

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 27 February 2001

The **SPEAKER (Hon. J.K.G. Oswald)** took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following bills:

- Adelaide Festival Centre Trust (Composition of Trust) Amendment,
- Authorised Betting Operations,
- Construction Industry Long Service Leave (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
- Construction Industry Training Fund (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
- Controlled Substances (Drug Offence Diversion) Amendment,
- Country Fires (Incident Control) Amendment,
- Development (System Improvement Program) Amendment,
- Education (Councils and Charges) Amendment,
- Electrical Products,
- Electronic Transactions,
- Gaming Machines (Freeze on Gaming Machines) Amendment,
- Harbors and Navigation (Control of Harbors) Amendment,
- Harbors and Navigation (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
- Legal Practitioners (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
- Maritime Services (Access),
- Native Title (South Australia) (Validation and Confirmation) Amendment,
- Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (Penalties) Amendment,
- Racing (Proprietary Business Licensing),
- Road Traffic (Alcohol Interlock Scheme) Amendment,
- Shop Theft (Alternative Enforcement),
- Shop Trading Hours (Glenelg Tourist Precinct) Amendment,
- South Australian Country Arts Trust (Appointments to Trust and Boards) Amendment,
- South Australian Ports (Disposal of Maritime Assets),
- Stamp Duties (Land Rich Entities and Redemption) Amendment,
- Statutes Amendment (Federal Courts—State Jurisdiction),
- Statutes Amendment (Transport Portfolio),
- TAB (Disposal).

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the House of Assembly the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

VIRGO, Hon. G.T., DEATH

The **Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier)**: I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr Geoffrey Thomas Virgo, AM, a former member of the House and minister of the Crown, and places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious service and that, as a mark of respect to his

memory, the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

It is with a sense of sadness that I rise in the chamber today to move a condolence motion for Mr Geoff Virgo, who passed away on 5 January aged 82 years. I am sure that many members of the House will rise today to take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to Geoff and formally place on record their appreciation of his life and achievements.

Geoff Virgo was born in North Adelaide in 1918. He was educated at Colonel Light Gardens and Adelaide Technical High School and started his career as a South Australian Railways electrician, which is where he was also to begin his lifelong association with the union movement. Geoff was to hold a number of positions with the union movement, eventually rising to the position of State President of the Australian Labor Party. He was elected to the House of Assembly in 1968 when he succeeded Frank Walsh in the seat of Edwardstown (which was later renamed Ascot Park). In 1970, Geoff became a minister of the Crown under the Dunstan administration, responsible for the portfolios of transport, marine and local government. That was when I first met Geoff Virgo on his country visits during the time when I was a counsellor and mayor of Kadina, and on occasional visits to this chamber to sit in the gallery during question time.

Geoff also devoted time to pursuits and interests outside of his parliamentary responsibilities, including the Edwardstown Baptist Boys Gymnasium Club, the Ascot Park Tennis Club and the South Adelaide Football Club. Upon retiring from the parliament in 1979, Geoff held positions on the Road Safety Council, the ETSA Board and as Chairman of the West Beach Trust. In 1981 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for his parliamentary and community service.

Geoff Virgo has left a considerable and indelible mark upon the state and its people that he served so passionately. His legacy will be maintained in a dynamic city and a vibrant state that he has assisted in shaping and developing. On behalf of the government, I would like to express our condolences to Geoff's wife Kath, their four children Barbara, Pat, Joy and Lindsay, and their 14 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

The **Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition)**: I rise to second the Premier's motion. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of Geoff Virgo to the success of the Dunstan government in the 1970s. Geoff Virgo was Don Dunstan's vital link to the unions, to the wider Labor Party and also to working class South Australians. He was for Don Dunstan the wisest counsel and the safest of hands. Many people say that Geoff was a hard man, but they also say that he was a fair man. Whilst Don Dunstan was the visionary and the performer, Geoff minded the turf, and the two could not be more different in personality or style. But Geoff Virgo was Don Dunstan's Mr Fixit and, along with Des Corcoran, gave Dunstan both the loyalty and support to move forward with confidence.

Geoff Virgo, as the Premier has mentioned, was an electrician in the railways and rose up through the ranks of the union movement to be President of the ETU. But as ALP state organiser and then State Secretary during the 1960s it was Geoff Virgo as campaign director who ran that crucial campaign in 1965 when, after 33 years of gerrymandered electoral boundaries, the Labor Party finally defeated the

Playford government and we saw the election of Frank Walsh as Premier and of a Labor government.

From 1970 until 1979, Geoff Virgo was an outstanding Minister of Transport, Minister of Local Government, and Minister of Marine. There are permanent reminders of his activism—the South Eastern Freeway, the free Bee Line city buses, and the conversion of Rundle Street into a mall that helps define Adelaide's character. Geoff said that, whilst he did not want to ban cars from every street, neither did he want to see Adelaide become a car park, and he detested the way that major Australian and overseas cities had been taken over by motor cars, and this led him to vetoing a council plan for the construction of a city park.

Also, there was that fundamental decision about the MATS Plan. He, like Dunstan, did not want to see Adelaide become a city of freeways, losing its character. The creation of Rundle Mall pleased him immensely as it was a small step towards his vision of a pedestrian-friendly city. His vision almost 30 years ago was for people travelling to the city to either catch public transport from home or to drive to a suburban train station and take a train into the city.

Geoff's strong views supporting the compulsory wearing of seat belts and, from a smoker, the banning of smoking on public transport, seem almost *passé* today but, at the time, he was at the cutting edge of Dunstan Decade reforms. As I said, we now take for granted the South-Eastern Freeway, airconditioned buses and the inner city bus service, as well as trains that were extended to Noarlunga and the southern suburbs, but these are all reminders of Geoff Virgo's achievements.

But, more than his achievements as a minister, most importantly Geoff Virgo was one of Don Dunstan's anchors: a pillar of strength and stability in successive Labor cabinets. Geoff represented the best traditions and values of Labor. He was also a mentor to many and a man who never forgot where he came from or whose side he was on. I mention mentor particularly. It was always a tradition in the Dunstan government that young staffers would migrate down to Geoff Virgo's office in the State Administration Building after work each day—perhaps not each day but sometimes it felt like that—basically to be told the stories, not only of the parliament but also of the Labor movement.

It was from those stories that traditions were born and values shaped, so Geoff Virgo will be greatly missed, and the ALP's condolences go to his widow Kath (without whom Geoff could not have achieved all the things he did) and to their family.

Mr HILL (Kaurna): I would like to join the leader and the Premier in noting the sad passing of the Hon. Geoffrey Thomas Virgo, and also to extend to his wife Kath and his children and many grandchildren my condolences and sympathies. I got to know Geoff quite well as a party official when he, as a former party official, would regularly visit and contact the party office. He maintained quite a strong interest in the goings on of the Labor Party despite his retirement.

I might say that the nature of his involvement was always a quiet and persuasive one behind the scenes, not in the public domain as some people like to when they leave politics. He was there to help and to offer advice. It was not always advice that I wanted to hear but, nonetheless, he was forthcoming and helpful in the way in which he went about it. Also, for a considerable time, he chaired the *Workers Weekly Herald* board, which met on a monthly basis to put out the

Labor publication the *Herald*, which is the longest continuing newspaper in South Australia.

Geoff was a great loyalist to the party and to the workers, in particular, for whom the Labor Party was created. He was a tough and often uncompromising politician with, I guess, traditional values who, nonetheless, was one of the great successes of the Dunstan period. Dunstan, of course, was anything but traditional, and I do note that Geoff succumbed eventually and started wearing those safari suits that Don made popular.

The leader has already outlined some of the things that Geoff will be remembered for as a Minister for Transport, but he is also remembered for bringing together the three separate authorities, trains, trams and buses; pushing for standard gauge railway lines; trying to maintain Adelaide as a people-focused rather than a car-focused city; the compulsory wearing of seat belts; and fighting for uniform speed limits across Australia.

Also, as Minister for Local Government, he urged the introduction of three year terms for councillors, something that has just been achieved in this parliament. I was interested to look at some of the headlines supplied by the Parliamentary Library describing Geoff. One says, 'He fights to keep cars out of the city,' and there is a reasonable interview with him, a passionate advocate for that theory.

Another headline of 20 December 1976 from the *Australian* reads, 'The man with an iron fist and steel logic.' The article goes on to say about him:

The authoritarian image seen in some quarters is the real one projected by Mr Virgo himself, although now subtly mellowed and more reasoning at close range.

There is then a quote from him, where he says:

I think that if I had talked to those who see me as an ogre they would change their minds. There are things one must do that are pleasant and things that are unpleasant but, all too often, it is the unpleasant things that get notoriety.

I guess that we all understand that sentiment. One other headline that appealed to me, 'Overseas trip for Virgo,' came from a very small article in the *Advertiser* of March 1978. That is not the article to which perhaps the member for Finniss was thinking I was referring, because he appeared in that one, but I will leave that to him to refer to. It was when he and Geoff Virgo had an interchange and Geoff used some unparliamentary language which he had to withdraw.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr HILL: I cannot find the clipping, but it is pertinent. In 1978 the headline was 'Overseas trip for Virgo', and the report indicated that Mr Virgo was about to take a six week overseas trip to visit France, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, Sweden and Britain. It was a very small article, so I hope the *Advertiser* takes note.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr HILL: That was in the early days. In many ways, Geoff Virgo was a man ahead of his time, who never lost touch with the people he represented. I sincerely offer my condolences to his family.

Mr De LAINE (Price): I wish to honour the Hon. Geoffrey Thomas Virgo, AM, who passed from this life on 5 January this year aged 82. Prior to Geoff's entering parliament, he was an electrician with the South Australian Railways, the State Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union for 12 years, an ALP state organiser for five years and then State Secretary of the party from 1964 to 1968. He also served as the state President of the Labor Party and was a

member of the Federal ALP executive. He was also a member of the Marion City Council from 1956-59 and a member of the Marion Progress Association.

Geoff entered parliament at the 1968 general election as the member for Edwardstown, succeeding former Premier Frank Walsh. The electorate name was changed to Ascot Park, and he continued to serve as the member for that electorate until his retirement on 14 September 1979. He played a crucial role in the Dunstan Labor government and became the Minister for Roads and Transport and Minister for Local Government in June 1970, portfolios he held until his retirement in 1979. Geoff was also Minister for Marine for a short period of time. Don Dunstan was extremely fortunate in having Geoff Virgo in his cabinet, as Geoff was a vitally important link between the parliamentary Labor Party and the trade union movement, where he enjoyed enormous credibility and respect.

Some important legislation introduced during Geoff's time as Minister for Roads and Transport included the introduction of a points demerit scheme for motor vehicle licence suspension, amendments to the Road Traffic Act to make the wearing of seat belts compulsory in certain motor vehicles and to allow blood samples to be taken from people involved in road accidents. Geoff established the State Transport Authority, introduced legislation for the establishment of the Rundle Street mall, extended passenger rail services to the south, set up the free Beeline city service and had public transport buses airconditioned.

Geoff was a rock solid politician in this parliament, but he was also a very compassionate man and always had time to listen to people. He was a true working-class hero. After his retirement from parliament, Geoff continued his community involvement on the *Workers Weekly Herald* board, the Road Safety Council, the ETSA board and the West Beach Trust, of which he was Chairman from 1984 to 1993.

I apologise on behalf of my colleague the member for Lee, the Hon. Michael Wright, who wanted to speak to this condolence motion, but unfortunately he has had to attend a family funeral himself at this time. I extend sincere condolences to Geoff's widow, Kath; his children, Barbara, Joy, Pat and Lindsay; and his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The SPEAKER: I thank members who have contributed to the debate. I will ensure that a copy of the *Hansard* report is delivered to the Hon. G.T. Virgo's next of kin. I ask all members to support the motion by rising in their places.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 2.20 to 2.30 p.m.]

BRADMAN, Sir DONALD, DEATH

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Sir Donald Bradman, cricket legend, famous and most highly respected Australian and South Australian, and places on record its appreciation of his outstanding contribution and service to the state and nation; and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the House be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Sir Donald Bradman—the Don—passed away on Sunday morning after a short illness with pneumonia. To many, he was the greatest living Australian. Of course, we regard him as a South Australian. It is difficult to put into words or sentiments the enormous loss that many, not just here in Australia but throughout the world, are feeling at his passing.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family. Of course, Sir Don said the best partnership of his life was the one he had with his wife, Jessie. They were married for 65 years. Lady Bradman passed away in 1997. Sir Donald Bradman will always be regarded as a national treasure—a legend. Born on 27 August 1908 near Cootamundra in New South Wales, he moved with his family to Bowral around 1910. Today Bowral is home of the Bradman Museum. Don Bradman played his first cricket match at the age of 11. He began playing A grade cricket in Sydney in 1926-27 at the age of 18. Within a year, he was picked to play for New South Wales and within another year he made his debut for Australia aged 20 in the 1928-29 season.

In the second innings in the third test of that series he made his first test century, going on to score 112. The more he played, the more cricket records he broke. By the time the third test was due to start at Headingley, Leeds, on 11 July 1930, a huge wave of excitement and anticipation was sweeping England and Australia. It touched not only cricket lovers. A kind of national, gladiatorial contest was developing and it reached out and stirred people in all walks of life in both countries. An English newspaper dubbed it 'Bradman versus England'. In that test, he was 105 not out by lunch. He raised the pace after lunch and had added another 115 by tea. By stumps he had added 89 more and went back to the dressing room 309 not out. Next morning, caught behind at 334, he had made the then highest score in test cricket. He had made the highest number of runs in a day's play in test cricket. He had become the youngest batsman to make 2 000 runs in an English season. And he had become the first batsman to make double centuries in consecutive tests.

Arthur Mailey, former Australian Test cricketer wrote:

His batting today was almost indescribable. When Larwood bowled ineffectively at Bradman, P.F. Warner turned around to Lord Hawke and said, 'This is like throwing stones at Gibraltar.'

Of course, there were many other achievements and memorable moments throughout his amazing cricketing career—not the least being the bodyline series—but many believe it was the test at Headingley in 1930 that immortalised the man. He played a total of 80 test matches, scoring 6 996 runs at an incredible average of 99.94. Overall, he scored 211 centuries, including 41 double centuries, eight triple centuries and one quadruple century. His career average of 99.94 is a truly amazing performance and is almost double that of any other player who has ever played the game.

Around 1935, Don Bradman and his wife moved to Adelaide, and he played Sheffield Shield for South Australia. He scored 117 for South Australia against New South Wales in his first match against his old state. At the age of 40, he captained the Australian team to England in 1948. It was here that he was unable to get the last four runs he needed to finish his career with an average of 100. He became a national selector and cricket administrator, and won praise for both roles. He was also a successful businessman and author. Don Bradman was knighted in March 1949.

The Don maintained a quiet life away from all the publicity that surrounded him. However, there can be no doubt that he gave back to cricket and to Australia as much as he received. He served as chairman, administrator and selector for more than 35 years for Australia and South Australia.

As the tributes that are now pouring in from throughout the world testify, there was much more to his life than cricket. He will always be remembered for providing inspiration to a nation when it needed it most. Sir Donald was a successful

stockbroker. In fact, the reason he shifted from New South Wales to South Australia was to pursue his business career and interests. He worked tirelessly for the disabled children and was, in his latter years, a formidable golfer. He was certainly an accomplished pianist, a witty after-dinner speaker and a lifelong letter writer—and I shall treasure a letter he wrote to me after the celebration of his 90th birthday two years ago.

The Bradman Foundation, a not for profit charitable trust, was formed in October 1987. Its members are drawn from a wide range of endeavours, bound by a love of cricket. The Bradman Foundation offers university scholarships; sponsorships of youth cricket; the annual Bradman coaching camps; exhibition matches; and special events. In Adelaide, the Bradman Collection—a permanent exhibition—is housed in the State Library and, in a fitting gesture, the library has announced that it is permanently waiving public admission charges to the Bradman Collection as a tribute to Sir Donald. It was what Sir Donald wanted to occur.

The permanent exhibition, housed in the library's historic Institute Building on North Terrace, features Sir Donald's priceless personal cricket collection, which he amassed throughout his extraordinary cricket career. Sir Donald Bradman passed his unique collection on to the library as cultural custodian, so that it could be preserved for future generations and be made freely available for the public to view and enjoy. The Bradman Collection, featuring the original bats, balls, clothing and mementos from Sir Donald's most famous innings, has attracted over 125 000 people from all over the world since it opened. Among the legendary items on display are the Leeds bat, from which Sir Donald scored that outstanding 334 in 1930 in the third test against England.

The exhibition also features the sterling silver Warwick Vase, a gift from the people of England in 1948 on the occasion of his last visit as a cricketer to England and his last innings. The vase was funded by a one shilling subscription arranged by a newspaper. The overwhelming public response to the subscription was testimony to the enormous affection and respect with which the people of Britain held Don Bradman. The fact is that he earned enormous affection and respect throughout the world. The people of South Australia, quite rightly, hold him in even greater esteem. To us he will always be regarded as one of our own—a truly great South Australian and an even greater Australian.

It was my pleasure to have met him on a number of occasions and I, like all South Australians, greatly admired the man. People have referred to his discipline, his style, his respect and his standards, on and off the field, that never wavered throughout his whole life. It is in that area in particular that I have enormous admiration for the man's life. It is typical of Sir Don that his life will be celebrated at a memorial service at which the public will have the chance to say goodbye. He was a man of the people and a man, certainly, for the people. Again, I extend, on behalf of the House and South Australia, our deepest sympathies to his family.

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Today, every South Australian, every Australian and countless millions around the world mourn the passing of that most famous Australian, Sir Donald Bradman. For long years it has seemed that the Don had always been with us, amongst us—a household presence for five generations who had the privilege to see him play or have talked of him since. There

was something ordinary as well as extraordinary about Don Bradman, which was part of his appeal to all Australians regardless of circumstance or background. He was the tall poppy that was never felled.

He was there to remind us of the greatness that gleams in us all—the courage, the stoic tenacity, however humble the house we were born in, however obscure the path we take to the batting crease. His errors were so few that a simple headline, 'He's still in' would tell an anguished England all that they did not wish to know. His achievements also showed a young nation, whose spirit had been so recently tested at Anzac Cove and at Flanders Field, that it could stand on its feet in any arena in the world. Another World War took from us those eight years of Bradman's peak that might have seen an even greater mastery of his meticulous art.

But despite the toll of illness and age he returned as an Invincible. It is part of his humanity and his legend that the Don's final match took from him the 100 average which seemed his birthright. Don Bradman's life bore family tragedies and he was doggedly inaccessible to those who would probe or try to exploit him. But as his silence deepened his legend grew, and the legend, too, of a love of more than seven decades, of Jessie Menzies Bradman who came to board with his family while he was still a boy and thereafter was rarely out of his thoughts.

Don Bradman turned his back on easy millions and lived simply, playing golf with friends, enjoying Chopin, steeping the pain of his life in a privacy that many resented, keeping his counsel. He was the most famous Australian ever—a national talisman, the taciturn symbol of an unpretentious country that is also sometimes lucky and good at games, his name a touchstone for excellence in any field. We may lightly say of someone that he was the Bradman of quantum physics or the Bradman of soccer, or of music, or of philosophy, but we shall not see and the world shall not see his like again.

So what is Don Bradman's enduring legacy? It is not just about statistics or a memory of greatness in sport that will never be surpassed. It is about the power of simplicity. It is about the strength of will to keep going against all the odds, to stay true to your word and to your calling. It is about grace and resilience under pressure but, most of all, it is about shared values.

In cricket around the world, the greatest tribute that could be made to Sir Donald's memory would be to clean up the game. No-one dared ask him for weather information, let alone to throw a match. No-one ever doubted Don Bradman's patriotism or that he was there to win for his team, his country, his sport, and not for profit. With so many heroes sullied and so many icons taken from us, for the best part of a century he remained and will always remain our Don Bradman. On behalf of the Labor Party and opposition in South Australia, I express our condolences to the Bradman family and to all his many friends around the world.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): As Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing I support the motion. As a batsman, Don Bradman was an aristocrat, a cricketing genius who was leagues above his contemporaries in ability. A test average of 99.94 was testimony to his skill. The man who often defied conventional techniques to bring flair and innovation to the game was indeed a resolute competitor. He was a symbol of fine sportsmanship, the benchmark for all young aspiring cricketers. As a batsman, the world has known no equal and, as a batsman, I believe that the world will know no equal.

Although he has died at 92, his legacy will live forever in the hearts of millions around the world. Through cricket, Sir Donald helped bring the world closer together.

Writing in *Wisden* 50 years ago, fellow cricketer R.C. Robertson-Glasgow said:

No other batsman, surely, has ever been able to score so fast while at the same time avoiding risk. He was, as near as a man batting may be, the flawless engine. Poetry and murder lived in him together. He would slice the bowling to ribbons, then dance without pity on the corpse.

Former Australian test captain, now cricket commentator, Richie Benaud said that Sir Donald had a very acute cricketing brain that could see things you might not have seen yourself. He was always a couple of overs ahead of the rest of the players. He was also regarded by many as the finest administrator of the game, which was indeed a great compliment to a great man. His insight to the game, his forward planning, his knowledge of the laws, and the manner in which he dealt with players placed him in a class of his own.

Following his retirement from first-class cricket in 1949, Sir Donald, as he became that year, was made an Australian selector and served two three-year terms as Chairman of the Australian Cricket Board. Former Australian captain Bill Brown, who opened the batting for Australia and played under Bradman, said that Sir Donald was a great Australian who survived the tumultuous world of international cricket without a blemish on his character. Brown says:

You could sum it up by saying he was a great Australian. He was sincere, honest and was respected very highly from both a cricket and personal point of view.

Fifty-two years after playing his final test match, he is still revered around the world and held in incredible esteem. He did not drink or smoke. He did not seek the company of teammates around the bar after play. He avoided public fraternisation but contributed to many newspaper columns. In retirement he was happy to correspond with cricket fans and officials the world over. The Bradman signature is a treasured possession of thousands of people worldwide, of which I am one.

Before the 2000 Olympic Games, Sir Donald wrote to Australia's Chef de Mission John Coates, saying:

I extend my best wishes to all the athletes and all the officials. I know that you will have put in many hours of training and hard work and the weeks ahead will be the culmination of your dedication and sacrifice. You will be representing your country in front of friends and family. I hope you will do your best and, most importantly, enjoy every minute of these very special games. You will have the support of the whole nation behind you. Always remember that it is the fact you are competing that is important and not whether you win or lose. Whatever the outcome, I am confident that you will all represent Australia with distinction.

Bradman was born at Cootamundra on 27 August 1908, the fifth child of Emily and George Bradman. It was indeed a special year in which the site for our nation's capital, Canberra, was chosen, Australia beat the United States in the Davis Cup tennis final and the Australian rugby team won a gold medal at the London Olympics.

In his infancy in the southern highlands town of Bowral, Bradman loved to toss a ball about, often at a curved rainwater tank in his back garden. It flew off in all directions and it needed fast footwork indeed and a good eye to hit it with his bat, which at that stage was no more than a cricket stump. Little wonder that his reflexes, his timing and his judgment were so effective in the test cricket arena. Given today's lifestyle, I am convinced that we will never see another batsman such as Bradman.

Bowral had no junior cricket association, but when Bradman reached high school he was a member of the rugby, athletics, tennis and cricket teams. He was indeed extremely proud of his first century—115 not out for Bowral High against Mittagong in 1920. When his father took him to Sydney to watch an Australian-English test match in 1921, Bradman said to his father, 'One day that will be me out there.'

Surprisingly, for a brief period in his teens he actually abandoned cricket for tennis, but in 1925 work commitments meant that he had to choose between the two sports. I would suggest that thankfully cricket was chosen. With a couple of scores of 300 in the Berrima district, he attracted the attention of the New South Wales selectors, who invited the then 18 year old to Sydney to display his cricketing prowess. Sought by many clubs, he eventually decided on St George and made the 130 kilometre trip to Sydney each weekend to play grade cricket. So impressive were his performances that he was chosen to represent New South Wales for the first time against South Australia in the Sheffield Shield competition in December 1927 and, although only around 19 years, he batted like a veteran, devoid of nerves and full of confidence, to score 118 on the Adelaide Oval.

In the following season, after three centuries for New South Wales, Bradman was chosen for Australia for the first time in the first test against England in Brisbane in the 1928-29 season. After scoring 18 and one in the match, in which Australia was thrashed by 675 runs, he was dropped for the next test in Sydney, returned for the third test in Melbourne and, after an innings of 79 and 112, he was never dropped again. At 20 years and 129 days, Bradman was at that stage the youngest Australian player to complete a test century. In the final two tests, he made 40, 58, 123 and 37 not out. Although the Englishmen won the series 4-1, they knew that the boy from Bowral would be an awesome adversary in future Ashes battles.

In his test career, Bradman amassed some 6 996 runs, with 29 centuries from 52 tests, at the incredible average of 99.94, which no other batsman has come even close to approaching. In his 234 first-class matches, he amassed some 28 067 runs at 95.14 per innings, with some 117 centuries or 100 in every three innings that he played. While his fame took off in the late 1920s with record breaking performances, such as an unbeaten 452 for New South Wales against Queensland, it was indeed Australia's 1930s Ashes tour of England in which the legend was truly established. In the five tests Bradman scored some 974 runs with an average of 139, including the then world record 334 in the third test at Leeds, which the Premier mentioned earlier.

Former South Australian and Australian test cricketer Vic Richardson gives an insight into that innings in his book *The Victor Richardson Story*, which states in part:

In the dressing room that night, Don confided to his captain, Bill Woodfull, and to me [Vic Richardson] that without the slightest sign of boastfulness, 'Well, that wasn't a bad bit of practice. I'll be able to go after them tomorrow.'

Bradman's fame induced considerable pressure, and he was never under more pressure than in the 1932-33 bodyline series with England, where he was at odds with officialdom over his media duties. The Australian Cricket Board of Control stood firm on not permitting players to write on the game, and at one point Bradman actually pondered quitting Australian cricket and accepting a lucrative media offer from England until the matter was finally resolved.

However, his media role was not the major cricket issue that particular summer: instead, it was the tactics of the English captain, Douglas Jardine, who had devised a brutal leg side attack from his fast bowlers to try to restrict the skill of Bradman. Led by Larwood and Voce, the English bowlers left many battered Australian batsmen, while bodyline bowling incensed Australians and almost prompted a major diplomatic incident. It achieved its aims, at least temporarily, of reducing Bradman to a mere mortal. Even so, he averaged, by his standards, a modest 56.57 from the four tests with just one century. It is interesting to observe at this point that, after Bradman's average of 99.94, the next five best Australian averages are Gilchrist at 54.37, Greg Chappell at 53.86, Steve Waugh at 51, Alan Border at 50.66 and Neil Harvey at 48.41. So, even with bodyline, Sir Donald's average of 56.57 was still two runs better than any other Australian batsman in the history of the game.

The peace in that bodyline series was rocked by tactics regarded as physically brutal and a contravention of cricket's virtues. Such was the crowd's animosity in Adelaide when both Bill Woodfull and Bill Oldfield were hit that an English player asked the umpire at the time, George Hele, to leave a stump for him if the hostile crowd jumped the fence. Hele actually responded, 'Not on your life: I'll need all three myself.' Bradman was dismissed for 8 in the first innings but his second innings of 66 was superb. In an inspiring 73 minute stay, he cracked 10 fours and a six, living dangerously before being caught by Hedley Verity. Australia was beaten by 338 runs. The leg theory was soon outlawed and Bradman continued his mastery with flawless cover drives, cuts and pulls. At one stage his health deteriorated and on the 1934 Ashes tour in England he almost died of appendicitis.

His rise to test status and the beginning of his ascent towards immortality occurred during the backdrop of distressing economic decline in Australia. Along with the legendary Australian racehorse Phar Lap, the unrivalled right-hand batsman brightened what were otherwise despondent lives during the sombre days of the Great Depression. His feats also created a wave of patriotic fervour in Australia but he later became venerated throughout the cricketing world.

At the conclusion of the war he resumed cricket in 1946 and, in India's first ever tour of Australia, scored freely, including his 100th first class century at the Sydney Cricket Ground. He was almost 40 when he captained the Australian team in England—the unbeaten combination which became known as The Invincibles. In the Nottingham test he scored 136 and, when Australia exceeded 400 in the final innings to win at Leeds, his contribution was 173 not out. Needing to score just four runs in his final test innings in the fifth test at The Oval for a career test average of 100, he was bowled by Hollies for a second ball duck. Only nine of that famous team remain. One of them, Sam Loxton, summed him up simply by saying, 'We loved him because he was a great bloke.'

Captain of Australia from 1936, Bradman was knighted for his services to cricket after he retired in 1949. That year marked the beginning of a long career as an administrator as well as devoting his time to a stockbroking firm in Adelaide, his home since 1934 when he transferred from New South Wales to South Australia. A member of the South Australian Cricket Association's Ground and Finance Committee for many years, he retired from that position in 1986 and, indeed, from cricket administration. He was at that stage 77. In a letter to SACA advising of his intention, he said:

There is always a feeling of sadness when you end an association with a game that has been such a big part of your life but, against

that, is the joy and happiness that I have derived from it over a long period.

In 1987 Bradman traced his career in *The Bradman Albums* comprising a collection of letters, telegrams, photographs, diary entries, press clippings and other memorabilia from the Bradman scrapbooks held in the Mortlock Library. Three years later, the Bradman Stand was opened at the River Torrens end at Adelaide Oval. A Bradman Stand was also built next to the Paddington Hill at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1973.

Married to Jessie Menzies on 30 April 1932, he maintained a low profile, despite his stature and influence in the game worldwide. In a partnership that lasted 65 years, they had two children, John and Shirley. In addition to his cricket prowess, Sir Donald was a South Australian squash champion, an excellent piano player and a scratch golfer. As a golfer with a short back swing, he hit his woods and irons accurately, played bunker shots confidently and rarely erred on the greens. After the Second World War his objective at Kooyonga Golf Club was to better par. In the 1980s his obsession was simply to better his age. Playing fluently and assuredly he achieved that distinction in 1988 when he carded 76 off the championship tees to win the A grade medal competition. It was indeed a remarkable feat for a man who was almost 80—for one who had been forced out of the game for some years earlier because of a neck injury which necessitated his wearing a brace.

Sir Donald never discussed his golf publicly, but those who had played behind him knew that he regarded a bad shot as a personal affront, a three-putt green as a blot on his character and a shank as a disaster that almost warranted retirement. He was a perfectionist in everything he tackled. He walked briskly between shots and rarely took more than 2½ hours for a round when out with a colleague. Bettering his age in a stroke competition gave Sir Donald untold pleasure.

At times he used what was an unorthodox two-handed grip because the muscular ball in his left hand was enlarged following the impact of pounding cricket balls over the years, but he also used an orthodox grip with equal effect. As a golfer he was resilient, bouncing back from the occasional bad round. Some of those occurred in the 1930s when Sir Donald was still contributing to his amazing test batting aggregate, yet in 1935 he won the club championship at Mount Osmond Golf Club and repeated that feat again in 1949. At about the same time he won the A grade competition at Mount Osmond one Saturday morning and triumphed again at Kooyonga in the same afternoon.

Sir Donald was a golfing stalwart who refused to regard age as an enemy or reason for closing the book. Having never rested, he never rusted! Throughout his cricketing career Sir Donald treated everyone—Prime Ministers, taxi drivers, business people, children and fellow cricketers—with the same simple courtesy. It is important to highlight that Sir Donald spent countless hours encouraging cricketers of all levels. For decades, and indeed up until very recently, Sir Donald would respond personally to each of the thousands of letters he continued to receive on an annual basis. All over the world, up and coming young cricketers have been enthused through receiving a letter back from 'The Don'. I think it says a lot about the man that he went to such lengths to promote the spirit, tradition and integrity of the game.

In 1979, Sir Donald was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in recognition of his great service to his country. From his backyard in Bowral to the centre stage at Lord's, Sir

Donald Bradman brought style and excitement to a great game. On a personal note, I have met Sir Donald twice. Once at a charity luncheon hosted by His Excellency the Governor on behalf of wheelchair sports. On the other occasion, I had the pleasure of visiting Sir Donald's home to enjoy afternoon tea on the very day that Steve Waugh was announced the new Australian captain. Sir Donald was in a particularly good mood, delighted with Waugh's appointment because of Waugh's gritty determination and a great belief in the importance of both the traditions and spirit of the game. Importantly, Sir Donald believed Waugh's commitment to the integrity of the game would serve him well as captain.

In an interview with the Australian television personality, Ray Martin, Sir Don summed up his approach to cricket, and indeed life, by quoting Lord Harris, a former English captain, who said:

You would do well to love cricket for it is more free from anything sordid and anything dishonourable than any game in the world. To play it keenly, generously, self-sacrificingly is a moral lesson in itself and the classroom is God's air and sunshine.

Foster it my brothers so that it may attract to all who may find the time to play it, protect it from anything that would sully so that it may grow in favour of all men.

Sir Donald stated that that was his creed and he recommended that to everyone.

Sir Donald will be remembered not only for his cricketering skills but, most importantly, I believe, for his integrity. On behalf of the entire South Australian sports community, I offer condolences to his family.

Mr De LAINE (Price): Sport, particularly cricket, and indeed the whole world has lost a legend in the passing of Sir Donald Bradman, who died on 25 February in Adelaide. Even in death Sir Donald will retain his legend status, one of the very few people who could achieve this sort of immortality; he will be a legend forever. His like will almost certainly never be seen again. As a young 26 year old, Don Bradman is in the record books as scoring the quickest century ever in a game of cricket. In New South Wales in 1934, in an exhibition match, he scored a century in three overs. In those days, an over consisted of eight balls, and he achieved his 100 runs mostly by hitting sixes and fours.

I remember that in the 1946-47 season, the first time I saw Don Bradman play, my father took me to Alberton Oval to witness a match between Kensington and Port Adelaide. As well as being Australian captain, Don Bradman was state captain, and also Kensington captain. I remember waiting anxiously for the first wicket to drop. Don Bradman walked out onto the field at number three, and as a 10 year old boy it was like watching God walk out across Alberton Oval. Don walked out to the pitch. He took block, stood up, looked around at the field, took strike and the Port Adelaide bowler came racing in from the other end and knocked Bradman's middle stump clean out of the ground. My poor father had all sorts of problems convincing me that was Don Bradman out there. However, it proved that Sir Donald Bradman was indeed human, and I was pleased to get his autograph that day.

I then saw him play several other times, including a test match in 1948 when he captained the Australian test side which was rated by experts as the greatest side ever seen in Australia. My next contact with Sir Donald was when I was privileged to have dinner with him about 10 years ago. I was most impressed with his quiet and modest manner, and I have a photograph of Sir Donald and me, taken by an old friend,

former test umpire Max O'Connell. Sir Donald's passing is an enormous loss to the world, and I offer my sincere condolences to his family.

The Hon. G.A. INGERSON (Bragg): Sir Donald Bradman lived in Holden Street, Kensington Park. By a quirk of boundaries in the last three years he just so happened to live in the electorate of Bragg. I had the privilege of meeting Sir Donald on many occasions, but mainly because of his generosity in relation to the use of his signature for objects relating to cricket that could be used for sale or raffles as they relate to sporting clubs and charities. He was an exceptionally generous man in enabling his signature to be used for those purposes. It was primarily through that area that I had the privilege of meeting him.

I had one very special privilege some 10 years ago when a personal friend of mine, Murray Sergeant, asked me to join with him and play with Sir Donald Bradman and Bruce Ewing at Kooyonga on a Saturday afternoon membership drive competition. Whilst Murray and I played reasonably well, the special thing that I will remember about that day in relation to Bruce Ewing and Sir Donald, who were both 82, is that Sir Donald shot 81 and Bruce Ewing 79, and, I might point out, significantly less than what I shot. It was such a special occasion to see this man whom I had only seen play cricket play golf so well. The Minister for Sport did mention that. Something that often goes unmentioned is his capability to do so many other things. He was a scratch player in the early 1950s at Kooyonga. He played in 20 to 30 pennant games at the highest level, and he won many club championships at golf.

There is also one other area for which he is not quite so remembered but in which he had a very significant influence, and that was in the area of business in this state. For some 30 years he was Chairman of Wakefield Investments. For 30 years he was a director of Argo, and for two years he was the Chairman of Argo. For 20 years he ran his own stock-broking company, D.J. Bradman and Co. He was a director of Fauldings, of Kelvinator, of Uniroyal, or Bridgestone as we now know it, and of Rigbys, and there were several other private companies that he was also a director of. That very short summary does indicate that not only was he a brilliant cricketer but he was also a very well sought after businessman in our town.

It has been a privilege for me to be involved with him for a very short period. But he was, obviously to all South Australians and to all Australians, a very special person. There is one other connection between Sir Donald and my family in that both my wife's birthday and my birthday happen to be on the same day as his, and I suppose that that is a special quirk of nature as well. Also, another member's wife in this House, Jill Wotton, has her birthday on the same day. On behalf of the electorate of Bragg, and many South Australians, I pass on my condolences to Sir Donald Bradman's family.

Mr WRIGHT (Lee): I would like to make a few comments to echo those of my colleagues on both sides of the House. A whole range of statistics can and, I am sure, have been quoted about Sir Donald Bradman's prowess on the cricket field. Millions of statistics make him by far the most outstanding cricketer to ever grace the turf, and there is no need for me to refer to any of them except to say that no Australian sporting person has ever dominated their sport like

Sir Donald and, on the world stage, no athlete has ever dominated their sport like Sir Donald dominated cricket.

What more can one say about any athlete than an accolade of that magnitude? When speaking of cricket, no matter where in the world you speak of the great game, Sir Donald is the first cricketer mentioned; and, by the way, I think Sir Donald would want me to inform the House that, right now, India is batting first and is one wicket for seven. Twenty-four hours before Sir Donald's death, an eight year old in India was asked who his favourite cricketer was and, of course, the answer was Sir Donald. I dare say that every time you asked the question throughout India the answer would be near on the same.

Sir Donald left us many legacies and we are lucky to have the Bradman Collection as well as the Bradman Grandstand. I was fortunate to meet him on a couple of occasions and it was an honour to do so. He was very generous with his time; others have already spoken of his generosity in providing his signature for a whole range of charities and, until recently, he replied to every bit of correspondence that came his way. Some thousands of replies were given on a daily basis. Indeed, the man was very generous with his time.

I think members on both sides of the House would agree that sport helps bond the community and helps gel society, and Sir Donald Bradman, in the sporting world, did more than any other sportsman to do just that. We should be very proud that Sir Donald Bradman made South Australia his home and, obviously, we would all like to extend our condolences to his family.

The SPEAKER: I thank all members who have made a contribution to the condolence motion. I will ensure that a copy of the speeches is forwarded to Sir Donald's family. I invite all members who would like to support the motion to rise in their places.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 3.19 to 3.25 p.m.]

PORT PIRIE DEVELOPMENT

A petition signed by 3 800 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House support the environmental health management and industrial development of Port Pirie, was presented by the Hon. R.G. Kerin.

Petition received.

PROSTITUTION

A petition signed by 933 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House strengthen the law in relation to prostitution and ban prostitution related advertising, was presented by the Hon. W.A. Matthew.

Petition received.

CENTRAL MARKET

A petition signed by 1 088 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House amend the Local Government Act to allow the Adelaide City Council to classify the Central Market site as community land, was presented by the Hon. M.D. Rann.

Petition received.

EAST END MARKET

A petition signed by 46 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House urge the government to halt demolition and heritage list the East End Market wall, was presented by Mr Hill.

Petition received.

NOARLUNGA THEATRE

A petition signed by 866 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House ensure the continued access by the community to the Noarlunga Theatre, was presented by Mr Hill.

Petition received.

OLD TREASURY BUILDING

A petition signed by 68 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House urge the government to suspend development of the old Treasury Building until public consultation is completed and to retain the museum, tours and public access, was presented by Mr Hill.

Petition received.

ADELAIDE PARKLANDS

A petition signed by 82 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House legislate to prevent changes to the Adelaide Parklands without the consent of a majority of members of the Adelaide City Council, was presented by Mr Lewis.

Petition received.

NATIVE PARROTS

A petition signed by 45 residents of South Australia, requesting that the House urge the government to repeal the proclamation permitting the unlimited destruction by commercial horticulturists of protected native parrots, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Wotton.

Petition received.

QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER: I direct that written answers to the following questions on the Notice Paper, as detailed in the schedule that I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 3, 5, 7, 11, 17, 18, 29, 32, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 46, 47, 50, 51, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64 and 71.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

In reply to **Mr LEWIS** (14 June 2000).

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN:

1. Information provided for the year 2000 is as follows:

	Column 2	Column 3
Records and information from Ministers offices (see note 3)	1999-2000 estimated results at 30 June 2000 from Portfolio Statements	
Minister Olsen		
Ministerial Staff (Media/Policy Advisers)	37	N/a
Public Service Staff	3	N/a
Total Staff	40	35.2
Total Salary	\$1,396,080.30	N/a

*information provided for the period 1/7/1999-30/3/2000

Minister Kerin		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	6	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	4	N/a
Total Staff	10	13
Total Salary	\$370,077	N/a
Minister Lucas		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	3	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	6	N/a
Total Staff	9	9
Total Salary	\$346,426	N/a
Minister Griffin		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	3	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	14	N/a
Total Staff	17	19
Total Salary	\$733,977	N/a

Note: The Attorney-General's Office provides an integrated administrative service to both the Attorney-General and Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services, for example:

- The reception area not only provides support to the Attorney-General's office but also to the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services, Policy and Legislation Unit, Solicitor-General, Indigenous Land Use Agreement Negotiating Team and Prudential Management Group.
- The Attorney-General's office contributes to the efficient operation of the roll of justices of the peace in and for the State of South Australia. Staff include the Registrar of Justices and Justice of the Peace Officer.
- The Correspondence Section supports both the Attorney-General and Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services in the processing of ministerial correspondence.

Column 2	Column 3
Records and	1999-2000
information	estimated
from	results at
Ministers	30 June 2000
offices	from Portfolio
(see note 3)	Statements

Minister Brown		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	3	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	7	N/a
Total Staff	10	13.4
Total Salary	\$457,626	N/a
Minister Laidlaw		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	3	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	6	N/a
Total Staff	9	10
Total Salary	\$295,569.20	N/a
Minister Armitage		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	4	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	5	N/a
Total Staff	9	12
Total Salary	\$293,843.35	N/a
Minister Buckley		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	3	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	7.5	N/a
Total Staff	10.5	10
Total Salary		
(up to 31 Mar 2000)	\$349,702	N/a
Minister Evans		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	9	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	0	N/a
Total Staff	9	7.9
(Environment & Heritage)		

Total Staff	9	13
(Industry & Trade)	9	N/a/7.9
Total Salary	\$437,198	N/a
Minister Brindal		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	5	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	4	N/a
Total Staff	9	3
Total Salary	\$127,610	N/a
Minister Hall		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	2	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	3	N/a
Total Staff	5	5.2
Total Salary	\$247,771	N/a
Minister Brokenshire		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	2	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	0	N/a
Total Staff	2	See Justice
Total Salary	\$107,570	N/a

*Note: See Attorney-General (Minister Griffin)

Minister Matthew		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	2	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	0	N/a
Total Staff	2	N/a
Total Salary	\$104,610	N/a
Minister Lawson		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	2	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	0	N/a
Total Staff	2	5
Total Salary	\$104,610	N/a
Minister Kotz		
Media Advisers	0	N/a
Policy Advisers	0	N/a
Other – Contract Staff	2	N/a
Other – Public Service Staff	3	N/a
Total Staff	5	5
Total Salary	\$227,599	N/a
Ministerial Chaffeurs	23	
Total Salary (to 16 June 2000)	\$1,223,936.70	

2. For the years 1980 and 1990, it is not possible to provide or even estimate this information as:

- It was only with the introduction of the Public Sector Management Act in 1995, and with it Section 69, that it became a requirement that the Premier had to report to both Houses of Parliament every 12 months in relation to ministerial appointments.
- Prior to that date ministerial appointments were not made pursuant to the act and no such reporting was required.
- Checks have been made with annual reports of the time and with current, and in some cases retired, officers who may have knowledge of the situation at the dates requested by the member. Those sources have not been able to provide the details of ministerial offices and their salaries for the 1980 and 1990 dates requested.
- Finally, given the significant changes in ministries and agencies during the period between 1980 and the present day such details, if they still exist, are likely to be incomplete and widely dispersed across a number of agencies. It is, however, more likely that records would no longer be in existence as payroll records are only required by the records disposal schedule to be held for a period of seven years.

3. With regard to the year 2000 figures it has been necessary to include two sources of date in the table above.

- Column 3 shows data from the public record, the Portfolio Statements in the Budget Estimates documents. In these cases only the totals, and not breakdowns are available.
- It should be noted that South Australia's position is a responsible one compared to other jurisdictions:
 - South Australia has a legislative requirement under section 69 (3) that the number of persons employed under Ministerial

appointments cannot exceed one per cent of all employees in the public service where other major jurisdictions do not.

South Australia has an average of 5 ministerial appointments per minister where other jurisdictions range from an average of 8 to 10. (These figures do not include ministerial chauffeurs/drivers who are employed separately.)

EXTRACTIVE AREAS REHABILITATION FUND

In reply to Ms HURLEY.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: The Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund (EARF) provides funding for remedial works as existing, abandoned and operating extractive tenements (Mining Act 1971).

Fifty per cent of all amounts received or recovered by way of royalty upon extractive minerals is paid into the fund. The royalty

rate under the Mining Act is set at 2.5 per cent of the value of the minerals, currently assessed at \$8.00 per tonne. This results in 10¢ per tonne being paid into the EARF.

The annual amount of royalty payments made on extractive minerals is based on the amount of material required for the various user industries. This amount is an estimate and cannot be predicted exactly.

The expenditure for the 1999-2000 financial year is \$1,441,000 and represents 57 sites, details of which are attached.

The amount of approvals for the 1999-2000 financial year is \$2,484,305 and represents 78 new projects.

Attached is a list of sites and the amount of funding for each for the past financial year.

List of Projects, Location, Payments for the Financial Year 1999-2000

Tenement	Owner/operator	Location	Total Payments
PM 144	DC of Grant	Mt Gambier	144,603.00
EML 3394 & 3395	D Pitt	Naracoorte	15,164.00
PM 287	A E Targa	Cockatoo Valley	7,425.00
EML 5519	I Harvey	Hartley	14,197.00
EML 5504	J Cotsaris	Cooltone	1,302.00
EML 4506	Clay & Mineral Sales	Sandy Creek	1,071.20
PM 94	Clay & Mineral Sales	Sandy Creek	1,887.60
PM 65	Christies Sands Ply Ltd	Noarlunga	62,580.15
EML's 2569 & 2570	City of Onkaparinga	Maslin Beach	10,487.00
PM 163	Southern Quarries P/L	Sellicks Hill	23,671.94
PM 93	Rocia Quarry Products	Rowland Flat	65,912.99
PM 20	Rocia Quarry Products	Maslin Beach	28,733.04
PM 31	CSR Readymix	Riverview	34,844.14
PM 222	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Reynella	4,812.25
PM 154	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Stirling North	45,084.99
PM 204	Rocia Quarry Products	Gawler	8,466.22
PM 57	D M Davis	Houghton	4,833.45
PM 45	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Smithfield	2,820.25
PM 206	CST Building Materials	Golden Grove	7,135.80
PM 197	CSR	Victor Harbor	38,039.57
PM 274	Rocla Quarry Products	Sandy Creek	11,255.00
PM 153	Lorbar Nominees Pty Ltd	Mt Gambier	5,069.24
EML 4882	South Coast Sand & Metal	Victor Harbor	6,290.40
EML 5441	J Poulos	Renmark	8,305.50
EML 3794	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Gawler	57,943.17
PM 301	H E Kruse	Waterloo	46,518.18
EML 5222	Middleton Sand Supplies	Middleton	5,968.00
EML 4493	Ceramics Australia Pty Ltd	One Tree Hill	1,935.78
Contribution for Works on Dis-used Quarries on the Dry Creek Escarpment		Walkley Heights	4,232.00
EML 5896	T Koch	Cummins ,	4,633.20
PM 272	P & J Wescombe	Murray Bridge	209,290.27
PM 27	CSR Readymix	Rowland Flat	9,640.00
EML 5419	Clay & Mineral Sales	Gawler	26,901.36
EARF Research Project	Slimes Utilisation		72,490.00
EARF Research Project	Blast Vibration Control in Shallow Limestone Pits		21,750.00
EML 4402	H C L Harvey	Hartley	5,771.25
PM 171	C Centofanti	Balhannah	4,249.05
PM 110	K & G Constructions	Carey Gully	24,001.00
PM 109	Christies Sands Pty Ltd	Golden Grove	28,488.35
EML 5997	Clay & Mineral Sales	Strathalbyn	16,165.64
EML 3601	ABC	Birdwood	19,025.51
EML 5320	Rocla Quarry Products	Yudnapinna	28,520.82
EML 5726	M B Farmer	Gawler East	10,941.05
PM(A) 243	Southern Quarries P/L	Price	8,881.00
EML 5406	Salisbury Brick P/L	Rosedale	65,161.20
EML 4141	Fargo Transport Holdings P/L	Echunga	46,035.22
EML 5543	G Grieves	Renmark	4,546.00
EML 5385	G Grieves	Renmark	9,126.00
EML's 3374 & 4685	Santos Readymix Concrete P/L	Berri	34,881.00
EML 5936	T Pfeiffer	Renmark	4,791.40

EARF	Project Assessment Panel		4,918.90
PM 119	Basket Range Sandstone Products	Basket Range	9,670.71
EML 5955	G Cundy	Gawler	16,737.55
PIRSA	Project Assessment Panel		4,918.90
EML 6014	N Russell-Taylor	Blanchetown	10,695.00
EML 5149	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Murray Bridge	17,659.00
EML 4778	Boral Resources (SA) Ltd	Whyalla	50,522.00
	57 projects totalling		1,441,000.24

In reply to **Ms HURLEY**.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: The Extractive Areas Rehabilitation Fund (EARF) provides funding for remedial works for existing, abandoned and operating extractive tenements (Mining Act 1971).

Fifty per cent of all amounts received or recovered by way of royalty upon extractive minerals is paid into the fund. The royalty rate under the Mining Act 1971 is set at 2.5 per cent of the value of the minerals, currently assessed at \$8.00 per tonne. This results in 10¢ per tonne being paid into the EARF.

The annual amount of royalty payments made on extractive minerals is based on the amount of material required for the various user industries. This amount cannot be predicted exactly.

During 1996 the EARF was placed under review by the Minister for Mines and Energy. The review was undertaken by an independent consultant in conjunction with Industry and government personnel, culminating in 24 recommendations for improvements to the operation of the EARF.

Of the 24 recommendations, 17 have been implemented in the new guidelines, PIRSA's operating procedures came into effect on 1 April 1998. 2 are being considered in the review of the Mining Act and 5 require further investigation.

A Project Assessment Panel (PAP) was established as a result of the Review to review projects in excess of \$100,000. The panel comprises of members from industry, government and academia.

The increase in the number of approvals for 1999-2000 is due to additional resources being made available to assist in clearing the backlog of rehabilitation applications that were held back due to the review of the fund, as well as maintaining new project assessment and approvals.

The cash flow payment amount of \$950,000 indicated in the Budget Estimates was included in the early stages of Budget preparation, unfortunately this was not revised to reflect the increased amount of approvals for the 1999-2000 financial year.

Although it is expected that there may be a slowing down of rehabilitation applications being received during the coming financial year, there are a number of projects still to be completed and a number to be commenced and it is anticipated that the expenditure for 2000-2001 will be well in excess of both the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 financial years.

The statistics for this year and the previous two years are:

	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
Receipts	\$1 102 801	\$887 000	\$984 958
Expenditure	\$1 441 000	\$885 000	\$528 784
No. of Approvals	78	43	33
Value of Approvals	\$2 484 305	\$922 574	\$1 330 010

As at 30 June 2000, the amount of committed funds, was \$2,205,606 and the uncommitted funds was \$2,605,758.

WEST BEACH HARBOR

In reply to **MR HILL:** (7 December 2000).

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: I have been advised as follows:

Transport SA has an environmental authorisation (licence) issued by the Environment Protection Authority to carry out dredging of the West Beach harbor. A condition of the authorisation requires independently verified monitoring of water quality to be carried out. This monitoring and the frequent inspections of the beach and dredging operations is carried out by officers of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure a satisfactory level of supervision for environmental purposes.

Closing the beach was unnecessary as there were no identified adverse health effects; nevertheless, swimming is discouraged in areas close to a discharge of dredged materials as the reduced visibility could lead to an increased risk of accident.

In response to concerns regarding the loss of amenity for beach users, the EPA requested Transport SA to stop dredging.

Following recent EPA approval of criteria for disposal of dredged material, Transport SA was able to resume dredging of the West Beach harbor without the previously associated environment impact. A significant feature of the criteria to be observed for the resumed dredging operation is that dredged material will be disposed in an exclusion zone established between about 300 metres and 500 metres offshore.

PIRSA

In reply to **Ms HURLEY** (24 October 2000).

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: The budget paper shows that more than 1400 full time equivalents currently employed by PIRSA. Can the minister provide a breakdown of that work force as between the regional and the central offices, and the number of executives, administrative staff, research and policy staff and those providing field-based extension services?

1. Breakdown of PIRSA workforce by regional and metropolitan offices

Regional Offices	395
Metropolitan Offices	900
Casual/Short term contracts	100 (estimate)

Note 1: These figures have been derived from pay point information and do not take into account those people who have a base in a central office but are required to work in regional areas on a regular basis as a major part of their role.

Note 2: Casual and short term people are based across both regional and metropolitan areas.

2. Breakdown of Employees by Function

Executives	25
Administrative Staff	511
Research & Policy	257
Field Extension	502
Casual/Short term contracts	100 (estimate)

In reply to **Ms HURLEY** (24 October 2000).

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Industry contributions and levies obviously contribute a good deal to activity within PIRSA, and probably SARDI in particular. Can the minister inform the committee of the number of employees who are supported by these industry contributions separately in SARDI and the rest of PIRSA?

1. Industry funded positions

Approximately 385 positions are funded fully by industry. This number changes over time in response to varying funding arrangements, reflecting commencement and completion of various industry projects.

SARDI	135
PIRSA	250 (Estimate)

In reply to **Ms HURLEY** (25 October 2000).

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I now refer to page 672, 'Consultants costs'. It was noted that during the reporting period the department incurred expenses of \$2.2 million on consultants. What were the main consultancies involved in that total cost?

Answer to question attached.

Please note that this answer has been provided from the Department of Primary Industries and Resources Annual Report.

CONSULTANCIES

In 1999-2000, 171 consultancies were engaged by PIRSA for a total expenditure of \$2 236 838,

Consultant	Purpose	Value
Consultancy fees below \$10 000		
A total of 121 consultancies were engaged.		Subtotal \$446153
Consultancy fees between \$10 000 and \$50 000		
S Davies	Develop interim Year 2000 compliant records management software.	\$10250
Anderson Collins	Develop a long-term marketing plan for the mussel industry.	\$11221
Keiman, Riches, and Associates	Develop a performance management and measurement framework for PIRSA.	\$11301
DNR Group Pty Ltd	My Choice, My Future, My Success program.	\$11436
SE Psychological Services	Undertake an assessment of the benefits of psychological testing of applicants for Fisheries Officer positions and package the test to enable Fisheries staff to administer it.	\$11447
Wombat Flat	Undertake veterinary consulting work for the biosecurity program.	\$11842
Anderson Collins Management	Develop the Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategy.	\$12015
Mulready Consulting Services Ply Lid	Conduct a national survey of petroleum exploration companies.	\$12200
DNR Group	Undertake a farm machinery feasibility study.	\$12200
B&PM Jensen Schmidt	Carry out seismic mapping to assist in determination of petroleum production licence applications for the Cooper Basin.	\$12500
Geophysical Consulting		
GJ & H. K Mitchell	Develop a proposal for an integrated extension project for the dairy industry.	\$12500
KPMG	Develop a goods and services tax impact statement.	\$12740
Questa	Determine petroleum production licence applications for the Cooper Basin.	\$12750
SA Centre for Economic Studies	Assess the impacts of a royalty change on the State economy and exploration levels.	\$12800
Anderson and Association	Undertake communication and marketing, Eyre Peninsula Regional Strategic Planning.	\$13036
CSIRO Land & Water	Conduct a research project into infertility in livestock at Brukunga to assist PIRSA to determine possible cause of infertility in cattle in the Dawesley Creek catchment.	\$13883
CSIRO Land & Water Canberra	Complete a Murray Darling Basin funded alley farming project.	\$14750
SGS Australia Pty Ltd	Evaluate Olympic food suppliers.	\$15000
Wallbridge Gilbert	Building project, Pasadena.	\$16100
OZ Train	Design the PIRSA Leadership for the Future program.	\$16200
Ellis Farm Consultancy	Conduct a land holder survey.	\$16500
Instate Pty Ltd	Develop a Grain Processing Strategy.	\$17100
Ignition Design	Web site graphical design.	\$17500
Sun Petroleum Geoservices	Undertake an electrofacies analysis for key Cooper Basin formations.	\$18000
Skilmar Systems Ply Lid	Conduct a valuation of the Soil Conservation and Land Care Act.	\$19000
Department for Administrative and Information Services	Year 2000 audits for the Buildings, Land, Asset Management System and occupational health, safety and welfare; financial analysis.	\$19046
B&PM Jensen Schmidt	Review petroleum structural play types in the Bight and Duntroon Basins.	\$20000
Geophysical Consulting		
Ontologic Services	Review the quality of spatial data in SA-GEODATA geoscientific database.	\$20160
Spectra	Design the PIRSA Women in Leadership program.	\$20540
Computational Fluid Mechanics International	Model impacts of drainage inflow to the Coorong.	\$25000
Mack management Consulting	Develop a food supply chain model.	\$25336
Fyfe Surveyors	Conduct a cadastral survey of Ballater East and Watervalley Drains.	\$26030
Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia	Conduct a study of South Australian export competitiveness.	\$28000
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	Provide expert economic and commercial advice on the National Gas Access Code to the National Gas Pipelines Advisory Committee.	\$28639
Hunter Gatherer	Evaluate gas deliverability from South Australian Cooper Basin fields.	\$30000
Intec Consulting Group	Develop a manual to assist schools working with community groups in on ground projects.	\$31270
John Lindsay	Perform a feasibility study to develop functional requirements for the Agricultural Industries Integrated Management System.	\$31820
SWood Financial Solutions Pty Ltd	Study algal matter in Cooper Basin source rocks.	\$32000
Gaddes Management	Carry out goods and services tax related work.	\$33580
Australian Quality Council	Undertake a survey of local governments to gauge attitudes for processing of farm forestry land development applications.	\$35070
Active Ideas Pty Ltd	Facilitate an internal business assessment within the Australian Business Excellence Framework and guide assessment.	\$35325
Department. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service)	Web site design and development.	\$35500
Linex Ply Ltd	Meat Export service level.	\$36000
Petro Val Australasia Ply Lid	Evaluate and model seals in the Cooper and Warburton Basins.	\$37000
Tumbull Porter Novelli	Forecast Cooper Basin production.	\$40200
Woods Bagot	Carry out communication and public relations for the Mount Lofty Ranges Catchment Program.	\$42863
Fujitsu	Undertake a PIRSA facility planning study.	\$43096
Schofield Robinson	Natural resources and environmental management system.	\$43750
	Review the Natural Heritage Trust Highlands Project.	\$48500
	Subtotal	\$1 112993
Consultancy fees over \$50 000		

Arthur Anderson	Provide taxation and related services.	\$56167
Wally Iwanicki	Provide expert technical knowledge on gas specification and safety issues relating to gas appliances.	\$65435
Aspect Computing	Undertake Year 2000 business continuity planning.	\$66880
Econsearch	Conduct an economic analysis for the Regional Planning Frameworks program to define current economic value of significant primary industries by region.	\$70616
CV Services International	Records management system development.	\$72600
World Wide Project Management Services	Evaluate the Eyre Peninsula Strategy.	\$73662
Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks	Provide expert legal advice on the National Gas Access Code to the National Gas Pipelines Advisory Committee.	\$100532
The Alien Consulting Group	To provide program management and expert economic advice to the National Gas Pipelines Advisory Committee.	\$171797
	Subtotal	\$677689
	Total	\$2236838

ABORIGINAL HOUSING

In reply to **Ms KEY** (25 October 2000).

The Hon. D.C. KOTZ: The Minister for Human Services has provided the following responses:

1. (a) There has been a slight decrease in demand for Aboriginal Housing.

(b) Aboriginal Housing Authority figures indicate a slight (6 per cent) decrease in demand for priority housing, down from 252 applicants in 1998-99 to 239 in 1999-2000.

(c) 1338 applicants on the waiting list as at 30 June 2000.

(d) 1790 rental dwellings as at 30 June 2000.

2. The bringing together of Commonwealth and State funding administered by the AHA, maximises the level of funding available for Indigenous housing projects. This structural change provides for greater efficiencies for expenditure by enhancing housing coordination, and reducing the program administration costs for Indigenous people in this state.

The AHA is a leader in Indigenous housing in establishing codes for 'best practice' in the following areas;

- Developing housing standards, which has been adopted Nationally.
- Having Aboriginal people involved in the decision making process at every level of the organisation has resulted in the development of policy, procedure and guidelines which facilitates Aboriginal self-determination and management.

Areas in which Aboriginal people have contributed to the decision-making processes include;

- Determining greatest housing needs
- Acquisition of assets
- Allocation of housing
- Allocation of resources for the continuing development of their housing stock.

The AHA has enhanced the level of health in the Aboriginal community, through the provision of housing which meets high building and quality standards and is appropriate to Indigenous cultural needs.

The proclamation of the AHA as an independent Authority, has provided opportunities for the implementation of development and training strategies that will increase the number of Indigenous people employed to deliver housing services.

The AHA is required to report extensively on efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditure of commonwealth and state funds.

The AHA has the following reporting requirements to produce accountability for the funding received for the operation of its Housing program:

Name of Report: AHA Annual Report Due: 30 Sept
For Whom: Minister for Human Services, State and Federal Parliaments and the Aboriginal Community.

This reports on the operations of the AHA during the financial year that ended on the preceding 30 June, and incorporates the audited accounts and financial statements of the AHA.

Name of Report: ATSIC Acquittal Due: 6 monthly
For Whom: Minister for Human Services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and the commonwealth.

This reports against the funding provided by ATSIC for the Community Housing Infrastructure Program (CHIP) Housing Component. The AHA is required to provide evidence of expenditure and comprehensive financial reporting.

Name of Report: AHA Strategic Plan Due: 30 Sept
For Whom: Minister for Human Services, Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services, Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

This provides a yearly review and evaluation of the effectiveness of housing provision to the commonwealth in order to continue to receive Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement (CSHA) tied and untied grant funds for Indigenous housing in S.A. The AHA also identifies and reports on strategies for the upcoming financial year.

Name of Report: Whole of Government Reporting Due: 30 Sept
For Whom: Treasurer.

Whole of Government Reporting is a requirement under the Public Finance and Audit Act 1987. It restates the AHA Annual Financial report for Treasury, who consolidates with all State Government agencies to report to Parliament.

Name of Report: CSHA – Outcome Measurement Framework Due: 30 Dec

For Whom: Minister for Human Services, Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services.

This reports specifically on CSHA Funds under which the Aboriginal Rental Housing Program (ARHP) operates. The AHA reports on affordability, rent arrears, and direct cost per unit for the ARHP. The AHA also reports on data sets which Under the National Housing Data Agreement, CSHA, are used to provide Performance Indicators under the CSHA and Productivity Commission.

HEALTHSCOPE

In reply to **Ms KEY** (24 October 2000).

The Hon. DEAN BROWN:

1. The conditions under which Healthscope will be allowed to defer its obligations to build its private hospital include:

- the need to undertake an independent feasibility study if private health insurance participation rates exceed 40 per cent. Healthscope's obligations may be reinstated based on the outcome of this study;
- the right to test the market (for operation of the public hospital) at the absolute discretion of Government;
- Healthscope agreement to pay \$50,000 per annum for the loss of rent;
- Healthscope agreement to a private patient revenue target of \$700,000 with annual review;
- Healthscope agreement to a common understanding of clauses under the contract; and
- Healthscope agreement to relocate its administration at Healthscope's expense.

Final negotiations with Healthscope are yet to be concluded, and further detail can be provided in the future.

2. The savings outlined in the honourable member's question appear to relate to submissions to the Public Works Committee.

It is important to remember that the main benefit of the contract with Healthscope is the annual saving of approximately \$2.0 million generated through the discount received on public hospital services provided.

At the time of Public Works Committee (PWC) submissions, it was understood that a range of possible outcomes were discussed. For example, there was a suggestion that there could be a ward set aside for stepdown care. The refurbishment of the fifth floor as a 23-bed nursing for low dependency patients was considered but not included in the contract. This has not proceeded. Construction of a new public Obstetric Unit was not included in the contract.

Works were reviewed in line with the renegotiated contract and the works now required under the contract are:

- upgrade of the Critical Care Unit;
- the relocation of the Obstetrics Unit;
- CSSD upgrade; and

· asbestos removal.

The scope of public works was taken to the PWC and their report was tabled in September 1998. Design development commenced, however, a number of work scope issues arose that required a review of the detailed project scope. The Department is also undertaking a number of Clinical Services Planning Reviews, including a review of Obstetrics Services.

As a result, the proposed work scope has now changed to reflect these developments. The revised Project Development Plan was presented to the Public Works Committee in September 1999.

The government's decision to allow Healthscope to defer its obligations was based on a number of considerations that related to the best interests of South Australia.

Analysis of the current private hospital market, including the demand for, and utilisation of private hospital facilities, determined that at this time, another private hospital was not warranted and would have potential detrimental effects on other providers. However, it is recognised that the private health insurance market is changing and therefore Healthscope's obligations will be reinstated if an independent feasibility study in the future determines project viability.

The cost to government in direct financial terms is the \$400,000 loss in the annual lease payment that would have been payable by Healthscope if the private hospital had proceeded. However, this is offset by a \$50,000 annual fee payable by Healthscope and the continued collection of private patient fees through the public hospital, with a target of \$700,000 of income.

3. The following table provides detail of private hospital closures during the last two years:

	Closed	No of Beds
Gawler Private	24/12/98	30
Hartley	31/7/98	24
Harwin	01/3/97	25
Hutt St	18/12/98	40
Kiandra	06/06/97	35
Northern Comm.	12/12/97	47
Pier Private	25/03/98	17
Torrens Valley Private (temporary facility)	12/02/99	25
The Vales Private	21/05/99	65

The metropolitan private hospital system currently has 2215 private beds potentially available, but had only 1773 beds operational as at 22 June 2000.

The demand for local private hospital beds was tested by Healthscope, with the establishment of the temporary facility in the Modbury Hospital. However, the facility averaged 1.34 discharges per day in 1996-97, rising to 1.77 in 1997-98 and declining to 1.17 per day in January 1999, when the facility was closed.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

In reply to **Mr WRIGHT** (9 November 2000).

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The Treasurer has provided the following information:

Survey information from the November 2000 'Yellow Pages Index' details issues affecting South Australian small business and also provides a National perspective. This information indicates that GST was not the major concern of respondents; in fact it would rank as fifth level of importance. This is a significant change from the Index issued in May 2000, when GST was ranked as the number one concern.

The survey stated that, "54 per cent of small business said GST implementation had been very easy or quite easy compared to 42 per cent who thought it had been very difficult or a little difficult. The 12 per cent net balance in support of its ease indicated a relatively smooth GST implementation." The Index also reported a significantly higher proportion of regional businesses (28 per cent) found GST implementation to be relatively easy compared with metropolitan businesses.

With respect to specific GST implementation issues, the Index suggests that small business found communicating changes to customers and complying with ACCC guidelines comparatively easy, but changing accounting and record keeping systems was seen as more difficult.

GST is one component of the new tax system. Most small businesses are aware of the issues and are making adjustments to cash flow management in order to ensure funds are put aside to deal

with quarterly GST and PAYG payments. The South Australian office of Certified Practising Accountants advised whilst they had not undertaken a formal survey, a key risk relates to cashflow; it stresses that businesses should obtain good advice from business practitioners.

The member may be aware that the New Business Tax System (Simplified Tax System) Bill 2000 was introduced in Federal Parliament in early December and this will greatly assist small business management from July 2001. The Business Centre will continue to provide advice and business workshops in conjunction with the ATO on aspects of the new tax system.

The level of confidence among small business owners in South Australia with respect to their prospects for the next few months, as measured by the Yellow Pages Index in November 2000, is higher than for all other States. This is the second quarter where South Australia ranked highest of all states and territories.

ELECTRICITY, CONSULTANTS

In reply to **Mr FOLEY** (29 November 2000).

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Please refer to page 657 of Hansard for the Legislative Council on 29 November 2000, where the Treasurer provides a response to the same question asked by the Hon. T.G. Roberts.

ELECTRICITY, PRIVATISATION

In reply to **Hon. M.D. RANN** (29 November 2000).

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Please refer to page 655 of Hansard for the Legislative Council on 29 November 2000, where the Treasurer provides a response to the same question asked by the Hon. C. Pickles.

APIARY INSPECTIONS

In reply to **Mr LEWIS** (24 October 2000).

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: Mr Lewis raised four questions during question time of the House of Assembly on 24 October 2000.

Answers to the questions are as follows:

1. What are the names of the "full-time" and extra short-term inspectors referred to in his reply?

· Mr Lewis has either incorrectly read or interpreted the statement from the correspondence sent to him on the 7 September 2000

'South Australia's apiary program (referred to as the Mandatory Disease Control program) has over three full time equivalent (FTE) personnel who are involved in the development and implementation of the program. A recruitment process' is under way 'to identify . . . up to two . . . short-term apiary inspectors.'

· Nowhere within the statement does it refer to three full time inspectors.

· Currently the program consists of approximately 2.5 PIRSA FTEs and in addition, assistance has also been provided by industry and an ex Departmental Inspector, for a total commitment of over 3 FTE's.

Staff have been involved in

- Program and policy development
- Field inspection
- Administrative assistance

· The Apiary Industry Task Force was advised in 1997 that the State would only supply 1.5 FTEs in the long term. Once all Apiary Inspector positions are filled the State Government in the short term will be formally contributing to approximately 3.35 FTEs—two of which will be Apiary Inspectors.

2. *How many hives, and their location, were inspected during the months of August and September*

· Direct field inspection has been conducted across the State including the Riverland during almond pollination, the northern region, the upper South-East and Fleurieu Peninsula and involving several thousand hives.

· Many regulatory based inquiries are dealt with by phone by the Apiary Unit. Inspection is not required in all cases.

3. *How many American Foulbrood (AFB) affected hives were discovered?*

· The number of AFB affected hives discovered by Department of Primary Industries and Resources (PIRSA) staff during August and September totalled approximately 10. This excludes hives reported as destroyed by apiarists.

4. *What steps are in place to protect honey eaters from alleged antimicrobial residues?*

- The National Residue Survey recommenced sampling commercial honey for pesticide, heavy metals and antimicrobial residues in honey in 1998. Testing for antimicrobial residues within South Australia honeys has detected a very low level of contaminated product. In 1998 only one sample of a total of 60 had a positive residue reading. NRS testing of 35 composite honey samples from all five honey processing plants in South Australia in 1999 produced no positives. In that year a total of 107 samples were tested nationally, with three positives for OTC, all from one (other) State.
- Further, major commercial purchasers of SA honey commenced OTC testing of supplied honey (as part of the Mandatory Disease Control Program) in 1999. In excess of 70 samples were tested, of which none had any detectable levels of OTC. This process will continue during Spring/Summer 2000.
- Collectively, this evidence suggests that the misuse of antibiotics to treat AFB in South Australia is not as widespread as alleged, or its use is such as to not produce residues. There is, therefore, no evidence of a significant public health risk in South Australia resulting from use of antibiotics in apiaries.
- Advice from the Department of Human Services Environment Health Branch about this breach suggested that in adults, where the national annual consumption of honey is slightly less than 1 kg, insignificant level of OTC would be likely to be consumed.
- The largest purchasers of South Australia honey have conveyed to suppliers that they will not purchase honey found to have an OTC residue.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. J.W. Olsen)—

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway Act—Regulations—
Special Provisions

By the Minister for Primary Industries and Resources
(Hon. R.G. Kerin)—

Dog Fence Board—Report, 1999-2000

Dried Fruits Board of South Australia—Report,
1999-2000

Natural Gas Pipeline Systems, Code of Register for the
National Third Party Access Code
for—Report, 1999-2000

Pastoral Board—Report, 1999-2000

Primary Industries and Resources South Australia—

Report, 1999-2000—Rural Industry

Adjustment and Development Fund Financial Statement—
Addendum

Regulations under the following Acts—

Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and
Other Purposes)—Feral Deer

Gas—New Quality Standards

Livestock—

Registration of Bee Keepers

Vendor Declarations

Primary Industry Funding Schemes—

Apiary Fund

Ovine Johnne's Disease

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. Dean
Brown)—

Plan Amendment Report—City of West Torrens

Development Plan—Thebarton—Local Heritage

Regulations under the following Acts—

Development—

Murray Plan

Railway

Residential Design

Significant Trees

Passenger Transport—Taxi Fares

Road Traffic—

Approved Hospitals

Detection Device

Evidence

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services
(Hon. M.R. Buckby)—

Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme—Report,
1999-2000

Electricity Supply Industry Planning Council—Charter

Regulations under the following Acts—

Southern State Superannuation—Enterprise
Agreements

Taxation Administration—First Home Owner Grant

By the Minister for Environment and Heritage (Hon. I.F.
Evans)—

Coast Protection Board—Report, 1999-2000

Corporations Law Rules 2000 (South Australia)—
Amendment No. 1

Dog and Cat Management Board—Report, 1999-2000

Environment Protection Authority—Report, 1999-2000

State Heritage Authority—Report, 1999-2000

Regulations under the following Acts—

Cremation—Principal

Electoral—Ballot Paper Form

Environment Protection—Waste Transport

Liquor Licensing—Dry Areas—

Coober Pedy

Hallett Cove, Westfield

New Years Eve

Onkaparinga, Port Augusta

Port Lincoln

National Parks and Wildlife—Protection of Marine
Mammals

Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians—Safety
Provisions

Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers—Receipts

Second-hand Vehicle Dealers—Fund Exclusions

Rules of Court—

District Court—District Court Act—

Minor Charges

Exclusions

Juries Rules—Juries Act—Mental Impairment

Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act—

Criminal Rules—Form of Warrants

Lump Sum for Default

Magistrates Court Transfer

By the Minister for Water Resources (Hon. M.K.
Brindal)—

Water Resources Act—Regulations—Extension of
Deadlines

By the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and
Emergency Services (Hon R.L. Brokenshire)—

Emergency Services Administrative Unit—Report,
1999-2000

South Australian Country Fire Service—Report,
1999-2000

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. D.C.
Kotz)—

Local Government Superannuation Board—Report,
1999-2000

Corporation By-Laws—

City of Mitcham—

No. 1—Permits and Penalties

No. 2—Moveable Signs

No. 3—Local Government Roads

No. 4—Streets and Roads

No. 5—Dogs

City of Onkaparinga—

No. 1—Local Government Land

No. 2—Roads

No. 3—Domestic Waste

No. 4—Bridges and Jetties

No. 5—Moveable Signs

No. 6—Boat Ramp

No. 7—Permits and Penalties

No. 10—STED Schemes

No. 11—Beach and Foreshore

City of Salisbury—

- No. 1—Permits and Penalties
- No. 2—Moveable Signs
- No. 3—Roads
- No. 4—Local Government Land
- No. 5—Number of Dogs
- District Council of Grant—Various.

WATER RESOURCES

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL (Minister for Water Resources): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has been given leave.

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL: Last November I informed this House that in the autumn session I proposed to introduce a bill to amend the Water Resources Act 1997. I said the bill would have a number of amendments but that we were examining two key issues: first, a proposed amendment to enable the Minister for Water Resources to reserve water for strategic water resources purposes.

Today I indicate my intention this week to proceed with amendments that will enable the Minister for Water Resources to reserve 20 per cent of the water in a prescribed area. This power can only be applied where less than or equal to 20 per cent of the water is available for allocation and remains unallocated. This reserve is made up of a 10 per cent component, which will principally be for the environment, while the balance will have two purposes: first, it will create a buffer in those areas that are near to fully allocated but, secondly, it provides a strategic reserve of water that the Minister for Water Resources, through a body or mechanisms yet to be determined, can lease for projects of significant economic importance to the state. Legislation to amend the act on this aspect will be introduced tomorrow.

The second proposed amendment was in relation to how we deal with significant land use change, where such changes impact upon the sustainability of water resources. This issue has caused much concern in the South-East, especially in view of the current growth in blue gum forestry. I have acknowledged that this was and is a most complex issue, and I promised this House to further consult all interested parties about this aspect of the proposed legislation.

The issue has the potential to create deep, bitter divisions in the South-East. It was described on ABC Radio this morning as a civil war. We are not prepared to divide the community, even though there are some elements that would see this as politically advantageous. In keeping—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL: I do not want to name members opposite: it would be out of keeping with a ministerial statement. In keeping with my commitment to this House, during January I held consultations with a range of industry groups, local government and the general community in Mount Gambier and Penola, together with having groups up here in Adelaide to speak, so that I could listen to the views of anyone who had an opinion on the effects that forestry might have on ground water recharge. This exhaustive consultation built upon discussions that I had been holding since July. Invitations—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL: Invitations to the South-East consultations went out to the members for MacKillop and Gordon, besides the member for Kaurna and the Leader of the

Democrats in another place. I was most surprised that the member for Kaurna and the Leader of the Democrats chose not to attend either of these consultations nor to send a proxy in their place. This was an unprecedented opportunity for their parties to listen to the community and to face questions about their parties' position on the issue, and to be part of a bipartisan approach.

I know that the members for MacKillop and Gordon, like me, were bombarded with views and anecdotes about the state of the resource in the South-East. I think we all profited from the input. The member for Kaurna, in his defence, did accept a briefing from me, and I understand that the Leader of the Opposition recently met with forestry and timber union representatives who have presented their particular views.

Earlier this month, the CFMEU released a proposition paper in which the union argues that, of the four options canvassed in my public discussion paper on the issue, only one option is acceptable. Not surprisingly, option 1, which was the do nothing approach, allows forestry to continue planting trees in the South-East. The unions admit a negative of this option is towards intensive water users, whose economic value to the South-East is calculated to be in excess of \$1 billion, and that they may have to reduce their water use in consequence.

Then, in just one sentence, the union dismisses the other three options in my discussion paper and is silent on two options that were put forward by the South-East community in last month's talks. The forestry industry recently met with the opposition leader to put their views about the proposed changes to the Water Resources Act. That same day my office received a fax from the leader, offering bipartisan cooperation to resolve the South-East forestry water issue.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.K. BRINDAL: Well, if the opposition leader had been genuinely interested in the issue, why did he not send an MP to the region in January and listen to the community on this issue? One has to ask, 'Where was the opposition last month?' We were at work; members opposite cannot all have been at the beach. The Democrats' failure to attend the South-East consultations is even more inexplicable, as that was the party that originally sought changes to the Water Resources Act in 1997 relating to forestry and its effect on ground water recharge in the South-East.

During talks with groups in the South-East, the forestry industry repeatedly told me that it had revised downwards its projections of future plantings in the South-East. It argued that it was unnecessary to license forestry in those management areas where the resource is close to, or fully, allocated. Figures ranging from 10 000 hectares to 65 000 hectares of plantings were referred to at meetings I attended for time lines up to 15 years ahead.

Despite repeated requests for strategic plans to be provided before the resumption of parliament today so that I could consider this new data, the forestry industry has thus far been unable to supply the figures. I have now been assured, however, that a new strategic plan will be ready in around six months. Because the government now awaits the strategic plan, the position that I indicated on 30 November still applies, until such time as a statement is made to the contrary.

That position is that all existing and proposed forestry which has planning approval granted under the Development Act 1993 as of midnight on 29 November 2000 will be authorised if any amendment requiring a licensed water yield affecting allocation proceeds without cost, should changes to

the act eventually proceed. Any future forestry development not taken into account and which has not yet received planning approval under the Development Act 1993 could be required to secure a licensed water yield affecting allocation under any proposed amendment to the act.

Apart from proposed amendments to the act announced today, the government has approved other measures aimed at better quantifying the resource in the South-East. Much of the current division centres upon the inconclusive nature of much of the science on this matter. Cabinet has approved the release of \$300 000 to enable further scientific and technical investigations of the impact of forestry on ground water recharge in the South-East. This work will begin immediately in the South-East, particularly in areas targeted for blue gum forestry expansion. This work will be in addition to the current investigation programs already dedicated to ground water recharge in the South-East.

I am confident it will give us a complete scientific picture of the current situation in the South-East and silence critics who question the accuracy of existing data which does point to forests having an effect on recharge. Given the opposition leader's letter offering bipartisan cooperation on the Forestry South-East water issue and his support for the development of a regional forestry industry strategy to plan long-term forestry development, I expect the opposition's unqualified support for the legislative changes I will introduce into the parliament tomorrow.

LE MANS RACE

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement in regard to the Le Mans event.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J. HALL: Quite simply, some facts need to be brought into this debate instead of political rhetoric. The fact is that the government has made a decision not to proceed with the Le Mans as a stand alone event in 2001. The fact is that I informed the race organisers on Friday that I could not deliver a race this year. The fact is that we were having discussions in relation to a combined motor sport event in conjunction with the V8 event. At no time did the Premier or I in my capacity as tourism minister wipe out the option for a combined event. The Premier has made quite clear that he was always referring to Le Mans as it relates to the 2001 event as a stand-alone, single car race. That option has gone.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Hart!

The Hon. J. HALL: This was a conscious decision of the government. It was a conscious decision taken for the right reasons. Quite simply, South Australia could not afford to have a Le Mans as a stand-alone event. Clearly, I have regrets that the race did not continue in South Australia. It was a great event.

Part of my job is to secure quality major events for South Australia. However, I understand the reasons why we have exercised our right and chosen not to support stand-alone Le Mans events, and I agree with this decision. The sum of \$8 million is a significant amount of money, and the decision was made by cabinet that those funds could be better spent elsewhere.

The cost of the Le Mans is almost equal to all the other events that Australian Major Events has attracted to our state, including the Tour Down Under, the V8s, the Barossa Music

Festival, the World Solar Challenge, Adelaide International Horse Trials and some 50 other regional festivals and special events.

The Race of a Thousand Years was secured on the basis that it was a one-off event with obvious links to the millennium. The government, in securing that first race, also had an option for a further four years subject to satisfactory negotiations by both parties. Negotiations for developing further races began in December last year. These discussions took place over a period of six to seven weeks and included representatives from Treasury, Crown Law, the South Australian Tourism Commission and Panoz Motorsport Australia Pty Ltd. These discussions were difficult and sometimes quite tense.

Under the terms of the race staging deed and subsequent agreed amendments, Crown Law advised that final negotiations were subject to cabinet approval and that no final agreement had been reached as negotiations were unsuccessful for a race in 2001. As I have said, we made a value judgment as to where the money could be better spent. Whether that is in health, education or law and order at the end of the day will be a final decision of the government.

There were other issues surrounding the stand-alone event which made it difficult for the government to proceed. At the conclusion of the 2000 race, Panoz Motorsport Australia requested a large number of substantial amendments which, if agreed to, would have resulted in significant additional expense to the government and, ultimately, the taxpayer for any future races. These revolved around the cost to the Panoz organisation to stage the race and also to the government of having two separate races and two separate circuit constructions. The expense of building a stand-alone race facility for the sole purpose of Le Mans and the extended use of the parklands were clearly also of concern to the government.

We have exercised our right not to take up the option as it was put to us for a future stand-alone Le Mans event. What I have been doing over a period of time is having very preliminary talks with Panoz Motorsport about the possibility of a combined event. To keep the race option alive, I suggested that a combined festival event with the V8 500s could overcome these two basic problems. Mr Panoz had previously expressed support for such an arrangement.

On Thursday last, I spoke with Mr Rainsford, and on Friday with him and Mr Panoz in a telephone link-up. I put the combined event to them as a proposition for the future, and I also stated that I could not deliver a race this year. I repeated during those conversations a number of times that I could not deliver a race this year. Mr Panoz insisted that there had to be a race this year because of his international racing calendar. I even went so far as to suggest alternative sites to Mr Panoz for the 2001 event.

So, in closing, let me make it quite clear: the stand-alone event is off the agenda. And why? Because it would have cost taxpayers too much money, and the money can be better spent elsewhere. Despite the current problems, and because Le Mans is a first-class event, I extend my best wishes to the Le Mans management for the future development of the international Le Mans series.

QUESTION TIME

LE MANS RACE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is directed to the Minister for Tourism—and thank you for coming, Joan; you had us worried there for a moment. Is Mr Panoz not telling the truth when he says that, during your 55 minute telephone conversation with him last Friday, prior to the Premier's announcement, you did not tell him that the race had been cancelled? Yes or no?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I refer the member for Hart to what I just said.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J. HALL: I said very clearly to Mr Panoz and Mr Rainsford, 'I cannot deliver a race this year,' and we talked about a combined future event.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hart will get ample opportunity to ask questions over the next hour.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): Can the Premier advise the House of the future of Mitsubishi's Adelaide plant, which has been the subject of prolonged and often negative speculation?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): I thank the member for the question, because this is a very important issue as it relates to South Australia, as it relates to jobs and underpinning investor confidence in our state. The Mitsubishi workers are fond of saying, 'Here today and here to stay.' They picked up that, I guess, catchphrase because they want to demonstrate that they are here for the long haul—and, importantly, to demonstrate to the broader Australian community, the Australian domestic market, that, as a producer of motor vehicles, they are here to stay to ensure that consumer confidence in buying a product is well and truly there.

I am delighted that we are seeing with Mitsubishi in recent times (or, at least, in the last set of figures that I saw) market share—that is, its percentage of the market—has increased over that which applied last year, and that is the first and most important step forward in securing its future. We are continuing to work with them to ensure that they are here to stay for the long haul. So far, the efforts of the government and the workers are reaping some rewards. But we should not relax and relent.

I was asked yesterday in a news conference, prior to the announcement, whether everything had been done that the government should have done, could have done, to secure it. As best I can judge, everything that can be done or that could have been done has been done to this point of time. Mitsubishi's Australian operations are on track to return to a degree of profitability, which will quickly make it one of the corporation's top performers around the world and is a good foundation on which to build. Of course, the facility last year incurred abnormal losses, which were directly related to the exchange rate and the requirement of Mitsubishi Motors Australia Limited to source out of the Mitsubishi Motor Corporation in Japan. As I understand it, Mr Tom Phillips, the new Managing Director, has sought and obtained an

agreement that it can source from around the world, which will remove one of the, as I understand it, impediments in terms of build cost.

Significantly, the international plans unveiled yesterday by the parent company concentrate principally on restructuring the Japanese operations. When I visited Tokyo a few weeks ago, the point was made then that it looked as if a whole plant in Japan would close, and I understand that that is what the position will be. In Australia, with the help of the work force and the management, that restructuring in fact took place last year. We saw a significant restructuring, much like the BHP operations in Whyalla. This state has demonstrated (and this is something the union movement has been prepared to endorse) that it will not adopt a blinkered approach but will work cooperatively with management not to give away rights but, importantly, to look at management and restructuring plans that secure the future.

The example I have often used is the restructuring which took place at BHP in Whyalla and which enabled that plant to be selected as the plant that stayed open and Newcastle the plant that closed. That is the importance of these cooperative arrangements. Mitsubishi in Adelaide last year undertook some restructuring with the support of the unions and management working cooperatively to bring about that outcome. It is those sorts of steps that will secure the future for the bulk of the work force. Importantly, those steps have taken place already. The Department of Industry and Trade put together a specialist unit, which is looking at how we best assist the company to bring this new production on line at Tonsley Park.

It is important to state (and this was acknowledged when I had discussions in Tokyo) that the local operation is recognised as producing cars of quality that exceed international standards. That is a credit to the work force, to the management and what is coming off the production line in South Australia. It has a productive and flexible work force, and practices have been put in place that enable that to occur. But it has been hampered by the small volumes of the Australian car market and, therefore, there are not the economies of scale to spread—

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is why exports are so important.

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: It is the reason why exports are so important, and I digress for a moment to point out that it is one of the reasons the government decided to open a trade office in Dubai, given that the product out of Elizabeth (General Motors) has increased 65 per cent in the Middle East in a year; given that that is the market where Toyota has been very successful in terms of its product out of Melbourne, Victoria; and also given that that is where Mitsubishi sees its next market opportunity, as well as the very substantial numbers of cars it has sold to Avis Rent-a-Car in the United States. One reason for opening this trade office is to assist with the further development of that market opportunity.

As the leader says, exports are really important, that is, an export market that we hope it can access. I am confident that the plan now being developed will result in much higher levels of production; and that is where consumer confidence and domestic market share is important to underpin amortising costs to get into the international marketplace. It is also a reason why the deepening of our port is important as part of the current sale process. If panamax vessels can access the port it will reduce the cost of export per unit to the international marketplace. Every cost component, where we can

minimise it to better position ourselves for our product, is about securing jobs for workers in South Australia.

The workers down there have not been whingeing and whining, carping and criticising. They have simply been concentrating on developing outcomes for themselves, and we are happy to back them in that. I repeat that I will go anywhere at any time to talk to appropriate people to secure that sort of investment in South Australia. As to the comments made in Tokyo yesterday, I think it was said that they want to talk to Australian politicians about support. As the House would know, the South Australian government has put some proposals for consideration to the company, and a very significant proposal has been put to the corporation in Tokyo. We remain flexible to discuss aspects of that with the company in the future.

I gave a commitment that I would take up this matter with the federal government, and that it also had some degree of responsibility to support it. I have had a brief discussion with the federal industry minister and, prior to my visit to Tokyo, I had a brief discussion with the Prime Minister about the Mitsubishi operations. I want to reassure the House that I will continue to work relentlessly to secure the investment and, importantly, the certainty of the jobs of the workers at Mitsubishi. I will also seek to get federal government support in that endeavour. The announcement out of Tokyo yesterday was consistent with what had been put to me three weeks ago, and I remain optimistic about the future of investment in and production of Mitsubishi Motors in Adelaide.

LE MANS RACE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is again directed to the Minister for Tourism. Given the minister's statement to the House today, four days after her last public comment on this matter, why does she maintain that Don Panoz and Dean Rainsford were told of the government's decision to cancel the race when both Mr Panoz and Mr Rainsford have issued public statements that they had no prior notice of the Olsen government's decision? In a public statement, unlike a statement here under privilege, Mr Panoz has said:

The announcement caught us completely by surprise. I feel sure that the minister could not have been aware of the government's decision to cancel the race because she did not mention anything about this during our long discussion.

Mr Dean Rainsford has also stated on the public record, and not in this chamber where we have privilege:

Not myself, Don Panoz or any of our team was informed of the Premier's decision and the fact that he was going on to make an announcement that the government was not going ahead with the arrangement as agreed with us.

Mr Rainsford then went on to describe the government's actions as 'deplorable'.

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I refer the member for Hart to what I have previously said and I reiterate that, for 55 minutes, we had a conversation, although I am surprised it was 55 minutes—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J. HALL: Yes, I know. I do talk a lot. I reiterate absolutely what I said.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J. HALL: I reiterate what I said. I informed both of them on a number of occasions that I could not deliver a race this year. I point out that Mr Panoz himself has acknowledged that there were difficulties and, in a radio

interview yesterday, I think, reference was made to the fact that Mr Rainsford said that we were talking about a combination of the two races that were to be negotiated for the future. Mr Speaker, I point out that there were severe difficulties with the agreement and we chose not to exercise—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J. HALL: I am not saying that. You are saying that. I am not.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Has the minister completed her remarks?

The Hon. J. HALL: Yes, Mr Speaker.

NURSES

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Can the Minister for Human Services advise the House of the details of the government's pay offer to the nurses in our public hospitals?

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Because of the industrial bans imposed by the unions in our hospitals at present, and the need to cancel for the sake of patient safety a large number of operations, it is appropriate that I outline to the House some of the detail of what the government has offered to the Australian Nurses Federation, the union representing the nurses. First, we have made a generous offer on salaries, which means that a majority of the nurses would get a 17 per cent increase over the three year period of the enterprise bargain. That is a 17 per cent increase for the majority of the nurses. We have set a minimum of 12.5 per cent, and that will vary from 12.5 per cent up to 17 per cent based on the experience of the nurse, their qualifications and the period for which they have been working. Importantly, for the majority of the nurses it is 17 per cent.

As part of that offer we have made a special offer because salaries are increasing by about 3 per cent a year at present, and you can see that over a three year period that would be only 9 per cent. We have offered as part of this a special payment of 3.5 per cent, to be paid up front, which recognises very importantly the hard work the nurses do in our hospitals. It shows our appreciation, and it also shows that, in a period where there is a tendency for a shortage of nurses throughout Australia, and where we have states like Victoria and New South Wales actively advertising to try to recruit our nurses, we want them to stay in South Australia, and therefore we have made the offer of an additional payment of 3.5 per cent.

On top of that 12.5 to 17 per cent, we have also offered, because they are working in hospitals, a salary sacrifice. That means that they can take part of their salary and use it for buying things without having to pay tax on it. They get a benefit from that which is equivalent to about another 5 per cent salary rise on top of what they would otherwise have. We have offered them all the potential to participate in salary sacrifice, which is a potential 5 per cent over and above the 12.5 per cent or, for the majority, up to 17 per cent.

We have offered them a new career path. That means that, for an RN-1 nurse, instead of the seven classifications we have added a further two classifications. For the enrolled nurses, instead of the existing classifications we have added a further two classifications. So, we have given them the opportunity to go beyond their present level and therefore receive a higher payment as a result of that. In the RN-1 area, which is where the majority of nurses work in the hospital system, that means that a majority of the nurses will now be

able to have access to a larger number of career classifications and a whole new career path.

We have also put down some additional funds to encourage the retraining of nurses and to provide refresher courses for nurses so that those who may have dropped out of the profession but are still registered are able to come back into the profession and have their knowledge refreshed at one of the major hospitals and take up their career once again. We have done that as part of our program for recruiting nurses.

We have been embarking on a program, about which the nurses know, to establish nursing as a major career and to make it more attractive for people to take up nursing and use it as a career and a profession. On top of that, one of the issues they have raised, importantly, is to ensure we have safe staffing levels within our hospitals. This issue has arisen not because, as some people have tried to paint the picture, we have reduced the staffing levels but because of the additional number of attendances at our public hospitals. As the pressure has built up, we have acknowledged that more needs to be done to help provide more staff to cope with that additional pressure.

For the last 10 years we have used a computer program called Excelcare. I might add that we are the only state in Australia which has a centralised program for major hospitals. All other states work hospital by hospital. We know that some interstate hospitals staff at levels significantly below what we staff at in South Australia. So we have a program, but we are the first to acknowledge, through the Department of Human Services, that that program, after 10 years, needs to be significantly upgraded. We have therefore made an offer to work with the unions to make sure that we go through a process whereby we can work out a new system.

Earlier this afternoon, I heard the member for Elizabeth outline a proposal for a select committee to be set up. I highlight the fact that this is a very complex area indeed. She has proposed that this be resolved by a select committee of this parliament by the end of May, I think it was: I point out that it is our estimate that it would take at least 12 months to work through a system, because it must be looked at hospital by hospital. You would have to look at the type of—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: You have to look at hospital by hospital and at the type of ward. For instance, in an intensive care ward, we already invariably staff on the basis of two nurses to every patient where a case is very serious—at least on a one-on-one basis. The same applies for high dependency wards. I add that in intensive care wards there would be one or two nurses at least, three shifts a day, seven days a week. Therefore, staffing levels there are extremely high. I notice that the member for Elizabeth looked rather surprised, but she may not know the sort of level of staffing that we already have.

In other areas, because there is a significant number of people who have been ACAT assessed waiting in public hospitals to go into nursing homes, we believe that the level of nursing can be lower than for normal acute patients, whereas on other occasions the acuity of the patients would require much higher levels of nursing. Incidentally, what applies in a large metropolitan hospital is quite different, for instance, from what applies in a minimum-funded small country hospital, because there are entirely different standards. I have said (and we have put this to the union, and everyone who understands this issue agrees) that it will take

about 12 months to work through and develop a new system, not a few brief political moments in a select committee.

Ms Stevens interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Well, anyone with any knowledge in this area would say that it would take at least 12 months. Therefore, we have put a proposal to the Nurses Federation that we work through that and that the federation be involved in the reference group, the outcome being a system to be adopted by the end of March next year, and that we implement that system by the end of August next year.

The Nurses Federation replied and asked us to clarify one small point last Thursday afternoon, and that was whether we would staff to the recommendations of the new system, and we said yes. Therefore, on Thursday afternoon it appeared that the union fully accepted the proposal that we put forward. Then, suddenly, we found that yesterday it rejected it. We have therefore met each of the major demands made by the union but, as a statement of good faith, we said that, whilst we were working through this new system, we would immediately start to engage an additional 200 nurses for the public hospital system, so that we would not sit back for a 12 month period: we would embark on employing additional nurses to start increasing the ratios virtually immediately.

My concern is that, because of the bans imposed by the unions last Thursday, since last Thursday we have had to cancel 400 procedures for patients in our public hospitals. These are 400 elective procedures for people who might have waited considerable time. I know that people requiring hip and knee replacements are very disappointed indeed with the fact that their operation has now been cancelled. I stress the fact that all urgent surgery has proceeded because it is an absolutely fundamental issue of immediate safety for the patients involved, but it disappoints me that 400 procedures have had to be cancelled since last Thursday alone as a result of the industrial ban.

We are still talking to the union. We have talked to the union throughout. There was no need for the bans to start with because at no stage have we walked away and said that we would not talk to the union. We have done the right thing. All we ask is for the union to continue to talk to us but, as a fundamental condition of that, to lift bans immediately. I urge the nurses to lift their bans, go back to work and stop adversely affecting those people in South Australia who want procedures done within our hospitals.

LE MANS RACE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): My question is again directed to the Minister for Tourism.

The Hon. M.K. Brindal interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Minister for Water Resources!

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr FOLEY: Did the minister and the Premier shake hands on a deal with Don Panoz two weeks ago to stage a Le Mans series car race in Adelaide each year for the next five years? Mr Panoz has said that he initialled—

Mr Venning interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Schubert!

Mr FOLEY: Mr Panoz has said that he initialled each page of a draft contract and shook hands with the minister and the Premier on a deal after being told that the terms would be acceptable to cabinet.

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I would like to think that every time any of us in a cordial and courteous manner shakes hands with anyone it does not formally say we have an agreement. I would suggest—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J. HALL: —that the member for Hart stop being selective—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The chair at least would like to hear these replies.

The Hon. J. HALL: I would suggest that the member for Hart stop reverting to selective hearing and reread the statement about what I have just said are the facts of the arrangements and announcement with Le Mans.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Hart!

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Hart that I am sick of having to bring him to order all the time.

TEACHER SHORTAGE

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise the House what effect the teacher shortage is having in our schools?

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Minister for Education and Children's Services): Sadly, the community has come to expect the AEU executive to make nothing more than alarmist statements. Those statements continue to undermine the credibility of and confidence in our public education system. Unfortunately, 2001 is no different, because the union executive has again claimed a teacher shortage in our schools. These are outlandish claims and are completely unfounded. Let me give the House a few facts. This year more than 3 700 teachers applied for some 300 jobs that were available in our public schools.

If we do a little elementary mathematics, we see that that means that there are about 12 applicants for every position. I hasten to add that over supply does not mean that we are able to fill every vacancy in every country site. However, in a force of some 14 000 teachers, as of today only two positions out of 14 000 are unfilled. One of those positions is an information technology teacher at Port Augusta, and the second is a specialist Kids at Risk position in Whyalla. We all know that generous incentives have been given to teachers over the past 10 years to attract them to country locations; for example, paying the removal costs from metropolitan to country locations; and, after a certain number of years of service, granting a term, half a year or a year off with paid leave.

We also work with the three universities in looking at developing strategies to attract young people into the teaching profession. In addition to the incentives, the government has a program of addressing teacher supply and demand, including retraining opportunities for many of those teachers, particularly primary teachers. If you look at the demographics, you see a lessening number of students coming into our primary schools, which means that we have a distinct over supply of primary schoolteachers. The program involves retraining those teachers either as language teachers or in other areas as required, and thus far the demographics indicate that this will be the case until 2004. It indicates a reduced demand for teachers and a minimal recruitment in

metropolitan areas. The union's poor track record of poor research, misinformation and scaremongering continues. As a result, this union in South Australia fails—I repeat: fails—public education.

LE MANS RACE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): Why did the Minister for Tourism and the Premier state last Friday that the Le Mans race would not go ahead in order to fund 200 additional nursing positions when the Minister for Tourism's statement today indicates that the money could go to a number of areas and that the government has not yet made a final decision?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I suggest to the member for Hart that he stop this selective quoting and using his memory selectively and read the statement I made about half an hour ago.

GRAIN HARVEST

Mr VENNING (Schubert): Will the Deputy Premier provide to the House an appraisal of the success of the state's grain harvest last season, as well as indicating any new regional facilities that will benefit the industry in the future?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I thank the member for Schubert for his question and the honourable member for his interjection, as well. The member for Schubert knows well that we had a fantastic harvest, and he certainly has had his share of that. It is worth noting that the grain harvest this season is way above what we have ever had before—7.5 million tonnes, valued at \$1.4 billion, which is a real boost to the South Australian economy. It is also worth noting that it is the first time ever that South Australia has been the leading grain producer in Australia. We are normally behind both New South Wales and Western Australia. However, because of the season here compared with the poor seasons in those two states, for the first time ever we are the leading state.

The other point worth noting is that it is the fifth time in the last six years that we have broken the record for the grain harvest. That has not been done by new areas being opened up: it really is a credit to the farming community and to their ability to pick up new technology and become far more productive. That coinciding with what has happened involving wine in the past 12 months, as well as the meat industry and even with wool strongly fighting back really means that regional South Australia has had an excellent season. As always, it was not every area or every sector but it shows that farmers are adaptive; and research and development is helping them to improve their productivity. Along with that, this year we saw the very efficient handling of the record harvest. AusBulk opened a new facility at Snowtown, which is a real boost for that area. It has also meant that a lot of grain which previously was shifted long distances by road will now be moved to port by rail, which is terrific.

The locust plague was a real threat to the harvest and I pay credit to everyone involved in its control. It was a terrific effort and showed what can be achieved when the various levels of government and the landholders work together. It was a terrific effort over half a million hectares (which is over a million acres in the old language) with very restricted use in the cropping areas because the locusts were eradicated before they got in there.

There are two factors worth noting: first, despite very extensive testing of both grain and meat, no pesticide residues were found, which shows the responsible attitude of everyone involved and, secondly, despite hundreds of people being involved over a period of several months, not one lost time accident was reported. I think that is a terrific result and everyone involved should be congratulated. It was a major contribution to the record harvest which, in turn, was a terrific boost for the South Australian economy.

LE MANS RACE

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Minister for Tourism agree to table in this House all correspondence, contracts and agreements, and legal and financial advice relating to the Le Mans series car races, including the previous contract and the one that is apparently claimed to have been initialled, and will the minister give this House a guarantee to ensure the security of all documents for any future inquiry by the Auditor-General?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): The Leader of the Opposition well knows that a number of the contracts to which he refers are confidential. A great deal of material has been provided to the Public Works Committee—as recently as last week—about the current status and I do not need to remind the Leader of the Opposition that members of his own party are members of the Public Works Committee. The Opposition is really playing the most appalling games with this event, and I think the sorts of questions it is asking and the sorts of inferences it is making are quite unreasonable.

NATIONAL PARKS

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): Will the Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services outline to the House the initiative of the state government and the Country Fire Service to provide detailed mapping information of the state to assist emergency services personnel, in particular in their need to upgrade access roads and fire breaks in national parks?

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services): I appreciate the honourable member's interest, support and commitment to the CFS. I am delighted to advise the honourable member that, after what was a very tough and difficult afternoon for many of us at the Ash Wednesday memorial service on Friday a week ago, I did have one good deed to do, and that was to launch the Mount Lofty Ranges Region 1 CFS map book. This is the second in a range of map books that the CFS is producing (in-house, I might add).

At this point I particularly acknowledge Mr Lawson from the CFS and also people from Planning SA and DEHA for their support and assistance in the development of this very efficient and important document for the CFS when it comes to being able to locate incidents; and it is not only that it is able to locate incidents because in each truck throughout Region 1 CFS members will be able to identify where all the aerial bombing strips are, where the ambulance stations are located, where the fire stations are located and every back road in that region.

This is a vast improvement on what used to happen in the CFS. I well recall the best that we ever had if we put an incident out to a strike team. Strike teams are used more and more by the CFS these days. For the benefit of the House, a

strike team is used when CFS brigades from well outside the immediate area are called in to assist in a fast attack on an incident. When you get to one of these incidents, all you have is a six-foot by three-foot map on the bonnet of a car while you try to explain to firefighters where they need to go in respect of an incident and how they can get out of a situation if they are caught in an area that they do not know. So, this map will be a fantastic tool.

Combined with this book is the communications system which will allow people to talk directly from command vehicle to truck and from appliance to appliance specifically to identify exactly where they are and where they need to go. The other important initiative flowing from this book is that when the first appliance gets to the scene—given that headquarters will have already been advised of where the incident was at the time they called for support—they will be able to plot the grid reference in the truck and, when they get there, immediately relay that grid reference to headquarters. That will speed up all the issues surrounding which way the fire is running and what threats are in front of the fire, and also assist with the speed of the fire, etc.

When it comes to protection of property and life, this will be a magnificent and valuable tool for the CFS. As we are also interested in marketing these books to the people who live in these regions, I strongly recommend that people who live in the Adelaide Hills or on the Fleurieu Peninsula buy one of these books and keep it in their car, because you will not find a more detailed map book anywhere in the country than this one which will be provided by the CFS.

This is a magnificent example of paid staff such as Mr Andrew Lawson and volunteers getting together to further improve life and property protection for South Australians. I was certainly proud to launch the book and I commend the CFS, particularly the volunteers and paid staff, for what is a fantastic initiative.

NURSES

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Why did the Premier make two contradictory claims within 24 hours about the source of funds for extra nursing positions, and are the additional nursing positions to be funded by the cancellation of the Le Mans race (as the Premier claimed on 23 February) or by the ETSA privatisation dividend, as he claimed the day before?

On 22 February, the Premier said that the nurses' recruitment was—and let me quote directly—'the state government delivering on its pledge of additional funding to essential services as part of the ETSA lease process'. On the following day, the Premier said that he had decided to discontinue the Le Mans race in order to fund the nursing positions. He told a Liberal Party lunch:

The choice was Le Mans or the 200 nurses. We have taken the 200 nurses.

Which one was it?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): Not at all. I will put to the Leader of the Opposition some elementary mathematics or arithmetic. We know from their track record that members opposite are not too good at that: witness how they left the finances of this state. I point out to the House that the current cost over three years of the package that has been put to the nurses in settlement of the current enterprise agreement round is \$194 million. Did you get that? That is \$194 million. And, Mr Speaker—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: I beg your pardon?

Mr Foley: It's the whole package. It's the cost—

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: The cost?

Mr Foley interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: Even the shadow treasurer is having difficulty understanding this. I make the point to the House that the proposal on the table as it relates to nurses totals \$194 million over three years. That is a very substantial outlay and in recurrent terms has ongoing costs. Whether it is for nurses, teachers or police officers, it all comes out of the government's one recurrent bucket. I wonder whether members opposite can understand that.

If you are allocating resources, as I have said, in these areas of essential services, you have to make sure that the funds are there to pay the wages that we are offering on the table now. We have made some hard and difficult choices in relation to some expenditure to ensure that we have balanced budgets in the future, are able to meet the commitments on the table, and expand according to the commitment I made in January last year so that, in education, health and law and order, there will be greater expenditure and greater delivery of essential services. And we are honouring that commitment.

LIBERAL PARTY CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): Does the Premier stand by the code of conduct which was adopted unanimously by all of us in the Liberal Party in November 1993 (I was in the Liberal Party at that time) which sets out the code of conduct for ministers and members of parliament? If the Premier and ministers do not stand by that code of conduct, which parts of it have they repudiated since they sacked me from the party room in July last year?

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): There have been questions from the opposition in relation to this matter. There is a code of conduct and I seek advice from the Chief—

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN: There is a code of conduct. I seek advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Premier and Cabinet from time to time as to adherence to it in returns supplied by ministers, and I will get an update.

NURSES

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): Does the Premier agree, and was the Minister for Human Services correct to claim on 23 February, that the funding for the additional 200 nursing positions would come from unallocated Treasury funds rather than from the abolition of the Le Mans race or the ETSA dividend, as claimed by the Premier?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It is good to see the two of them getting their heads together for once. We might get a common line.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Give your explanation.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The Minister for Human Services told the media:

It's the money that sits in Treasury. It's additional money to the Department of Human Services and it sits in Treasury.

Ms Stevens interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. OLSEN (Premier): Quite easily. The fact is that we are talking about the recurrent side of the budget. If you spend from the recurrent side of the budget, and if you want to balance the budget, you have to put some money back in. That is the simple fact of the matter. As the minister has said, we have put on the table a very substantial offer. Almost 60 per cent will receive a 17 per cent pay rise, with 12.5 per cent as the minimum, and there is a 3.5 per cent retention allowance.

The fact is that, on the recurrent side of the budget, if you are going to expend in advance of what has been previously allocated, you have to either transfer funds in, get additional revenues, or you have to reduce expenditure. We have decided in one area to reduce the expenditure. We have cut out some \$8 million, with the possibility of escalation. We have cut out the \$8 million so that is not expended on a car race but is available for these other expenditures that we are putting in place. It is as simple as that: money in, money out; and you have to make sure that, if you make a commitment, you cut out expenditure elsewhere so that you can meet the commitment. I give the House this assurance: we are not going into bankcard promises like the Labor Party.

MINERAL SANDS EXPLORATION

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): Will the Minister for Minerals and Energy please provide the House with an update on the heavy mineral sands exploration and development in South Australia, with particular reference to the new sand mining venture in the State's Murray Mallee region?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Minister for Minerals and Energy): The member for MacKillop has a genuine, ongoing interest in the mineral sector, and I know that he is particularly keen to see the mineral sands industry expand its activity in this state. The honourable member's eagerness to see that occur will be rewarded, because that is exactly what is going to occur. The future of the mineral sands industry in South Australia is very exciting, because the industry is developing at a rapid rate.

I have previously advised the House that in August last year a joint Commonwealth, South Australian, Victorian, New South Wales government study was released, showing the ancient sea floor of the Murray Basin as the location with the potential to become a major world producer in mineral sands.

The South Australian Murray Basin has been identified as one of the most prospective areas for mineral sands because of the nature of the ancient sea floor, many millions of years old at that location. Mineral sands, including ilmenite, zircon and rutile, are used in a wide variety of products, including paints and plastics, aircraft airframes, glazing for ceramic tiles, and TV glass and zirconia. The minerals required for those products are plentiful in the Murray Basin area in South Australia.

One of the elements that have made the area so robust is that the mineral sands in South Australia are located above the water table, quite different from other states where it has been necessary for mining companies to combat the problems of mining beneath the water table.

A feasibility study is at this stage under way into the Mindarie project, run by Adelaide based company Southern Titanium. The project is well advanced and the findings are extremely encouraging. This project is exciting for the whole area. The fact that the area is serviced by road and by rail and

is less than three hours by road from the commercial port means that not only is the area prospective but the opportunity to get the product to export markets is significantly enhanced. This project alone is potentially a \$40 million project that has the possibility of providing 150 jobs in Southern Titanium.

Construction on the site is expected to begin in July of this year, with full mining activity due to start later this year. Southern Titanium announced only yesterday that there is an improvement in the economics of the company's Mindarie project as a result of the success of its trial pit work undertaken last month. As a result, several important performance parameters used in the first stage feasibility study, completed in October 2000, will be upgraded in the final feasibility study, due for completion at the end of May this year.

The results indicate that the volume of material that has to be moved in order to excavate the mineral sands is far less than originally thought. Obviously, the amount of activity needed to get to the valuable minerals being smaller means that the mining activity can occur faster and at a lower cost. That is good news for the project and, indeed, for other prospective mineral sands operations in the South Australian Murray Basin area.

The mineral sands industry in Australia currently generates some \$1.2 billion in export income per annum, and provides direct employment for about 3000 people in much harder to get at deposit areas, so the future prospectivity for South Australia is very encouraging.

In 1999 the South Australian mineral sands exports accounted for some 26 per cent of the total world titanium feed stock alone and 38 per cent of the zircon supply. The ability of the South Australian supplies to add to that market and to add to the overall Australian proportion of the global market is particularly high. There is significant potential in the state for the development of the industry. I am well aware that the member for MacKillop is looking forward enthusiastically to the spread of the industry. His enthusiasm will be rewarded, because there is no doubt that, with the initial encouraging signs that have been found from the trial pit in the Mindarie region, we will see a very exciting development of the mineral sand industry in this state.

LE MANS RACE

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Leader of the Opposition): I direct my question to the Minister for Tourism. What is the future of the Panoz racing car factory which is proposed to be built in the Adelaide metropolitan area and which has been given a lot of publicity, and also the Panoz hotel development in Victoria Square, in light of the government's decision to axe the Le Mans series car race?

The Hon. J. HALL (Minister for Tourism): I am not too sure why I am answering this question, but I am quite sure that future hotel developments and all those sorts of activities will need to be built in this state as we continue to break record after record with interstate and international tourists. The mischief that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Hart are trying to cause is absolutely despicable. I find it extraordinary that all of a sudden they are becoming so breathtaking with their announcements. I wonder whether they are now saying we should allocate \$8 million per year to hold a stand-alone Le Mans event.

Mr Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Hart!

The Hon. J. HALL: When you have to make choices, some of them are not too pleasant, but you have to make choices in these circumstances. We are now talking about many major events that are very successful, and we have to make a choice.

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Hart that he has already been warned once.

The Hon. J. HALL: If I have \$8 million extra to spend on major events I would much prefer to spend that on a number of major events and build on the ones that we have got.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Hart for the second time, and I also warn the Leader of the Opposition.

The Hon. J. HALL: We do have major events in this state that are an enormous success, and it is so hypocritical of this opposition to be out there now talking about having to fund this on an annual basis.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

Mr MEIER (Goyder): I direct my question to the minister responsible for volunteers. Will the minister explain to the House the significance of volunteering in South Australia and outline some of the activities that have taken place in recognition of this, further recognising that the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I thank the honourable member for his question. In fact, we were at Kadina on Yorke Peninsula only last week, when the honourable member hosted one of the biggest afternoon teas on Yorke Peninsula to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers and take the opportunity to thank the volunteers in that area—some 440 people from about 270 volunteer organisations. This illustrates the point that it is important that we take the opportunity to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers, given the large number of people involved in volunteering right across South Australia. The best estimate we have is that there are around 280 000 volunteers, although we suspect it is something considerably more than that.

Of course, this builds on the work that the government has done since it held the volunteer forum and workshop some 18 months to two years ago. We have employed 300 people from the volunteer sector to work through issues such as improving greater participation in the volunteer sector. A minister for volunteering has been appointed and from about 15 different groups we have appointed a volunteer round table to act as a sounding board for policy and to give the volunteer sector an opportunity to give advice to the government on some of the issues it faces.

As a result of that, things such as the 100 hours project has commenced through Business SA. The project seeks to locate businesses that will donate 100 hours of their skill base to the volunteer sector. That project has been very successful. For example, an accounting firm could provide accounting advice to a local football association, or a managing company could provide management advice to volunteer groups. That sort of donation of services through the 100 hours project has been fairly successful.

We have also put well over \$200 000 into on-ground training through Volunteering SA and other groups. The idea

is to get occupational health and safety and IT and accounting training into the grassroots of volunteering in our community. This year, being the International Year of Volunteers, each month has a particular focus. This month is heritage and arts, and Minister Laidlaw (in another place) held a function for about 1 000 people at Carrick Hill and thanked them for their efforts in the arts community. As Minister for Heritage, I hosted a breakfast last week to thank all the people involved in the heritage side of volunteering.

There is no doubt that this year there will be a big focus on volunteering. The idea is to try to develop more whole of government policies to increase the rate of participation in volunteering throughout the community, and we look forward to making more announcements down the track.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES REPORTS

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the following reports of the committee which have been received and published pursuant to section 17(7) of the Parliamentary Committees Act:

143rd report on the Riverbank, Stage 1—Promenade Project.

144th report on the Rocky River Precinct Redevelopment.

145th report on the Torrens Road upgrade.

146th report on the Adelaide Festival Centre Redevelopment, Stage 2, Phase 3.

147th report on the Christies Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant—Environment Improvement Project.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the report of the committee concerning the allocation of recreational rock lobster pots.

SANDERS, Mrs S.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Minister for Human Services): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Last year the Coroner reported on the circumstances of the tragic death of Mrs Sandra Sanders. In accordance with my normal practice with coronial reports, I immediately referred the recommendations to the Department of Human Services to ensure that the Coroner's recommendations in relation to Woodleigh House at Modbury Hospital were carried out. I also requested the department to arrange a system-wide review of the care and oversight of patients on detention under the provisions of the Mental Health Act. External consultant Dr Peter Brennan of MA International Pty Ltd carried out the review. I undertook to report back to the House on the actions taken to address the Coroner's findings.

In relation to Modbury Hospital, its written procedure relating to detention has been upgraded and deemed satisfactory by the Medical Board of South Australia. Administrative instructions cover matters such as rights and responsibilities in relation to staff and patient safety, the use of restraints on at-risk patients, and the use of specialising. The Mental Health

Unit of the department is continuing to work with Modbury Hospital to review progress and consider any further enhancements that may be desirable.

The report of the review in relation to the detention of patients under the Mental Health Act has been completed and is under consideration by the department. The report recommends a range of legislative, practice and administrative strategies to address the Coroner's recommendations, including:

- amending the Mental Health Act to provide more flexibility in the application of the act and strengthening of external monitoring of detention processes;
- promoting of better understanding and application of the act and its provisions amongst medical health workers and general practitioners;
- refocussing of trial leave as a therapeutic tool;
- maintaining and extending inter-agency collaboration;
- implementing comprehensive and accountable discharge planning; and
- increasing the involvement of rural GPs in the enhancement of rural mental health services.

The department is working through the review report, and a number of the recommendations are already being implemented.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Mr FOLEY (Hart): I would like to briefly touch on the events of today—events that have dominated the media over the past four or five days, namely, the government's decision to cancel this year's Le Mans car race or, indeed, ongoing Le Mans car races here in Adelaide.

The government made a decision last Friday to cancel the race, and I support the right of a government to make a decision. That has never been in question—just like we supported the government when it attracted Le Mans and Mr Don Panoz here to Adelaide, when we offered true bipartisan support and assisted the government and supported the Panoz event here in South Australia. We support any government—this government—in making its decision as it saw fit to cancel the race. It was the government's call.

However, I wish to comment on what occurred in terms of government decision-making and, indeed, the way in which the government handled that decision. We had an announcement on Friday, tacked onto the end of a Premier's business luncheon speech, that the Le Mans race had been cancelled. Again, it is legitimate for the government to do that. But the government failed to afford Mr Don Panoz, Mr Dean Rainsford, the staff and management of the Panoz Motorsport group and the Le Mans office here in Adelaide the courtesy of a prior warning to enable that company to digest the government's decision, consider the ramifications and advise their people. That did not occur.

This minister was given the job by the Premier to ring Mr Panoz and tell him and Mr Rainsford that the race was off. She did not do that. She did not tell Mr Panoz or Mr Rainsford that the race was cancelled, contrary to what she has said in this place today.

The first error that the minister made was that she was negligent in her duty as a minister of this government in failing to carry out her responsibilities to properly advise and brief Mr Panoz and Mr Rainsford of the government's decision. She was negligent in her duty as a minister, and that is why I have said that she no longer should be a minister.

That is a fundamental job of a minister, and she failed on that score.

But the minister's error was compounded dramatically when, later that day, she misled the public of South Australia when she said that she, in fact, had rung Mr Panoz and had told him and Mr Dean Rainsford—a dramatic escalation of this absolute scandal developing, when this minister misled the public of South Australia. Statements were issued over the weekend by Mr Don Panoz and, indeed, by Mr Dean Rainsford, and I wish very briefly to quote some of those statements, as follows:

Not myself, Don Panoz, or any of our team was informed of the Premier's decision and the fact that he was going to make an announcement that the government was not going ahead with the arrangement as agreed with us.

Mr Panoz also said:

I first heard of the cancellation of the race with a phone call from Dean Rainsford on Friday evening, Adelaide time.

Mr Panoz and Mr Rainsford are saying that they were never told, yet this minister has waited until today in cowards' castle, under privilege, to walk in and effectively say that Mr Panoz and Mr Rainsford are not telling the truth. The minister did not do it on Friday, Saturday or Sunday and she did not do it on Monday, because she knew that she would be liable for gross defamation. She did it in this place where she was protected by privilege. This minister encouraged Mr Panoz to come to Adelaide and invest in this state. This minister was prepared to be seen with Mr Panoz, to get the limelight and to gloat in the glory of the race.

But, once this government and this minister had milked this event, they dropped Mr Panoz cold with no telephone call, no courtesy and no consideration of the 14 people who work in their office in Pulteney Street, Pirie Street or wherever. No consideration was given to those people. The minister dropped them cold because the government had washed its hands of it. Does it not sound awfully like this minister's handling of the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium? She embraced the soccer federation, she embraced Adelaide City and she built them a \$32 million soccer stadium. When the glory was there, Joan was out at the stadium. The minister was the ambassador. She lapped up the glory and she embraced all these important people but, when the going got tough, she dumped them—dropped them cold. I now know how Dean Brown felt when he was obviously subjected to similar treatment by this minister. Make no mistake, this minister was negligent and that is dramatically escalated by misleading the public of South Australia.

Time expired.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I want to add to the question I asked the Deputy Premier today with respect to the very successful recent harvest. The minister said that South Australia this year grew seven million tonnes of grain out of a total Australian crop of 30 million tonnes. That is phenomenal—another record. One wonders for how long we can go on breaking records. It is a fantastic result.

Today, I want to speak specifically about the single desk for export wheat. I want to speak about the report of the National Competition Policy Committee recently handed to the federal Minister for Agriculture (Hon. Warren Truss). Although the committee's report advised that the single desk for wheat export be retained, it did recommend that Australia trial competition for durum wheat and container and bag wheat shipments.

The term 'single desk' refers to the Australian Wheat Board's ability to market collectively all of Australia's export wheat—an arrangement which has been in place for several decades and which has worked very well indeed. This is the thin end of the wedge. It would completely undermine the single desk by encouraging myriad groups also to call for special treatment. This also fails to cater for those durum growers, of whom there are many (and I declare that I am one), who wish to market their wheat through the single desk.

Durum wheat has been very successful in South Australia, and San Remo has been yet another South Australian success story. No attempt has been made to ascertain the level of support for this proposal amongst the durum growers. However, the committee is happy to propose that durum growers lose the security of the single desk as the buyer of last resort. I would like to know who is driving this agenda—who is driving this change. The Hilmer report started this and the Keating government grasped it with both hands, but now who is bent on pursuing it to the ends of the earth?

What hope does a farmer have to protect the little that is left when the National Competition Policy—big brother—comes in and starts pulling apart what has served the industry so well for decades. Australian farmers cannot match the negotiating strength of the multinational food cartels. Most Australian farmers have tried the futures and put contracts, and often they have lost or at best only broken even. Again, all those who stayed with the pools this year came out better than those who made alternative arrangements. The multinationals would love the single desk to be dismantled, or even partly dismantled, because they would come in and cherry pick the market.

A system of picking and choosing between markets would be impossible to control and would inevitably lead to the complete breakdown of that statutory body. The cartels are applying enormous pressure. They are trying their hardest to influence the government with all the talk about the benefits of rationalisation, globalisation, world's best practice and all those other trendy phrases that came out during the 1990s. I say, 'Let's put the brakes on this process and stop pulling things apart for the sake of it.' I believe that, down the track, we may well regret some of this deregulation, particularly in the primary production industry. If there is a message from the Queensland and Western Australian elections, I am sure this was but part of it.

I know that Australia is a net exporter but countries always control their own domestic economies and they apply controls to protect their own people. One has only to look at the United States and the European Union, which heavily subsidise their producers. I am not advocating heavy subsidies in Australia because we have to be competitive. However, I am saying that we should not purposely put Australian producers in a position of risk and disadvantage because of the ideology of the Labor government of the late 1980s and early 1990s, and particularly that of Mr Keating. Let the rest of the world catch up to us, let us ease off the accelerator and let farmers catch their breath. They do not want change so who is driving this push to remove the Australian Wheat Board's power to sell Australia's export wheat?

Let us focus on producers in this country and look to help them, not hinder them. I am yet to be convinced that deregulation of the dairy industry has achieved much. It has only put more pressure on those who were already struggling, another issue in those two state elections. We need strong leadership

in our grain industry. Where have all the leaders gone over the past few years? They have been bought off by the cartels. Clinton Condon, former Chairman of the Australian Wheat Board, now works for Bustan, and my friend Andrew Ingliss, former member of the Australian Wheat Board and South Australian Farmers Federation, is gone from the local scene. We lose on both sides, with our farm leaders going off to our opponents.

In the end it is all about quality of life: if we are not careful, the farmers who now produce a premium product will end up as mere servants of these huge multinational companies that will just dictate terms and virtually make it even harder to survive on the land.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): During the break, it was my pleasure to represent the leader (Hon. Mike Rann) and to lay a wreath on behalf of the opposition at the Bangka Day Memorial Service on 18 February at the South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields. The playing fields are administered by the South Australian Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust. This very important annual event is held in honour of the South Australian army nursing sisters who were massacred on Bangka Island on 16 February 1942, and I think members will remember that last year we spoke at some length about Sister Vivian Bullwinkel and the amazing feats—

Mr Venning: That was at Kapunda.

Ms BEDFORD: I spoke after the member for Schubert on that occasion, too. The South Australian sisters in question were E. Balfour-Ogilvy, I. Drummond, F. Casson, I. Fairweather and E. Keats. The occasion also remembers the people lost with the sinking of the *Vyner-Brooke* in the Bangka Straits, namely, M.H.M. Dorsch and A.M. Trenerry. These names will live forever more. The service is also held to honour the South Australian women of the armed forces who died on active service between 1939 and 1945. Quite a few of them, unfortunately, were South Australians and their feats are also recalled on that day.

Patron of the Women's Memorial Playing Fields Trust is Lady Neal and she takes a very active interest in this service each year and in the activities of the trust. She presented a cheque on the day to Annette Fellowes, who is President of the South Australian Women's Cricket Association, and I believe those women use the grounds for their practice, and we all know how prominent South Australian women cricketers have become.

Many people are involved in putting on a ceremony of this type. Major Wally Schiller, Chaplain of 3HSB Keswick, officiated on the day. Captain Jeff Cocks and the Army Band were responsible for the music, and it was a very hot day with some wind about, yet they performed really well, wind being the worst enemy of any musician. Members of 3HSB Keswick formed the catafalque party, and Mrs Betty Laurence, Mrs Priscilla Kirk, Miss Nan Allen and Miss Jean Ashton read prayers during the service. The Walford School Choir performed an a cappella song during the service. The Repatriation General Hospital at Daw Park was represented, various people from the Department of Recreation and Sport attended, and David and Maxine Ennis were involved. Members of the Women's Cricket Association took part in the collection on the day. Also participating were Clair Leahy Sound, Mary Sweetman Photography, and the service clubs were present, as ever; namely, St Mary's Rotary and Pasadena Lions.

A big committee is involved with this event. Dr Denise Chapman is president and Charmain Taylor-Temby and Colin Addison are part of the organising committee. The MC was Lieutenant-Colonel Judy Aiello, who I believe has taken part in this service for many years and who has done an excellent job.

Apart from the memorial aspect of the day, it served to remind me of both the important role played by women in the war and the emerging role played by women as leaders in sporting arenas throughout the country. For as we know, the Australian women's activities in sport have come to the fore in the Olympics. They are truly champions and are working hard in all their team sports such as hockey, softball, basketball and netball. Swimming and athletics performed especially well in the Olympics. In squash we had a world champion for many years. We have had tennis players who were world champions for many years and our equestrians are world famous. There are emerging sports also, like soccer and gymnastics, where women are working hard to make it easier for women to participate at elite levels as well.

It is important to recognise women in sports which are not as high profile. One is calisthenics, which provides wide participation for women and girls of all ages throughout the community—all girls, all shapes and sizes. Everyone is encouraged to participate and it is wonderful that it is a family day as well because mums and dads, brothers and sisters all come out and watch. It is a chance for girls to become fit and to learn skills that will stand them in good stead all their lives.

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Today I wish to bring to the attention of the House two important commemoration ceremonies I attended on 18 and 19 February to do with the commemoration of the bombing of Darwin. I was not born in Australia: I became an Australian citizen as an adult, but I was certainly moved by the services on the two occasions—on 18 February at the ecumenical service at the Payneham Uniting Church and the commemoration service at the War Memorial on North Terrace. It was a privilege to be at both commemoration ceremonies, commemorating and celebrating the heroism of Australian service men and women and the civilians in Darwin 59 years ago. I commend and congratulate the organisers, especially Mr Ray H. BATTERY, South Australian coordinator of the Darwin defenders.

I do not think that the occasion of 19 February 1942 and up to 1945 has had the place in Australia's history that it deserves because, after all, it was the first time Australia has been invaded, in other words, a war fought on Australian soil. We know that Australia became a nation after the 1915-18 war at Gallipoli, and rightly so. We commemorate Anzac Day, but not much has been known about how Darwin was defended and about the deaths and injuries that occurred on 19 February 1942. There were more bombs dropped on Darwin than there had been the year before in Pearl Harbor. There is no doubt that Australia was in danger of being invaded by a foreign power. We should pay tribute to those men and women who fought to defend this great democracy. So I commend and congratulate the organisers and pay tribute to all those who served not only in that war but in the service of Australia since.

The ecumenical service on Sunday 18 February, to which I referred, at the Uniting Church, was very touching, because I remember as a boy at Campbelltown High School, when we had religious instruction, Catholics were asked to go to one

room, Uniting Church members to another room, and so on. It was pleasing to see the Governor at the service and the Reverend Graham Vawser from the Uniting Church. There were prayers by Major Allan Daddow from the Salvation Army; Mrs Kate McDougall from the Baptist Church; Father Leon Czechowicz, a Roman Catholic; and prayers by Reverend Newman of the Anglican Church. It was certainly an ecumenical service of great significance, celebrating diversity and democracy in Australia whereby religious leaders can get together in a way that does not happen in other countries.

I found the testimonial by Mr Len Whittenbury, who gave an account of his day on 19 February, most touching when he said that many a boy became a man. Not only did many a boy become a man and many a girl become a woman but certainly it was a time when the heroism of those who fought in Darwin ensured that Australia continues to become a great nation.

Time expired.

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): It is not very often that I get up in this place to commend one of my political opponents, but some fairly extraordinary events happened during the parliamentary break in which we saw the Minister for Government Enterprises decide to forsake his seat of Adelaide and run for Liberal Party preselection for the safer seat of Bragg. My political opponent at the next election will be the sitting member for Light, who is also the Minister for Education. The member for Light is sitting on the very slim margin of 1.5 per cent.

The Hon. M.R. Buckby: It's 1.4 per cent.

Ms HURLEY: Thank you, Malcolm—it is 1.4 per cent. That gives me great heart. That 1.5 per cent is in the world of marginal seats, and it is much more marginal than the member for Adelaide's margin of around 2.5 per cent, yet I detected no signs of the member for Light wanting to flee that seat and look around for a safer seat. The Minister for Education, as we all know, has a substantial portfolio and quite a lot of responsibilities, yet the member for Light has chosen to stand and fight in his very marginal seat rather than take the path of the member for Adelaide, who considers that his services to this parliament and to his party are so invaluable that he abandoned the fight in Adelaide and chose, instead, to run for preselection for Bragg. However, the good members of the Liberal Party in Bragg did not consider the minister's services so invaluable and essential and resoundingly defeated the member for Adelaide in that contest and preselected Vicki Chapman instead of Michael Armitage for that position.

The member for Light has been in this House for the same period that I have: two terms. The member for Adelaide has been in this House somewhat longer, but he was not prepared to stand aside for a younger, more active member of the party, Vicki Chapman, who has been working hard in the seat of Bragg. The result is that, in effect, we now have a member sitting in parliament who has no seat. He has stood aside from the seat of Adelaide and he did not win pre-selection to stand for the seat of Bragg.

We on this side of the chamber frequently call the member for Adelaide 'the Minister for Diminishing Enterprises' because he seems hell-bent on selling off any enterprises under his control. He is now also 'the member for no seat'. It is very interesting that the Premier and the Liberal Government have sitting on their side a member who has no

responsibility whatsoever to the party or the electorate because he has no continuity into a future government. He knows he will not be here; he has chosen that path; and the Liberal members of Bragg have sealed it for him.

It will be very interesting to see what happens to the honourable member once his remaining agenda for privatisation is completed. Once he has done the hard work, will the Premier keep the member for Adelaide in cabinet, a lame duck minister who has no seat, who has sold off most of the enterprises in his portfolio and who was under fire over shares purchased in areas concerning his own portfolio? Will the Premier look around to his backbench and pluck off some more talent for that ministerial spot, or will the Premier again be held hostage by the various factions and personal enmities within the Liberal Party?

In conclusion, I again commend the member for Light on deciding on the braver course of action, and I look forward to our contest in the future.

Mr LEWIS (Hammond): I refer to a document, which I recall quite clearly being issued by the Liberal Party of which I was a member, entitled 'Code of Conduct: Government to Serve the People' dated November 1993. It starts off with a preamble. I will not read it all today—time would not permit—but there are sections within it which I will not quote out of context but which nonetheless will clearly delineate what I think ministers ought to be doing or ought to have done during the course of their conduct in this place and in their roles as ministers administering their departments in the interests of all South Australians. And in no small measure that is the reason why I stand here today not a member of the Liberal Party. The preamble states:

Ministers must accept standards of conduct which are higher than those applying to others having office in the parliament or the wider community.

Ministers must act honestly and diligently and with propriety in the performance of their public functions and duties and ensure that their conduct does not bring discredit upon the government or the state.

The deputy leader, in the remarks she was just making to the House, alluded to these matters. Under the heading, 'Conformity with the Westminster principles of accountability and collective and financial responsibility', it states:

Ministerial responsibility requires the collective responsibility of cabinet to parliament for the whole conduct of government administration and the individual responsibility of ministers of parliament for the administration of their departments and agencies.

All ministers will recognise that full and true disclosure and accountability to the parliament are the cornerstones of the Westminster system which is the basis for government in South Australia today.

The Westminster system requires Executive Government of the state to be answerable to the parliament, and through parliament to the people.

If I saw that mocked at any time in my career, I saw it today. The document continues:

Being answerable to parliament requires ministers to ensure that they do not wilfully mislead the parliament in respect of their ministerial responsibilities. The ultimate sanction for a minister who so misleads is to resign or be dismissed.

That is the substance, of course, of the reason why I stand here now, because I drew attention to the fact that the Premier misled parliament not once but many times, and wilfully did so, and that Magistrate Cramond found him to have done so, and it was in a report to this parliament which was noted by this parliament.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member may not allude to the matter he has just raised without bringing it in a substantive motion before the House.

Mr LEWIS: Very well, I will not. I will simply say that it has happened. Is it any wonder that the Premier has difficulty disciplining his ministers, given the Premier's own conduct. The document (page 2) says:

Ministers will recognise that they have an obligation to account to parliament fully and effectively for all moneys they have authorised to be spent, invested or borrowed.

Again, I draw attention to remarks that were made in the House today. It continues:

Ministers will be required to have particular regard to sections 251 and 253 of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act with respect to public office.

I will skip the part which talks about interest in or association with public and private companies and business, much of which was dealt with by the Deputy Leader without my prior knowledge of her intention to do so. 'Advice to the Premier' is a heading under that section. It says:

Ministers will inform the Premier should they find themselves in any situation of actual or potential conflict of interest. This information will be tendered at cabinet immediately a minister becomes aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest and a record will be made that the minister tendered that information. The record will be available for scrutiny by the Auditor-General.

When the interests, pecuniary or otherwise, of the minister's spouse or children are involved, the minister shall disclose in writing to the Premier those interests to the extent that they are known to him or her.

As time is running out, I pass on to the heading 'Staff responsibilities' which covers the same things. Under the heading 'Gifts and benefits' the document states that no minister shall fall under any obligation to those in the hospitality or travel industry excluding the minister from any such obligations.

Time expired.

FISHERIES (SOUTHERN ZONE ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY RATIONALISATION) ACT REPEAL BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 25 October. Page 248.)

Ms HURLEY (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): This bill was brought in on 25 October last year, so I will briefly remind those members who I know are very interested in this subject what it is about. It related to a bill that allowed for the rationalisation of the southern rock lobster industry which basically meant a reduction of the number of licence holders in that industry—a reduction of 41 licence holders. There was an arrangement that these licence holders would be paid compensation. The industry funded those compensation moneys, and that was fully completed in 1995. So the reason this bill was brought in is that the required rationalisation had occurred within the industry, the compensation moneys had been fully expended, and there was no requirement for the rationalisation act to continue to exist.

I spoke with the Chief Executive Officer of the South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council, Roger Edwards, last year, so I presume his view has not changed. He told me that the industry is very robust, with good catches, and is a well managed and sustainable fishery. Indeed, that is my understanding, as well. It is good to see regarding the rock

lobster industry, as in many other primary industries in South Australia, that it is well managed by people within the industry who of course have detailed knowledge of the industry and are aware of the need to manage the industry sustainably and act very responsibly in this matter. By and large, that is very much the case with the tuna and prawn industries, as well.

The opposition sees no need to continue with the provisions of the Fisheries (Southern Zone Rock Lobster Fishery Rationalization) Act and will support its repeal.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Deputy Premier): I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for her support. She has summed up the position quite well. This act has served its purpose in a very successful fashion and, as the deputy has said, the southern zone rock lobster fishery is now robust and enjoying a boom time involving both prices (which is helping their income) and, because of the health of the resource, a reduced number of days required to fish to get its quota, which keeps costs down. At the time, it showed a lot of vision in going in this direction and it is now getting its just rewards for having compensated the others out. It is a success story and, no doubt, it will continue to go from strength to strength. I thank members of the House for their support.

Bill read a second time and taken through its remaining stages.

DENTAL PRACTICE BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 25 October. Page 254.)

Ms STEVENS (Elizabeth): On behalf of the opposition, I am pleased to respond to this major revision and update of the Dentists Act 1984. The long title of the bill is as follows:

A bill for an act to protect the health and safety of the public by providing for the registration of dental practitioners and dental students; to regulate the provision of dental treatment for the purpose of maintaining high standards of competence and conduct by persons registered under this act; to repeal the Dentists Act 1984; and for other purposes.

The bill will encompass the activities of approximately 1 813 dental practitioners as at 6 November 2000 estimates. This number is broken down as follows: 861 dentists, 114 dental specialists, 179 dental hygienists, 37 dental prosthetists, 137 dental therapists (totalling 93.27 full-time equivalents), 180 to 220 dental technicians, 246 students, 29 hygiene students and 10 dental technician students. The bill establishes a framework to ensure best practice in the delivery of oral health care to South Australians.

The importance of dental health to the health of individuals and populations can often be overlooked and downplayed when placed up against more obvious health issues such as general hospital care, waiting lists, emergency care, mental health, etc. Yet, the link between dental health and good general health is well documented. Certainly for the up to 100 000 people still waiting for dental treatment in South Australia, the link is undeniable and a constant burden that they bear on a daily basis.

There are many challenges for policy makers, service planners and dental practitioners in the years ahead. In the introduction of a publication by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Dental Statistics and Research Unit 1998 called *Australia's Oral Health and Dental Services* the

following paragraph is pertinent, and I will quote from that publication as follows:

Dentistry encompasses areas undergoing rapid change. The oral health of the community is changing, with a shift in the burden of disease from children to adults. The distribution of the dental labour force is changing, including the occupational (dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists) and specialty (general and specialist practice dentists) distributions. The activities of dentists are also changing with movement in the age distribution of patients, their reason for attendance and the services they are provided. While more people in the community enjoy improved oral health and access to dental care of a high standard, other special groups are markedly disadvantaged in terms of untreated disease or disorders and patterns of care which all agree are less than desirable. The pace of change challenges decision-makers to develop sound public health policy in the area of dentistry.

I hope these challenges will be facilitated as a result of the passage of this bill, which the opposition largely supports. With reference to the first point in this quotation—that is, the change in the oral health of the community and the shift of the burden of disease from children to adults—I will touch upon some of the issues. Australian children enjoy good oral health. Another Australian Institute of Health and Welfare publication entitled ‘Australia’s Children: Their Health and Wellbeing 1998’ reports:

In 1995, the average DMFT score (number of decayed, missing and filled permanent teeth) for 12 year-old children was 1.01, less than one-third the rate in Japan. The decay free rate for permanent teeth stood at 59.1 per cent at that age.

The publication states further:

School Dental Scheme was introduced in 1997. Since that time the dental health of Australian children has improved with declines in the average number of caries experienced and an increase in the proportion of children with no dental caries. Introduction of fluoridated water supplies in the 1960s and 1970s and fluoride toothpaste are also likely to have contributed to the reduction in dental caries in Australia.

In both of these initiatives (the school dental scheme and the introduction of fluoridation), South Australia played a leading role. The School Dental Service in South Australia was one of the better schemes. Until about 1994, treatment for both primary and secondary students was free. Since 1994—in the first term of this current government—arrangements were changed. Treatment is now free for all primary school students and for those secondary students who are on a health care card, but for other secondary students the cost is now \$35 per head per year.

Interestingly, since that time the number of secondary school students attending the School Dental Service has dropped substantially (by 38 per cent since the introduction of the co-payment scheme). The groups of young people who have dropped out are: those whose parents have private health insurance (they have dropped out but they do not attend a private dentist for treatment) and those who do not have a health care card and, therefore, do not qualify for payment for the School Dental Service but still struggle financially and, therefore, do not seek treatment from a private dentist.

Within a generally good level of health for children under 15 years, however, there is still concern for some groups. The practice of providing dummies with sweeteners is still occurring, as well as in some instances children being fed concoctions like Coca Cola in bottles. It seems to have gone out of fashion for toddlers to drink plain water. Those things are certainly contributing to lower dental health levels amongst some children in this age group.

The dental health of children of Aboriginal people and newly arrived migrants is also of concern, and this is related

to the poor general health of those groups. Fluoridation of the water supply has been the most effective intervention of all in terms of the reduction of dental caries and dental health concerns, and it is something that we need to continue to realise and consider in terms of those areas of the country and the state that do not have access to fluoridated water.

In relation to the oral health status of the rest of the general population, there are also concerns about particular groups. The first group I refer to is elderly people. Nowadays, people do not lose their teeth as much. I recall that, in my mother’s time, it was almost fashionable when people reached their early 20s for all their teeth to be removed. Rather than have fillings or dental care to retain teeth, all their teeth were removed, and the wearing of dentures at a young age was common. However, that is no longer the case. Elderly people did not have the benefit of fluoride in the water supply when they were young, and did not have the advantage that people have nowadays in being able to get off to a very good start with very healthy, strong teeth from an early age. They retain their teeth to a greater extent but they have fillings that need maintenance.

Frail aged people have poorer general health and, therefore, can easily get into that vicious circle of having poorer general health to start with, which leads to a greater tendency for dental ill health, with the dental ill health also lowering the general health status. Residents of nursing homes and other institutions are of particular concern, for a number of reasons. First, they are often not in a position to be able to access dental care.

There is also, in some cases, a lack of awareness of staff and a lack of training of staff in relation to the needs of dental treatment and good dental care. With the ageing of our community, in particular in South Australia, where we are ageing faster than those in the rest of the country and will have greater numbers of older people in the frail aged category, this will be a particular challenge.

The next group of concern within the general population is that of late adolescence to early adulthood. Those young people have had the benefit of the school dental service in their youth but now have left school and are out of the target group for that service, and it is estimated that 15 to 20 percent of them are at high risk. It has been found that there is a declining frequency of visits with increasing age and the use of dental services for problems rather than for regular check-ups. This tendency increases with age. I guess that it is part of the ‘She’ll be right; I’ve been fine; I don’t need to worry about my teeth’ thinking, so that preventive strategies are not being implemented and carried through as they should be.

The next group is Aboriginal people. We all know that the general state of health of Aboriginal people in this country is appalling. They are significantly behind the rest of the population across all areas of health status, and dental health is no different. In Aboriginal people residing in urban areas there are very high rates of caries in both adults and children. In Aboriginal people residing in remote areas, the issue is not so much caries but very bad gum disease, which is probably related to their generally appallingly low general health status.

The fourth group is people in rural and remote areas, and the issue for people in country, rural and remote areas is simply lack of access to service and lack of access to fluoridation, which restricts their ability to have the benefit of the wonderfully successful prevention mechanism, in the case of fluoride, and access to the services to actually deal with any problems.

I note that there are some country areas that do have access to fluoridation—I understand that that is the case in the Iron Triangle—but most areas do not. I would be interested to hear from the Minister whether his government has any plans to extend fluoridation to country areas in South Australia. If there are, I would be interested to know what they are and the timeframe of the implementation.

The Hon. Dean Brown: Which particular area?

Ms STEVENS: Any areas in country South Australia that currently do not have access to fluoridation in their water supplies. The last group of concern in the general population is new migrants. The issues in relation to their dental health concern both adults and children and revolve around the general problems new migrants have in relation to lack of ability to speak English well, lack of contacts and inability to access the services that are available. Unfortunately, given that the majority of them are on a pension of some sort, they have to join the 100 000-strong queue of people awaiting dental treatment. So, the long queue combined with their lack of fluency in English means that they become a high risk group in terms of their dental health status and dental health care.

A number of other barriers impede access to dental treatment among the general population. They include the availability of dental staff in rural and remote areas. The school dental service has done well but, of course, this is not for adults. For those who are not eligible for public sector care, cost is a barrier. Many people cannot afford regular, timely and appropriate care in today's world. Unfortunately, among those who are eligible for public sector care, the waiting lists are now so great that many of them are several years long.

People would know only too well that about 100 000 people have been placed on dental waiting lists in this state since the cancellation of the commonwealth dental health program by the Howard government a few years ago. Unfortunately, the current state government has done little to address the issue and has preferred to continue the blame game with the federal Liberal government, to the detriment of the nearly 100 000 who remain on that dental waiting list and in need of care. The unfortunate and sad thing about all of this is that poor access and poor ability to get care, for whatever reason, lead to more emergency care, which leads to bad experiences, which leads to people not wanting to go back, and this lowers the overall dental health status of the population.

A number of work force issues are of concern. In his second reading speech the minister stated that 'success in achieving better oral health requires a well educated, up-to-date work force'. We also need a work force with the ability to keep up with changes in technology, the client base and demand. Demand for dental services will increase substantially in future years, and we need to be prepared for that. In that regard, I will quote from a paper that I was given concerning some work done for the Department of Human Services in Victoria. The excerpt was copied from a draft report on the dental labour force; the 1999 Victorian Oral Health Services Labour Force Planning Project, dated about June 2000. I will quote briefly from that report, as follows:

4.3 Reconciling supply and demand

As the factors underpinning the growth in demand raise demand to a higher level there will not be a compensatory shift in supply. In Victoria, supply is constrained by recruitment from Australian dental

schools being held constant and no increased net migration into Victoria. Scarcity of oral health services personnel will lead to increased fees.

Of course, as I mentioned before, that will be a barrier to large numbers of people. The article continues:

This has several implications:

- from an economic welfare perspective, patients' dental costs will be too high. This may have negative distributional effects—individuals from low income groups will be less able to afford private dental services;
- salaries for public dental providers will fall further behind income in private practice. Public dental providers will move into private practice, leading to a scarcity of public sector capacity to supply dental services;
- recruitment into the public dental services will become even more difficult.

Under the heading, 'Further considerations', the paper makes the following points:

1. There is a need for informed coordinated national policy on the oral health services labour force. . .
2. Given the projected excess of demand over supply, where possible actions should be taken to increase recruitment and retention of qualified persons in the labour force. With the dominance of women in the stock of dental hygienists and therapists and increasing feminisation of the dentists labour force, increased retention would be aided by strong retraining programs and conditions that support re-entry at equivalent levels to those enjoyed before interruptions to work. Priority should first be given to increased course completions among dental therapists, followed by dental hygienists and prosthetists. However, for each occupational group there are pre-conditions that should be worked toward so that additional capacity within the occupational group will be put to satisfying segments of the population with projected increased demand. With regard to dentists, a slight increase in degree course completion numbers might be considered. Such actions would be easier to implement and alter as necessary in a highly integrated educational environment for the different occupational groups, with articulation between educational programs and flexibility in career paths.
3. As a substantial proportion of recruitment of the dental labour force is from interstate or overseas, measures to increase such recruitment should be considered.
4. Specific incentives for dentists, hygienists, therapists and prosthetists to be recruited to Victoria, and service in the public dental services, especially in rural areas, might also be considered built around educational debt relief and public sector career opportunities.
5. If demand sharply exceeds capacity to supply dental services, then attention should be given to actively managing demand in an effective and non-regressive manner through guidelines generated by the dental profession on longer recall intervals, and incentives through private health insurance for dentists to adopt longer intervals between courses of care. Such active strategies are seen as more favourable than price increases which would further reduce the access of some patients, potentially in greater need of dental services.

I would appreciate the minister's comments in relation to those points which were made for Victoria, and I presume that the minister and his department are doing some work on work force issues here in South Australia. I would be interested to hear his response to those points, and certainly to know what his plans are, because the issues that have been outlined there applying to Victoria will certainly be significant issues for South Australia. I seek leave to continue my remarks later.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6 p.m. the House adjourned until Wednesday 28 February at 2 p.m.