photography by members from the chamber floor is not permitted while the committee is sitting.

Ministers and members may not table documents before the committee; however, documents can be supplied to the Chair for distribution. The incorporation of material in *Hansard* is permitted on the same basis as applies in the house; that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length.

The committee's examination will be broadcast in the same manner as sittings of the house are broadcast, through the IPTV system within Parliament House via the webstream link to the internet and the Parliament of South Australia video-on-demand broadcast system.

The portfolio is the Department for Child Protection. The minister appearing is the Minister for Child Protection. I declare the proposed payments open for examination. I call on the minister to

make a statement, if the minister so wishes, and to introduce advisers. I call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement, if the member wishes. I call on the members for questions.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Thank you, Mr Chair. Thank you very much to all committee members for participating in this really important process. I start by acknowledging that, here in this place, we are gathered together on Kurna land. In making that acknowledgement, I acknowledge the many Aboriginal leaders who share wisdom and culture and who advocate for years, decades and lifetimes for children and young people.

I am joined today by Ms Cathy Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Department for Child Protection; Ms Fiona Ward, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Ms Joanne Male, Chief Financial Officer; Ms Tina Armiento, Acting Chief Human Resources Officer; and Mr Tom Rich, Parliament and Cabinet Coordinator. I thank each of them and their teams for their incredibly hard work towards the budget and this estimates process.

I make a short statement to start this process about the significant challenges and opportunities ahead of us as a state, and indeed as a nation, in child protection and wellbeing. My responsibility is in child protection and the investment the Malinauskas Labor government is making in the system to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people in our community. As minister, I am deeply committed to keeping children in care in my mind and in my heart as I undertake my responsibilities—responsibilities that I feel incredibly honoured to have.

Every South Australian child deserves to be safe, cared for, nurtured and loved. It is important to note that that ideal is not something one person, or indeed one department, can do on their own. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that children are safe, well and free from abuse or neglect. Shockingly, one in three South Australian children in their lifetime now come into contact with the child protection system in some way.

The numbers of Aboriginal children and young people in the system and in out-of-home care remain disproportionately high. We have many wonderful foster and kinship carers supporting vulnerable children, but there are still challenges in recruitment and retention of carers impacting on the capacity for children and young people to be placed in family-based care. To make real inroads into these issues we need a whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach.

The ABC news report earlier in the week about the enduring issues faced in the child protection system across the country was an urgent call to deepen and intensify our collective work to improve outcomes for children and young people and keep them safe. I look forward to working with the new federal government as key partners in this crucial effort. I acknowledge the incredibly courageous people who spoke in that news report.

Amongst many urgent actions required to meet these challenges is the need to develop deeper community engagement with, and understanding of, the complexity and interconnectedness of issues that families face. Our collective endeavours sit squarely in a broader context of complexity and challenge. There is inherent risk in child protection, a risk that workers and all involved in the system carry through every interaction and decision they make. I am very grateful to all who work every day to make a difference in very challenging circumstances.

We must change and deepen the public discourse and ensure that there is a better understanding of the risk and tension that the system carries. We must ensure that the oft-repeated mantra that child protection is everybody's business is genuinely brought to life if we are to shift from a community attitude of reporting as the first and sometimes only response to a culture of supporting families, children and young people. We must strive for joined-up efforts, including effective prevention and early intervention actions that genuinely strengthen families and improve outcomes for children and young people so they can physically, mentally and emotionally thrive.

It is important to acknowledge that, as a whole community, we face challenges that have a direct impact on the safety of children. Domestic and family violence, poverty, unemployment, intergenerational trauma, drug and alcohol misuse and cyber-based crime, including the direct exploitation of children and the ability for predators to communicate with children and young people through technology, are issues we collectively face and must collectively address.

The continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic can also not be underestimated and has had an impact on all parts of government service delivery, including the recruitment and retention of foster carers and the safety of workers and children and young people in care. I thank all carers, who generously open their hearts, homes and lives to children and young people. Workforce challenges persist as child protection workers face on a daily basis that tension between working to strengthen families and build their capacity and the need to intervene or remove children when their safety is at risk. This is hard, complex work.

The Malinauskas Labor government is alive to all these challenges, and we will be doing all we can to address them. Difficult issues may still arise, but we are focused on doing what is within our power to prevent issues arising, to be open and transparent when they do and to always learn and rigorously examine systems, procedures and processes to ensure they work in the best possible way to support and empower children and young people.

The task ahead is hard, but we are viscerally determined to try to make change that genuinely improves children's and young people's lives. The investment into child protection in this budget reflects that. The measures in this budget are also complemented by a range of other activities that will seek to collaboratively develop solutions using evidence and expert advice in partnership with stakeholders, including, most importantly, children and young people, their families and carers.

The government in this budget is investing an additional \$128.9 million into the child protection system to meet the cost of caring for more children and young people in non-family based care and to fund the anticipated increase in statutory responses to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect. We are increasing funding for services for children and young people in care and their caregivers as well as providing additional support to young people leaving care and transitioning to jobs, housing, further education or other life opportunities through a \$7.5 million investment program over the next four years.

We are also working collaboratively with other parts of government and key stakeholders and service providers in the community to ensure that we are providing the right kind of support and resourcing to intervene with at-risk families at crucial times to build their capacity and capabilities. Underpinning every element of what we do is making sure that we hear the voice of children and young people, foster and kinship carers and advocates in informing our policies and decision-making. I thank each of them for their courage and their voice.

I also take the opportunity to acknowledge and thank the tireless workers of the Department for Child Protection, who respond with compassion and diligence to the needs of our community as they undertake their work. We have committed to real efforts to fill vacancies, improve ratios and develop a workforce plan in consultation with workers, their unions and community organisations to ensure sustainable, safe staffing levels for the future. We have already taken significant steps to improve notification processes in a way that will ensure continuous system examination and improvement.

This estimates committee provides a welcome opportunity to explore how this budget is investing in the child protection system to drive better outcomes for children and young people. I look forward to exploring the issues with the committee and thank again all members of it and you, Mr Chair.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. Member for Heysen, do you have a statement or questions?

Mr TEAGUE: No statement; I will go straight to questions. Minister, starting with an overview in relation to budget measures, I turn to Budget Paper 5 at pages 16 and 17, where we see the budget measures for child protection conveniently set out over the course of those two pages.

The minister has just adverted to \$128.9 million in budget measures funding over the course of the forward estimates. While we are at it, I might refer in that regard to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 95 to illustrate that working backwards over the last two financial years as well as the provision for the forward estimates. In that context, I ask the minister for any observation about what we have seen, a roughly \$120 million increase in appropriation from 2020-21 to this year's budget and a similar increase over the period of forward estimates.

This is not a question that is anything other than an opportunity for an observation. To what extent is that growth in appropriation a sign of failure as opposed to a sign of success? Would the minister provide any overall indication about the way in which this further increase of \$128.9 million over the forward estimates will be deployed?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think you are asking for some general observations, to use your words. I understand the reference to Budget Paper 5. I presume that on page 95 you are just talking in general terms in terms of the—

Mr TEAGUE: No, just for convenient reference, I am talking to the first line of the table headed 'Statement of comprehensive income' on page 95, where one sees the appropriation working back to 2021 as a way to illustrate going back and going forward. We have seen this really extraordinary growth in appropriation in relation to the department. I have couched it in terms of whether that is a sign of success or failure, and I do not mean anything more than that. I just invite the minister to make observations about what this further increase in appropriation over the course of the forward estimates is going to do and what plans the minister has for deploying those further resources.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I will just make a couple of general comments, and they are similar to the ones that I made in the opening statement. We do face particular complexities in child protection. One of those complexities is the growing number of children and young people who come into contact with the child protection system at some point in their lives. I mentioned the figure, which I constantly feel incredibly shocked by, that one in three children now in South Australia comes into contact with the child protection system at some point in their lives.

Also, the number of children who are in care has continued to grow and that trajectory has continued over the last four to five years. As I said in my opening statement, there is a constant tension, a constant balance that we grapple with in child protection, and that is the balance between making sure that we do whatever we can to prevent and intervene as early as possible when families are struggling, to support them to build their capacity, and recognising when children are not safe and removing children and taking them into care. That is the constant tension that the child protection workforce deals with. When I say the workforce I mean all of those in community organisations, and in family support services as well.

For the first time, with the investment of \$128.9 million, the funding for the workforce will be commensurate with that growth of the number of children in care. It has not been commensurate with it over the past four years, but this funding will certainly ensure that there is now enough capacity in the workforce to begin to address the shortfall that has existed in the past. On that note, what I would say to the member for Heysen is that one of the things we do have to carry, as well as investing the \$128.9 million, is the efficiency measure that the previous government applied to child protection of \$4.5 million per year.

In contrast, we are not applying any new savings measures to child protection. That was made really clear by the Treasurer in his speech, and it is very clear in all of the papers that we are investing an additional \$128.9 million, in contrast to the \$4.5 million annual efficiency dividend that was made by the former government. That \$128.9 million will focus on building workforce capacity, but alongside that we have also invested \$7.5 million to ensure that a range of other programs are implemented that grow the voice of children and young people in care, that grow the voice of carers, that help to break the cycle by investing in post-care support, so that when children and young people are close to leaving care they have the necessary support to explore new study, work and housing pathways.

So, alongside that investment in the workforce and all of the services associated with that, we are also focusing other investment into other supports and services that will sit alongside that.

Mr TEAGUE: In those circumstances—you might describe it as a realistic outlook—this anticipates, does it not, a continuing rise in the number of children in care over the course of the forward estimates? Why should it not be regarded as an admission of defeat at this point to be providing for those significant increases, as it were, fairly evenly over each of the course of the years of the forward estimates?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I guess I would say again that the investment that we are making for the first time actually is commensurate with the growth that has been occurring over the last four to five years. Previously, funding did not reflect that growth and now we have funding that actually reflects the growth. What I can absolutely tell you also is that I am highly aspirational about the need for change, and the \$128.9 million investment is, of course, significant.

As I said, it is also commensurate with growth, but there is a range of other things that we are also investing in. They include intensive family support services and, as I said, carer advocacy, and they include support for children and young people as they leave care, to help break that cycle. Sadly, we know that cycles can continue if there is not positive intervention, so I am highly aspirational that this budget and the matters that we are contemplating are also focused on positive outcomes for the future through that range of other investments that we are making.

Mr TEAGUE: Would you include, minister, in the range of those aspirations—I am sorry, did you have something more to add?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry, we were just going to add one other—

Ms WARD: I was just going to add in: I think it is a really important question. I think what we have seen, which is really promising, is a downward trend on growth. There has actually been a downward trend on growth in the recent years, which is continuing. You will see that in the forward estimates, so the ambition is actually factored into the budget: 5 per cent obviously with the current financial year, then down to 4 to 3 to 1 to 1. This is actually anticipating the minister's ambition but also, I think, the potential positive impact that we are already seeing through early intervention services: intensive family support services, family group conferencing and other family-led decision-making approaches, which are actually succeeding at the moment.

Mr TEAGUE: Thank you. It might be in percentage terms, but in absolute dollar terms we see provision rising from just short of \$22 million in the current budget to just short of \$30 million in 2025-26. Minister, with that further observation in mind, will you regard it as, if not a key performance indicator, a sign of some modicum of success if we see in future years those provisions in the estimates actually revise down? Do you have an objective in that regard?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: In terms of reducing the number of children coming into care? Is that your question?

Mr TEAGUE: I am getting to that, but in terms of the sheer dollars, do you have an objective associated with—these are needs-based funds, right?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: I simply ask you the question, maybe somewhat unusually in the context of this department: is there a sense in which provision to some lesser degree over the course of the forward estimates might be viewed as a sign of success? You could deploy the funds very capably elsewhere if the growth needs are not there. I mean, you are not aiming for growth, in other words.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: No, of course we are not aiming for growth. I guess I would just add some further context around the growth, which may be helpful. The growth in placement is impacted by a whole range of factors. These include the rate of new entries, of course, in terms of more children coming in to care because of the need to be kept safe; the rate of reunification; the age of the population in care in terms of when children and young people leave care; and also broader, across-government early intervention services.

According to DCP's financial reporting to the Department of Treasury and Finance as at the end of April 2022, the estimated 2021-22 full year average growth rate of children and young people entering care is 4.8 per cent based on an increase from the 2020-21 reported figure of 4,496 to a forecast end-of-year figure of 4,710, while the 2020-21 growth was 7.7 per cent.

Although the number of children and young people in care has grown, the department has also predominantly increased family-based care placements, so of the estimated additional 214 children and young people in care in 2021-22 compared with 2020-21, 167 children were placed in family-based care.

I guess I make those comments because these issues are incredibly complex. Of course, we will continue to keep working to reduce the number of children and young people in care; we will continue to look at the interconnectedness between the range of complex and challenging issues that give rise to connection with child protection; and we will continue to work to ensure that we can have more children, should they come into the purview of child protection, in family-based care.

I can assure you that we will continue to work and use every effort across the department, using a whole-of-government, whole-of-community approach to continue that downward trend. In the meantime, back to where your question started, we are funding for the first time to a level that is actually commensurate with reality.

If we are to properly resource what is in front of us, it gives us a better opportunity to address that complexity of challenging issues that we know lead to children coming into the purview of the child protection system. If we can realistically fund, I think we are more enabled to deeply address those interconnected and complex issues, particularly given we are also, through this budget, funding other programs that will help in those efforts to support and empower children and young people who are at risk.

Mr TEAGUE: I think I understand the minister's response to be consistent with an aim or an aspiration to reduce the number of children in care. Still on page 16 of Budget Paper 5—and I will give the minister an opportunity to reflect—how is that consistent with the statement that is provided to explain the provision of those funds over the course of the forward estimates? I quote from the first paragraph:

The initiative—

and that is the additional resources initiative over the course of the forward estimates—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Can you tell me where you are?

Mr TEAGUE: I am at page 16, at about point 7 on the page. How is that in any way consistent—and it need not be, but I would invite the minister to reflect on it—in either absolute terms or percentage terms, with the explanation for the initiative that is set out there in the first paragraph under the table, which indicates that the initiative is providing for funds, and I quote:

...reflecting more children and young people in non-family based care in 2021-22 and 2022-23—

and here is the key part—

and expected higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates.

What is underpinning that anticipated higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates? I presume that is not an aspiration.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The first thing I would say, and I am sorry if I have not been clear, is that whilst the number of children in care continues to grow the numbers are actually slowing and, yes, we need to respond.

Mr TEAGUE: The rate of growth is slowing.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: Yes, I hear that.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: In terms of the aspiration, of course we want to continue to slow growth and reduce numbers.

Mr TEAGUE: What does 'higher growth' mean in that context?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: To answer your question, you will see there that the paragraph particularly points to 'non-family based care'. One of the things we will continue to do is to focus on how we grow family-based care. That means how we can better attract and retain foster and kinship carers.

One thing that has been particularly difficult over the past couple of years in that regard—and I am speaking about a time when I was not the minister—it is my understanding from the department and from various statements made by the previous minister that during the last couple

of years of the pandemic there were particular issues around attracting and retaining foster and kinship carers, as you can imagine, in periods of lockdown in particular households, etc.

It was harder for—sorry, I did not know somebody else was asking me a question. COVID certainly had an impact in addressing the issue that is there in that first paragraph that you have pointed to in terms of non-family based care. That certainly had an impact, but what I would say is that we are absolutely aspirational and positive about our desire to attract more foster and kinship carers, and I must say in that regard that there are a number of issues that have to be addressed.

As the shadow minister, and since becoming the minister, I have heard many stories from foster and kinship carers about the difficulties they have faced in all sorts of aspects of providing care. I think you, the shadow minister, would be aware that, during the course of debating the amendment bill to the Children and Young People (Safety) Act that the previous minister brought to parliament, there were multiple debates and multiple discussions around those parliamentary debates about the need to have inserted into the act procedural fairness for carers.

That is something that many carers felt was needed to improve their care experience. I heard that directly from carers and particular advocacy bodies, and I think in terms of addressing that issue about family-based care, which we do want more of, we need to respond to those issues. Unfortunately, the previous minister refused to support those amendments for procedural fairness. The bill then passed the House of Assembly and sat in the Legislative Council for a very long time unattended to.

A number of carers advocated, out of deep frustration, for a foster carer inquiry to address a number of the issues that were brought up repeatedly to the previous minister. That inquiry has now concluded in terms of submissions, etc. There will be a report from that inquiry in the coming weeks, and I think that will present an opportunity to examine any recommendations in terms of what could be and respond to them in a way that improves the experience of foster and kinship carers.

What I would also say though in relation to that inquiry is that, on coming into government, it is an independent inquiry so there was not anything that could be particularly changed about that inquiry, but it is clear that it had been quite under-resourced. To make sure that foster carers are heard, as well as that inquiry, I am absolutely organising a comprehensive range of forums in different locations with foster and kinship carers to make sure that their voices are heard.

I have already convened a forum of kinship carers and then of foster carers in Mount Gambier. I am in the process of planning other forums, and I will continue to have those forums. The reason I mention that is that if we are to increase the number of people who are prepared to act as foster and kinship carers, and if we are to improve the experience of foster and kinship carers so that they can be retained, it is incredibly important that their voices are heard.

As I said, the paragraph that you point to refers to non-family based care. One of the ways that we want to, I guess, address that particular point is by working—and I have just outlined the ways that we will—to improve the rate of children and young people being cared for in family-based care.

Mr TEAGUE: In some respects, I am not sure what question the minister was answering.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am not sure I had the question right, sorry.

Mr TEAGUE: I might just go to the particular words, and I will perhaps reflect on the kinship and foster carer aspect coming out of it. Again, staying with that paragraph, the way I read the paragraph, and in any event, it seems to reflect on two aspects. First of all, you have a reflection of 'more children and young people in non-family based care in 2021-22 in 2022-23'.

There might or might not be a comma inserted there if you want to be 100 per cent clear, but the way I read that is the paragraph is expecting higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates. Are there any grounds upon which that expectation is founded, and to what extent is there any sign of success in that not coming to fruition? Do you follow?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think so. Just two things: Cathy Taylor is going to speak to those figures in a moment about the percentages across the out years or the forward years, but one thing I would reflect on is that you rightly point out that, I think in the second to last line of the

paragraph you are speaking about, it says 'and expected higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates'.

I think a better way to express that would be 'an expected growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates' because, as I said before, whilst in all of the projections that you can take over whatever number of years you want to there has been growth, the rate of growth, however, is slowing. I will ask Cathy to provide some further information that might be helpful in terms of the way that the funding is structured to illustrate, I guess, the aspiration that we have that you have spoken about.

Ms TAYLOR: I thank the member for the question. In particular, as the minister said, there are two things that are influencing those figures: the first one is obviously the mix of family-based versus non-family based; the second one is the reference to—and I will use the language that is in the paragraph—the 'expected higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates'. It really should read 'than previously budgeted for'. The former government budgeted in 2022-23 for growth of 2 per cent and in 2023-24 1 per cent, and the government has now revised the funding volumes to reflect a growth in 2022-23 4 per cent and in 2023-24 3 per cent.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: And then 1 and 1, so in the out years 1 per cent and 1 per cent to reflect the aspiration. Does that make sense?

Mr TEAGUE: I suppose, while we are looking at what is expressed there in the budget papers, that is good to have on the record. We see, therefore, that there is an expected higher growth of children and young people in care over the forward estimates, but there is an aspiration to reduce the level of growth—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The rate.

Mr TEAGUE: Yes, the rate, the level, the extent of that growth, as the forward estimate years continue. So there is an inbuilt aspiration to decrease the rate of growth of children in care. Do we have that expressed as a number for convenience? It is a matter of maths, I suppose.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think we just said it. I am not sure what else to—

Mr TEAGUE: You have given it in percentage terms.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: You might take on notice how that translates, in terms of absolute numbers of children in care, over the forward estimates.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am not sure if we need to take it on notice when we can express it in figures.

Mr TEAGUE: If you can indicate that now it would be helpful.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, there are a number of issues that impact the rate of growth that we can strive towards but which we cannot necessarily predict. Again, I take you back to my earlier comments that the rate of out-of-home care placement growth depends on a number of factors, and one of those is—

Mr TEAGUE: Yes. I do not mean to cut you off—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —the rate of reunification—

Mr TEAGUE: Yes, we can all do the maths.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —which I would always hope we can improve in terms of safely reunifying families. We cannot always predict the age of children that come into care. Of course, you may have a particular cohort where more children reach a particular age when they leave care than in other years—

Mr TEAGUE: Yes, but nonetheless you can indicate a percentage growth that is built into the numbers. You have just advised it.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: I am just asking how that translates in terms of absolute numbers, that is all. It is not all that complicated.

Mr BROWN: Well, then you can work it out yourself.

Mr TEAGUE: I could; I am just in the midst of asking questions, that is all. That is why I offered the minister the opportunity to take it on notice. You do not need to take time out to do it right now. Perhaps a thing that might be interesting to have on the record is the baseline upon which that growth is proceeding from.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Pardon?

Mr TEAGUE: The chief executive just indicated the percentage growth rates. That is all clear, that sounds—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes, which are going downward. As I said, we are predicting a slowed rate of growth, which, in terms of your broader question about the context and aspiration, I would say is a very positive expression of what we want to do. I would just bring you back to—

Mr TEAGUE: I am not putting you on the mat, in that sense. It is simply a question in relation to the baseline.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The other thing I would say again, just to remind you, is that this is in sharp contrast to the previous government, which utterly failed to budget in any realistic way or in any aspirational way. Not only that, the previous government also imposed a \$4.5 million per annum efficiency measure on the Department for Child Protection at a time when growth was skyrocketing and at a time when a number of issues were being raised by the previous minister. There seemed to be no thought or connection either to the reality of the situation or to any aspirational target.

Again, I would say to you that, as well as providing the additional funds and structuring them in a way that expresses the aspiration that we have spoken about, we have also invested in a range of other programs to support children and young people to provide greater oversight for children in care, which is a really important point, in amongst the \$7.5 million of funding—

Mr TEAGUE: I will raise a point of order. I hesitate to interrupt you, minister. I really stress that I am not endeavouring to put you on the mat or to score points at all. I am looking to identify, by reference to the budget, the baseline measures and the extent of growth.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I understand.

Mr TEAGUE: It has been provided in percentage terms. All I have asked for is the baseline. I do not need you to take time out to do that right now, but it might be that your chief executive has done so in the course of that monologue. I am just seeking the number, nothing more and nothing less.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I have said—

The CHAIR: Would it be preferable to take it on notice to provide those figures?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: No, because, as I have said, I have already answered it. I am really trying to explain, and please tell me if I need to give further information about the explanation.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps conveniently—

The CHAIR: Can we just let the minister finish those comments, and then we will get back to you.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: We have been very clear with the percentages, very open and very clear, rightly so. I think there is a shared understanding of the aspiration there to reduce the number of children in non-family based care, as we have spoken about. As I said, there is complexity around that growth. It means that we cannot predict how many children—hopefully, it will be a high number—will be reunified with families.

We cannot predict how many children may go into family-based care. We hope that more children and young people are in family-based care. We cannot predict the age of the population in

care. We cannot predict exactly which interactions in terms of other services might provide other avenues for children and young people in care. That is my answer. I have given my answer. I am not sure what else to provide. I feel like I have given it at length, so I am not sure what else to provide.

Mr TEAGUE: You have, but you are not answering the question. The minister indicated earlier that there had been a growth in 2020-21 to the following year from 4,496 to 4,710. Perhaps if I put it this way, what is the baseline number to which those percentages are applied? It is not a trick question. It is simply a matter of being on all fours in relation to that broader set of statements and aspirations the minister has referred to. It is no more or less complicated than that.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I have provided those current figures, as you just spoke about. I have been really clear about what the projections are in percentage terms, but I would say again that placement growth is impacted by a huge range of complex factors. I would also say again that we will be looking to ensure that we closely look at how we can shift the numbers around out-of-home care placements to family-based placements.

Again, there are current difficulties in that regard. As I said, over the last couple of years there have been particular difficulties around COVID. Also, as I am sure you would be aware from your meeting with Connecting Kinship and Foster Carers, and I am sure the member for Frome would also be aware from her time working with the former Minister for Child Protection, there are issues that carers are experiencing that we need to address. All those factors will impact on this particular issue.

Mr TEAGUE: We will perhaps move along. In terms of the results of the additional funding over the forward estimates, we are still at the first line of the table at page 16, and we see at the second line a growth in the number of full-time equivalents from 18 to 36 in 2022-23—that is the subject of the budget—and estimates of a relatively significant increase in 2023-24 to 62 FTEs and then maintaining that up to 64 FTEs in 2025-26. How are those resources to be deployed and what is the cost of those FTE increases, more specifically?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I might just make a couple of broader comments about the child protection workforce before I get to cost, etc., of FTEs and how those particular workers will be, I think deployed was the word that you used. In commencing those comments, I firstly want to acknowledge and wholeheartedly thank the incredibly tireless workers of the Department for Child Protection, who every single day attempt to respond with such compassion and diligence to the needs of our community as they go about discharging their statutory obligations in the system.

I have had the opportunity to visit many DCP sites, and I have already spoken with hundreds of workers, and the thing that strikes me about all those conversations is that every worker who makes the decision to work in the child protection system starts that work with a desire to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and young people. That is why they commenced working in that system.

The work is really hard. I have taken, as I said, the opportunity to meet with hundreds of workers in the Department for Child Protection and in the course of those visits, and also in the course of meeting with union workplace delegates who work in the child protection system, I have asked all of those workers what they love about their work, what has been difficult and what are some of the changes that could be made.

Certainly, one of the common themes amongst a number of themes is that they need more workers to work alongside them so that they have the time, the energy and the resource to work deeply with families and children, to provide the time and support and the care so that children and young people in the particular circumstances they are in when they enter care can have the attention that they need and they deserve.

I guess the shorter answer to your question is that we want more workers to be working with these children and young people. As I said earlier in my opening statement, we know that it requires a whole-of-community effort, a whole-of-government effort to support the difficult work that those workers do if we are to make a real difference in terms of improving outcomes for children and young people, in terms of enabling children and young people to emotionally and mentally thrive.

We are making an investment in building and supporting the child protection workforce. One of the things that we will be doing is developing a comprehensive workforce plan so that we can develop a workforce that is sustainable for the future. We will be working on that plan in consultation with workers and with their unions and with the community organisations in the sector, because we want to ensure that there are sustainable and safe staffing levels for the future.

One of the other things that we are considering is how we can better attract workers to the child protection workforce. We want to campaign to make sure that students and other jobseekers see child protection as a place in which they want to work. Again, the short answer is that we want more workers to be doing the work that is required and to be doing it in a way that provides the best possible support and care for children and young people and the families with whom they interact.

I have made a commitment as a minister to speak at length and to listen deeply to everybody who connects with child protection. Of course, one of those groups is the workers themselves, so we will certainly be making sure that, as we develop that workforce plan for the future and respond to the needs of children and young people, their families and what workers also identify themselves, we have a workforce plan that reflects exactly what is required to ensure the best possible outcomes. As I said, there will be more workers, and we are also developing a workforce plan, and I will certainly be happy to keep the house abreast of developments as we consult and bring together that workforce plan.

Mr TEAGUE: And the cost of those FTEs?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry?

Mr TEAGUE: That was the second part of the question.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: We are just getting an exact figure for you.

Mr TEAGUE: It is really to identify the proportion of the costs over the forward estimates that have been increased and how much of that relates to those FTE increases.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: To the workforce, yes.

Ms TAYLOR: I thank the member for the question. Over the forward estimates the costs of the FTE—and we are talking only about the Department for Child Protection in that case—are approximately \$25.1 million. The other costs that contribute to the operating expenses that are referred to include, obviously, the NGO contracts, as the minister said, and we also have workers in NGOs. It also covers carer payments, incidentals and accommodation, so it is made up of probably five factors, including the FTE within the department.

Mr TEAGUE: I might leave it on that note and move on.

The CHAIR: I will let you do the next question and then, member for King, do you have a question? Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: I am sorry but I am not sure if I heard the minister earlier. Certainly, it was the case in the other estimates that the Premier remarked as recently as last July, and somewhat unkindly in relation to the taking of questions from government members, but if that is the plan I will yield.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: If you would like to contrast—and I am looking at the member for Frome because I know that she is well aware of how the previous estimates session with the previous minister unfurled—I think you will find that there will be a very small number. The previous minister had several, multiple, government questions so perhaps you might like to leave any compare and contrast on that particular front.

Mr TEAGUE: Having adverted to it, the Premier was really quite clear. He indicated that it simply happens as cover, so I was not going to put that on the record in particular, but I will keep it quick and see how much ground we can cover.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think you can also see from my fulsome answers to questions that I am very happy to answer your questions and I will be happy to continue to answer your questions.

Mr TEAGUE: The record speaks for itself in that regard. You have already addressed the question in relation to funding the growth of numbers of children in care. It appears it would be remiss of me not to go to what is described at pages 92 and 93 of Volume 1 as the kind of elephant in the room in regard to growth. I would like to go to foster and kinship care in a moment back at page 16, but for the moment at page 92, about point 7 on the page, the first dot point under explanation of significant movements, and then subsequent—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry, can you just say the dot point again? I missed it.

Mr TEAGUE: The first one—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: —and again, the first point on the next page, page 93. Both refer to the estimated number of children and young people in care and the cost of providing services during what I have described as the elephant in the room: COVID-19. They are very significant numbers in the context of the numbers we have been talking about in terms of forward estimates. There has been an escalation of children in care, and provision of services consequentially, over that period. Is there not, surely, a correlating anticipated decrease, or is there some alternative explanation for the continued growth?

Again, there is no endeavour to provide any sort of trick question. It is just a straightforward analysis of where we have been over the last couple of years in COVID, the dramatic amount of resource associated with it, and then the context of growth that is described at page 16 in Budget Paper 5 and as you have elucidated over the course of the last hour or so. I might add the first dot point under the second paragraph as well on page 92.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: An increase in the base and respite payments? Is that what you mean?

Mr TEAGUE: The increase in the estimated number of children and young people in care and the costs associated with providing care services during COVID-19 in the amount of \$42 million. So there are three references, if you like, all I think in relation to the same topic.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes. There are probably a few things to note to bring that figure to life. In terms of the impact of COVID on the care of children, what we saw over the past couple of years during the former government's tenure was that through COVID the casemix changed. I think I spoke earlier about how difficult it was for some foster and kinship families to continue to or to begin to care for children and young people in their homes as a result of COVID. That certainly changed the casemix. Also, of course, it impacted the Department for Child Protection workforce in terms of people being absent from work and arrangements that needed to be made in that regard.

The CHAIR: We can return to that if you like because I am going to go over to the member for King now.

Mrs PEARCE: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Agency Statements, Volume 1, page 91, 2022-23 targets and Budget Paper 5, Budget Measures Statement, page 17. Can you tell us more about the plans for establishing the Child and Young Person's Visitor Scheme in residential care?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I thank the member for King for her question. I was not sure if there would be an opportunity before the conclusion of Ms Wright's term to do so, but I wanted to offer my sincere thanks to Ms Penny Wright for her five years of service in her role as Guardian for Children and Young People.

I thank her for her incredibly hard work in this role and also for the way in which she has gone about undertaking that role. Her deep thought and care for vulnerable children and young people in care, and her commitment to ensuring that they are heard and that their needs are acted upon, is absolutely exemplary. Ms Wright will conclude her term on 9 July, and I wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.

We are in the process of appointing a new guardian, and I look forward to updating the parliament and the community on this in due course. I, too, take very seriously my responsibilities in

ensuring the rights and safety of children and young people in care are at the heart of the care and services made available to them. The input of the guardian is key to this, as is the principle of an independent visitor scheme that provides an additional layer of insight into the experiences of young people in residential care.

It is important to note that, prior to Ms Wright's appointment to the legislated role of visitor, the former Labor government had funded the guardian's office for a two-year trial of a child and young person's visitor program. That pilot concluded in September 2019. In the trial program's final report in February 2020, the guardian sought further funding for the program to continue. Unfortunately, however, this request was not met by the previous government and resulted in the program ceasing. The program was a recommendation of the Nyland review, and the former government shamefully failed to resource the program adequately despite frequent representation about the importance of the program.

I am very pleased that this government has committed funding to ensure this important function can be performed in the future. In this budget, we have allocated \$450,000 per annum, indexed to reintroduce the Child and Young Person's Visitor scheme in residential care. My department and I are absolutely committed to placing children and young people at the heart of the child protection system, particularly for any decisions that affect the young children for whom we care or who are vulnerable. It is crucial that we listen to children in care, and I have already taken steps to do so.

We are also committing additional funding to improve advocacy and support for children and young people in care and leaving care, including providing \$800,000 to the CREATE Foundation to support transition from care, working with the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People to create additional mechanisms for young Aboriginal people to have a voice, and providing opportunities for young people in care or with a care experience to have voice through the No Capes for Change committee.

We are listening, and we will continue to listen to these young people who represent themselves and others with pride and distinction. We will not only take their advice but also continue to build on existing mechanisms through which children and young people are given a voice in child protection, including through participation in case plan meetings, care decisions and annual review processes. In addition to my work with the Guardian for Children and Young People, I also work closely with other fine advocates, such as the two children's commissioners, who put forward so well the views of young people in care.

Mr TEAGUE: With reference to the Nyland recommendations in terms of the FTE increases, what is the ratio now and what is the ratio as a result of the increases? Is that getting close to or complying with recommendation 150 of those Nyland recommendations of two staff?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes. I think I answered this question to some degree in an earlier response. What I would say is that the complex nature of child protection work means that we face a number of challenges in terms of workforce development, and that is certainly true for the child protection sector nationally, and as such it is recognised in the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 as an issue to be addressed. Through that framework, as are other states, a series of responses to those issues around workforce will be progressed.

Complementing that national approach, DCP convenes regular heads of industry forums, and other sector-wide workshops, the most recent of which was on 25 May 2022, which I attended, and one of the functions of that particular group is to discuss workforce challenges. As I spoke about before, that collaborative process will absolutely assist us to develop a holistic child protection workforce strategy to build a sustainable workforce for the future, and it practically demonstrates our commitment to delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people in care.

The significant investment that we are making into the child protection workforce, the work that we will do with the sector, and also with workers and their unions, and also the work that we will do as part of the effort to progress the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children—the 10-year strategy—will certainly assist us in developing that workforce plan.

One of the strategies that we will make sure that we do focus on in progressing that workforce plan is improving the staffing ratios in residential care, and as part of exploring that issue we will

examine the workforce requirements for care shifts to ensure that they are tailored to the needs of particular children and young people, and the safety of staff.

Mr TEAGUE: I am not sure what question the minister was answering. I will perhaps move on. How many reports has the department received of children in care being out unsupervised, uncared for and unsafe at night?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry, what—

The CHAIR: Would you be able to repeat the question? I didn't hear it as well.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What budget line? Sorry, just which particular budget line are you referring to with that question?

Mr TEAGUE: Really and truly?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes, I just want to check because there is—

Mr TEAGUE: Alright, let us call it page 91, Program 1: Care and Protection. I am not sure the minister did not hear me, but for the benefit of—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I could not actually quite hear you, sorry.

Mr TEAGUE: —the Chair and the committee I am sorry if I was not—I will perhaps repeat the question: how many reports has the department received of children in care being out unsupervised, uncared for and unsafe at night?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: That is in relation to 91, did you say?

Mr TEAGUE: Yes, in relation to the program 1 description/objective.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am not sure what dot point you are referring to, but I think I understand the question. I am unclear as to which reference you are making, but I will answer the question. Sorry, I am just trying to find my figures. It is the missing person reports. Is that what you are trying to get to?

Mr TEAGUE: Yes. I note that the minister is taking some considerable amount of time. I do not mean to pin the minister down on it but, just for the purpose of context, as recently as July the Premier has indicated, and to paraphrase, 'Either the minister does not know the children are out, in which case we obviously have a monumental scandal, or the minister does know if children are out unsafe at night, in which case we would invite her to answer the question.' I would echo and repeat those sentiments.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am attempting to find my piece of paper, but I will answer without it because I cannot actually locate it. The thing that I would speak about is that there is an incredibly complex array of issues that children and young people who are in care experience. There are often trauma-related behaviours and dysregulated behaviours that children and young people in care exhibit because of the various issues they contemplate.

One of the questions that I know I explored with the previous minister—in fact, I think you might have just asked a similar question to what I asked—is that one of the things that has been contemplated, and it responds to a recommendation of the Nyland royal commission, is that a model of secure therapeutic care be implemented so that a child who is in care could access particular supports that they need to stay safe.

A lot of consultation was undertaken on the model of secure care, and that consultation sought the views of a range of recognised experts to help guide decision-making around secure care. That review was finalised in August 2020, when of course there was another minister undertaking this role. What we understand from the time of the previous government is that the overwhelming majority of stakeholders were not sure about the particular model.

What nearly all of the respondents recommended was that the government actually invest in a therapeutic model of care to be embedded across the system. I understand the previous minister accepted that feedback and, based on the review of the available evidence at that time when that consultation was undertaken, DCP determined that it would prioritise investment in the

implementation of an evidence-based therapeutic residential care model to support quality care outcomes for all children and young people in care.

One of the things that the previous minister spoke about a lot—and I was very interested in the model that she spoke about—was the sanctuary model of therapeutic care. I am sure you would have heard the previous minister speak about that also. I understand that that model has now been rolled out across DCP residential care. DCP staff are trained in that model to encourage children and young people to have a voice and be fully engaged in the day-to-day decisions about their lives.

My understanding is that sanctuary builds on the existing trauma-informed skills of DCP residential care staff and ensures that DCP's approach to caring for children and young people is both trauma responsive and therapeutic. The implementation of the sanctuary—

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order, Mr Chair: I hesitate to raise a point of order, but I do. There are five minutes remaining. The minister is continuing to be non-responsive to questions, and there is at least one more topic that I would like to move to.

The CHAIR: The minister is providing a bit of context, but the basic question was whether you have the crude numbers when it comes to those kids.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I do.

Mr BROWN: On a point of order, Chair: I can appreciate the sense of frustration that the member for Heysen has about the way things are going for him, but to disrupt the minister while I am trying to listen to her answer is something I find very disruptive for this committee. I would ask you to pull him up and make sure that he sits quietly and listens to the minister's answer.

The CHAIR: I did indicate that the minister was providing some context, but I am also clarifying that the original question was about numbers, so it would be good to get to the numbers, in one way or another.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: There are a couple of things I would say. I keep abreast of those numbers, of course I do, on a regular basis. What I will continue to consider is the efficacy of the sanctuary model. I know that the previous minister was very supportive of it, and I am very interested in understanding the efficacy of that model. What I am also very interested in is exploring whether there are any other mechanisms that may be needed in terms of any secure care options, policies, procedures, etc. That is an area that I am actively considering.

I do have an intention also to speak with the Western Australian government in a few weeks' time, because they also have contemplated this issue and have come up with particular models, processes and procedures around secure care to address the numbers of children who engage in trauma-related and risk-taking behaviours, including those that are—I think you used the words 'late at night'.

I will certainly continue to monitor how the sanctuary model of therapeutic care responds to that. I will also consider widely—as I said, I do have conversations, I think they are already locked in with the Western Australian government—the advances they have made in responding to this particular issue.

Offline, I am very happy to provide information about the sanctuary model. I suspect, given it was implemented under the previous government, that there is probably information around it that you can access. Any other ideas or innovative systems that I come across, including in the engagement with Western Australia, in terms of secure care and therapeutic care, I will be very happy to share, offline, with you.

Mr TEAGUE: In the context of page 89, reunification, I refer to point 5:

Working with families to address the safety concerns that led to a child or young person entering care, so reunification can take place when it is safe and in the best interests of the child or young person.

I have two questions. Firstly, what are the current rates of reunification? Secondly, if the focus is on reunification, what funding is being invested in education support services to parents to enable reunification?

As a related aspect of that, how many children and young people are self-placing annually, and what programs are in place, perhaps as part of that additional funding, to prevent self-placing? You might address the supports that are available to teachers in that respect, in particular, given that they are at the forefront of the problem.

The CHAIR: Can we have a concise answer? We are about to run out of the allotted time.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Reunification services are a really critical element of the child protection system. As I spoke about before, we are constantly contemplating that tension between the desire to intervene early when families are struggling and to keep families together and the need to remove children and young people when they are not safe. Reunification services are critical. They sit alongside other services like family group conferencing and intensive family support services, which also fall under my statutory responsibilities.

Obviously, one of the first priorities for DCP for the provision of a child's or young person's long-term care is the consideration of their birth family. If a child or young person enters care, to ensure their safety DCP will assess where their needs for safety, wellbeing and permanency of care will best be met, through reunification with family or through a long-term placement in care. When DCP makes an initial assessment that safe reunification is possible, the DCP case plan will set out the areas of parental change and learning required for unification to proceed. That might include addressing issues like substance misuse or factors involving violence in the home, etc.

As part of that process, DCP will refer parents to relevant services to support them and to give them the best opportunity to make any necessary changes. We are really committed to that safe and planned approach to family reunification. In order to achieve that safe, planned family reunification where it has been identified that it is possible, the department undertakes not just that initial assessment but ongoing assessments of the safety and risks associated with the child or young person returning home, taking into account any progress against the behavioural changes or learnings that may have been set down in that case plan.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. The allotted time is up, so I declare the examination of the portfolio of the Department for Child Protection and the estimate of payments for the Department for Child Protection completed. I thank everybody for their contribution once again, especially the public servants for all the effort that goes into preparing for these committee meetings.

Sitting suspended from 12:47 to 13:45.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, \$982,620,000

ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, \$231,162,000

Membership:

Ms Wortley substituted for Mr Brown.

Minister:

Hon. K.A. Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms L. Boswell, Chief Executive, Department of Human Services.

Mr N. Ashley, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Human Services.

Ms A. Reid, Executive Director, Community and Family Services, Department of Human Services.

Ms S. Vas Dev, Director, Office for Women, Department of Human Services.

Ms K. Biggins, Director, Office of the Chief Executive and Governance, Department of Human Services.

The CHAIR: Welcome everybody. The portfolio is the Office for Women, Department of Human Services. The minister appearing is the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I advise that the proposed payments are open for examination and call on the minister to make a statement, if the minister wishes, and to introduce advisers. I call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement, if the member wishes. I call on members for questions.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I start by acknowledging the role that many Aboriginal women leaders play in preventing and ending domestic, family and sexual violence and in promoting Aboriginal women's participation and leadership through generously sharing wisdom and culture and through often tireless advocacy. I am honoured to appear before this committee as the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Today, I have with me at my right Lois Boswell, the Chief Executive of the Department of Human Services. Also, further to my right is Sanjugta Vas Dev, the Director of the Office for Women in the Department of Human Services. At my left is Nick Ashley, the Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Human Services. Also with me are Kelly Biggins, Director, Office of the Chief Executive, and Alex Reid, Executive Director, Community and Family Services in the Department of Human Services.

This government has a strong vision for achieving gender equality and for preventing and ending the terrible scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence and all forms of disrespect and discrimination that disproportionately affect women in our community. A combination of factors impacts a woman's economic security and ability to equally participate in aspects of community life over the course of her lifetime. It is likely that, compared to a man, a woman will earn less, be less likely to advance her career, accumulate less superannuation and savings, and be more likely to live in poverty in old age.

Women are more likely to work part time and in casual roles, have fragmented work histories and precarious attachment to workplaces. They often experience greater levels of discrimination, have fewer employment opportunities and have lower levels of financial literacy and independence than male counterparts. It is this combination of factors that can leave some women in poor financial circumstances in later life and can contribute to the gender pay and superannuation gaps. It is also these factors that saw women disproportionately and negatively impacted by COVID.

So many women in South Australia and across the country are impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence. One in three Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, perpetrated by a man they know. Women are more likely than men to experience violence by a partner. Approximately one in five Australian women have experienced sexual violence from the age of 15. On average, at least one woman per week in Australia is killed by an intimate partner or former partner, and Australian women are more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner.

Like many in this place, I am driven to address inequality and to ensure that women and girls can safely, equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life. This is the right thing for girls and women and it is the right thing for our entire community, as an equal future benefits everyone.

Our government's commitment to addressing economic inequality includes investment in industries which predominantly employ women and which were impacted particularly by the pandemic, including the arts, major events and tourism. We will also support the economic participation of South Australian women and reduce inequality through establishing a gender pay gap task force so that we can understand and address the factors that contribute to the gender pay gap in South Australia in a systematic way.

The Premier's Women's Directory will be re-established, linking it to the existing register and providing an additional avenue for South Australian women to identify and join boards. A reinvigorated Premier's Women's Directory will also support the government's commitment to

achieving and maintaining 50 per cent representation of women on state government boards. We will reinstate the women in sport task force to advise the government on issues preventing women and girls fully participating in the sport that they love.

Both the Premier's Women's Directory and the women in sport task force were shamefully shut down, cruelly cut by the previous government. For a relatively small investment these initiatives can help make a difference and advance us closer to gender equality. We have also funded a \$4 million women in business package, which will provide a suite of programs that will be made available to South Australian female-owned businesses.

Importantly, we will also develop and introduce an equality bill, which will seek to promote, encourage and facilitate the systemic achievement of gender equality. These commitments will ensure that South Australian women and girls can build financially stable futures and be empowered to equally participate in all aspects of community life. Achieving gender equality and increasing women's economic independence supports this government's commitment to change community attitudes about the roles that girls and women can play in community, economic and family life.

Outdated attitudes lead to disrespect for women, and this is one of the underlying causes of domestic and family violence. As minister, I will continue to relentlessly speak up and act to prevent and end domestic violence. Domestic, family and sexual violence has no place in our community. We intend to progress a range of legislative changes and reforms to criminalise coercive control, to include the experience of domestic violence as a ground of discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act, to investigate progressing paid domestic violence leave for workers pursuant to the Fair Work Act SA, to require those who were granted bail who have been charged with serious domestic violence offences to be electronically monitored as a condition of their bail, and to review legislation pertaining to consent to sexual activity.

Prevention is also at the core of our government's response to domestic, family and sexual violence. We have committed funding to establish two domestic violence early intervention and recovery hubs in the north and the south of Adelaide to support and empower women and to raise community awareness. We will work with the finance and real estate industries to determine how we can ensure those who have experienced domestic violence do not bear the brunt of mortgages, loans and rents that often go unpaid as a result of domestic violence.

I look forward to continuing to speak with many representatives in many industries and across our community to progress these important initiatives and I look forward to progressing them with the 14 out of 27 Labor members in the House of Assembly who are women.

The CHAIR: Thank you, minister. Member for Frome, any statement or questions?

Ms PRATT: Straight to the questions, thank you.

The CHAIR: Straight to the questions.

Ms PRATT: Thank you, minister. If we can start with Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, Program 1: Status of Women. The South Australia government, along with all states and territories, received several rounds of national partnership funding via the Women's Safety Taskforce. What process is your government undertaking to allocate the final amounts of funding?

The CHAIR: What page was that?

Ms PRATT: Page 85, Program 1: Status of Women.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Thank you for that question. The Office for Women, and myself as minister, will absolutely continue to work with the commonwealth Department of Social Services and, of course, continue to work with the South Australian domestic, family and sexual violence service sector to ensure that national partnership funding is used in the most effective way possible to provide the best outcomes for South Australians. I certainly look forward to working with the new minister, and indeed the entire federal government, on the scope of future payments to ensure that they absolutely address the particular needs of our state.

As you would be aware, the purpose of the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-23 (the national partnership) is to support service

providers to deliver critical family and domestic violence services to meet demand in the context also of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on women's and children's safety and to support those who most need it.

Funding is also intended to trial new initiatives and undertake reforms to address emerging jurisdictional priorities and any identified needs and market gaps related to service delivery, as well as to enhance data and reporting across jurisdictions on the use and impact of the new national partnership funding.

The Office for Women has been keeping me abreast of their collaboration with the sector to design new service models which can address those gaps across the service continuum, from early intervention to response and recovery. As you would be aware, all future payments in terms of the plan that we develop have to be allocated subject to commonwealth approval.

Ms PRATT: In that regard, which programs that have been funded as pilots or on a short-term basis will continue or discontinue?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I can list them if you want me to, but what I can say is those that have been initiated will continue throughout the life of the partnership. As I said, I can go through and list all of those that will continue.

Ms PRATT: Perhaps, minister, if I may I will give you my list with a supplementary question and we will see if we are at the same point. Is the government committed to continue funding which might be expiring on the following programs: ANROWS—I am sure you do not need me to expand on that; DV Serial Offender Database; the personal protection app; Safe and Well Kids; Stop it at the Start, the national primary prevention awareness campaign; and a continuation of Safe and Secure Housing, which assists victims-survivors to transition into the private rental market.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What I can say is that all of those are continuing throughout the life of the partnership. I would just advise the member, and you may be aware of this, that the Stop it at the Start is a national campaign. Of course, given it is a national campaign, we do not necessarily have—

Ms PRATT: The mechanism or the authority to—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —the mechanism. Certainly, I can assure the member of my commitment to prevention and early intervention, and speak about a range of ways that we will be looking at prevention and early intervention. As I said, they are all continuing. Stop it at the Start is a national campaign, so that will obviously have other parties that will discuss the continuation of that program. The personal protection app is continuing. I recall that I was asking questions about that the other day in terms of numbers, etc., evaluating how well that is.

Ms PRATT: Minister, you were asking your agency about it?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes. It just reminded me that I have been asking questions because, as the member would appreciate, in this space we want to be doing everything that we possibly can to engage measures and mechanisms that work and that assist our efforts in any way possible to prevent and end domestic violence. Certainly, if there is any other information about that I can let you know, but I think that answers your question.

Ms PRATT: I think the minister has confirmed that other than a national program the programs listed are continuing.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Ms PRATT: Moving to Budget Paper 5, page 65, in relation to the domestic violence northern and southern hubs, what type of service model is the government looking at for these hubs where the budget declares \$1 million over three years to establish a hub?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I spoke about in my opening statement—and I am sure it is something that everybody in this chamber, indeed, in this house would commit to—I am certainly steadfastly committed to doing what is possible to help prevent and end the absolutely horrific scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence in our community and to address the gender inequality that we know drives disrespect and violence toward women. It is a commitment that I have

certainly held for a very long time and, as I said, I know it is a commitment that many in this house share.

It is a commitment that is utterly driven by the compelling call to action that is amplified by the deeply disturbing statistics that I listed at the beginning of this session. It is a commitment that is also driven by desire to ensure that no children experience the shame and the embarrassment that comes with experiencing domestic violence. It is a commitment that is driven by an absolutely burning passion to ensure that there is not one more woman who is killed, abused or disrespected; and it is a commitment that is driven by a deep belief in our collective capacity as a community to do better on this front.

Our government has rightly committed to multiple actions that will be delivered upon as soon as possible. We want to make a lasting difference and take significant steps toward preventing and ending domestic violence, once and for all.

Gender inequality, as I mentioned before, is at the core of disrespect toward women and at the core of sexual and domestic violence. We must work harder with our communities to ensure that outdated notions about gendered roles in our community are eradicated and all South Australians are respected and given the opportunity to safely, equally and actively participate in every aspect of community life in our economy. We are determined to shift perceptions in our community about women in order to stop violence before it starts.

Part of the role of those hubs will be to make sure that they do harness that collective community energy, and mobilise that energy around preventative efforts and awareness efforts. As is stated in the budget papers we are investing \$1 million towards the Southern and Northern Domestic Violence Prevention and Recovery hubs; that is a commitment of \$500,000 for each of those hubs. As I said, the hubs will focus on bringing together local supports and local services, and with efforts to both raise community awareness about the prevention of domestic and family violence and also to focus on empowering women to recover, to access the support and services they require to walk a new, safer pathway.

The department will lead the delivery of this commitment, and of course as minister I will be closely involved. The first steps will include an engagement process with key stakeholders in both of those regions to better understand the needs of those respective communities. We will also be seeking partners from government, non-government and business sectors to attract any possible additional resourcing, and hopefully through doing so that will allow opportunity for those hubs to become deeply embedded in their respective communities.

Just as a matter interest, those northern and southern metropolitan hubs are being established separate to the safety hubs that were previously established, but I think that the more we can join up effort and collaborate the better. We will certainly be responding to needs identified in each of those communities to better align effort, both in the preventative space and community awareness raising space but also in making sure that there is more support for women to, as I said, walk new pathways.

Ms PRATT: Just continuing on with that, I think we have some broad brushstroke and understanding of that hub, and perhaps high-level aspects of the model. If I can put a few more questions to you on that—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes.

Ms PRATT: —I think they will make sense in the collective. Following on from the service model question, and you have touched on this, how would those two hubs integrate with existing services in the northern and southern regions? Perhaps not to reinvent the wheel, looking at the funding model, and you have explained it is a split of \$500,000 for the northern and southern hubs, why does the funding cease at the end of the 2024-25 year? Is that because it is a time-limited hub, and do you, or they, factor in the sustainability, so that it is embedded for women?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think there are a few questions in there.

Ms PRATT: Yes.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The first question, and please remind me if I forget any of them, but in relation to the first question about working with or alongside existing services, in terms of the stakeholder consultation where the detail of the hubs will be designed, of course we will take into account what already exists. What we have heard repeatedly over a number of years is that, whilst there are incredible workers who undertake just outstanding work in crisis accommodation services—and I could go on at length about how wonderful people are at the Women's Safety Service; I know the member for Elder is a former colleague of people at the Women's Safety Service.

In both the south and the north, as you would be aware, there are crisis accommodation services, and they provide an excellent service to women who are at immediate risk, who are in imminent danger, and once a woman connects with those particular crisis accommodation services they are then, through their interaction with those particular services, able to be supported to housing pathways, to legal services, to a range of other supports.

If a woman is not engaged with crisis accommodation—and this has certainly been the experience and you may have had this experience in your electorate office—I have often had women come to my electorate office who will start to speak about their concerns and their desire to take steps to, I guess, be safer, but they do not always have access to the support and services they need, whether that is counselling or therapy or connection with legal services, etc. So it is in a very broad way designed to fill those gaps that are not responded to by crisis accommodation services.

Having said all of that, I think it is incredibly important that, in each of those communities, service providers—those who are in that space—and community leaders, who lead all sorts of innovative community efforts around prevention, also have a say in what the model looks like. I think that answers your first question. In relation to I think the second question—

Ms PRATT: What makes it sustainable? Is it time-limited because the funding runs out in the third year?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: We are committed to the hubs continuing. As I said, we want to make sure that we engage partners in the delivery of any services, supports and programs through the hub. Of course we want to mobilise activity but also funds around the hubs, and it is certainly an issue that we will continue to monitor closely because we want them to be sustainable into the future.

Ms PRATT: Does the government imagine any regional hubs?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I know some of them are called hubs and some of them are called havens. I had the pleasure of visiting the Mount Gambier haven a couple of weeks ago. That is staffed by an incredible group of volunteers who provide immediate support to women in crisis or women who are worried about particular issues. There are seven havens and three hubs, and I have had various contacts with various volunteers, etc. from those havens and hubs.

I would envisage that they would continue, but I would say, in relation to the larger domestic violence prevention recovery hubs, that we do want to, as I said before, evaluate that model also so that those hubs can continue but also so that potentially we can, in the future, provide further support in whichever way those communities particularly need for those havens and those hubs. There is no intention for them not to continue; in fact, we would want to evaluate to see whether there are other opportunities for support. As time continues, I am certainly happy to have a conversation with you about particular needs in those areas. I am just trying to think where the closest hub to your—

Ms PRATT: I will not expand on the services in Frome. I am certainly advocating for hubs and havens across all of the regions.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Of course they would continue.

Ms PRATT: We understand the priority or focus or spotlight shining on Limestone Coast, given the government's visit there recently. I just have a final quick question on the \$1 million allocated. Is that funding for the two hubs in the north and south from the national partnership or from another source?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Straight from the budget.

Ms PRATT: It is new funding?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Yes, absolutely. I am glad you mentioned that because, as you know, in terms of the next phases, 2 to 4, of the national partnership, that is absolutely new funding from the state government for those hubs. I am not saying this with any predicted outcome but, as you would appreciate, when we consider the future projects that will be delivered through future national partnerships, we will contemplate all the services and supports and what could possibly be added to or rejuvenated in any way to enhance delivery or programs at those particular sites.

Ms BOSWELL: We are looking at putting some national partnership money into supporting the regional hubs' coordination of volunteers to keep that model going and growing and to help them embed in their communities.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think there will be further opportunities as further stages of the national partnership and plan continue.

Ms PRATT: I will move us on, if we can, but staying on page 85. Can the minister provide an update on the data and outcomes from the statewide perpetrator intervention service and the beds allocated to perpetrators through the former government's pilot program?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The work with the sector to design initiatives that promote early intervention with perpetrators of domestic, family and sexual violence and to provide support to assist them to change their behaviours will continue in collaboration with the domestic, family and sexual violence services sector. That work to design those initiatives will continue.

No to Violence has been allocated \$150,000 under the National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses to expand the regional reach of the Statewide Perpetrator Response. I understand negotiations with No to Violence to develop the agreement around that funding have commenced. Again, I can give you further information as that agreement concludes.

One of the things that I did want to mention, which I mentioned in my opening statement, is that, in opposition, I moved a bill in the House of Assembly to require those who are granted bail and charged with serious domestic violence offences to be electronically monitored as a condition of their bail. I was very up-front before the election that that it is a bill that we will seek to reintroduce and to progress as part of our policy and our focus in dealing with perpetrators.

Ms PRATT: I refer the committee to page 85 of the budget paper. Regarding the Premier's Women's Directory, what are the terms of reference and the functions of this directory? If the minister will allow, can you outline the exact outcomes that will be achieved?

Ms BOSWELL: The Premier's Women's Directory was originally established in 2002 as a manual directory and had the resumés of women seeking appointment to South Australian government boards and committees. It later was upgraded to an online database where women could add and edit their own board CVs, and it allowed the boards to search the directory for potential candidates. Obviously, it was maintained in the past by the Office for Women and was primarily used by government and agency searches as part of the pursuit of the 50 per cent state government target in the past.

The original lot were all transferred to the BoardingCall database, but we are now looking to find a way to ensure that there is a women-specific directory approach. Women can register and people can specifically search the Premier's Women's Directory. We are seeking to try to integrate those databases so that as many women as possible are able to be on the database. Those conversations are in their early days at this point.

Ms PRATT: Thank you. Minister, to clarify, the Premier's Women's Directory is configured differently to BoardingCall because it will host a women-specific portal or function.

Ms BOSWELL: Yes. We are currently working with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to see if we can have an integrated back of house, but there will be a specific front of house that is online, available for women and promotes women being supported to be on boards.

Ms PRATT: So BoardingCall currently exists, is hosted by DPC and will continue to exist with a new name. Will BoardingCall continue to exist?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: BoardingCall will continue to exist. The Premier's Women's Directory will also exist.

Ms PRATT: I understand.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What the chief executive was saying, and I certainly do not understand the technology, is that where the platform can be used to align any back of house—

Ms PRATT: So perhaps no public-facing changes, but they are integrated at the back end?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Public-facing changes will be that there are the Premier's Women's Directory and BoardingCall. Back of house, there must be some way for technology to align.

Ms PRATT: That is what our information officers are for. When will this directory commence?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The other thing about both of those is that women can choose to be on both if they wish to, but they can also choose to be on just the Premier's Women's Directory. Obviously, there will be work undertaken to make sure that it is promoted for that opportunity. Towards the end of the year we anticipate that it will be public facing, but work is already happening to scope.

Ms PRATT: Just thinking for all women who might want to choose that or decide that they do not want to use BoardingCall, what element of confidentiality or privacy is there around the government host of that information and access for boards?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: It is a really important question, and that is one of the issues that we will contemplate as we look at how we can synthesise. Data security will be a prime consideration, absolutely. DPC are responsible for data security across government, so they are certainly aware of those protocols. It is incredibly important, with any sort of initiative that is designed for use by women, that we are aware of security considerations, and this is not any different.

Again, I am really happy, as that particular matter progresses, to come and see you in the house and let you know how it is going. Certainly, once it is finalised, we will be launching and making sure that as many women as possible know about it and that there is support alongside the launching of it to have people feeling confident about providing their details and also feeling confident about taking on board roles and all the responsibilities that come with those roles.

Ms PRATT: Minister, you mentioned in your opening statement a passion about many things, including the gender pay gap task force. The reference is page 85. What are the terms of reference and functions of this task force, how much will it cost and when might it commence operating?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I am sure you would be aware, the gender pay gap measures the difference between the average earnings of women and men in the workforce. Despite significant pleasing gains over the past few years, Australian women still earn less than men across an average of occupations and industries. As you are aware, as a government, we have committed to establishing the gender pay gap task force. The South Australian gender pay gap, from memory, as at February 2022, sits at around 7.4 per cent. I can double-check that. Hopefully, it has gone down further.

We are currently in the process of undertaking research to inform the delivery of this election commitment, and we are looking at the scope, the terms of reference, the function and the membership. I think it is fair to say also that the recent election of the new federal Labor government, and its substantial commitment to gender equality reform and various programs that they have made commitments to, will also provide an opportunity to potentially align the South Australian tax force actions within a broader national effort.

We are doing better than the national average currently, which you might be aware of. The national gender pay gap is 13.8 per cent, and the South Australian one is 7.4 per cent. We are in the process of scoping the structure, the membership, the remit, etc.

Ms PRATT: I am not sure if I heard the answer about what it will cost.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Again, we are working through the scope.

Ms PRATT: In relation to domestic, family and sexual violence, referencing still page 85, I refer you to the domestic, family and sexual violence cross-government strategy. What consultation will inform this strategy? Perhaps the minister, if she answers, can address when this strategy will be completed by and how the implementation will be monitored.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: We are commencing developments on the new cross-government strategy with a really strong focus on making real change for individuals and families who are escaping domestic violence and on shifting community attitudes and perceptions that engender gender inequality and can lead to disrespect and violence towards women and girls.

The strategy will replace the Committed to Safety strategy, which ceases at the end of this month, so in a very short time. We will release our strategy after the release of the new national plan. This particular issue is something that I turn my mind to, but of course on coming into government the federal election was imminent and we have now had a change of government. I cannot speak for what they will do with the national plan, but certainly any changes or new directions that are made in the national plan we would want to contemplate in the development of our South Australian strategy as well.

Having said that, it is envisaged that the scope of our new South Australian strategy will include objectives in line with the pillars of primary prevention, early intervention, crisis response and recovery, and we want to make sure also that, alongside having a plan that responds to those four pillars, we also have a strategy around increasing sector capacity, filling gaps and growing where it needs to grow.

Next steps, of course, will include extensive consultation with those organisations in the domestic, family and sexual violence sectors, and also with community leaders and stakeholders who have an interest in this area, and we will of course be working with other departments. As you would be aware, there is a role for every person, every community, every organisation and every department in terms of preventing and ending domestic violence.

It is certainly my goal to bring the oft-repeated mantra that preventing and ending domestic violence is everybody's responsibility. That is certainly something that I would like to see brought to life in a very fulsome way in this strategy.

I can certainly come back to you with time frames around the plan but, as I said, we think it is important to contemplate the national plan and any new directions in that, and also to always—which is always the way I go about everything that I do, to include people who have an experience of domestic and family violence or sexual violence, in how we develop that plan, what that plan looks like and how it is rolled out and implemented here in this state.

Mrs HURN: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 85, just the target in relation to the women in sport task force. Could you please give us a bit of information about the terms of reference and the functions of this task force: when will it commence and what resources and costs will be associated with the establishment of the women in sport task force?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Absolutely. I see our next one is about to start. I am happy to give you further information but it may be something that comes up in the next session. We had a women in sport task force when we were last in government. I do not have the dates in front of me but from memory that was established in late 2015, early 2016 and went through until March 2018.

We had an incredible group of individuals who gave their time to that task force. They included elite athletes, elite coaches, researchers, advocates, media personnel and events organisations, and we worked very hard to shift gender inequality as it related, in its many different forms, in sport—whether that was in coverage, in pay, or in particular equal access to facilities. It also focused on improving diversity in decision-making. I was pleased that, in relation to that particular strategy, it was one thing that I agreed with the previous minister for sport on, that they did continue the strategy that we had around board composition and equality in board composition.

We worked to attract major women's events to South Australia and also looked at how we could make sure that opportunities were realised through sport to build relationships across jurisdictions. We are currently scoping the women in sport task force and we are looking at membership and we are looking at remit because, whilst there is still a lot to do to achieve equality

in sport, there are some things that have progressed to some degree since the commencement of the task force in 2016. We are currently scoping membership, and it is our intention to consult quite broadly with a range of people in the women in sport space, with a range of leaders to really agree exactly the remit of the task force and which particular issues we will focus on.

Mrs HURN: I do not want to push it with the Chair, but would—

The CHAIR: Just on that exercise and only if it effects a very short question and a very short answer.

Mrs HURN: It was not even a question. I am just wondering whether you would be pleased to take on notice the cost and resources associated with the re-establishment of that committee.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What I would say is that we are currently working on the remit, the resources and the cost. When we get to launching, etc., that will be made public.

The CHAIR: We are at the allotted time, so I declare the examination of the portfolio of the Office for Women, DHS and the estimate of payments for the Department of Human Services and the Administered Items for the Department of Human Services completed. Thank you to all the public servants for all their help behind the scenes and here. It is much appreciated.

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT, \$1,086,425,000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND
TRANSPORT, \$6,293,000

Membership:

Mr Tarzia substituted for Mr Teague.

Minister:

Hon. K.A. Hildyard, Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms K. Taylor, Chief Executive, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Mr T. Nicholas, Director, Corporate Strategy and Investment, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Mr A. Trottman, Director, Infrastructure and Planning, Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

The CHAIR: We are moving on to the portfolio of the Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing. The minister appearing is the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. I advise that the proposed payments are open for examination. I call on the minister to make a statement, if the minister wishes, and to introduce advisers. I call on the lead speaker for the opposition to make a statement, if the member wishes. I call on members for questions.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Thank you very much, Mr Chair. I am pleased to continue to be here today as part of this important process. I thank all members of the committee for your involvement. With me today to my left is Ms Kylie Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. To my right is Mr Tim Nicholas, Director, Corporate Strategy and Investment, and Mr Adam Trottman, Director of Infrastructure and Planning. I thank them and everybody at the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing for all of their efforts in preparing the budget and also in their preparations for this estimates hearing.

I am very proud to be the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, a portfolio that can make a positive impact on the lives and wellbeing of South Australians. I am pleased to take on this role and, together with the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing and a range of community leaders, to lead the way in supporting and empowering South Australians to live a more active life and pursue and achieve their sporting dreams.

I am focused on delivering on the commitments our government took to the election when in opposition and I look forward to the difference that will be made through delivery of them as part of this budget and for the future. These include:

- a review of the previous government's grant structure;
- the recognition of recreational fishing as an activity in the recreation and sport sector to enable access to funding and the further promotion of the health and wellbeing benefits of recreational fishing, to increase and diversify community participation in recreational fishing and grow participation in fishing clubs;
- the establishment of a new program of \$500,000 per year to support South Australian car clubs. This funding will assist with the hosting of events and activities, improve safety and operations, and increase participation;
- the provision of \$1 million per year to the South Australian Sports Federation Incorporated (Sport SA), the peak sports industry professional association for South Australians sports. Sport SA will deliver training and other opportunities which will build the capacity, resilience and sustainability of supporting clubs and organisations;
- an additional \$1.5 million per year for South Australia's state sporting organisations; and
- the re-establishment of the women in sport task force, to advise the government on issues which inhibit gender equality in every aspect of recreation, sport and racing.

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing plays an integral role in the community, constantly working to achieve the goal of an active state, whether it be by working with clubs and organisations to improve their governance environments, training some of the world's best athletes like Kyle Chalmers and Maeve Plouffe at the South Australian Sports Institute, or providing funding through numerous programs to strengthen the sport and recreation sector as it recovers from the COVID pandemic.

The next three years will also be significant for sporting infrastructure in the state, with a number of key infrastructure projects to be progressed, including the rebuilding of the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, the new home of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, the South Australian Sports Institute at Mile End and the National Centre of Sports Aerodynamics wind tunnel.

With just over a month until the Commonwealth Games commence in Birmingham, we are thrilled to have 44 South Australian Sports Institute or South Australian-based athletes selected in the Australian team so far to compete at the games. With an anticipated team size of 425, this again sees our contribution to the team being more than 10 per cent and well above our 7 per cent per capita level.

The athletes selected compete across 13 sports and range in age from 16 years old to 39 years old. I am really looking forward to cheering them on when the games commence. Currently, there are three South Australian Sports Institute or South Australian-based athletes with a disability selected to represent Australia at the Commonwealth Games, representing three sports.

The FIFA Women's World Cup is just over a year away and Adelaide is set to play a part in this wonderful tournament. The Coopers Stadium upgrade is due for completion in late 2022, which will see Adelaide host games. The new home of football at Gepps Cross has been completed and will be officially opened in July and international teams will use it as a training venue as part of the 2023 tournament.

These upgraded and new venues not only secure the right to host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup matches in Adelaide but provide a legacy for the growth of women's football in South Australia. I am proud that we are driving gender equity through this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Finally, the

government is committed to continuing to work with the racing codes to ensure their viability and sustainability into the future. I am happy to take questions.

Mr TARZIA: Chair, we began this session at 2:36, so with your indulgence I would like to move that we can conclude at 3:36?

The CHAIR: I have demonstrated flexibility in the past, so we will add another five minutes to it.

Mr TARZIA: Thank you very much. I have no opening statement, so I am happy to get straight into questions. Minister, I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142, and also Budget Paper 5, page 69, local sporting club upgrades. On page 142, it advises that local sporting club facility grants totalling \$97.7 million were budgeted in 2021, that is this financial year not next financial year, to be paid from this program.

I have asked a number of questions about this matter. I first sought to raise the matter with you in the house last Tuesday when I asked what the role of your office was in the administration of these grants. The Premier did not let you answer the question. Instead, he answered, referring to the involvement of Treasury and the Premier's Delivery Unit, but not to the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

The Treasurer, in answering another question in the house last Tuesday, also referred to the role of his agency and the Premier's Delivery Unit but said nothing about the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing, so the story seems to be somewhat changing here. Will the minister now advise the committee whether the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing is involved in the administration of these grants?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Are you talking about the election commitments?

Mr TARZIA: The local club facility grants. That is what they are called in the budget document.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: First of all, I am really proud that local MPs and candidates listened to their communities about their needs and engaged with clubs about the role that they felt they could play with the right support to improve people's health and wellbeing and sense of belonging. I am also really proud that we will deliver on the commitments that those local candidates—many of whom are now local members—made that we will honour the promises that we made.

Mr TARZIA: I refer you to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142. When did the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing first become involved in the administration of these grants?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: These commitments were election commitments made by the Labor opposition. They were then endorsed by the people of South Australia at the election, and we are now delivering them as the government.

Mr TARZIA: When did the office first become involved in the administration of the grants?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, they are election commitments, so the commitments were made prior to the election. On becoming government, and once the commitments are budgeted for, the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing plays a role in making sure that those agreements in relation to election commitments are delivered.

Mr TARZIA: The same budget line. The Premier advised his estimates committee in this place yesterday that these grants were required to go through the cabinet budgetary process, so did the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing prepare the cabinet submission for that purpose?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I just said, once these particular commitments were budgeted for, the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing has a role. I absolutely respect cabinet confidentiality in terms of particular submissions to cabinet and I will not deter from my responsibilities in that regard.

Mr TARZIA: Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, again pages 140 to 142. Will the minister provide, for the information of the committee, an itemised list of each approved grant showing the name of the recipient and the purpose for which the grant is to be applied?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As the projects are delivered certainly the relevant community, and the public more broadly, will be aware of the detail. I mean, the communities have already been involved. Sorry, I am not understanding your question. Is your question about—

Mr TARZIA: It is a very simple question, minister. Are you going to provide an itemised list of each approved grant, showing the name of the recipient and the purpose for which the grant is to be applied?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Provide to?

Mr TARZIA: A list.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: To?

Mr TARZIA: To the committee now, if you have it on you, or to the parliament or to myself.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry, now I understand your question.

Mr TARZIA: A list, yes.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: When you kept saying 'to' I was not quite sure what you meant because of course we are working with communities and the relevant bodies—

Mr TARZIA: Yes, I appreciate that.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —to deliver the election commitment and, as you can appreciate, those agreements are being executed and delivered and we are in the process of doing so, of delivering the election commitments as we said we would prior to the election.

Mr TARZIA: Again referring to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142, will the minister provide, for the information of the committee, the documentation that each grant recipient is required to complete, confirming the acceptance of the grant and the compliance with the terms and conditions?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, there is a range of election commitments, and you have the detail of the quantum of those election commitments. Election commitments will be monitored through the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Obviously, in our desire to make sure that all of those election commitments are delivered, we are working through that process and the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing is working through those agreements with the various organisations, as has been spoken about in this house before. We will deliver on those election commitments. We aim to do that as quickly as possible. Certainly, the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing continues to work through delivering those commitments.

Mr TARZIA: On the same budget line, which chief executive is responsible for ensuring compliance with clause 15.11 of Treasurer's Instruction 15, requiring certification that each grant is justified by the particular circumstances and is in the public interest?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Just to be really clear, the election commitments and agreements will be delivered in accordance with the environment in which we are required to operate in.

Mr TARZIA: The Budget Overview, Budget Paper 1, clearly refers to these grants as grants, not commitments. Why do you keep calling them commitments and not grants?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Because all of these projects were commitments that were made prior to the election. They are election commitments. Of course, there will be an agreement to put in place the provisions that are needed to deliver that election commitment.

Mr TARZIA: Referring again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142, does the minister have any association with any sporting club which has subsequently applied for or received a grant?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: All members of cabinet, including myself, have complied with all obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mr TARZIA: So you are not telling the committee whether you do or do not; is that right, minister?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, all members of cabinet, including myself, have complied with obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct. I can assure you that I have complied with every requirement in relation to that code of conduct.

Mr TARZIA: I refer again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142. In estimates yesterday, when questioned about the administration of these grants, the Premier said, and I quote, 'I have very firm expectations of each of my cabinet ministers to be declaring any relevant conflicts where they are required to do so'. Have any ministerial conflicts been declared in relation to the administration of these grants?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I just said, all members of cabinet, including myself, have complied with every obligation under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mr TARZIA: But have any ministerial conflicts been declared?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, all members of cabinet, including myself, have complied with any and all obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mr TARZIA: So you will not tell the committee whether any ministerial conflicts have been declared. It should be a very simple answer.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am saying that all the obligations have been complied with.

Mr TARZIA: I refer again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 141 and 142. Has the Premier informed the minister of any mistake in the budget papers in their reference to these grants? In his estimates committee yesterday, the Premier insisted, on a number of occasions, that these payments were election commitments and not grants, despite the fact that they are referred to throughout the budget as 'local sporting club facility grants'.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: They are election commitments. I do not think that I or other ministers who have answered questions could be clearer. These are election commitments.

Mr TARZIA: I refer again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 140 to 142. In the estimates committee last Friday, the Treasurer admitted that, because of rising inflation, it was possible that many of these grants may ultimately not be adequate to fulfil their intended purpose. Will the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing have the responsibility for dealing with requests from grant recipients for additional payments?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The election commitment amounts are very clear; that is, the commitment that we have made to any particular organisation is the amount that will be provided to any particular organisation. The election commitment is the election commitment; that is the amount that will be delivered.

Mr TARZIA: I refer to Budget Paper 5, page 84, under local sporting club upgrades. Could the minister explain why she has elected to not list the clubs and a breakdown of the expenses? This is in comparison to the previous government, whereby a list was provided.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: You have an issue with the way it is presented; is that correct?

Mr TARZIA: Budget Paper 5, page 84.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Can you repeat the question? Is it an issue about how it is presented?

Mr TARZIA: Yes. Usually, there is a list provided of clubs and the amount of money provided, and that has not been given. Why is that?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think we have been very clear about the amount of the election commitments. That is absolutely open and has been listed in the budget.

Mr TARZIA: Referring to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 118. I note that the Athletics Stadium renewal and upgrade has been delayed by six months until December. Is the minister able to explain the reasoning behind that delay?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: It is really exciting to see the needs of various state sporting organisations and sporting communities being met through the various infrastructure projects. It is really pleasing to see development occurring at the Athletics Stadium, the State Basketball Centre and, of course, the redevelopment at Hindmarsh. We all want a first-class athletics facility that people of all ages and abilities can come to, to compete and achieve their best.

Delays can occur on particular developments for a range of reasons. I think that the works were originally planned to occur during the 2021-22 athletics season, for completion in April 2022. The amended completion date of October 2022 was agreed to at the request of Athletics SA, Little Athletics SA and other stakeholders to ensure that their 2021-22 athletics season was not disrupted by construction. So we are responding to that request.

Mr TARZIA: The minister, in her opening statement, referred to supporting the racing industry. How many times in the hundred or so days since being a minister has the minister visited Angle Park or Globe Derby Park?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I have met on various occasions with leaders in the racing industry on multiple occasions, and I have also attended a number of events additionally. I am incredibly supportive of the racing industry. The South Australian racing industry and clubs across the state are at the heart of many communities. They bring people together through various events, and they certainly bring communities together in regional areas.

I was very pleased a few weeks ago to visit the Mount Gambier Racing Club, as I have done on a number of occasions. As I said, I always enjoy meeting with people from the racing community and have done so on many occasions in the past 100 days. Every time I meet with someone from the racing community, their passion for the industry and the communities in which they bring racing to life is absolutely apparent.

As you would be aware as the shadow minister, more than 3½ thousand people are employed through the racing industry and approximately \$400 million annually is injected into our economy through the activities of the racing industry. Our government and certainly I personally understand and value the contribution of racing to South Australia and acknowledge the challenges faced by all clubs, especially during recent times with the pandemic. As I said, I have met with a number of racing industry leaders, some in my office, some at particular venues and some at particular events.

Mr TARZIA: Minister, are you telling the committee that, in a hundred days since being the minister, you have not been to Angle Park or Globe Derby Park?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What I am saying to you is that I have been meeting regularly with racing industry personnel. I maintain good relationships with racing industry personnel. Have I seen you at some of the events that I have been to? I think one, in particular, at Morphettville.

Mr TARZIA: I have been to an event at Angle Park and Globe Derby Park, and it sounds like you have not been to either venue in a hundred days as minister, which is pretty poor.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I have seen you at one event, I think, at Morphettville. Was it the Carbine Club that I saw you at? I am not sure if I have seen you at a race meet at Morphettville or—

The CHAIR: I think we are getting away from the budget lines.

Mr TARZIA: We will move on. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 140, under targets. Coming back to the grant program that we were talking about at the start of estimates, will this funding go primarily towards facilities in Labor-held seats?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sorry, which funding? The election commitments?

Mr TARZIA: Yes. What you call election commitments and what we call grants.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What I can say, and I think this may also have been spoken about during the course of question time as well, is that we will deliver proudly on those election commitments. Unlike the former government, we are going to deliver on every commitment that we made prior to the election. I am glad the member for Torrens is here because I want to speak about

a particular circumstance that both her and I were very frustrated with in relation to the previous government.

Just before the 2022 election, the Gaza Sports and Community Club at Klemzig were still waiting for the desperately needed funding for female change room facilities that was promised by the unsuccessful Liberal candidate at the 2018 state election, a promise that was never delivered on despite the member for Torrens and I repeatedly asking the former Liberal Minister for Recreation and Sport about when that commitment would be delivered.

The club was also unsuccessful in the former government's controversial football, cricket and netball program. If you have been to the Gaza clubrooms, you will have seen that they are in desperate need of new lighting and female change room facilities, but they were simply snubbed by the former government, despite the Liberal candidate making that commitment prior to the 2018 election. As I said, a visit to the club, and in particular the change rooms, highlights just how desperate the need for improvement is. As was openly committed by Labor in the lead-up to the election, Gaza will be receiving \$750,000 from our government to fund their much-needed upgrades.

In contrast, and to get to your question, commitments made by unsuccessful Labor candidates prior to the 2022 election for various upgrades are now being honoured by this government. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition and his community are absolutely thrilled about the \$2.5 million committed to the Cove Sports and Community Club, which we are honouring and delivering, as well as, I think, \$200,000 to upgrade tennis courts in Kingston Park.

Similarly, I am sure that you are very pleased that the Hectorville Hounds will receive the \$320,000 committed to them for their needs. I know that you and the leader are committed to your local clubs, and I really look forward to working with you to deliver these upgrades and to celebrating their successful completion with you. I think you have already written to me about the election commitment in relation to Hectorville Hounds, and from memory I think I have already responded to your inquiries about that election commitment that we are delivering.

I look forward to delivering all of the commitments with all of the members who made them, and I know that other ministers are also looking forward to delivering commitments that were openly made in their areas in particular budget lines. I have said to a number of members from both sides of the house who have approached me about particular sporting club needs that I look forward to working with members to hear more about those.

I just wanted to say that when I was in Mount Gambier a few weeks ago at the suggestion of the member for Mount Gambier, I greatly relished visiting the speedway track there, even though, sadly, we were not able to get onto the track that afternoon. I did relish that visit and I am looking forward to talking more with all members about particular needs in their areas.

Ms CLANCY: Thank you for talking about improving female facilities. My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Agency Statements, Volume 3, page 140. Can you tell us more about how the government will be investing in and promoting opportunities for women and girls to be involved in sporting and recreational activities?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Thank you very much for your question and for your commitment to your local clubs and to the advancement of girls and women in sport, and indeed every aspect of community life. Seeing women and girls celebrated for being strong, skilful and physical is powerful. It can absolutely change perceptions about the role of women and girls in our community, and it gives us a wonderful opportunity to shift attitudes about girls and women and the roles that they can play.

Many women and girls find expression through sport and recreation activities and have gone on to achieve local, national and international success. That must continue to be supported and celebrated and, importantly, we need to ensure that women and girls have access to training facilities and the equipment they need to pursue their particular sporting passion.

The previous government, shamefully, did great damage to this by scrapping the dedicated female facilities program. It was established to ensure access to facilities to meet the rapidly growing number of women and girls wishing to participate in their local community sporting club. We need to do what we can to encourage more girls and women to equally and actively participate in the sport

that they love, and being serious about that, being serious about backing girls. Women in sport means taking clear action to provide that support.

I am really pleased that our government has committed to developing particular female facilities, and I am also really pleased that we will continue the program that we started in 2016. Thankfully, one thing the former minister and I agreed on, was the need to increase gender diversity on sporting club boards. I was very pleased that he continued our program to look at how that diversity can be improved. That has continued and we will also continue that program.

Again, we are very serious about backing girls and women in sport and will work to ensure that girls and women can equally and actively participate in the sport they love. As part of this focus, we are bringing together cross-government effort to drive legacy on gender equality from the Women's World Cup. We are proudly re-establishing our women in sport task force to consider and advise government on any issues which prevent women and girls from fully participating in their sporting passions.

As was asked in the previous session, we will certainly keep our community abreast of the scope of that task force, the membership of the task force, the remit of the task force and what particular activities it will focus on, and we will continue our work to improve diversity in the decision-making bodies of sport. I look forward to advancing all of those efforts with the now 14 women Labor members of the House of Assembly.

I am so proud that in so many areas of policy we, as a government, absolutely have a plan to achieve gender equality. We have executed that plan and that has resulted in that record number of women representatives in the House of Assembly. We always say about many issues that diversity in decision-making makes for better decisions and that when you have gender equality in a particular community, in a particular place, that it shifts culture.

I wanted to put on record that it was incredible—that first day in parliament—when we did achieve equality. Yes, we know that in theory that changes things, but the feeling was absolutely palpable, it was wonderful. It certainly rejuvenates and renews all of us to continue our vigorous efforts to achieve gender equality in every aspect of community life, including in sport.

Mr TARZIA: Supplementary to that, minister, regarding female facilities: Budget Paper 5, Budget Measures Statement, page 69, female facilities. There is an allocation in the 2021-22 year, and obviously female facilities are very important. Why is there no allocation past the 2021-22 year?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As you will see, we are delivering \$13.2 million of election commitments around female facilities. I am very pleased about that. We are absolutely committed to bridging the gap and breaking down the barriers for girls and women to participate in sport, and that particular significant commitment will certainly assist with that.

As I said, we are also looking to re-establish the women in sport task force to look at all the issues that may inhibit girls and women from participating in sport. We will certainly advance any of the objectives that task force comes up with or any of the recommendations and discussions that the task force comes up with, to continue our quest to achieve gender equality in sport.

The other thing that I can say, and I will also ask Kylie as the CEO to respond to this as well, is one of the things that we have commenced is reviewing the various grants programs, which is something that we spoke about before the election. You would have noted that one grant program has already opened in terms of state sporting organisations. There will be a number of grant programs that open, including a program that will focus on recreation and sport infrastructure.

I will certainly keep the house abreast of when that particular grant program opens. Indeed, I will certainly keep the house up to date as multiple other grant programs also open. Quite a number will be announced and I will keep you up to date with those. I will just ask Kylie to add something.

Ms TAYLOR: The next round of the facilities program will open in August and obviously an element of that assessment process will be who the facility actually caters for, so it will be built in there that equality will need to be part of that assessment process. Across the broader suite of grant programs, the minister has already been speaking to us about what they look like moving forward and what we will consider, potentially, as future initiatives.

Mr TARZIA: What programs have been discontinued and what happens in the event that one of the clubs may have applied for a grant program that has been discontinued? There was a partnership program, for example.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I can speak about the partnership program. I am not sure if you are aware that the partnership program was quite controversial. It actually attracted some fairly negative feedback from a number of sporting organisations, including state sporting organisations, I think it would be fair to say. That program has been paused.

One thing that we are very clear about in terms of the partnership program, or the new reiteration of the partnership program, is that it will not be open to private companies, as the previous program was under the previous minister. We want funding to go to organisations that focus on sport in our communities. The partnership program is being replaced by the Active State Collaboration Program and that will bring organisations together to work together to build a more active South Australia.

Through this new iteration of the program we will be focusing on making sure there is a focus on fostering inclusive communities. Eligible organisations for that new iteration, the Active State Collaboration Program, which deals with the problems of the partnership program, will be state sport and recreation organisations, national sport organisations, sport and recreation clubs and associations, and not-for-profit non-sport and recreation organisations.

We listened to the sporting community and, as I said, for-profit organisations will no longer be eligible to apply for Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing grants. Councils and any other not-for-profit non-sport recreation organisations will be limited to applications with a specific inclusion focus. As I said, the Active State Collaboration Program replaces the partnership program, and we anticipate that opening in July 2022 and closing in September 2022.

Certainly, any organisations that had begun to prepare applications for the partnership program will be able to use that material for those applications unless they are a private business, because they are now excluded, but we are not aware of any private businesses I do not think.

Ms TAYLOR: Not at this stage.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: But they are excluded.

Ms TAYLOR: Yes.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: That is the change, but the funding is going to be in the Active State Collaboration Program. That responds to really direct, really clear feedback from the sporting community about the problems with the partnership program. The funding is not lost; it is being redirected into what I say is absolutely a better program.

Mr TARZIA: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 141, local sporting club facility grants. What does the minister say to the Centre for Public Integrity asserting that spending should have gone through an independent process? You would have heard that criticism last week.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I will just say again that the commitments were election promises made by the then Labor opposition, they were endorsed by the people of South Australia at the election and we are now delivering them as a government. I and all members of cabinet have complied with any and all obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Mr TARZIA: Supplementary to that: did ministers sign a form declaring their interest in the matter as the grants were brought before cabinet?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: As I said, I and all members of cabinet complied with all our obligations under the Ministerial Code of Conduct. I absolutely complied with any and all obligations under that code of conduct.

The CHAIR: I think the minister has been clear repeatedly on this. Your time might be better spent going on to something else and if you have anything to pursue to pursue it in question time. It might well be that come the next estimates you might have some questions. Things might have evolved since then, but I am mindful of the time and it is running out.

Mr TARZIA: Thank you, Mr Chair, for your guidance, which I very much appreciate. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 140, targets, dot point 5, 'Develop and administer a new grants program to support South Australian car clubs'. Can the minister please elaborate on what that grant would entail?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Absolutely. As you have pointed out, the government will establish a new grant program providing \$2 million of funding over four years to support various local car clubs across South Australia so that they can better meet the growing operating costs, including managing the conditional registration scheme.

The grant funding, more specifically, of \$500,000 per year will be available to clubs to help them meet costs of administering the conditional registration scheme, costs associated with hosting events and activities, purchasing any new safety and operational equipment systems and improvements, e.g., IT systems, software upgrades, membership portals and data collection systems. It can also help to provide training for instructors, officials, administrators and volunteers, and also it can be directed to initiatives to increase the participation of girls and women.

Mr TARZIA: Is the car grant subject to Treasury Instruction 15, and is the minister able to describe her responsibility under Treasurer's Instruction 15 in the context of the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: All grants are administered in alignment with the requirements of the statutory responsibilities etc., so yes.

Mr TARZIA: Referring to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 140, again under targets, dot point 6. Is the minister able to advise when the government exactly intends to reinstate the women in sport task force?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I just had this question in the last session, so I am happy to.

Ms PRATT: We are very interested.

Mr TARZIA: In a different session?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I am very happy to—

Mr TARZIA: If you are able to briefly explain it to me.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Sure. We are currently going through the process of scoping members and a process for designing the objectives and remit of the taskforce. You would probably be aware that when we were previously in government we had a women in sport task force—

Mr TARZIA: Yes.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —and it focused on a number of objectives. Those objectives, very broadly speaking, were to advance gender equality in all aspects of sport, so that may be in pay, in media coverage, in equal access to particular ovals etc., but to advance gender equality across the board. It also focused on improving diversity in decision-making bodies, and we conducted a range of activities to improve gender equality on sporting boards, and offered a range of supports to women who were interested in taking on leadership roles or administrative roles in their particular sport.

We also focused on how we could better attract women's events to South Australia, and we also looked at how we could ensure that through sport we were able to engage with different communities, and tackle particular issues pertaining to gender equality. That is a very broad summary. There is still much to do to achieve equality for girls and women in sport, so in considering the scope, and in consulting with various leaders and communities about the scope of the taskforce, we are looking at, and really wanting to make sure we are focusing on the right issues, and acknowledging some of the work that has already progressed.

As I said previously, we will be very public when we launch the task force, and we will make sure that information as it is finalised is available. It is certainly something that I am very passionate about, and I know many people in our community are passionate about, and I look forward to

advancing the equality of girls and women in sport, and we will certainly keep the house up to date about progress in that regard.

Mr TARZIA: Thank you, minister. I might move now to the omnibus questions, sir, for the estimates committee:

1. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the total cost of machinery of government changes incurred between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022?
2. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, which administrative units were created, abolished or transferred to another department or agency between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022, and what was the cost or saving in each case?
3. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many executive appointments have been made since 22 March 2022, and what is the annual salary and total employment cost for each position?
4. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many executive positions have been abolished since 22 March 2022, and what was the annual salary and total employment cost for each position?
5. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what has been the total cost of executive position terminations since 22 March 2022?
6. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister provide a breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors with a total estimated cost above \$10,000 engaged between 22 March 2022 and 30 June 2022, listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, the method of appointment, the reason for the engagement and the estimated total cost of the work?
7. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister provide an estimate of the total cost to be incurred in 2022-23 for consultants and contractors, and for each case in which a consultant or contractor has already been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the name of the consultant or contractor, the method of appointment, the reason for the engagement and the total estimated cost?
8. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister advise whether it will be subject to the 1.7 per cent efficiency dividend for 2022-23 to which the government has committed and, if so, the budgeted dollar amount to be contributed in each case and how the saving will be achieved?
9. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, how many surplus employees were there at 30 June 2022, and for each surplus employee, what is the title or classification of the position and the total annual employment cost?
10. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the number of executive staff to be cut to meet the government's commitment to reduce spending on the employment of executive staff by \$41.5 million over four years and, for each position to be cut, its classification, total remuneration cost and the date by which the position will be cut?
11. For each department and agency reporting to the minister:
 - What savings targets have been set for 2022-23 and each year of the forward estimates;
 - What is the estimated FTE impact of these measures?
12. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, will the minister advise what share it will receive of the \$1.5 billion the government proposes to use over four years of uncommitted capital reserves held in the budget at the time it took office and the purpose for which this funding will be used in each case?
13. For each department and agency reporting to the minister:

- What was the actual FTE count at 30 June 2022 and what is the projected actual FTE account for the end of each year of the forward estimates;
- What is the budgeted total employment cost for each year of the forward estimates; and
- How many targeted voluntary separation packages are estimated to be required to meet budget targets over the forward estimates and what is their estimated cost?

14. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how much is budgeted to be spent on goods and services for 2022-23, and for each year of the forward estimates?

15. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many FTEs are budgeted to provide communication and promotion activities in 2022-23 and each year of the forward estimates, and what is their estimated employment cost?

16. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, what is the total budgeted cost of government-paid advertising, including campaigns, across mediums in 2022-23?

17. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, please provide for each individual investing expenditure project administered, the name, total estimated expenditure, actual expenditure incurred to 30 June 2022 and budgeted expenditure for 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

18. For each grant program or fund the minister is responsible for, please provide the following information for the 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years:

- Name of the program or fund;
- The purpose of the program or fund;
- Budgeted payments into the program or fund;
- Budgeted expenditure from the program or fund; and
- Details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or fund.

The CHAIR: Thank you.

Mr TARZIA: One more question, if we have time?

The CHAIR: I did allot you an extra five minutes, so you have two minutes.

Mr TARZIA: I refer again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 140, the last dot point under targets, 'Commence the support of sporting organisations to build capacity'. It seems quite broad. How will that money be administered to sporting organisations and clubs? Who determines it? How will that work? It is quite broad.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I will ask Kylie to give you some detail, but from memory this is the grant program I spoke about in the house a few weeks ago. There was some detail there at that time, but I can certainly pass to Kylie to give you any further—

Ms TAYLOR: That program is open at the moment. It is one of the re-profiled programs that actually has a little bit more money in it, so that fundamentally provides for the sustainability and, I guess, the core operations of the state sporting organisations to make sure they are viable and financially sustainable. Probably the other work we do with them is some benchmarking work around their governance.

We have just commenced that project as part of the obligations of the current financial year funding to do the benchmarking and then we will work with that data to look at the areas where each of those organisations need to improve over the next 12 months. It is kind of a combination of some funding to help with their sustainability and also some work alongside them to build their capability and their capacity.

The CHAIR: Having reached the allotted time, I declare the examination of the portfolio of the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing completed. The examination of proposed payments for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and Administered Items for the Department for Infrastructure and Transport are adjourned until tomorrow. I thank everyone once again for their participation, especially the public servants for all the work that they have put in, and, of course, always the great support staff at the parliament.

At 15:36 the committee adjourned to Wednesday 21 June 2022 at 09:00.