

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 13 November 2003

The **SPEAKER (Hon. I.P. Lewis)** took the chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

### GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** I move:

That this house calls upon the Prime Minister and the federal Minister for Health to urgently address the critical shortage of general practitioners which has led to significant gaps in the health services in outer southern and northern metropolitan areas of Adelaide as well as in rural areas.

Today, I wish to talk about the issue of lack of general practitioner services in the outer southern and northern areas as well as the issues in the rural areas. Of course, my remarks relate mainly to my experience in the house. As many of us do, I recently conducted a survey of my constituents. I sent to them a comprehensive questionnaire of some of 35 questions and was surprised that, faced with such a large questionnaire, 350 of them responded.

Of those people who responded, 72 per cent raised issues with the health service. They were invited to comment on issues about jobs, safety, schooling, housing, youth, shortage of funds, problems making ends meet, and any other issues they wished to raise. However, it was the issue of health that received by far the most attention, almost doubling any other concern. The major issue they raised was the shortage of GPs, and some of the comments they made about having to wait three days to see a doctor when they had a sudden health crisis is something that one simply would not expect in any part of Australia, whether it be rural or urban Australia. Three days to see a practitioner when you fall sick is simply not acceptable in Australia in 2003, and I do not think it was acceptable in urban Australia in 1903 to wait three days to see a doctor when someone was sick.

In looking at the compilation of the figures received through the survey, 15 per cent of people said that they had problems with waiting times for doctors and for emergency appointments. Many were also concerned about Medicare and the lack of bulk billing, and 7.7 per cent of my constituents said that paying a gap fee was a real problem for them. Another major concern was the lack of dental treatment, and I draw that to the attention of the houses now. However, I am focusing my remarks today on the issue of GPs services.

I did not ask just about problems: I also asked for suggestions about how we could improve not only the health care service in the south but also the health of people in the south. The answers were very insightful: 20.7 per cent wanted prevention of health problems through education, programs to help people help themselves, exercise, bike paths, stopping smoking, stopping excessive alcohol intake and eating better foods, etc. These sorts of initiatives were cited by 20.7 per cent of people as what needed to be done to improve health in the south, and most of us would say, yes, that is what needs to be done.

However, 10.8 per cent said that they needed more doctors, because they are well aware that access to GP primary health care service is what underpins our health-care system. Being able to readily see a GP who is not under frantic pressure is important for health promotion as well as dealing with problems when they occur.

It is against this background of concern from my constituents that I made inquiries of the Minister for Health as to just what was the situation and what she was doing to improve the situation of health care, particularly through GPs in the south. I learnt that the minister has well and truly recognised that there is a crisis in relation to GP care in the south and has been working with others to devise innovative ways of dealing with it. She points out that the background of the need for health care in the south is one of dealing with a rapidly increasing population, generally of lower socioeconomic families, with a high prevalence of younger families with dependent children and often single-parent families. There is also a growing group of people who arrived in the south 30 to 40 years ago to raise their families and are now retired and generally dependent on pensions alone.

The population is quite mobile within the whole of the outer southern area. Almost two of every five households has arrived within the last five years, and it is particularly these people who are having difficulty finding a general practice that will even admit them and accept them onto their books. Certainly, I have had many constituents complaining about the difficulty of finding a GP who will allow them onto their books.

The minister points out that, even if the outer south had the Australian average level of general practice support, the rapidly increasing population would put pressure on their ability to address the primary health care needs of the community. The ratio of general practitioners to population in the outer southern area is by far the worst in the South Australian context. The minister points out that this graph was developed before a recent loss of a further nine general practitioners from the area, amplifying the disadvantage of the area by a factor of 10 to 15 per cent.

The ratio of GPs per 100 000 population in South Australia is greatest in the eastern metro area where there are about 185 doctors per every 100 000 population. In the western metropolitan area it is about 145; in the inner southern about 135; inner northern 125; inner rural it is about 115; outer rural is about 95 or 96; outer northern around 80; and in the outer southern metropolitan area the ratio of GPs per 100 000 plummets to a mere 70. Contrast this with the eastern metropolitan of 185. Now we recognise that there a number of specialists located, for the convenience of all, in the eastern metropolitan area but we are not talking about those. We are talking about GPs who service their local community. 185 in the eastern metro area compared to 70 in the outer southern metro area, which is worse than the average accessibility of doctors in the rural community in South Australia. Certainly, there will be individual rural towns that are worse off than the south, but to see that our worst area of accessibility to GP services is in a beautiful area only 30 kilometres to the south of where we stand at the moment is truly a disgrace.

A recent survey by the Southern Division of General Practice showed that 72 per cent of respondents interviewed in the Noarlunga Health Service emergency department had experienced difficulty in accessing their GPs. Many GPs have closed their books altogether and are not accepting new patients. Sixty-four per cent of patients in the Noarlunga Health Service emergency department had indicated that they had had difficulty making an appointment with their GP within a timeframe that was acceptable to them. Of this random sample of patients in our emergency department 11.8 per cent reported that in contacting local practices they had found that their books were closed and that they were not

accepting new patients, and 76.3 per cent of respondents felt that there was a shortage of GPs in the outer metropolitan area. These people on the ground know what is going on.

The data is confirmed by a recent analysis by the Noarlunga Health Service of health insurance commission data indicating that in the south the population per GP was approximately 2 000. This compares with an Australian average of 1 000 per GP. So, this lovely area just south of here has around double the population per GP that the rest of Australia has. The South Australian Medical Labour Workforce Report 2001 consistently indicates that the shortage of general practitioners in the outer south, citing the outer southern metropolitan area, has a rate of 68 GPs per 100 000 population as compared to rural areas of 96 GPs per 100 000, as I indicated earlier. Other than the outer northern metropolitan area, which has 84 GPs per 100 000 population, all other areas in South Australia have ratios greater than 100 GPs per 100 000 population. Again, this report refers to the recent move of nine GPs from the area, either to areas closer to the city where they are more able to charge a gap fee, or to retirement.

The Noarlunga Health Service has identified ways of addressing this problem by the innovative use of practice nurses, of allied health services, distribution of information, establishment of shared care models, and establishment of patient self-management groups. The minister has sought funding from the federal government of some of that vast amount of money that is not being spent on GPs in the south, to enable these new initiatives to be established. It is hoped that this will pave the way for a better model for health care for the north as well and, probably, a better model of health care for the whole community. It will make much better use of the various skills available in our health workforce as well as assisting people to take greater care of their own health, which is something that is very much consistent with the philosophy of the Generational Health Review, which wants to return power to the patient rather than to the medical administrator and sometimes distant practitioner.

My colleague, the member for Kingston, has also been pressured greatly by constituents in his wider area, and he has talked about 'A tale of two surgeries' in his recent newsletter. He says:

This is a tale of two doctors surgeries on either side of Doctors Road which divides Morphett Vale and Hackham. They are a case study of the problems facing general practice in outer metropolitan areas. There is a chronic shortage of doctors and financial pressures mean bulk-billing is rapidly vanishing. In the outer southern suburbs there is a shortage of more than 30 doctors.

It goes on:

The proportion of services bulk-billed has fallen from 78 per cent two years ago to 58 per cent now.

And many people, including the practices, are feeling the real pressure of lack of access to bulk billing. He goes on:

The practice on one side of Doctors Road once bulk-billed all its patients. It is large and well-organised with seven doctors and two practice nurses. Practice nurses take some of the pressure off overworked GPs doing things that can be done as well by a nurse as a doctor.

The doctors in this practice had been waiting for the Howard government's Medicare package before deciding whether they could continue to bulk-bill. With it they will get an extra \$1 per consultation. After almost 30 years of bulk-billing they have reluctantly started to charge a gap fee of \$10 on weekends for those who don't hold a health care card.

The practice on the other side of Doctors Road is in a shopping centre. A small family practice, the doctor and his wife, who is the practice manager, stuck to bulk-billing until last November. They

had found three doctors who, in their retirement years, are prepared to [help].

The doctors in the practice work at half the going rate. Time expired.

**Mr MEIER** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### **RICCIUTO, Mr M.**

**Mrs MAYWALD (Chaffey):** I move:

That this house congratulates Adelaide Crows Captain and Waikerie's favourite son, Mark Ricciuto, on his outstanding performance in the 2003 AFL season, which culminated in his joint Brownlow Medal win on 22 September 2003; and also congratulates Sydney ruckman Adam Goodes and Collingwood Captain Nathan Buckley, who are both South Australian-born, on their Brownlow Medal successes.

I have great pleasure in rising today to recognise and congratulate the achievements of one of South Australia's outstanding individuals, Mark Ricciuto. His performance in the 2003 AFL season culminated in his joint Brownlow Medal win on 22 September 2003 and he also added the Crows Club Champion award for a second time and a sixth All-Australian jumper this year. In his third season as the Crows' skipper, Mark also collected three other trophies for Best Team Man, the Members Most Valued Player award, and Past Players and Officials award. He has played 240 Adelaide Football Club premiership matches and kicked 199 career goals.

For a youngster who came running off the football field from a mini Colts game back at Ramco tearfully telling his mother that he did not want to play, he certainly has come a long way and deserves the acknowledgment. Mark went on to dominate junior sport, progressing through Waikerie's under age teams as well as being picked for state sides. He got a taste for premierships at a young age, winning Colts premierships in 1989 and 1990 with Waikerie, and then going on to play a critical role in the Waikerie A-grade premiership in 1991. Despite overtures to come down to Adelaide and play for West Adelaide under age sides, Mark resisted, wanting to play with mates and continue what are now lifelong friendships. One of those lifelong friends works right here in Parliament House, Matthew Matschoss, who is currently working for the member for Schubert.

During 1991, the scouts already knew Mark was going to be something special. With Neil Kerley acting as a recruiter for the Crows and West Adelaide, Kerley saw him kick 10 goals in one game and he was sold. During this time, Mark also played for the South Australian, then Teal Cup, side winning all-Australian selection at an early age. All this was done under the watchful eye of his parents, Murray and Carol, who were always encouraging him and taking him to training. Mark has attributed that one of the driving forces behind his success has been his close family ties. The Ricciuto family are a highly respected family within the Waikerie community and they have certainly done us proud.

West Adelaide lured Mark down to Adelaide to play in their A-grade side at the age of 16, which he did whilst completing his matriculation at Waikerie High. His father would drive him down to training on a Tuesday night while Mark studied in the car, and then down to Adelaide for games on Saturday. The Adelaide Football Club drafted Mark at the end of 1992 and, after a successful 1992 for West Adelaide, he made his debut for the Adelaide Football Club, part way through 1993. He has not looked back since. In 2001 Mark

was named the captain of the Adelaide Football Club and has been an inspirational leader ever since. In the following year he was also named as the best player to have represented the Adelaide Football Club—a true honour. He is Waikerie's favourite son, and always wears the badge of his home town with great pride. Mark has demonstrated great skills as a footballer, a leader and a genuine good bloke. His family, friends and many fans see him as a true champion not just in football but also in his incredible attitude to life.

Last week, at an informal event at Waikerie, Mark was awarded the key to the Riverland by the three Riverland councils and was also honoured with the presentation of life membership to the Waikerie Football Club from the club President, Mr Steve Underwood. Mark showed his true community spirit by sitting for over an hour on the evening that he was celebrating these two prestigious awards, signing autographs and making sure that he was available to the youth and the not-so-young of Waikerie alike. He gave his time willingly. It was a tremendous celebration and I congratulate the three councils on their efforts there also. It is my privilege to be able to say, 'Well done, Mark. Congratulations and we are particularly proud of you.'

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ (Newland):** I have much pleasure in supporting the member's motion. I certainly wish to add my congratulations to Mark Ricciuto on his magnificent win in the 2003 Brownlow Medal. As every member must now know, Mark shared the 2003 award on 22 votes with Collingwood captain, Nathan Buckley, and Sydney ruckman, Adam Goodes. Interestingly, all three Brownlow winners were born in South Australia, and it is the first time the award has been won by an Adelaide-based player. One only has to look at the current and past Australian footballers starring in the AFL to realise just how much the standard of the game has benefited from the South Australian football talent pool, a situation which I am sure will continue well into the future.

It was also interesting to see the Brownlow Medal shared by three vastly different styles of footballers: Ricciuto, a bustling mid-fielder who does the hard work and leads from the front; Buckley, one of the modern game's most prolific ball-getters and possessed of impeccable skills; and Goodes, the modern-day ruckman; tall, athletic, mobile and able to play a role around the ground. All three are able to change the course of a game, and are worthy winners of the 2003 Brownlow Medal. Mark had to wait until the votes were read for the final round, again by a South Australian, out-going AFL chief executive Wayne Jackson, to learn that his dream of a coveted Brownlow Medal had become reality. It was an amazing finish, with Buckley polling one vote and Goodes two votes in their respective final minor round game, to tie the trio at the head of the leader board.

The medal was justly deserved by all three and a fitting reward for a fine season by Mark Ricciuto. The heart and soul of the Crows, the second year captain, continued to lead from the front and demonstrated great leadership qualities on and off the playing field. In 2003 he shrugged off early season ankle problems to play another leading role, both in the mid-field and then shifted forward where he kicked a career high of 35 majors to run third in the club's goal kicking. Having 451 disposals and being fifth in kicks in 22 appearances with an average of 20.5 saw him rewarded with his fifth All-Australian jumper. There is not much Mark has not done in football. He played in the Crows' second premiership in 1998 and was named All-Australian in 1994, 1997, 1998, 2000 and 2002. He was Adelaide's Best and Fairest in 1998, represent-

ed Australia in the International Rules series against Ireland in 1998 and 2000, was an AFL rising star nominee in 1993 and is now immortalised along with the greats of Australian Rules footballers as a holder of the game's highest individual honour. Ricciuto's win was even more remarkable considering team mate Andrew MacLeod, who led for most of the count, polled 18 votes.

The Adelaide skipper, who hails from Waikerie, in South Australia's Riverland area, has said in media reports that football has been his whole life since the time he started playing as a five-year-old. The Brownlow Medal award night was an emotional evening for all contenders. Mark said on the night, 'This is a dream. I can't believe I'm up here'. A comment made by this brilliant, damaging, and tough-as-nails Ricciuto, after he was awarded his medal, amazed me. He said:

I'm a realist. I know Andrew MacLeod is a better footballer than I am and hasn't won one yet. I'm happy to win it, but at the same time I know where I'm at, and I know I've got to work hard next year to be a good player for the club.

The praise lavished on team mates and the eye on the future of the Adelaide Football Club show there is much more to Mark Ricciuto than just football talent, and his humble attitude and team oriented aspirations are extremely refreshing in the modern era of high-pressure professional sport. However, in any situation where there must be a winner, there is always the heart-break of those who finish so close. A number of players finish one vote behind the leaders, including the Power's Gavin Wanganeen, who enjoyed a brilliant season and almost added a second Brownlow to the medal he won as the league's best and fairest in 1993. His efforts were all the more impressive, considering the Power polled the most votes collectively of any club in the AFL. Congratulations to all three winners, but special congratulations to Mark. I hope in future years he reflects back on this win with the same pride as the entire state of South Australia now feels. I wish him the best for the future.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light):** I rise in support of the motion moved by the member for Chaffey and add my congratulations to Mark Ricciuto, Nathan Buckley and Adam Goodes. To achieve at that level and to be considered the best and the fairest at the highest level of any sport is a tremendous achievement. I think that one can see the amount of work that has gone in by Mark Ricciuto, and probably the other two players are the same, but we know Mark a bit better. The amount of work that has gone in, both by him and also by his parents in supporting him to achieve at the level that he has is very impressive. That sort of achievement takes absolute dedication to reach the top of your sport, and I am sure a lot of pain and hard work has gone into Mark's achievement of this Brownlow Medal.

As a member of Football Park, I take my nine-year-old son to all the Crows' home games. One of the interesting things that happen as soon as Ricciuto gets hold of the ball, is that you hear an enormous 'Roo!' across the stadium, as people are in anticipation of exactly what he is going to do. That is because he is such an exciting player, such a gutsy player and one who delivers the ball extremely well to his fellow players unselfishly, many times. To sit on the boundary line and see him line up for a goal 50 of 55 metres out of goal and ride the ball all the way through the goal posts is a very exciting thing to see. Mark Ricciuto, I am sure, is held in high esteem by his fellow players at the Adelaide Crows. Having been made captain of the team indicates what both the

coaching staff and also your fellow players think of you and the sort of respect they have for you. I believe that he is a very worthy winner of the Brownlow Medal, even though, as has been said, on the night of his receiving the medal, he considered himself perhaps a little bit in awe of the other two players. Well, Mark, I can only say that people are in awe of you because of the style of football that you play, the unselfishness with which you play and the sheer excitement that you give to all of us who support the Crows and go to watch you week after week when the Crows are playing in Adelaide.

It is interesting to look back to see some of the illustrious names that Mark Ricciuto joins. Other South Australian players who won the Brownlow Medal include Gavin Wanganeen who won in 1993, and Malcolm Blight who won in 1978 (who also won the Magarey Medal and was coach of the Adelaide Crows, taking them to their two premierships). But there are some interesting names as we go back into the records of the Brownlow Medal. In 1933, Chicken Smallhorn from Fitzroy won the Brownlow Medal with 18 votes. Back in 1924, E. 'Carji' Greeves from Geelong won it with seven votes, so it must have been a very tight competition. But, looking at other names of which we know more, particularly of our vintage, we see names such as Bob Skilton, Ian Stewart, Keith Greig, Barry Round and Glendinning. John Platten, of course, a former Central Districts player and Magarey Medal winner, won the Brownlow Medal after going to Hawthorn. Many people have been brilliant sportsmen in the Victorian Football League and now the Australian Football League; and Mark, Adam and Nathan join them in this particular honour.

So, I congratulate Mark Ricciuto, Adam Goodes and Nathan Buckley, and we look forward to seeing many more games from Mark Ricciuto for the Adelaide Crows. Every time he steps onto the field is an exciting time for the spectators.

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** It is with great pleasure that I support this motion to congratulate Mark Ricciuto on his Brownlow Medal win. It is particularly pleasing to note that his co-winners are all South Australian-born boys who have this year been recognised as the best players in the Australian Football League. Adam Goodes from the Sydney Swans, who became the second Aboriginal Brownlow medallist after Gavin Wanganeen, and Collingwood captain Nathan Buckley, who also received the Magarey Medal in 1992 during his playing days with the Port Adelaide Magpies, are certainly worthy winners.

All South Australians have come together to congratulate Mark Ricciuto on this marvellous feat. Last month, Mark Ricciuto also added the Blight Medal to his accomplishments, which include trophies for the Best Team Man, Members' Most Valuable Player and the Past Players and Officials Award. Mark is a wonderful leader and role model for footballers and also for all our young people, not just here in South Australia but throughout Australia. He handles pressure admirably and exhibits the behaviour that comes from the knowledge that outstanding achievement is the result of single-mindedness. His dedication and commitment to his club and team mates is second to none and well acknowledged.

Mark Ricciuto is one of the most fearless, dedicated and accomplished players in the AFL, and we are very lucky as South Australians to have him captain of the Crows. I am sure his next accomplishment will be to lead the Crows to a

2004 premiership. I am a bit concerned that that might cause some distress in my family, but I am sure I can handle that.

**Mrs HALL (Morialta):** I very enthusiastically wish to support the motion of the member for Chaffey because, by congratulating the Adelaide Football Club captain Mark Ricciuto on winning the 2003 Brownlow Medal, it enables me to say a few words at a personal level about Mark and his leadership of the Crows. Also, though, I put on record my warm congratulations to fellow medallists Adam Goodes and Nathan Buckley who, as has already been noted, were both born in South Australia.

I think there can be no more deserving winner of the Brownlow Medal than Mark Ricciuto, because over an extraordinarily impressive career he has established himself as one of the best in the AFL and, without doubt, a most inspirational leader of the Crows. One can read about and remember a teenage Mark Ricciuto making his debut for the Crows in their early days and, even then, there were always signs that the boy from Waikerie would become a crucial and important part of the team for many years into the future.

Certainly it is fair to say (and my colleague the member for Light made mention of it) that the physical nature of Mark's game has always been there and is well demonstrated by his courage and determination. During the 2003 season, it was interesting to go to the stadium and listen to a variety of descriptions attributed to Mark's style of game, and I thought one of the most appropriate was that he seemed to have a very distinctive bulldozer approach or, as someone sitting near me said, it resembled a tank!

This season, without doubt, Mark has given the Crows supporters, and probably all AFL supporters, a great number of highlights, to which we have become accustomed in this state, with his breaking through the packs, fierce tackling and amazing long goals. But Adelaide's return to another finals season this year was in no small part thanks to Mark's sensational form, particularly in the latter half of the season and, from a quite unbiased perspective, I thought it was correctly reflected in the umpires' very sensible allocation of their votes.

It was also, of course, reflected at the Adelaide Football Club's own awards night dinner, where Mark picked up the Malcolm Blight Medal for club champion, Best Team Man Award, Members' Most Valuable Player award and the Past Players and Officials Award. It was quite interesting and caused a great deal of amusement on the night to watch Mark, decked out in a very stylish sporting version of a slipper, because he had just undergone some ankle surgery. Remarks were made about a very elegant limp each time he had to proceed to the platform to collect yet another award and, by the end of the evening, I think every time he got up from his seat people had started to chuckle. But, there is no question that the Crows captain is, without doubt, a star, and we were all very proud of him on that night in particular.

Sadly, the Crows were unable to cap off a very good season with a third premiership but, as my colleague the member for Torrens has just said, watch out in 2004, because we are out to get it! Mark's winning of the Brownlow medal is certainly a recognition of the quality of football being played at AAMI Stadium on a regular basis. I suppose I have more than a slightly vested interest in saying all these wonderful things about Mark and the performance of the Crows because I am a players' sponsor of Nigel Smart and, when you put that fairly formidable team of players out on

the oval, you just know that 2004 is going to be the season of the Crows.

But I return to Mark and his achievements. I think no-one will dispute that, off the field, Mark has shown himself to be a magnificent ambassador for not only the Adelaide Football Club and football generally but in particular our own state of South Australia. I think he is a superb role model for young people and all the aspiring footy champions among them. The Roo's constant capacity to understate his achievements with an extraordinary degree of charming humility again shows why he is such a great ambassador.

I found this year's Brownlow Medal count to be not only exciting and a memorable evening but also quite stressful because, towards the end of the count, a number of people with whom I was sharing the watching of the telecast had different versions of who was going to make it in the end. I thought what a great evening it was for South Australia and South Australian football that Mark, Adam Goodes and Nathan Buckley shared in the highest accolade of the AFL season. Again, I think it is probably worth noting that this was following Lleyton Hewitt's David Cup match the previous weekend, and I honestly did not think that my nerves and stress levels could endure another bout of the tension that we had to go through that night. I thought that, just as the previous weekend's tennis had all worked out very well in the end, we also had a fitting conclusion to what was an extraordinary evening.

We read in the *Advertiser* (and, I am sure, the local papers) that Mark's home town of Waikerie most enthusiastically supported the success of its favourite son, and I heard that the celebrations continued for some time. Of course, we all know that the celebrations probably continued for some weeks out at the Alma, and I certainly know many who participated in some of those activities.

We are all very proud of this seriously impressive and well deserved award for Mark Ricciuto. I think it is well recognised across the football community that there can be no more worthy winner of the Brownlow than Mark. We look forward to many more successes, including his leading the Crows to a premiership in 2004, and to continue to hear the roar of the Roo across AAMI Stadium. Congratulations, Mark. We are all very proud of you.

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood):** I would like to add my congratulations, particularly to Mark Ricciuto, for his Brownlow Medal win. As the member for Morialta said, he runs a very successful Alma Hotel—one of the many successful hotels in my electorate. Mark's Italian heritage is something of which he is very proud. His grandfather came from the Campagna region in Italy to the Riverland area and became a very successful fruit grower. His family still is very successful in that area and, indeed, there is a road in Waikerie named after the family—Ricciuto Road. With respect to Mark's other achievements, some years ago, he was named the Young Italian of the Year by the Italian Lions for his contribution to sport and to society in general. I would sincerely like to congratulate Mark, and I wish him well for the future.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** I rise to fully support the member for Chaffey's motion to congratulate Mark Ricciuto, and I also concur with her congratulations to Adam Goodes and Nathan Buckley, who are all fine products of South Australia. As members know, I am a Port Power supporter and member, and I would also like to acknowledge the

success of Port Power's Gavin Wanganeen, who was only one vote away from sharing the stage with the other three very proud South Australian Brownlow Medalists.

I am very proud to have Mark Ricciuto as the Crows captain and as the medal winner. He has been a great ambassador for South Australia throughout his whole career, and he has been an excellent ambassador for his home town of Waikerie. Mark was born in Waikerie, the grandson of an Italian immigrant, and brought up on the banks of the River Murray on the family fruit block. He has always been proud of his family roots, so much so that, if one peeked under his guernsey, on his back they would see his family coat of arms and the flags of Australia and Italy. He may have inherited a fair bit of his natural talent from his mother's family, with Port Adelaide legend of the 1970s, Bruce Light, being Mark's uncle.

Mark had somewhat humble beginnings on the football field when, at a very young age, he came running off after playing for the Ramco mini colts and cheerfully told his mother that he did not want to play. But things progressed strongly from there. Mark has always dominated junior sport and progressed through Waikerie's under-age teams, as well as being chosen for state sides along the way. Included in that were the primary school and under 15 representative sides. Mark went on to get a taste for premierships at a young age and won a colts premiership in 1990 (which is not all that long ago; I was in this place then) with Waikerie, then went on to play a critical role in the Waikerie A grade premiership in 1991. Despite overtures to come to Adelaide and play for West Adelaide under-age sides, Ricciuto resisted, because he wanted to play with his mates, and continue what are now lifelong friendships. During 1991, the scouts already knew that Mark would be something special. Neil Kerley, who was acting as a recruiter for the Crows and West Adelaide, witnessed many of Mark's Riverland games. During this time, Mark also played for the then South Australian Teal Cup side, winning the All Australian selection at an early age.

All this was done under the watchful gaze of his parents, who always encouraged him and took him to training, which is something that Mark has always recognised in his acceptance speeches. He has also stated that his close family is one of the driving forces behind his success. West Adelaide lured Ricciuto to Adelaide in 1992 to play in its A grade side, when he was 16 and completing his matriculation in Waikerie. While all this was happening, Mark completed his studies and passed to such a degree that he entered into study to become a physical education teacher in Adelaide the next year, which is something that fell by the wayside due to his increasing football commitments. The Adelaide Football Club then duly drafted Mark at the end of 1992, which was something that it had been waiting to do since its inception, but it had to wait until he was old enough.

After a successful 1992 for West Adelaide, Mark made his debut for the Adelaide Football Club part way through 1993. He has not looked back since. Mark won his first All Australian guernsey in his second year, in 1994, and has won five since then. In 1997, Mark was tantalisingly close to winning the Brownlow Medal, but injury not only robbed him of that chance but also the chance of being part of Adelaide's first premiership team—one of his darkest days in football. Like a true champion, he bounced back the next year, when he won the Adelaide best and fairest and also the All Australian selection again. This time, he was part of the winning premiership side. He also went on to compete for Australia in Ireland that year, and again in 2000. In 2001,

Mark was named as the captain of Adelaide Football Club, and has been inspirational leader ever since. After that, Mark was also named as the best player to have represented the Adelaide Football Club, which is a true honour. Mark always carries himself as a true champion, and will always sign an autograph for a young fan or those more elderly.

Outside football, Mark is becoming a successful businessman. He is involved in two hotels in the eastern suburbs. In addition, he recently bought the family fruit property. He has converted it to vineyard, and is now part of the burgeoning wine industry across the state. Mark has always had a love for the river and his home, and he continues to visit his home town whenever he can.

I also congratulate Nathan Buckley. After being born in Adelaide and brought up in Darwin, he came back to the Port Adelaide Magpies—the obvious breeding ground of champions—to begin his senior football career. He captured the Magarey Medal as well as a premiership in 1992 with the real Magpies—that is, the Port Adelaide Magpies. Then he went to Brisbane and, finally, Collingwood, where he has dominated for the last eight years.

I also extend hearty congratulations to Adam Goodes, who was also born in South Australia. He spent many of his early years in Wallaroo before moving to western Victoria and then being drafted to Sydney.

Three young men with a similar start in life have ended up on stage celebrating Australian football, the highest award. Nothing could be more fitting, with an Aboriginal lad, the grandson of an Italian immigrant and a lad who has chased his dreams all across Australia. Well done to all of them, but special congratulations to Adelaide's Mark Ricciuto. I also acknowledge the assistance of my research officer, Mr Matthew Matchoss, with this speech. Matthew is a personal friend of the Roo and another son of Waikerie.

Motion carried.

## PNEUMOCOCCAL IMMUNISATIONS

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** I move:

That this house calls on the federal government to urgently act upon the recommendations of the National Health and Medical Research Council to provide pneumococcal immunisations free to all Australian children.

It has been reported that half the children who contract pneumococcal in the first year of life are left permanently disabled; 11 per cent of those who contract pneumococcal die. In 2002 there were 1 897 cases of pneumococcal across Australia and 168 deaths as a result of pneumococcal. In South Australia there were 405 cases of pneumococcal with 26 deaths. In my area alone, in Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully, there were 35 cases of pneumococcal. The number of pneumococcal cases is nearly four times that of meningococcal. There is a vaccine available for meningococcal.

There is a vaccine available for pneumococcal, a vaccine that has been recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council. Indeed, on 19 September, they included pneumococcal as a recommended vaccine for all Australian children under two years of age. They recommended a three-dose series at two, four and six months of age. For the first time ever, the federal government has not accepted the recommendation of the National Health and Medical Research Council. The immunisation handbook of the National Health and Medical Research Council is revised and reprinted every two or three years. The handbook provides a background to scientific support for the vaccines

listed on the vaccination schedule, including information about risks, benefits and dosage regimes for each vaccine. It also contains advice on vaccination for international travel, for example, special risk groups, occupational hazards and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Pneumococcal is an illness caused by an infection with the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria. These are fairly common in the upper respiratory tract (that is, in the nose and throat), and it spreads through tiny droplets. So, a cough, a sneeze or a kiss—you can contact pneumococcal.

*The Hon. S.W. Key interjecting:*

**Ms RANKINE:** It is absolutely a fact. The scary thing is that those most at risk are our babies and people over 65 whose immune systems cannot keep the disease at bay. When contracted, it can cause ear problems and sinusitis in the upper respiratory tract. If it spreads beyond that and it becomes invasive pneumococcal, it causes diseases such as meningitis. It causes very serious disabilities. There are approximately 90 different strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and there are two types of vaccine. The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends that the 7-valent helps protect against seven strains of the virus and, as I said, it has been recommended for babies and young people.

The federal government has agreed to fund the pneumococcal vaccine only to the groups that it considers to be at risk; that is, all children under two living in Central Australia; children under five with risk factors such as Down syndrome, HIV, renal failure, cystic fibrosis, insulin dependent diabetes; all infants born at less than 28 weeks; all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under two; and Aboriginal children in Central Australia and any other region likely to have an incidence of pneumococcal under five. That is a vaccine being provided for approximately 10 000 children only. The federal government's decision has drawn a considerable amount of criticism. It has been universally decried; indeed, AMA Federal Councillor and eminent paediatrician Dr Michael Rice said that the AMA is stunned by the federal government decision to financially penalise parents who immunise their children against the disease.

In saying that, he is referring to the cost of the vaccine. Apart from the groups which I have mentioned, for a parent to have their child vaccinated, it will cost approximately \$600 per child. Dr Rice went on to say:

There is a tragic irony in the government's retreat from public health. Yesterday parents of young children were financially penalised if they did not have their children fully immunised according to the NHMRC schedule. Today they will be financially penalised if they do.

That is indeed an irony. What we know is that childcare centres will not accept children if they have not been immunised according to the prescribed schedule, and here we have the federal government penalising or discriminating against a whole group of people in Australia who cannot afford the \$600. Dr Rice went on to say:

The previous health minister, Dr Michael Wooldridge, was instrumental in raising the rate of fully-immunised children from 52 per cent in 1995 to over 85 per cent in 2002. I fear that success will be eroded through parents being confused about the two schedules. . . Last month at the National Press Club, Senator Patterson said she wanted to be remembered as the Minister for Prevention. Well, she should have prevented this regressive decision for a start.

I think Dr Rice's words are very poignant and really get to the crux of the issue.

A couple of weeks ago, I spoke briefly about this issue and referred to an article that was published in *The Australian* in August this year. It reported on the situation facing a family in Western Australia where their 14-year old daughter now has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, is profoundly deaf and has never walked or talked. This young woman contracted the disease when she was something like six months old. At that time, there was no vaccine. Her father said:

It's just illogical to me. It doesn't make sense—  
referring to the federal government's decision—  
... I've estimated that because we weren't able to spend \$450 on vaccination—  
as I said, it was not available—  
for Ash. . . the community will have to spend \$4.5 million on her care over her lifetime.

That is an extraordinary cost both in financial terms and in the terms of this young woman's life and the impact it is having on her family. What I am saying is what the National Health and Medical Research Council is saying, that is, these sorts of traumas can be prevented by the provision of this vaccine.

In *The Australian* in September this year, the President of the College of Physicians, Don Robertson, said that, although the vaccine was expensive, it was worthwhile to prevent children dying or developing brain damage from pneumococcal. Here we have the AMA, families, the College of Physicians, the National Health and Medical Research Council all recommending that this vaccine should be provided for all Australian children, yet we have a federal government not taking any action. As I mentioned, the cost is enormous for families, at approximately \$600 per vaccination.

What we will be looking at is a two-tiered health system where parents who can pay have their children vaccinated, but those who cannot pay do not. We need to look at the long-term costs of looking after people who contract pneumococcal and, as I have said, the statistics are quite devastating. If we are looking at around \$4 million for the care of each person who contracts a severe disability as a result of this disease, you do not need to have too many cases before the cost of providing the vaccine is surpassed.

Indeed, the company that provides the vaccine indicated that it would cost about \$60 million to provide a vaccine for all Australian children. The meningococcal vaccine is costing us about \$290 million for a disease that occurs at a rate around four times less than pneumococcal. As I said, this is causing and has the potential to cause amazing trauma on young families and the young people who contract the disease. It is too easily contracted. My concern is that our babies really are at risk. We know only too well how our children often contract coughs and colds coming home from their childcare centres. Those under two years of age are clearly most at risk. The rates are unacceptably high, and it can be reasonably prevented. It is an unreasonable burden to be placing on families.

I have written to the new federal Minister for Health, the Hon. Tony Abbott. As we heard the other day, the Minister for Health in South Australia has also written to him about this issue. Sadly, I have not had a response and the minister said the other day that she has not had a response, either. The government really has a responsibility to act in relation to this, and I would urge the government to act. I urge all members of this house to support this motion, because this is not just about children in my electorate but about all South

Australian children and their health and wellbeing. It is about all Australian children.

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** I rise to support this motion. Recently, I introduced into this place a bill to ensure patient accessibility for genetic testing. The aim of that legislation is to ensure that we do not just have health care for the rich. It is the role of the federal and state governments to ensure that every citizen in Australia has equal access to the highest levels of health care we can possibly have. We have one of the highest levels—if not the highest level—of health care in the world. It is about patient accessibility and about the accessibility of parents, not how much money they have, to be able to vaccinate their children against a disease which is very debilitating. This is above partisan politics. This is far more important. This involves the future of our children.

It is a real social justice issue, and I hope that, until the federal government picks up the tab on this, any parents who want to have their children vaccinated will not be financially penalised by the burden of the extreme cost—\$600 for a vaccination, the honourable member was saying. It is important that the state government looks at this matter. It could perhaps involve state government funding as an interim measure, but I certainly will be supporting federal government funding on this issue. It is a real social justice issue.

It is very important that we give preventive health care the priority it deserves. Millions of dollars are spent on the rehabilitation of people who have been afflicted by diseases that are preventable, from everything from reducing the number of accidents on the road through to drink driving and to vaccinating for the diseases that are nowadays not so common. Indeed, some of them are becoming more common. We have just seen an outbreak of rotovirus. One of my staff's little ones has gone down with rotovirus diarrhoea. The cost of treating those children and families—the epidemiology of those sorts of diseases—is quite dramatic. They spread rapidly, and you cannot see them coming. If a vaccine is available, that should be able to be used to prevent these diseases happening and so save the hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars.

Certainly, in the case of meningococcal and pneumococcal we are seeing that. With regard to good old measles, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and other diseases that are able to be vaccinated for, no parent should be discriminated against—and certainly no child should be discriminated against—if they do not have the money to pay for that vaccine. So the federal government needs to step up to the mark here and subsidise this. The state government also needs to step up to the mark to make sure that a social justice issue such as this is not just left for this chamber. It has to be enacted. All children and adults need to be vaccinated, and we should not just look at the short-term expenditure. This is a real social justice issue, and I support the motion.

Motion carried.

**FINLAY, Mr P.**

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood):** I move:

That this house congratulates South Australian author Peter Finlay, under the nom de plume DBC Pierre, on winning the Man Booker Prize for his novel entitled *Vernon God Little*.

Peter Finlay entered the Booker race as an outsider, and he was warned by his publishers that he should not expect to win. He was told that comic novels, particularly those having, as its principal character, a smart-mouthed teenager whose

conversation was filled with obscenities do not usually impress the literary establishment.

Finlay has had a turbulent life. He was born in Reynella to English parents and brought up in Mexico, where his father moved with the family to pursue his career as a scientist. Finlay has described himself as someone of no fixed nationality. His life was sent into turmoil. In Mexico, he had a very good upbringing and his family had servants and enjoyed lots of life's luxuries. However, when the Mexican government nationalised the banks, devalued the currency sixfold and then floated the currency, they lost everything. This led him Peter to his turbulent life, where he describes himself as having been a drug addict, inveterate gambler and a con man.

It came as a great surprise to Peter and many of the people who knew him that he was able to pursue a successful literary career. He has done it, and his novel has been compared to those of Jack Kerouac and particularly J.D. Salinger with his *Catcher in the Rye*, as well as Mark Twain.

We claim Peter as a South Australian, even though he did not spend very much of his life here. He said that at one stage he took a patriotic turn in his early 20s and thought that, as he was born in Australia, perhaps this would be the place that he could fit into. He described it as a lovely spot, but in his words 'bloody hard to fit into'. I guess he refers to himself as a citizen of the world. With that, I would like to extend congratulations to Peter for his award, and certainly he will bring recognition to South Australia.

Motion carried.

#### GLENELG NORTH FLOODING

**Mr CAICA (Colton):** I move:

That this house congratulates all emergency services staff and volunteers, and Family and Youth Services staff, who did so much to assist the Glenelg North residents whose homes were flooded in June this year.

It is a pleasure to congratulate South Australia's emergency services for the tremendous role that they play in the community. I do not need to go into any great detail, as I have on previous occasions, about the role that I played in emergency services in my previous life. I particularly recognise the people who did so much to assist those whose homes were flooded in Glenelg North in late June.

Just after midnight on Friday 27 June, a series of heavy rainstorms hit the Adelaide metropolitan area, causing minor damage to homes across Adelaide. Whilst most people in South Australia and Adelaide were very thankful for that downpour, some other people, particularly in that area, came to regret it. The residents at Glenelg North suffered the full brunt of the downpour and the subsequent flooding. As the rain fell and the floodwaters began to rise, we witnessed a small army of volunteers and paid professionals leaving their warm comfortable homes to lend a hand to those in trouble.

The State Emergency Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service, the South Australian Ambulance Service, the South Australia Police, the Salvation Army, staff from the Department of Family and Youth Services and volunteers from various community organisations such as the Lions Club all chipped in to give a hand. The government, like the people of Glenelg North, wishes this flood never occurred, and I know we have had several debates on this issue. I will not go into that in any great detail other than to say that it is truly a fact that we wish that it did not happen. While the government cannot undo the past, it has moved quickly to ensure

that those affected by the floods can get their lives back in order as quickly as possible.

An investigation was immediately set up to determine the cause of the flooding and the operators of the gates were ordered to manually operate them in times of heavy rain so as to ensure there could be no repeat of the flooding. A hotline was established so people could seek information and assistance. Staff from Family and Youth Services worked tirelessly over the weekend following the floods visiting residents affected by the floods to offer any form of assistance that they could. Within 24 hours, emergency assistance grants were in place to alleviate the immediate problems for residents. They provided eligible flood victims with the opportunity to receive up to \$16 000 in emergency grants, temporary living expenses grants and re-establishment grants. By the following Thursday, cabinet had approved a scheme where residents would be compensated by the government. Most of these residents had discovered that their insurance companies would not compensate them for their losses. In the ensuing weeks, people from FAYS, SAICORP and other government departments worked very hard to help the victims of the flooding.

When the initial calls were made to the State Emergency Service on Thursday 26 June regarding flooding to homes across the metropolitan area, the SES state control service was activated. Eight of the 11 metropolitan SES units were deployed to respond to calls for help throughout Adelaide. The damage to these premises was primarily due to blocked gutters and drains and was mainly of a relatively minor nature. About 1 a.m., reports were received that the Patawalonga was flooding and the lock gates would be opened to release excess water into the sea. An investigation into why the lock gates failed to open and who was liable for the damage is continuing. It is estimated that homes suffered about \$2 million worth of damage because of the flooding.

As the severity of the Glenelg North situation became clear, all available metropolitan SES crews were sent to the area to help police with evacuations and to render all possible assistance to affected residents. By 3 a.m., 17 SES crews made up of 110 volunteers were fully committed to the Glenelg North operation. An SES field command unit was set up on site near the police forward command centre. In the dark and the rain, MFS firefighters, police and SES crews were wading through water up to their waist, working together to help those whose homes were flooded. They evacuated residents to the local Salvation Army hall and the Watermark Hotel.

They pumped water from people's homes to minimise the damage. They looked after the frail and elderly and provided counselling and assistance to all victims, and that is something not often recognised about emergency workers. Not only do they immediately help people who are in desperate need in an emergency situation but afterwards they also provide counselling and try to make those people feel far more comfortable than would otherwise be the case. It is an early intervention strategy to ensure that, whilst those people will continue to suffer long-term effects from any incident in which they have been involved, they receive help in that way from caring, compassionate emergency services workers.

The South Australian Ambulance Service was also on hand to treat people with injuries. It is at times like this that the outstanding work done by emergency services is really brought home to the wider community, and I congratulate and acknowledge that outstanding work.



**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett):** I support this motion and, as the local member, I have been intimately involved with this incident since the night of the flood. In fact, this morning in my office I was dealing with the ongoing concerns of one of the local residents. I congratulate the emergency workers, council staff and the service club members who provided the instant first response. The police notified the MFS just after midnight on 27 June, and there was a very quick response down to Glenelg North.

The moment the lock gates were open, the flooding subsided; however, many homes have been irreparably damaged. Thanks to the quick work of the MFS, the SES, council workers, residents and neighbours in the local community in Glenelg, many homes were not as severely damaged as they might have been and a lot of personal possessions were salvaged.

I have had a long association with the MFS, my father having been a member of that service, and I have watched it develop over many years. Given the equipment it has and the training its officers receive, it is fantastic to see them go to work, take charge of a situation and recover that situation, as they did on that morning. The first response was to pump water out of the affected homes. The problem with the area at Glenelg North is that it is an old swamp and creek bed, and West Lane, which is the northern end of where the flooding occurred, is where the Sturt River used to empty into the Patawalonga. Where Tod Street and the middle of Patawilya Reserve are today used to be a creek that drained into the Sturt River. The whole area has been built up over the years with landfill, but obviously not enough, so what we saw was a dramatic flash flooding. However, the MFS reduced the damage by sending in its pumpers and by helping out straightaway.

Later that day I phoned the MFS to ask for some salvage equipment and some crews, and it happily obliged by sending four crews and more salvage equipment, which was greatly received not only by me but also by the residents of Glenelg North. Since then, the MFS has been sending down its trauma counsellors, and they were there as recently as last week. As I said, from speaking to residents as recently as this morning, I know that the help which the trauma counsellors have been giving should not be underestimated because the mental damage, not just the physical damage, would have been irreparable. With the help of the trauma counsellors, people are picking up their lives and getting on with it.

My first point of call on the morning of the flooding was at Byron Street, at the Salvos' facility. They had been sheltering 30 families for a short period that night, and they should be heartily congratulated. The Salvos have been following up on what they did that night. It is fantastic to see the Salvos. When I was in the CFS I attended bushfires, and to have a Salvo tap you on the shoulder and offer a hot cup of tea is pretty good in the middle of the action, and the Salvos were there in the middle of the action.

SES volunteers were also present. We should thank our volunteers every day in South Australia, because, with the fire season coming up, the CFS will be there. On this occasion the SES volunteers were out in force and well organised with their command unit. They may be volunteers but the effort they make is really professional. They are well trained, they have excellent equipment and they know how to use it. They were able to help salvage a lot of personal possessions and reduce the damage.

Holdfast Bay council workers were also present. They may be paid to do this work, but many of them went beyond

the call of duty. Many of them live in the community, they are part of the community, and they certainly put in. The community spirit that emerged from the residents of Glenelg North is fantastic. We will be having a barbecue down there in a couple of weeks, a get-together, just to discuss how things are going. I am more than happy to invite government ministers to talk to the residents.

*Mr Caica interjecting:*

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I would be more than happy to see the member for Colton down there, too. He can help cook the sausages on the barbecue, which will be provided by the Somerton Park Rotary Club.

On the night of the flooding and the days following, the local service clubs (Lions and Rotary) were there; they only needed to be asked. The devastation that we saw at Glenelg North was not the result of an act of God; it was something that could have been prevented through better management. It is not my job to apportion blame today but to make sure that this house and the people of South Australia recognise our fantastic emergency services workers, whether they be the MFS, the CFS, the SES or volunteer groups such as the Salvos and the service clubs. We must never forget them, and we must always support them to the maximum of our ability.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank minister Key and the staff of FAYS for the work that they did above and beyond their normal duties. I cannot remember the names of the FAYS workers at Marion—if I can, I will insert their names in *Hansard* later—but they put up with a lot of very anxious people who made some very demanding phone calls wanting instant action. As a government department, FAYS showed that it can produce the goods, that they are not just public servants who come along to get paid. The FAYS workers at Marion and other FAYS workers whom I met at Glenelg North do not represent the stereotypical public servants that some people would have us believe. I do not believe that public servants in South Australia—or members of parliament for that matter—fit the stereotype image that some sections of the media might have us believe. These FAYS workers have the heartfelt thanks of not only the people of Glenelg North but also me as the member for Morphett. I am proud to be the member for Morphett and to help the people of Glenelg North along with the staff and volunteers of our emergency groups. I support the motion.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** As shadow minister for police, emergency services and volunteers, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support this most important motion to acknowledge the efforts of all of the professional emergency services and police, whether in a paid or a volunteer capacity. Of all the portfolios that one can have, whether in government or in opposition, and I have had the privilege—

*Ms Thompson interjecting:*

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I beg your pardon?

*Ms Thompson interjecting:*

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Not any what?

**Ms Thompson:** I'll talk to you later.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Of all the portfolios that one can have, whether in government or in opposition, whether in a shadow cabinet or in cabinet, these portfolios are probably the best that you could have, because they deal with people at the coalface who look after others and protect lives and property. Time and again I see the enormous work that is done by volunteers and paid professional police and emergency services workers.

It is worth noting that the police on patrol on that night were the first to observe that there was a major problem with the Patawalonga and that there was going to be significant flooding. I congratulate those police officers for their observations. I am delighted that, after relentless questioning by the opposition, work in the media, petitions in the parliament and the work of other organisations such as the South Australian Police Association and the community generally, the government was forced to realise that additional police have to be brought in to assist our overworked police officers who, as we have seen, have been stretched to capacity over the last 18 months or so. Hopefully, we will see some growth in that area.

With respect to the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service, generally speaking these officers are well-trained and well-equipped, although some firefighters would like to see an increase in equipment. They did a fantastic job on that night. When they are called to do their duty, they know how to do it in the very best of ways. The same applies to the State Emergency Service. Watching the television footage, I saw some of those volunteers who had to go to work later on that day doing a lot of the physical chores and showing a lot of compassion to the families affected by this flooding.

My colleague, the local member, also congratulated Family and Youth Services officers who attended and provided support. I have worked with those officers over the years in a range of different aspects of community support. Family and Youth Services do a good job, but the problem they have is that they are not resourced enough. They had to be quite vocal about that recently, because they could not stand the workload any further. These officers deal with a lot of pressure in the community. Like the emergency services and the police, they are at the coalface when it comes to dealing with the significant difficulties that individuals and families face from time to time, and they are passionate about the work they do.

I also want to give some credit to the local member, the member for Morphett, Duncan McFetridge. I spoke to Duncan at about 9 o'clock on that morning.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mawson knows that he should refer to members by the name of their electorate or their title of office in the chamber.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I erred in that respect, sir; I take your good advice. The member for Morphett is an excellent member, as I am sure you would agree, Mr Speaker, and I am sure that everyone in the chamber would acknowledge that. When I rang him to say, 'I'm feeling for you and your constituents in my capacity as shadow minister for these portfolio areas; how is it going down there?', he said that he had been up since just after dawn and had had an opportunity to survey the immediate damage to the area and talk to a number of constituents. He was also consulting with a number of government agencies. It is not very often that MPs are given an accolade in this chamber, but I think it is right to give the member for Morphett one on this occasion.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thoughts to these families. One thing that we always fear is damage to our homes and our personal property. This was an unfortunate incident. Let us hope that it does not happen again and that checks are put in place so that, even if technology and mechanical failures occur, these people can sleep peacefully. This is a wonderful area, one which not only the people who live there enjoy but also those of us who sometimes go down there for a bit of recreation. I join with members of this house (particularly the member for Morphett) in expressing our

thoughts for these people in what is a difficult time for them as they now start to repair their homes and move back in. Hopefully, they will enjoy a trouble-free future.

Motion carried.

## VOLUNTEERS

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** I move:

That this house congratulates the Premier and Minister for Volunteers, the Labor government and the volunteer sector for developing a partnership agreement which formally recognises the valuable contribution of volunteers and provides a vision for the future of volunteering in South Australia.

I would like to add to this motion my personal congratulations to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and the Member for Wright on the work that she personally did to enable this compact to be achieved, and on doing so in such a practical manner as to engender harmony in the volunteer community and trust and confidence in their relationship with government.

We all recognise the important work that volunteers do in our community, but we do not always recognise the need for a partnership between government, volunteers and the organisations for which they work. Volunteers do things that governments will never be able to do. No government can possibly solve the problems that volunteers work on, and no government can possibly solve all the problems that volunteers encounter as they go about their different types of work within our community.

Just opening at random the excellent directory that we have in the south, the *Onkaparinga Community Directory*, and having a quick look at what is there, I see the range of activities undertaken by volunteers in my community. There is the Frog Watch group: government cannot possibly do all the things that the Frog Watch group does, nor can we possibly understand what problems they encounter in undertaking the task of watching frogs, which we know is an important indicator of the health of our environment. We know that they are really important.

That is just something I opened at. The more traditional ones are: the community houses, which do an amazing job in our area; and a group that comes together to read books. That would be regarded as a community club, but within that organisation are people who make it happen. I refer to the Delta Foundation Inc. and the Christies Beach group members, who meet at members' homes to read and discuss books. There are people within the organisation who facilitate that, who give extra meaning and enjoyment to the life of the various members of the group. And I am sure that, as they are discussing books, they are getting a better understanding of life in our society, and are able to exchange views about that, which is really crucial to a happy and successful society.

Those are two examples of the work that is not normally seen as being done by volunteers in our community. We know and thank Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, St John and the emergency services volunteers. We see them all the time; we know and thank them. But, we do not know but do thank many people who are doing things such as looking after frogs and reading books. They also add to the richness of our community, but their needs are different from those of the more visible volunteers.

The compact brought together by this government, after many years of words from the previous government, provides a framework that enables all those people to work with government to pursue not only problem solving in our

community but also enrichment of our community. The Premier, in his normal way, expressed very eloquently some of the issues about why we needed to develop a compact with volunteers, and he spoke these words back in May at the launch of the compact. I have been attempting to have this issue discussed since May, but there has been other business in the house. I thought about whether I should remove it as it was somewhat dated, but I think this is far too important in issue to remove, even though the original signing of the compact is somewhat dated. We can now anticipate the holding of the second volunteer congress on 5 December.

Back in May, the Premier said that he was looking for a partnership of government and volunteers as being one way of bringing together our community and advancing it, both socially and economically. He also wanted to show how important volunteers are to South Australia. He went on to say:

Because volunteers bring food to the hungry, relief to those in pain, a helping hand to those who cannot move unaided, companionship to those who live alone. It is you, the volunteers, who put out fires, and keep a landscape beautiful, a neighbourhood safe. It is you who clean our rivers and tidy up our suburban streets, who coach and read to our kids and serve in our school canteens. It is you who go where government cannot afford to go, cleaning up and helping out and soothing where there is hurt, giving comfort, shelter, comradeship, making the difference. Making our lives richer and our communities better places to live and work.

I think those eloquent words of the Premier sum up how we feel about our volunteers and what they do.

So, I will move on to what the compact does. *Advancing the Community Together: a Partnership between the Volunteer Sector and the South Australian Government, May 2003* establishes shared values as the essence of the partnership. It looks at the values of openness and transparency, respect, equality of opportunity, active citizenship and sustainable communities. It looks at shared principles, of cooperation, consultation and support, independence, interdependence, strong leadership in action, accountability, recognition of diversity of volunteers and the volunteer community.

They form a framework, together with the desired outcomes and benefits of the advancement of volunteering, redressing of issues that impede volunteering, establishment of communication protocols and development of appropriate policies and practices to advance volunteering in our state. Unfortunately, some of the outcomes of the compact were necessary because volunteers have not always received support from government.

In the massive consultation undertaken to develop this document, it was found that many volunteer organisations were being impeded by spending more time filling in forms than they did delivering services. One of our first commitments is the simplification of the processes of applying for grants and accountability. We know that accountability for public money is important, but it should not be a barrier to delivery of services.

An important issue, also, is the guarantee of freedom of speech, because previously, under the former government, the conditions of grants unfortunately frequently prevented the volunteer organisations from speaking out on behalf of the community they served. This secrecy is no longer part of the relationship between government and volunteers. It never should have been, and it is a disgrace that is ever was. I understand it still exists in relation to some federal government contracts, which is a disgrace, but is not part of the way

this government deals with those important volunteers in our communities.

It is important that they be able to fulfil one of their important roles; that is, advocating on behalf of the people whom they serve. They are the ones who best know what the issues are that we need to address, for example, to enable the frogs to live freely. We do not want them being hampered from talking about what the government is or is not doing in relation to the health of frogs in our area. We do not want them being prevented from talking out about the plight of the aged, those in nursing homes, and those who are relying on handouts in order to make ends meet. As I said, I am quite passionate about the fact that organisations have been prevented from doing this in the past. I was disgusted, and I am now extremely pleased that that advocacy service is there. We might not always like what volunteers say, but we do always want to hear what they say, because we know that by listening to them, and working with them, we will develop a better community for us all.

I am sure that all members could contribute to this debate, because we all have volunteers in our community whom we want to particularly recognise and know how important they are. However, I certainly will not attempt to list all the people I would like to thank. I know it has taken a long time to get to this motion and I hope it will be dispatched quickly, because it is an important matter to record. I hope that all those unnamed volunteers in my community and the organisations which support them will accept my thanks without my naming them. I hope that all the organisations which contributed to the development of this agreement will accept our thanks without having them again listed in *Hansard*. Their officials gave many hours to the development of this important compact. They came from a wide range of areas such as Little Athletes, the Australian Arabic Council, Rundle Mall—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms THOMPSON:** These were some groups that contributed to the focus group discussions. People came from a wide range of areas, and it was capped off by the organisations which, together with the member for Wright and the Premier, finally came up with the compact. I thank the staff of the Office for Volunteers for the work they did, and am confident that all these groups have the full support of all members for the work that they do in furthering the life of our community.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** I rise as shadow minister for volunteers to support this motion, but I say at the outset that I am a little surprised by some of the wording of the motion, because I always firmly believe, when in government and opposition, that volunteering is an important part of South Australia. Cultural and community development and the delivery of services and support to South Australians generally is something that I have always seen as absolutely bipartisan. When I had the privilege of being the minister for volunteers, everything was done on an extremely bipartisan basis. I think the wording of the motion could have been better; it appears to have a particular slant towards the Labor government. I think we have to understand that when we talk and work with volunteers, there are volunteers who support Liberal, Labor and other parties. I say that because I feel we should be more conscious of it when we debate the very important matter of volunteers. Of course, the motion also fails to point out that a lot of work has been done over several years in growing and strengthening volunteering. I congratu-

late this government on continuing our commitment in setting up the Office for Volunteers and the Minister for Volunteers, and I am pleased to see that it has seen the wisdom of that initiative. It was actually volunteers when we were in government who said—

**The Hon. J.W. Weatherill:** You didn't have a compact.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** We will talk about the compact in a moment. I understand that some of the members on the other side get a bit precious about some comments. But the fact of the matter is that volunteers are vital. That was the wording of a bumper sticker that was developed several years ago, and I am very proud to have that in my office, because volunteers are absolutely vital to the South Australian community. In fact, without them, we would not have the South Australia that we enjoy today. I think it was a great initiative to set up the Office for Volunteers, and I commend its dedicated and loyal staff. I am pleased to see that our initiative of including Adelaide Cup Day as an official day for volunteers for South Australia is continuing, because they must be recognised not only on that day but, as others have said, every day.

Volunteers include people in the Country Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Surf Lifesaving Association, St John's Ambulance, the South Australian Ambulance Service, Neighbourhood Watch and the Police Rangers, as well as the Lavender Ladies who look after people in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Country Women's Association, Meals on Wheels, people who assist kids who have literacy difficulties to read in schools, and people who ring their elderly neighbour in the morning to see whether that person is all right. There are hundreds of thousands of volunteers—nearly 500 000. Nearly one in three South Australians volunteers, which is the highest percentage per capita in Australia. We should cherish that, because it is precious to South Australia, and we need to continue to develop it. So, with the caveat that I raised earlier, I support the motion.

With respect to the compact, I point out that, whilst the brand name of the compact has changed since the change of government, that work was being done long before this government took office. I therefore support the continuation of that compact, albeit under a different name. But let me say this. When I was talking to some volunteers recently—and I think this is a really important point for parliament to take into consideration—some of those who had been involved directly or indirectly in the signing of the compact said to me, 'We have come along and we agree with the compact. We have appreciated the support of the Liberal government in developing further initiatives for volunteers and the on-going support of the current government (the Labor government).' But they also said to me, 'We want you to remember that at the end of the day we still need our autonomy and we do not want to be tied to any agreement that, sooner or later, forces us into a position of being locked into initiatives and policies that are announced by the government of the day, whether it is Liberal or Labor.'

I know where they are coming from, because one of the most important things in volunteering is to allow them to keep their autonomy and individuality and be removed from the Public Service—and the government of the day, to an extent. From my point of view, they are more important than even the structures of parliament and government because, without them, this state would not exist. So, I want to say that I have heard that loud and clear. Again, it came up when I was speaking to people from the service clubs who also have always been very bipartisan and enjoyed their autonomy and,

we must remember, are a part of international service clubs such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Apex.

So, let us see continued growth and support for volunteers by everybody in parliament, but let us remember the one big principle that they are always to be given respect and allowed to work in a bipartisan manner and, at the end of the day, retain autonomy for what they are, and that is dedicated volunteers who are serving the South Australian community. I again thank and congratulate them for their excellent efforts.

**Mrs GERAGHTY** secured the adjournment of the debate.

### STARFISH HILL WIND FARM

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** I move:

That this house congratulates all those who contributed to South Australia's first wind farm, Starfish Hill.

Again, this is a motion that has been waiting for some time to receive the attention of the house, but it does not make our congratulations any less worthy or fulsome. This is a \$65 million project that involved the construction of a 34.5 megawatt wind farm providing enough renewable energy for 18 000 homes. It is indeed important that we note the significance of this in the life of our community and our attempt to move from non-renewable energy to renewable energy.

The government is very proud of South Australia's first wind farm because, by harnessing the wind, we are reducing our reliance on burning coal to generate electricity. I think we all know not only that coal is environmentally damaging but also that the coal we have in South Australia is of a low grade. Even back in the days when I went to school, I learnt that electricity was more expensive in South Australia because of our burning brown Leigh Creek coal compared to the wonderful black coal found in Victoria and New South Wales.

I have been a little surprised that, in the recent debate on electricity, not everyone can remember their school lessons as well as I do. But this is by the bye. We need to reduce our reliance on coal. This is particularly important in South Australia, given that we are not blessed with high-grade coal.

The government wants to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and has set a target of reducing the use of electricity in government buildings by 15 per cent by 2010. Starfish Hill has been estimated to avoid 2.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases over its life. The government is also leading by example by converting a significant part of its electricity contract with AGL to renewable energy to be sourced from Starfish Hill. This contract amounts to about 6.4 per cent of the government's total electricity consumption.

The project developers, Tarong Energy—the Queensland government owned electricity generation corporation—put great effort into community consultation and working with the South Australian government to make the wind farm a success. From the very beginning of the project, it has sought to do the right thing by the local community and the environment, and for the greater good of South Australia.

Mr Acting Speaker, I know that you were not a member of the house when we engaged in the sad debate on the sale of ETSA, but at that time one of the issues that particularly concerned me was that the sale would limit—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Caica):** Order!

**Ms THOMPSON:**—the ability of the people of South Australia to participate in some of the greenhouse gas

emission initiatives and to be entrepreneurial in the establishment of new forms of energy.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mawson will remain silent.

**Ms THOMPSON:** What we hear now is that Queensland, where the government has been wise enough to maintain ownership of its electricity assets, is investing in South Australia to help us meet some of those targets that we need to meet. So, on this occasion I am very pleased to thank Queensland for being more wise than we were and helping us with our issues. I am sad that my words that this would be a barrier to our doing these things ourselves have so rapidly proven to be the case.

We also worked with the Danish company, NEG Micon, which is to be congratulated on the building of the wind farm. Another important player was the Yankalilla council, whose support was really crucial to getting the project up and running. The council was proactive and supportive of this wind farm project. It provided input, and its people were always accessible. I am sure we are all very pleased that this has been the way in which our first wind farm has got off the ground, with the help of a cooperative council and excellent local consultation.

The consortium involved in bringing this project to fruition has set the standard in community consultation and has chosen a site where there will be minimal environmental and community impact. The wind farm has generated about 160 South Australian jobs during the design and construction phase. More than \$25 million in contracts were awarded to South Australian companies. Once again, this shows the value of having innovative environmental projects based in our state.

Air Ride Technologies built the Starfish Hill towers and then secured further work during the internal fit-out of the towers, adding an additional \$1 million to the original \$6 million contract. This company was recently awarded the contract to supply the towers for the Lake Bonney wind farm—and I am pleased to see the development of that part of the country. I saw quite a bit of the towers as they travelled in bits and pieces through my electorate, and I should really thank all the motorists who cooperated during that time, and also the police, who took the lead in ensuring the safety of people on our roads. Quite massive pieces of equipment were transported through the southern suburbs.

Another organisation involved in the project was Rota Pro, which made the plastic tower dampers for the project and which has gone on to win a national contract to supply tower dampers for all NEG Micon towers in Australia. Consolidated Power won the \$3 million contract for electrical infrastructure, and Flight Brothers built the meteorology masts. ETSA Utilities designed and constructed the 25-kilometre transmission line linking the wind farm to the Yankalilla substation. The project brought forward ETSA Utilities' plans for upgrading the line by six years, and represents the first phase of improving the security and quality of supply for the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

SDS Ausminco provided the largest all terrain mobile crane in South Australia to lift the 23 wind towers and turbines into place. Overall, 14 South Australian based companies won work totalling more than \$25 million for many elements of the wind farm project. The local firms actively involved in the project will have developed new skills and expertise in this green energy industry, which will

put them in a strong position to bid for other similar work, not only in South Australia but also interstate.

I know that discussion about wind farms causes community angst. People are worried about the impact that will have on their views, and they are also worried about the noise that might be emitted. When there was first talk about wind towers in the south, although I knew that it was unlikely that any would be based in the Reynell electorate, I knew they would be in the south, so I took the opportunity to inspect one of the early wind farm developments in Albany in Western Australia. I found the towers (which are the same as those at Starfish Hill) quite magnificent as a spectacle. I have long been a fan of all windmills. My hobby, when travelling in the country, is to count the number of windmills I see.

Windmills are part of the Australian tradition, and I really like them. I have also been enchanted by the tradition of the Dutch windmills. Having these great magnificent towers with their rotating blades on our landscape is different. But, to me, it seems that the landscapes on which they are being placed have long been degraded; they are not the traditional Australian scrub and bush that was there to start with. So, this built structure is just another part of our use of that land.

Of course, we seek community consultation and sensitivity from firms that are looking to erect wind farms. But I certainly seek to assure community members that the wind farms do not intrude horribly into the view. In fact, the Albany wind farm is quite magnificent—it is set in a little vale—and the Starfish Hill one is unlikely to be seen by many people at all, even though it is quite magnificent. The Albany wind farm has become quite a tourist attraction, and the sound was not at all intrusive. When I have said that the sound up close is not a problem, people have said to me that it is when one is at a distance of half a kilometre or a kilometre that it becomes a problem. I was walking through an area those sorts of distances away, and I simply could not hear the wind farms at all. It is something different, and some people fear them. But I urge people to go down now and look at Starfish Hill, and take comfort in the fact that they are magnificent structures and are not intrusive.

All the issues about impact on bird life, and so on, have been studied both here and overseas. There are no major problems in relation to this area, and we need to embrace this form of energy development so that we can reduce our reliance on non-renewable energy. It is an important initiative for our community to see Starfish Hill established. It will be an important initiative to see many other wind farms established, and I am sure other members will want to comment on the likelihood of wind farms in their area and the importance of them to that community, but perhaps a little about the anxiety that some community members feel. I am very pleased to commend the government and all those involved in working through this first process and hope that there will be many more to come.

**Dr McFETRIDGE** secured the adjournment of the debate.

**SANTIC, Mr T.**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I move:

That this house congratulates Mr Tony Santic and his team for the fantastic win by Makybe Diva in the 2003 Melbourne Cup.

The win by Mr Tony Santic's horse, Makybe Diva, in the 2003 Melbourne Cup is possibly the highest point in the cup's racing history in South Australia. I congratulate Tony,

his trainer David Hall, jockey Glen Boss, and all the stable team who had a hand in this great win. The background to this win would make a compelling film, and I acknowledge the media, particularly *The Advertiser*, *Port Lincoln Times* and the ABC, for much of the information I have found.

Tony, who was born on the small island of Lastova between Croatia and Italy, came to Australia with his family in 1958 when he was six. His parents worked at Geelong in Victoria before moving to Port Lincoln, where they fished commercially for 30 years.

Tony started with a leaky boat fishing for the prized orange roughie in Tasmania, then gained initial success in tuna fishing at Port Lincoln. Times were exceedingly tough in the early 1990s, when tuna quotas were reduced twice, sending a number of related businesses into financial hardship and shutting down others. It was a struggle for Tony to prevent the bank evicting him, his wife and their five children from their Port Lincoln home only 12 years ago. Tuna farming turned around the economics of tuna fishing about seven years ago, thus reversing the fortunes of the Santic family. Now Tony's Tuna International is the second biggest tuna farming operation in Port Lincoln.

With better times in the tuna industry, in 1997, Tony decided to pursue his interest in horses and racing, which, at first, was just a hobby but is now a business. The colours of his forebears' countries gave him the colours for his livery—royal blue and white stars and red and white checks.

Tony went to New Zealand to buy a mare. However, he came home with 30 horses, and it has gone on from there. Now he has 60 horses either racing or preparing to race, and 50 mares in foal. Makybe Diva came from England, where Tony bought an in-foal brood mare called Tugela at the Tattersall sale. The subsequent foal, a filly, failed to attract a bid at Newmarket, so Tony decided to bring her to Australia and eventually sent her to David Hall. Tony asked his staff at his Port Lincoln office to name the foal. The women took the first two letters of each of their Christian names and Makybe Diva was born—thanks to Maureen Dellar, Kylie Bascomb, Belinda Groske, Dianne Tonkin and Vanessa Parthenis.

Tony's base for his horse racing business is Smytzer's Park near Geelong in Victoria. The name 'Smytzer' owes a lot to Australian humour. The story goes that fellow fisherman Sime Sarin working with Tony on a tuna poling boat in the early days of tuna fishing coined the name for Tony's car, an old Valiant Pacer or Bitzer, hence 'Smytzer'. Former bookmaker and Port Lincoln business man, Ron Forster, introduced Tony to Morphettville trainer, Joe Hall, which, in turn, led to Joe's son David. Tony's introduction to the Hall family has forged a friendship that is more than a business operation. David was engaged in 1997 as Tony's principal trainer, although this is not the first connection that the Hall family has with Eyre Peninsula and horses.

David's uncle, Ron Hall, trained horses for Bill Schlink, who owned a horse stud on Glenross, a station property near Elliston (and not far from my home town of Lock on Eyre Peninsula) from the 1920s to the late 1950s. Bill's yearlings topped the Adelaide sales in 1942, 1944 and 1948. Chatham was one of Bill's notable horses. Chatham's win in the Australian Jockey Club's Doncaster Handicap carrying 10.4 stone (about 65.5 kg) on a heavy track and having lost six lengths at the start is generally considered to be the best mile performance of all time at Randwick.

David Hall was born into a racing family and he loved it. It was always his ambition to train racehorses, so it is not

surprising that Bart Cummings was his idol. David's skill as a trainer is shown in Makybe Diva's win in the 2003 Melbourne Cup. The horse was being prepared for this race for the past 12 months, just an insight into the long and detailed preparation that goes into champion horses. Understanding horses at this level is something that is innate, not acquired. Then there is the amazing story of jockey Glen Boss's recovery from an injury that could have left him a quadriplegic. Glen suffered what looked to be a harmless fall shortly after the start of a race in Macau in June 2002, but he soon realised that something was not right. He broke the C2 vertebra in his neck and was only three millimetres away from being paralysed from the neck down. He was lucky that one of the best neurosurgeons in the world was in Macau at the time. Glen was put in a halo brace that he had to wear for three months, staging a complete recovery and returning to riding in four months, instead of the 18 months that the doctors originally predicted. Glen had his choice of the two best fancied David Hall runners in the cup, selecting Makybe Diva over Pentastic.

Tony Santic's Melbourne Cup win, which has brought Port Lincoln, Eyre Peninsula and South Australia into the world's focus, is another victory in a long line for Port Lincoln. Last month (October 2003), Port Lincoln High School drew world attention during the World Solar Cycle Challenge. The school team, Yurno, was the first Australian across the line, the winner of its section and fourth overall in the world behind three international entries. In August, *The Australian* newspaper put Port Lincoln at the top of the list of boom towns in Australia.

Talking about the Melbourne Cup brings to mind that Kerrin McEvoy from Streaky Bay rode Brew to win the 2000 Melbourne Cup. At the time, most of us thought that this would not be beaten by a South Australian.

Tony has acknowledged in one of his interviews that it is also timely to remember the magnificent feat of Dean Lukin in winning a gold medal in weight-lifting at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Yesterday (12 November 2003), the City of Port Lincoln honoured Tony Santic with a public reception at which he was given the keys to the city. Tony is only the third person to be honoured in this way, the other two being Dean Lukin for the Commonwealth and Olympic gold medal wins and Sarah Kelly for being awarded a Rhodes scholarship. Tony's generosity and pride were evident in the easy-going manner in which he signed autographs and allowed everyone who wanted to do so to touch the Melbourne Cup, which in itself is quite a valuable item.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I was not there, unfortunately. I was sad that, as parliament was sitting, I was not able to be present to enjoy the fun and witness a historic event. It gives me much pleasure and also pride to move this motion congratulating Tony Santic and his team for winning the 2003 Melbourne Cup with Makybe Diva.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Urban Development and Planning):** I rise also to offer my congratulations to Tony Santic and his team for the fantastic win by Makybe Diva in the 2003 Melbourne Cup.

*Ms Rankine interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I didn't have my money on it, so I have fixed feelings about the win. I suppose as gambling minister I should not be owning up to that, but I think it is one day on which I am permitted to have a small flutter along with the rest of the nation. I also offer a different

perspective on this. Port Lincoln is a wonderful town, and the member for Flinders is very privileged to represent such an interesting part of the world. This win represents almost the pinnacle of achievement in a particular line of endeavour, that is, sporting achievements. It reflects the fantastic success that a number of immigrant South Australians have had in the business, and this is just a further success for them. Mr Santic's success, along with a range of other people in the industry, in particular the aquaculture industry in this part of South Australia, is reflective of the richness of their culture and the richness of the endeavour and contribution that immigrants have made to South Australia. I recall other notable contributors to the local industry, including Mr Hagan Stehr, and I am sure there are a range of others who have made tremendous achievements and contributions to their local communities in Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula and, indeed, to the South Australian economy.

This win really reflects the success of people who have come to this country. In many cases, they have built up quite substantial business enterprises through their own endeavours. If you look at each of these people you see that they had extremely humble beginnings. They have had to build themselves up from next to nothing and many of them have had quite difficult business careers, where they have had quite substantial setbacks. It is wonderful to see them experiencing this success. For me, although it is only a horse race, this victory is also reflective of the tremendous contribution and success of immigrant South Australians coming to this country, enriching themselves and the rest of us through their contributions.

Motion carried.

### HEALTH CARE AGREEMENT

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** I move:

That this house notes that the Australian Health Care Agreement 2003 to 2008, presented by the Prime Minister to the states and territories, is inadequate to meet the increasing costs of providing public hospital services, fails to commit financially to health reform and will result in a cut of \$75 million for South Australian public health services.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms RANKINE:** It is a disgrace, as the member for Enfield says. In August this year Australian states and territories were forced into signing a new five year Australian Health Care Agreement for 2003 to 2008 that will neither sustain public hospital services nor deliver the urgent reform needed to underpin Australia's health care system. Unfortunately, the refusal by the Prime Minister to negotiate adequate funding and reform measures as part of the next five year health agreement will have serious consequences for our public hospitals. The Prime Minister wrote to the Premier on 3 April, setting out the commonwealth's offer. The Prime Minister made it clear. He said to the states and territories, 'Here is our offer that is \$1 billion less than for public hospitals than was previously budgeted by the commonwealth, and you can take it or leave it.'

**The Hon. J.W. Weatherill:** On a \$7 billion surplus.

**Ms RANKINE:** Yes. The offer went further. The Prime Minister said, 'If you don't sign, we will punish you even further.' If South Australia did not sign, we would cop a penalty of \$15 million and a total of \$246 million over five years. That really puts into perspective the level of Liberal support for public hospitals.

**The ACTING SPEAKER: (Dr McFetridge):** I am sorry to interrupt the member. Please continue.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms RANKINE:** Some people come into this house—unlike the member for Mawson—with a sense of genuineness. We have certainly heard this morning the commitment to public health that the member for Morphett has, so I would not be quite so glib, if I were the member for Mawson.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. As the house is aware, we are very genuine on this side. I draw your attention to standing order 98 regarding relevance to the motion and point out that there is an enormous digression by the member for Wright for political purposes.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! I understand the member's point of order and ask the member for Wright to continue her remarks.

**Ms RANKINE:** Thank you, sir. Would the member for Mawson like me to repeat the comment that he made? In fact, he reflected on you, sir, and said that you did not mean your apology. I would have thought the point of order should come from this side of the table and he should be apologising to you. After receiving this ultimatum, all state and territory ministers met on two occasions to discuss the new agreement with the then federal Minister for Health and Ageing, and on both occasions Senator Patterson failed to attend. The commonwealth minister refused to discuss with the states the quantum of funding and refused to include in the new five year agreement the reform measures that the commonwealth had been jointly developing with the states through the Council of Australian Health Ministers.

South Australia will receive \$75 million less than we would have received, had the old five year health agreement been rolled over. That is \$15 million a year, the equivalent of closing the Port Pirie Hospital or funding over 30 000 patients through our metropolitan hospitals. While the federal Liberal government claims that funds are indexed to increase Australia-wide by 17 per cent over five years, that is less than half the rate at which the costs of our public hospitals are increasing—less than half. In South Australia, commonwealth funding for our public hospitals will increase by 14.5 per cent over five years. We do not even make the 17 per cent Australian average figure, and that is less than 3 per cent per annum.

I particularly want to highlight how both federal and state Liberal members of parliament campaigned in support of the commonwealth position against the state argument for more support for our public hospitals. In my own area, the federal member for Makin, Trish Draper, sent out a circular telling electors that the public hospitals are the responsibility of state governments but the federal government had offered the South Australian government \$3.5 billion over five years to run them. It sounds too good to be true, does it not? These statements were designed to confuse people into thinking the commonwealth had no responsibility for public hospitals and was acting as a fairy godmother. Nothing is further from the truth. Instead of fighting for a fair deal for South Australia, the member for Makin defended the commonwealth's offer. The member for Makin did not tell the electors the whole story.

**The Hon. J.W. Weatherill:** Sold out!

**Ms RANKINE:** Sold out. She put Liberal Party politics ahead of her own state; she put Liberal Party politics ahead of the people she represents, the people who are reliant on our public hospitals. I also put on record the support of the

shadow minister for health for the commonwealth's position. Just one day after the Prime Minister wrote to the Premier with his not-negotiable offer, the member for Finnis was on television and radio talkback demanding we sign up. The shadow minister argued it was a good deal, even though it cut the 1998 agreement which, in turn, he had complained to a Senate committee as the minister for human services at the time, had cut \$628 million from the states. This is what the shadow minister told the Senate references committee on 23 February 2000 about indexation in the old agreement:

I think the figure is potentially as high as \$628 million that will be lost to the public hospitals, to the states and territory governments, over the life of the present agreement.

The former minister gave evidence, complaining that the old agreement would cut \$628 million from the states, but now he is arguing that a further cut of \$75 million to South Australia is a good deal. On 29 April 2003, just five days after the shadow minister waded in, the Prime Minister admitted that the \$10 billion increase he had announced was actually a cut of \$1 billion. A report in the national media on 29 April 2003 stated:

John Howard confirmed yesterday that the states would receive \$1 billion less in funding for public hospitals than was previously budgeted for by the commonwealth, saying the shortfall reflected the shift towards private facilities.

Our public hospitals are working at capacity and cuts by the federal Liberal government are simply going to hurt families. It makes no sense.

*The Hon. J.W. Weatherill interjecting:*

**Ms RANKINE:** That is not to mention, as the minister said, what they are doing to Medicare. It makes no sense, and it makes no sense that, just like the member for Makin, the member for Finnis supported the commonwealth's position rather than supporting a fair deal for South Australian public hospitals.

The other issue ignored by the commonwealth's offer for a new agreement was the need to reform our health system, and you, Mr Acting Speaker, spoke about that earlier, as I mentioned. The need for reform is supported by a wide coalition of organisations including the Australian Consumers Association, the Australian Council of Social Service, the Australian Medical Association, Catholic Health Australia, Australian Medical Officers Association, the Australian Nursing Federation, the Rural Health Alliance and the Royal College of Physicians, to name a few. However, the Prime Minister and his federal health minister both refuse to embrace a new era of cooperation for reform through the health agreement for the next five years.

In effect, all these organisations support the need for reform; the South Australian government wants to reform the health system; and the community wants it reformed. It is supported by everyone but the federal government and those on the other side of this house. It was put to Mr Howard that, because the federal Liberal government was not adequately funding aged care, many elderly people could be better cared for in nursing homes rather than taking up hospital beds. He was also told of other major problems in our hospitals, such as emergency departments being used by people who could and should use a GP. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister was not interested in reforming health care and its funding system and it was an opportunity lost. It is a pity the shadow minister for health decided not to help us convince the Prime Minister that major changes are needed in the way the whole health care system in this country works.

Over the last two years, the South Australian government has increased its own expenditure on hospitals by \$92.65 million, while at the same time the commonwealth's increase has been \$77.4 million. While the commonwealth could not commit to match state growth, the state government is getting on with the job of rebuilding our hospitals and employing more nurses, an issue that the former minister for health and members opposite ignored, so now we have a nursing shortage that has reached a crisis situation. This government is getting on with the job of serving South Australians and employing more nurses throughout our hospitals.

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms RANKINE:** We have also included \$220 million to rebuild the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Lyell McEwin hospital. With the previous government all we saw was announcement after announcement, with no money. They have talked about it, they are big on words and they did nothing. The redevelopments were announced repeatedly, with no money. We have allocated \$52 million to increase the number of beds in our hospitals, \$34 million for mental health reforms, \$30 million for extra intensive care, \$26.8 million for extra nurses, \$9.5 million for extra elective surgery, and \$8 million to reduce dental waiting lists, but this is just a start. Through the Generational Health Review, the government is developing a reform package for the next 20 years. Our health reforms will deliver better hospitals, better health services and ultimately better health for all South Australians.

The failure of the federal Liberal government to embrace the opportunity presented by the new health care agreement for sustainable funding and reform is an opportunity lost that will make the task of reform in South Australia that much harder. It is a position that should be rejected by every member of this house if they care for those whom they are elected to represent. I urge all members in this chamber to support the motion.

**Mr RAU (Enfield):** This is one of the most important motions that has been debated here for some time, and I congratulate the member for Wright because she has lifted the tone of the debate in this chamber considerably. Instead of talking about football, cricket and tennis, we are talking about an issue that affects everyone in our electorates. It is very important. The point which the honourable member makes, and which is so important, is about the buck-passing that has been going on, where the federal government has a notice in front of its desk, a bit like Harry Truman used to have, which says, 'The buck stops here.' It sure does! It stops right there: not one buck gets out of here. They keep all the money and they pass on all the blame. It is a terrific game. 'You get the blame, we keep the money.' Big deep pockets, short arms. That is what we have got in Canberra. Big deep pockets and very, very short arms.

I cannot wait for the next federal election. I am very excited about it because the member for Makin is one of those people whom I look forward to seeing out on the hustings explaining why our public hospitals (and she has a few in her electorate) do not work. I would be interested to hear why the member for Makin, with her great big pockets and very short arms, is not doing anything about it. Why is she doing nothing about it? What about the other members?

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I rise on a point of order. I ask for your ruling, sir, on the attack on the member for Makin, who



is not in here to protect herself. The point is: what is Labor going to do? Nothing!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I appreciate the member's interest in the member for Enfield's contribution but I ask him to be aware of the time.

**Mr RAU:** Perhaps I should clarify my comments about the member for Makin. I was not reflecting so much on the length of her arms as the depth of her pockets because she, like the rest of them, has these great bulging pockets full of gold coin that they have ripped out of the tax system. It is the biggest taxing government of all time. It makes every government, state or federal, since the Book of Genesis look like amateurs on taxing. This mob are into your pocket every time you do anything. There is the big hand coming out of the pocket.

Debate adjourned.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2 p.m.]

### SHINE PROGRAM

A petition signed by 1 134 electors of South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to immediately withdraw the trial of the sexual health and relationship education program, developed by SHINE, from all 14 participating schools, pending professional assessment and endorsement, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Kotz.

Petition received.

### MEMBERS' INTERESTS

**The SPEAKER:** I lay on the table the Register of Members' Interests statement for June 2003.

Ordered to be published.

### QUESTION ON NOTICE

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the written answer to question No. 55 on the Notice Paper be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Alexandrina Council—Report 2002-03—Pursuant to Section 131 of the Local Government Act 1999

By the Minister for Infrastructure (Hon. P.F. Conlon), for the Attorney-General (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)—

Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council (LPEAC)—Report 2002-03

By the Minister for Social Justice (Hon. S.W. Key)—

Guardianship Board of South Australia—Report 2002-03

By the Minister for Transport (Hon. M.J. Wright)—

Passenger Transport Board—Report 2002-03  
TransAdelaide—Report 2002-03

By the Minister for Tourism (Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith), on behalf of the Minister for Environment and Conservation (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee—Report 2002-03  
Coast Protection Board—Report 2002-03  
Environment and Heritage, Department for—Report 2002-03  
General Reserves Trust 2002-03—Report 2002-03

Soil Conservation Council, South Australian—Report 2002-03

State Water Plan 2000, Progress in Implementing the—  
Report 2002-03 Report

By the Minister for Tourism (Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith), on behalf of the Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

Windmill Performing Arts Company—Report 2002-03.

### FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Industry, Trade and Regional Development):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Members will recall that in a motion of Thursday 3 April 2003 the house requested the government to prepare and publish a report on the proposed free trade agreement with the United States. In response to this request, in May 2003 I approved the engagement by the Department for Business, Manufacturing and Trade of the Allen Consulting Group to undertake an independent review and report on the potential economic, social and environmental impact on this state of the proposed Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement.

The Allen Consulting Group review has now been completed, and I seek today to table the report. The report focuses primarily on economic impacts of the Australia-US FTA on South Australia on the basis of both qualitative and quantitative analyses. The report's quantitative analysis is based on economic modelling as a measure of forecasting the impact at a national, state and regional level, and on different industry sectors, of a number of free trade agreement scenarios. In considering the report's conclusions and recommendations, members should bear in mind the limitations of economic modelling as an analytical tool. The report itself notes that the model used in this study is:

... an abstraction, reflecting changes mechanistically and may overlook complex real world factors such as marketing and investment plans of global companies that may exert an opposite influence.

The key limitation of any review of an Australia-US FTA potential impact on the state is, however, that the proposed agreement is still under negotiation. There is considerable uncertainty about what the agreement's final form and coverage might be.

Keeping all the limitations in mind, I believe some of the report's findings and conclusions are useful and instructive. Overall, based on the modelling forecasts, the report concludes that South Australia is likely to experience an expansion of economic activity as a result of an Australia-US FTA. The increase in state output over forecast periods has a real present-day value of between \$218 million and \$362 million, which is forecast to be the equivalent of an additional \$56 million per year in this state's economy. Not unexpectedly, Mr Speaker—and I am glad that at least you are showing some interest in this ministerial statement—the Allen Consulting study also concluded that there are likely to be gains and losses in different state industry groups and between regions of the state.

The AUSFTA is seen as likely to impact favourably upon primary production, agriculture-based goods, certain manufacturing goods and services. However, the study indicates that motor vehicles and parts are expected to face reductions in output compared to the study baseline levels.

I note that this study finding sits at odds with the generally optimistic outlook held in relation to the agreement by the South Australian motor vehicle industry itself, and may be more a reflection of the limitations of economic modelling than the reality of the motor vehicle industry's outlook under the Australia-US FTA.

In tabling this report I note that it is only one of a number of sources of advice and information the government will have before it, in determining its position on the Australia-US FTA. The government has already had the benefit of a range of views from different industries and community sectors. In general, the industry sees major opportunities in the FTA, providing it is struck on terms that are fair and equitable to Australian farmers, manufacturers and other industries. Members may be aware that, in my capacity as state minister responsible for trade matters, I will be hosting in Adelaide next week the national Trade Consultation Ministerial Meeting, which is to be attended by the commonwealth minister for trade and all other state and territory trade ministers. The report I am tabling today will take into account, in the ongoing ministerial discussions, the current status and potential impact of the proposed free trade agreement with the US on each of the states and territories.

Finally, I confirm that over coming weeks the government intends to continue its wide ranging consultation with state industry and with community groups in order to ensure that we properly understand the potential impacts, and hence are in a position to emphasise to the commonwealth the need to avoid risk and maximise advantage to South Australia and the nation. In particular, the government will seek recognition and continuation of the debate of policy certainty and commitment given by the commonwealth to the motor vehicle industry. Equally importantly, we will also be seeking to ensure that South Australia is in a position to maximise the benefits from the Australia-US FTA by developing specific export strategies to assist South Australian firms to realise the trade and investment opportunities that will arise from the agreement.

The South Australian government supports in principle the free trade agreement with the United States that meets the test of providing genuine and fair access by Australian companies from all sectors of the economy to the US market in a realistic and reasonable time frame. In addition, the agreement must not compromise Australia's ability to set its own social priorities and goals. I believe an agreement which will meet these tests will be in South Australia's best interests.

## QUESTION TIME

### PORT ADELAIDE BRIDGES

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light):** My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure. Will the minister assure the house that the government will honour its commitment, made by the Treasurer, to build opening bridges at Port Adelaide, and explain why agencies are actively seeking support for closed bridges despite the government's stated commitment?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Infrastructure):** Usually, one can rely on a question having some sort of strange explanation from the opposition, but none is offered here—just the allegation that agencies are trying to seek support for closed bridges. The government's commitment was made clear by the Deputy Premier and the Premier. It

was based on keeping the commitment made by the previous government. Our options were—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** We will bring that back and show it to the house. I know that when the opposition was in government it operated in silos and kept secrets from each other. We got to know more about it than the opposition ever knew about it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I rise in a point of order. This is a very serious question. Sir, I draw your attention to standing order 98 about specifics, relevance and answering the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The honourable minister will address the substance of the question.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Thank you, sir. There is no doubt that there are a lot of people out there, including many of the opposition's natural constituents, who are now campaigning for closed bridges. I was on *Stateline* earlier today explaining how you cannot satisfy everyone. The announcement has been made, a tender is going out early next year and we are keeping the commitment made by the previous government.

### SHARE PROGRAM

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood):** Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services advise, in the light of today's media comment on the increase in the number of HIV cases in South Australia, if the government has received from the health sector any feedback on the SHARE program?

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** The SHARE program is a sexual health and relationships education program currently being trialled in 15 of our public high schools. I have had several pieces of written correspondence from health groups and associations, all (and I repeat 'all') indicating support for the program. These include the Department of Public Health; the School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University; the Board of Directors, Adelaide Central Community Health Service; the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of South Australia; the Department of Psychological Medicine, Women's and Children's Hospital; the Royal College of Nursing; the Public Health Association of South Australia; Yarrow Place, the rape and sexual assault centre; and a number of prominent medical practitioners involved in adolescent health.

Indeed, the chair of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), the council of general practice, wrote to me on 8 August this year, under the title, 'Support of the SHARE project conducted by SHINE SA', to say:

This program has been developed on a strong evidence base and has been very well researched. Along with planned continual evaluation, we feel that this program will enhance the sexual health education that is currently being provided by schools in accordance with the curriculum framework set by the Department of Education and Children's Services.

Following receipt of that letter, I received several threats and warnings, warning me not to disclose the contents of that letter from the AMA. Today, I can report that I have received a second letter from the AMA. Rather than from the council of general practice, this letter was written on behalf of the executive of the AMA of South Australia, under the hand of the Chief Executive Officer. It states, in part:

The executive of the AMA at its meeting yesterday resolved to support the view of the AMA Council of General Practice (South Australia) that the program be endorsed as medically appropriate.

Indicating its support for the program and the basis on which it made that assessment, it includes an assessment by Dr Jureidini, the head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at the Women's & Children's Hospital, and says of him:

Dr Jureidini is an eminent doctor in the area of children's psychology and he was asked to respond to a number of questions which had been posed to us through various inquiries. It was felt that Dr Jureidini's independence and knowledge on this issue would clarify the concerns raised with us. I have attached, with his approval, a copy of his reply to us.

I table that letter and assessment by Dr Jureidini.

Finally, I have been very disappointed that the member for Bragg moved yesterday to defer her motion on this topic until the very last day of sitting of parliament.

### PORT ADELAIDE BRIDGES

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister advise the house if the delay in a third river crossing bridge at Port Adelaide will cost the government compensatory payments to stakeholders? Transport SA has informed stakeholders and the Farmers Federation that the Port River Expressway will not be completed until 2006, a year later than was planned. Rural media has reported that it may impact on contractual arrangements between stakeholders and Transport SA given that the project will now not be completed in time for the 2005 grain harvest, as was expected until recently.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Infrastructure):** I heard this allegation of a delay for the first time today, and I do not understand it, frankly. There is no delay. Tenders are going out early in the New Year. There was only one delay in this whole parcel of first-rate projects at Outer Harbor, and that was when we came to government. When we came to government we inherited an absolute crock of a deal for a new grain terminal. You would know, sir, representing the people in your electorate, that one of the first things we did, at some risk, was to suspend the operation of legal obligations between ourselves and Flinders Ports to get a better outcome. I think if the member for Schubert was honest and went and asked his own constituents in the grain industry about it, they would know that the steps we took to relocate the terminal from the botched deal of the previous government to Outer Harbor Berth No. 7, I think it is called, is a much better outcome.

**Mr Venning:** I agree.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** And the member for Schubert agrees that it is a much better outcome. In every major infrastructure project, especially ones in which you inherit a bad deal from a previous government, one has to do a lot of work to get it done properly because you are spending hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money. That is what we did with the Outer Harbor terminal. It now gives us an opportunity to undertake, at some expense, a study into deepening the entirety of the Outer Harbor, which is a first-rate outcome for South Australia. So, we did not mind encountering that delay to get that opportunity. We have no complaints about the speed at which we are proceeding by the major stakeholders, and I do not expect any.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a supplementary question. Why, if there is no delay, as

the minister just told the house, were stakeholders yesterday informed that there was a delay until 2006?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I will check the specific material to which the member refers. That has not been said to me. I am sure that the member misconstrues it. If the opposition really wants to pursue this, we could talk about just what delays there have been. As I said, the delays have been through fixing a botched tack-on to their botched ports privatisation deal. If they really want to talk about delays, if they want to talk about damaging the interests of shareholders out there—

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Sir, I rise on a point of order. This is a very serious question, and the minister is deliberately dodging it. As I said, stakeholders were informed yesterday that there has been a delay.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. Might I point out to the house that all questions are serious questions.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I make the point again that I think the grain growers in this state are fortunate that there was a change of government at the last election, because even the member for Schubert will tell you that they now have a much better deal in the interests of this state and the interests of grain growers.

### ENERGY MINISTER

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens):** My question is directed to the Minister for Energy. Given the focus in recent days on delays in ministerial responses, does the minister have any concerns about the timeliness of responses given by the office of the Minister for Energy in recent years?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy):** Sir, I—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I ask you to rule on what responsibility the minister has for responses to correspondence over recent years before he was in the job.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Bright does not have a point of order. The chair has no recollection of the word 'correspondence' being used by the member for West Torrens in the course of his asking the question.

**Mr BRINDAL:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday, you gave a very interesting ruling whereby you quoted from Erskine May about history not being relevant to this house. I ask whether the ruling you made yesterday is relevant to the question that was asked today.

**The SPEAKER:** I am listening. The ruling made by the chair yesterday does not affect the orderliness or otherwise of the question that has been asked by the member for West Torrens. Depending on how the minister answers, there may be a questionable aspect of order.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Thank you, sir. To assist in advance, it seems to me that, as suggested by you on previous occasions, it is perfectly orderly to make comparisons between what has occurred in the past for the sake of illustrating the factual circumstance that obtains at the present. After all the concerns about the timeliness of ministerial responses, I thought that the responsible thing to do would be to look at my own office. I can say, as I look back over it, that there are some things I would prefer to have done more quickly. I am ever vigilant to improve the speed of response. What I found was that, the further back I went,

the greater the problems became. I refer to a minute from the former minister in August 2001, in terms of the timeliness of a response to his own premier regarding a letter dated 27 October 2000, which was something like nine, 10 or 11 months earlier. In making an explanation to the premier about what had occurred, he said, 'The correspondence was misplaced in my office and has only now been found. Please accept my apology for this oversight'.

**An honourable member:** You hypocrite!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Also in August 2001, the former minister had to send a minute to the Minister for Water Resources concerning a letter that he received on 7 November 2000 from the member for Goyder, John Meier. He had an explanation as to why that one was late. He said that the correspondence was lost within the Department of Primary Industries and Resources and has only now been found. Then in December 2000, in explaining again to the Premier why he had not been able to answer something for six months, his little handwritten note says, 'I apologise for the delay in this response. The file was misplaced.' Also in December 2000, again explaining why he had not answered anything since July 2000, the little note says, 'Premier, the file had been misplaced and was found during a search.' As I read these letters, the words of Lady Bracknell—

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am unable to ascertain where the responsibility lies with this minister to deal with matters of correspondence from other people some years ago outside this minister's responsibility. Will you please rule on that?

**The SPEAKER:** I am curious to see whether there is any connection between practices prior to the current minister's becoming minister and the practices that are now undertaken within the office of the minister to rectify such faults. I did not hear the commencement of the answer as I was otherwise distracted. The chair makes the observation that the problem has probably been sufficiently illustrated and, if there has not been a solution to it, the minister might move on and allow question time to proceed.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** The reason I have raised this—and I will not raise any more, although I can assure the house that there are a few more—is to say that, in comparison—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Bright and the member Mawson for the second and third time.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I have used it as instructive to try to improve the systems and to try to ensure that, in the new office for the Minister for Energy, we do not lose as many things. We have often used literary quotes in the Westminster system to illustrate a factual circumstance, and ringing in my head as I read this series of lost letters were the words of Lady Bracknell—and I will paraphrase them—'To lose one piece of correspondence may be regarded as a misfortune: to lose them year after year after year looks like carelessness.' One assumes, bearing in mind the rate at which the former minister lost items of correspondence, that he could stop Phar Lap. However, we have learnt from it. We have put systems in place—not to lose quite so many items of correspondence—regarding the matters which have been raised this year, and I refer to the countless unanswered questions in the previous parliament and an FOI request made by the former premier in March 1998 which had not been answered when we came to government in 2002. In regard to all that, in making a comparison, before one gives regard to

the mote in a neighbour's eye, one should consider the beam in one's own.

## HEALTH, REGIONAL SERVICES

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister for Health. What action is the minister taking to overcome the crisis in medical services in most country regions as claimed by the President of the Australian Medical Association in South Australia? In the November edition of the *Journal of the Australian Medical Association*, the state President said:

My recent visits to the South-East, Riverland, and Mid North regions. . . have shown me that most of our country regions are in crisis, particularly with loss of resident surgeons, obstetricians, and procedural general practitioners. . . the perception of the resident medical specialists. . . and the AMA(SA) is that these medical practitioners are not being valued and that there almost seems to be a hidden campaign to have them resign.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I thank the deputy leader for the question because it is a very important and serious issue in terms of the supply of medical professionals in country areas not only in South Australia but across Australia. Indeed, when I was talking to the new federal Minister for Health (Hon. Tony Abbott) a week or so ago in Canberra, this issue was discussed. Of course, the issues are complex and they require action on a number of fronts.

I have spoken about this on a number of occasions in this house. A whole range of issues are involved: the number of places for medical professionals coming through our universities, the colleges who train our specialists, the federal government's allocation of training and accreditation places, and professional medical indemnity, which is enveloping the country both at a federal and a state level. I say to the deputy leader and to the house that the state government is working assiduously with representatives of doctor organisations such as the AMA, the Rural Doctors Association and the Rural Doctors Work Force Agency to come up with a package for the future in relation to medical indemnity that will provide the certainty required in country South Australia.

Of course, these issues apply not just to medical doctors and specialists but also to dentists and nurses. The previous government fell way behind the pack not only in preparing a comprehensive strategy for nurses but also in other areas of medical professionals. The Generational Health Review also noted the extreme issues facing health services in general in relation to work force shortages. That is something that I will continue to press with my state counterparts, and I will continue to work with the federal government to try to get some comprehensive solutions for the future.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES

**Mr RAU (Enfield):** My question without notice is directed to the Treasurer. What is the government response to the report released today by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies about South Australia's recent economic performance?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer):** I say fortuitously that—thankfully, given the question—I have seen a summary of the report. It is good—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No. What did they say? Are they getting stuck into me? No one can only hope!

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** But I do look forward to reading the PSA report. An important report that was brought down today was the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies quarterly report—at least I assume that it is a quarterly report. It is the October 2003 briefing report, which includes an analysis of the South Australian economy. Overall the report is positive towards economic progress in South Australia. I understand that it identifies some challenges, and that is not unexpected. All governments face economic challenges. It is one's ability to deal with those challenges that determines how one will be measured as an effective government. The government welcomes the report and its commentary on the economy. I quote from the report, as follows:

South Australia's recent performance—  
note 'recent performance'—

is not only strong from a historical perspective, but it is strong relative to the nation as a whole.

That is about the state's recent performance. That is something for which this government can take much credit. The report also states:

The short-term outlook for South Australia is moderately positive due to recent strong growth in aggregate incomes, gains in housing wealth, high levels of consumer confidence, improved business confidence and buoyant trading conditions.

The report goes on to note the following key economic indicators for the state:

State final demand in South Australia has risen by 6.5 per cent over the past year;

SACES says:

South Australian final demand has been rising at a faster pace than domestic final demand for two years now.

So, for the last two years, state final demand has been growing at a faster pace than that for the nation. That is an outstanding performance by this government. Employment growth is up by 3.2 per cent for the year to October 2003. The Centre for Economic Studies states:

The bottom line is that South Australian labour markets have experienced a spectacularly good year, and South Australia's unemployment rate is currently at the same rate as that for Australia as a whole.

It goes on to say—

**Mr Brindal:** It is not!

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The member for Unley says that is wrong. I am quoting from the October report of the Centre for Economic Studies. New business investment in the June 2003 quarter was 28 per cent higher than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, or up by some \$250 million. The report clearly reflects strong confidence in the community in South Australia and, to further quote the Centre for Economic Studies:

The latest business confidence data for the September quarter 2003 show a significant rise in business confidence. This suggests that business investment will remain strong in 2003-04.

That is a good report and a good assessment of the economic performance of this government and this state for the past two years. It certainly identifies challenges and requires that this government remains vigilant, that we require strong budgetary and fiscal management, and that we keep underpinning the economic confidence in this state that ensures that our kids and generations of South Australians have a bright future, thanks to the economic and financial policies of this Labor government.

## HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Minister for Health explain why key performance indicators are falling at the Flinders Medical Centre, including a reduced number of inpatient beds, less urgent and semi-urgent surgery being performed within the period required by national standards, a deterioration in the performance standards for treating emergency patients, longer waiting times for outpatient appointments, and more emergency patients having to wait more than 12 hours for a hospital bed? The annual report of the Flinders Medical Centre shows that this deterioration in services and standards occurred even though there were fewer emergency department attendances.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** Let me begin by saying that this government has put more money into health than has ever been put into health in this state. Nevertheless, our public hospitals continue to operate under considerable pressure, and the Flinders Medical Centre, in particular, has been experiencing considerable pressure, especially over the winter months. The government has been working on this problem. We have opened 146 new beds across the system and—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** More beds than you opened, particularly over the winter. The issue of demand on our public health services is significant, and it is one which the government is addressing. There are increased hospital avoidance programs, work with emergency departments, extra emergency room adjacent to emergency departments, particularly at Flinders Medical Centre, new protocols with mental health patients and the opening of the City Views step-down care beds at Julia Farr, with 36 new beds.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I rise on a point of order. My question was very specific about performance indicators at the Flinders Medical Centre, which have declined. I have asked for an explanation. The minister is outside the Flinders Medical Centre, ranting and raving about other things.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is highly disorderly of the deputy leader to remark in a pejorative fashion on the nature of the material being presented. The chair can only conclude that the minister is excusing the difficulties at Flinders by pointing out that the resources have been allocated elsewhere.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** On the contrary, sir, the issue to which I was referring relates to the opening of a new step-down facility at Julia Farr called City Views. This is an important initiative—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Excuse me, I would like to respond to the Speaker's concern. This project is one result of the partnership between the state government and the commonwealth government to take the pressure off the southern hospitals, and particularly to take the pressure off the Flinders Medical Centre. This is just one of a number of strategies that the state government is employing across the system to deal with particular issues surrounding the Flinders Medical Centre.

## ECOTOURISM

**Mrs MAYWALD (Chaffey):** What is the Minister for Tourism doing to support the development of nature-based tourism in this state? During the 49th parliament, the ERD Committee (of which I was a member) reported on an inquiry

into ecotourism which recognised significant opportunities for nature based tourism.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mrs MAYWALD:** It was a very good committee. This week in my electorate, the Riverland is playing host to the National Ecotourism Conference which will highlight to a national audience nature-based opportunities in this state and the Riverland.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism):** Since the ERD Committee produced its report recognising the opportunities for ecotourism, we have been fortunate to host a major ecotourism conference involving 320 delegates with 2½ days each being spent in Adelaide and the Riverland. This conference, which attracted interstate and overseas delegates, provided opportunities to debate issues within sessions and to go on field trips, particularly in the Riverland, where visitors had the opportunity to visit the Murray River (in kayaks), the Gluepot Reserve and walking trails around Banrock Station. These opportunities combined both commercial activities and industrial use with a Ramsar rated wetland.

This conference was used as an opportunity to release the document to which the member for Chaffey referred, namely, the Responsible Nature-Based Tourism Strategy, which was developed over some months by the Department for Environment and Heritage and Tourism SA. The relationship between these two departments is a relationship made in heaven, because we know that, of all the international visitors to South Australia, 38 per cent come here with the intention of visiting a nature-based resource.

Nature-based tourism in our state provides 1 800 jobs and delivers almost a quarter of a billion dollars worth of income. These are 1999 figures, so obviously, four years on, economic and job creation opportunities are even greater. We also know that 28 per cent of our domestic visitors come to South Australia specifically for nature-based activities. Of the 300 000 international tourists who visit our state each year, two-thirds of them visit a national park. That is well above the national average, where generally about 50 per cent of international tourists visit nature-based resources.

There is obviously significant potential to grow this area of tourism. The Responsible Nature-Based Tourism Strategy outlines a series of opportunities, some of which are about creating new nature-based experiences and others reflect on the opportunity to improve infrastructure both inside and outside our national parks. There is also the opportunity to facilitate new nature-based accommodation, obviously with a tasteful, environmentally friendly design of low impact. We intend to improve the services of our visitor information centres and to make sure that the people who work in them are fully versed in local and statewide opportunities for ecotourism.

Our aim is to develop this area of niche tourism in a responsible and sustainable way. This goes well beyond monitoring; it actually requires us to promote nature-based opportunities. Awareness, advocacy and funds generated by tourism can be used to enhance, protect, conserve and develop in a sustainable way the great resources that we have in our state.

The Department of Environment and Heritage, together with the tourism department, have—in addition to releasing this report to coincide with the ecotourism conference—signed a memorandum of understanding which cements the view that we have to work in partnership. Because it is a true opportunity, and it is a tragedy that the departments have not

worked together previously—in a way, a reflection of the fact that the previous government did not encourage collaborative activity.

### HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is, again, to the Minister for Health. Why has the state government closed neonatal intensive care beds at the Flinders Medical Centre in the past year when the minister gave a specific commitment not to downgrade the neonatal unit? The annual report of the Flinders Medical Centre for 2002-03 shows that the number of neonatal intensive care beds was reduced by 11 per cent.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** Earlier this year the government gave a clear undertaking that neonatal intensive care services at the Flinders Medical Centre would remain to Level 3. That was the commitment, and neonatal intensive care services to that level continue to be available through Flinders Medical Centre, as they are through the Women's and Children's Hospital.

### HEALTH, COUNTRY SUMMIT

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** Would the Minister for Health advise who was represented at the Country Health Summit held on 24 October 2003, and how the outcomes from the summit will influence priorities for health reform in country South Australia?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I thank the member for Torrens for this question, because this government takes the provision of high quality health services to country South Australians very seriously. There were 230 delegates from across country South Australia, with representatives from regional health services, local health authorities, local government, Aboriginal advisory groups, Aboriginal-controlled health services, consumers and carers. Participants deliberated on the recommendations of the Generational Health Review and the government response 'First Steps Forward', and were challenged to consider ways to improve the chances of people being born healthy, growing up healthy, and staying healthy. They were asked to provide specific advice on the improvement of health outcomes for all residents in country South Australia and, especially, for rural and remote indigenous communities.

As you know, Mr Speaker, there has always been a strong spirit of collaboration in country communities, and there is no doubt that the outcomes of this summit will influence priorities for health reform in the country. Community participation and local input into the design and delivery of health services is paramount. Examples were shared and possibilities explored about how existing practice could be built upon and improved. Discussion focused on four targeted population groups: Aboriginal people; the frail aged; children and youth; and people with a mental illness.

The summit participants engaged in robust but constructive discussion about all these issues, and feedback indicated that the event was a great learning environment where ideas could be exchanged and solutions recommended. Ideas from the summit are now being collated and prepared for the summit website, which will include exemplars of award-winning best practice already being undertaken across country South Australia in the area of health reform.

## HOSPITALS, COUNTRY

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Why has the state government forced service cuts upon many country hospitals by funding hospitals well below the inflation and wage increases of last financial year? While inflation and wage increases in the health sector were above 5 per cent during the last financial year, a major number of country hospitals received funding substantially below those increases from the state government's allocations for health services. For example, the Whyalla Hospital received 1.3 per cent increase; the Loxton Hospital, 3.1 per cent increase; Crystal Brook, 2.8 per cent; Port Augusta, 2.1 per cent; and Bordertown in my electorate, nearly 2.7 per cent.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I thank the honourable member for the question. As I answered in relation to a previous question from the deputy leader, this government has put more money into health and country health than the opposition when in government ever did. The government's commitment is clear and, as well as that, the government is proceeding on the most extensive health reform process seen in this state for 30 years.

## BUSHFIRES

**Mr CAICA (Colton):** My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Has the CFS briefed the minister on the latest prognosis for the bushfire season?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Emergency Services):** I thank the member for this question. He has a keen interest in this subject, as a former active firefighter. I notice that the indication from the opposition is that they are not interested.

*Mr Venning interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** There was a suggestion from the member for Schubert I should give a one word answer and sit down, but I think the subject matter is slightly more important than that. I have had a briefing today from the head of the CFS. The situation illustrates the difficulties that our emergency and fire services face in this state with the bushfire risk. Three weeks ago, it was too wet to conduct burn-offs. By tomorrow, the weather will be too extreme to conduct burn-offs. That is the sort of challenge we face. The latest advice is that—

*The Hon. R.G. Kerin interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Apparently, the leader of the opposition knows better than the Country Fire Service. He said it was not too wet to burn. However, for his benefit, I will tell the house that three weeks ago the Chief Officer of the Fire Service took some people out to demonstrate the difficulty of achieving a burn after a rain. Can I indicate to the Leader of the Opposition that October had much higher than average rainfall. The Leader of the Opposition is referring to landholders burning grasses, which is a different material. I want to talk about grasses, because we have seen—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** The opposition is simply not interested. All it is interested in is bad news and dishonest, dissembling attacks on the government. It is not interested in matters of importance to the state. The latest advice is that we have had—

**Mr BRINDAL:** I rise in a point of order. I take objection to the point. I am sitting here trying to listen to the minister

and all he is telling me is that I am not interested. I am interested, and so is the opposition. I think it is wrong that *Hansard* should record this. We are not—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. There is too much audible conversation in the chamber.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Thank you, sir. The latest advice is that we have had higher than average rainfalls in many areas of this state. The opposition would know many of their constituents in rural electorates who are affected by this; I was told by the Grains Council that they are growing grain on the rocks this year, the season has been so good. As a consequence of that, grass—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** The member for MacKillop, who has never achieved anything except switching from one pillar to the other, suggests that I am a goose. As a result of that higher than average rainfall, grass has grown and is exacerbated by a much higher than average rainfall in October. There is grass that is waist deep at the verges, as many members would know because they drive through the rural areas. That grass, I am advised today, is curing as we speak and there is a high risk of grass fires already. That is the danger I have been advised of by the Country Fire Service, and I alert the house to it.

It is difficult to make anything understood to those on the other side, but I am seeking to do so. Their response to the good information I am trying to give them makes me understand why the director of the Liberal Party is advertising in the personal column of the newspaper for new members of parliament: 'We are desperately seeking someone. Anyone.' I am grateful that you have listened, sir. The opposition is incapable of it, but I will not stop trying.

## HOSPITALS, FUNDING

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister explain why the government increased funds for recurrent—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I am waiting until the minister stops interjecting.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister, I am not sure of which portfolio but it was clearly a masculine voice, will not interject during the course of a question from the deputy leader, or any other honourable member.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister explain why the government increased funds for recurrent costs at the Repatriation Hospital by only 0.5 per cent last financial year, and say whether this is the reason why the hospital incurred a loss of \$3.5 million, why total separations reduced last year to the lowest for three years, or why occupied bed days slumped by 7.3 per cent? The federal government increased its funds for hospitals to the state government by 7.3 per cent last year. The minister claimed earlier this year that the health inflator was 7.96 per cent per year. However, the annual report of the Repatriation Hospital shows that the state government increased recurrent funding to the hospital by only 0.5 per cent.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I will get the details of the Repatriation Hospital funding arrangements for the house. Again, I ask everyone to suspend judgment on allegations from the deputy leader because, as we know, time

and again he has in the past overstated or misrepresented. I am very happy to get that information.

There have been a number of questions in relation to health services today from the opposition criticising the government's funding efforts in health, but I want to say to everybody in this house that the issues and the mess that we came upon when we came into government have put an enormous stress—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The deputy leader has a point of order.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Mr Speaker, my question was a very specific question about the budget allocation last financial year to the Repatriation Hospital, as reported in its annual report, and I ask the minister to stick to that question under standing order 98.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is aware of standing order 98.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Yes, I am, Mr Speaker, and I think it is important that people understand the full picture of what has happened in the health portfolio in this state. Part of that picture is the foundation that we inherited at the hands of the deputy leader when we came to government. For instance, when we came to government we found accumulated hospital debts of \$61 million at 30 June 2001 and a forecast blowout of another \$11 million. That is what we have had to deal with. That is the reality.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Mr Speaker, I rise on exactly the same point of order. The minister has again strayed from the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will address the subject of the question without debate. Whilst the minister's remarks may be peripherally relevant, the time needed for the minister to connect them to the specific nature of the inquiry is fast drawing to a close. Has the honourable member concluded her answer?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** Yes.

#### GLENELG TRAM

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens):** My question is directed to the Minister for Transport.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** You should be scared. What are the latest developments in the project to replace the Glenelg tram?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** On 1 November, tenders were released for the supply of nine high technology low floor trams. Tender documents are available on the internet, and I am pleased to report that there is significant international interest. At least three overseas suppliers are represented here in Australia. About 18 months will be required for the manufacture of the trams and subsequent testing. It is still envisaged that the operating date for these nine new trams will be before the end of 2005. In the meantime, work will continue on upgrading the infrastructure as is necessary. There is hope that the project will confirm the future of light rail as a mode of transport that can be further developed to meet future transport needs. I think this is a real opportunity to push that particular area of light rail. In addition, I remind the house that five recently restored H class trams will be retained for heritage tourism operations and special weekends and holiday trips.

#### HOSPITALS, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Will the Minister for Health explain why total admissions—that is, operations—were down at the Women's and Children's Hospital last year, and why outpatient attendances were down by 10 194 episodes, at a time when emergency attendances were also down by 1 382? Was it because the state government failed to match the 7.3 per cent increase in funding received by the federal government? The federal government increased hospital funding to South Australia by 7.3 per cent, but the state government increased recurrent funding to the Women's and Children's Hospital by only 5.9 per cent. The state government did not match the increase in the federal funds.

**The SPEAKER:** I point out to the deputy leader that the last sentence, if I am not mistaken, was an expression of opinion and debate, which is not orderly.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health):** I will obtain the data regarding the specific questions in relation to admissions at the Women's and Children's Hospital. But I would like to point out to the house that our hospitals are doing more work than they have ever done before. For instance, the number of patients requiring admission has increased—

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Sir, I rise on a point of order. I asked a specific question about the reduction in work being carried out at the Women's and Children's Hospital, and I expect a specific answer to that question, under standing order 98.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** On the point of order, sir, the deputy leader included in his question a clear comment of opinion. He inspired the debate himself, and he should not now complain about it.

**The SPEAKER:** The leader of the house makes a point, but it is not an orderly point. It is not lost on me. The deputy leader, equally, makes a point that is not lost on me. If the minister does not have an explicit answer, it is better, in the opinion of the chair, for the minister to say so and find the relevant data and bring it back to the chamber as soon as possible, and not engage in debate.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I am happy to obtain the specifics in relation to the Women's and Children's Hospital but, in relation to federal government funding, which the deputy leader mentioned in his question, I just want to point out to the house—

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Mawson for the final time.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:**—that it was the deputy leader and the Leader of the Opposition who collaborated with the Prime Minister to dud South Australia out of \$75 million over five years in the new Australian health care agreement.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright):** Will the Premier provide details of the independent inquiry into the Essential Service Commissioner's electricity 2003 price fixing decision, including terms of reference and membership of the inquiry panel? During a media conference at Adelaide Airport yesterday, the Premier said:

Mr Owens has put his job on the line. There's going to be an inquiry into what he's done. He's agreed to that inquiry. Some of his fiercest critics are going to be on that inquiry.



**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy):** Sir, what you see today—

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Mr Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I asked a question of the Premier in relation to—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I heard the member's question. The honourable member knows that the cabinet speaks in solidarity; it is a matter for the ministry to decide. The member for Bright will resume his seat.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Sir, can I say what—

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:** Mr Speaker, I rise—

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Bright will resume his seat.

**Mr BRINDAL:** Mr Speaker, perhaps you could help me. I thought the standing orders of this place required that, when any member stands to their feet to take a point of order, the chair hears the point of order. I thought I heard my colleague the member for Bright rise to his feet to take a point of order and he was told to sit down. I ask for your ruling, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Notwithstanding what the member for Unley piously puts to me in this context, can I with equal certainty respond to him by saying that, at times, he stretches the limit and goes beyond in conduct which he knows to be disorderly. The chair does not need the help of the member for Unley, or the member for Bright. The principle is that, if the question addressed to a minister by any honourable member is better answered by another minister in the opinion of the ministry, it shall be at their discretion that the answer is provided. It is not possible under our standing orders in this chamber to nail anyone in the ministry explicitly.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Thank you, sir. What we have seen from the member for Bright this week in asking questions is a pattern of behaviour. Almost every question this week has contained something egregiously and factually incorrect. The only person who has talked about an inquiry into the 2003 price setting by Lew Owens was the member for Bright this morning on radio when he invented it. Let me make absolutely plain, as I have made plain to him so many times, that the price set in 2003 has not been challenged by Dick Blandy, despite the invention earlier in the week. Let me explain what happened again for him. Lew Owens looked at what a prudent retailer would do into the future. He looked at contracts that had been written; then, as an illustration, he looked at what had occurred in the first year of FRC in Victoria. What he found was that the contract price in Victoria was the same (or so similar as not to make a difference) as the first year of an FRC in South Australia—it is unassailable and has never been questioned by anyone.

What has occurred in recent times is that Lew Owens has put out a discussion paper on the price applying into the future. What I have said is that we will resource the second stream of advice to the government from the Energy Consumers Council, if it believes that it should make a submission, in making a submission on that discussion paper. That is what is occurring.

The second thing that occurred was the regulator's recent comments about what happened in the second year of FRC in Victoria. There has been a contest about some of the components. The only inquiry that is occurring is, as Lew said, 'I'm right,' and he is quite happy to engage an independent consultant to examine it. It is a complete and utter fantasy and fabrication to say that there is an inquiry into 2003 prices. It exists only in the fevered imagination of the member for Bright. It exists nowhere else. I will once again illustrate a

factual situation with a quote from the past. Diogenes in the 4th Century said:

Against stupidity, the gods themselves contend in vain.

If the gods contend in vain, I can make no more effort.

**The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. There are many standing orders that cover the breaches made by the honourable member, one of which is standing order 98. However, the question asked related specifically to one person who made a specific statement. That statement has been quoted. It came directly from the Premier, and the Minister for Energy, who choose to take this answer, has not addressed the question that was asked nor the specifics that have been quoted.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** As a supplementary question, is the Minister for Energy trying to tell the house that the Premier did not say what the member for Bright quoted in his question?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Very simply, the Premier referred to the two points—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** To answer your question specifically, the Premier referred to the two points of inquiry which I explained.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** The man who inhabits the pillar at the back once again refers to me as a goose. I repeat: anyone who can progress no further from the government pillar to the opposition pillar should not proffer those opinions. I am prepared to guess that the Member for MacKillop will never get away from his pillar. They will promote the pillar before they promote him: the pillar is likely to make the front bench before the member for MacKillop does! I believe that I have explained clearly enough the inquiries referred to. The failing is not mine but, rather, the opposition's inability to understand.

**Mr BRINDAL:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. Sir, notwithstanding your correct admonition of me for not always fully conforming to the standing orders of this place, I refer you to standing order 134, which clearly provides that, whenever a member rises to take a point of order:

1. the member speaking resumes his/her seat, and
2. then the member who rose to the point of order states the point of order to the Speaker, and
3. The Speaker gives a ruling. . .

Sir, I again draw your attention to the fact that the member for Bright rose and audibly to this side of the house called 'Point of order!' Sir, you sat him down and did not listen to his point of order. I contend that that is in contravention of the standing orders of this place which you are sworn to uphold.

**The SPEAKER:** And shall.

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## KAPUNDA HOMES

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**Mr VENNING:** On 13 October 2003, I asked a question of the Minister for Health, recorded on page 354 of *Hansard*, as follows:

Why has the government delayed for more than 12 months the commencement of the extension to Kapunda Homes when the project is already fully funded from local sources?

The Minister for Health failed to give me a direct answer on that day or directly to me since. In fact, sir, you asked whether I sought a supplementary question, but I did not at the time. Three weeks later, the minister sent a press release to both *The Leader* and *The Herald* newspapers in the Barossa Valley, in which she provided the answer in contravention to the protocols of this house, reflecting detrimentally on me.

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Transport):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Earlier this week the Leader of the Opposition alleged that I had 12 questions outstanding from estimates committee hearings. My office records indicate that all estimates questions asked of me have been answered. I raise this issue—

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Listen on, Robbie. I raised this issue with the member for Light on Tuesday and Wednesday, asking him if he could indicate to me which estimates questions I had not answered. I checked with the member for Light again today, and he acknowledged to me that all of my estimates questions have been answered.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** Apologise!

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens will come to order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for West Torrens will come to order! The house will note grievances, and I call the member for Mawson, who can count himself lucky to be given the call, given his conduct during question time.

### GRIEVANCE DEBATE

#### METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

**Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson):** I rise in this debate to further highlight to the house and the South Australian community the concerns that I raised in the parliament on Thursday 18 September and Thursday 25 September about the problems with recall of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service. I have been contacted by firefighters from the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service who are extremely concerned about what is happening with respect to the budget, recalls, recruitment and occupational health, safety and welfare of the fine officers who protect the South Australian community.

I raised the issue on their behalf in this house, for the simple reason that they were frustrated that the minister responsible for them did not seem to be paying attention to the enormous problems in that agency. I spoke about the enormous amount of recall, and I referred to C shift having seven recalls for 14 September, with some of those officers being on recall just the day before. I raised the point also that I was advised that the entire budget for the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service for 2003 will have been exhausted

on overtime, act up, hold back and recall by the end of September this year. That is quite a significant question that should have had a proper answer from the minister. Any member in this house looking at that question on 25 September could see that the minister did not respond to my question.

I have raised this issue because I keep getting phone calls from firefighters, and I have now received documents from concerned people. I refer to advice given to me that a command district officer for a shift had sent an email to a number of senior firefighters expressing serious concerns. My recollection of that email is that, in one situation, a senior officer was at work for 88 hours in an eight-day period and then worked 92 hours over the next seven days. In other words, that officer was expected to work for 180 hours in a 15-day period. I am pleased for them to receive the money because they deserve that for their families, but there is a limit to the amount of recall that an officer can do, no matter how good he is. What about the risk to them and their fellow officers when they are tired?

This is a serious matter. I quote further from this leaked material. It states that in two weeks time a shift will have only three officers at the Adelaide station and it is possible that the situation across other shifts may not be too different. It goes on to say that the current situation is potentially going to impact on workplace safety and increased sick leave on rostered days and, from memory, I think they also said that they are concerned about morale if this matter is not managed. I do not know whether the union is protecting these workers, but if the union is not prepared to protect them I am duty-bound as the shadow minister for emergency services when I am contacted by these firefighters to raise this matter in the house.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I ask whether the member is reading from an official document and, if so, whether he should table it.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Does the member for Mawson have correspondence from a public servant or a Public Service agency?

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I have received leaked material and information. I said that here publicly, because these firefighters need help. I am quoting from the things they told me, as they want these matters raised because they are concerned, and I am being blocked by a point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Does the member have any documents from any government agency in his possession to which he is referring during the course of his remarks to the chamber and from which he is quoting?

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I have a copy of an email. I have already explained that to the house. These firefighters need assistance, and I am being blocked by a point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has not expired. The member will still have two minutes. I seek from the member again for the final time whether he has a document which emanated from a government agency or a department. Whether it is an email or any other document, it does not matter. Yes or no!

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Yes, sir, I have a copy of an email that has been sent to me expressing concerns.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member is required, on request, to table the document. The honourable member has two minutes.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Thank you, sir. It is disappointing that the Labor Party tried to get a message to a minister to

block me from raising this matter. I saw that happen in this house. These firefighters—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I have not been directed by the Labor Party to do anything in this house. I am representing the community, and I raised a point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. I point out to the minister that that may be the subject of a personal explanation wherein she might choose to explain to the house how the member for Mawson misrepresented her. The member for Mawson, together with all other members of this place, ought to lay off the invective. Too much of it results in quarrels and abuse and in no sense enhances any one individual's standing or the reputation of this chamber. The honourable member has 1½ minutes.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I want to qualify this. I do not begrudge any hard-working men and women in this state the opportunity to work overtime. In these days, it is necessary to do that in the light of rises in the cost of living, but when firefighters are coming to me because the government and the union are not listening, when they are being pushed so hard, I have to raise that in the house. I want the minister and the union to look at this, because that is what the workers want. There are potential risks. When a district officer of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service says that the current situation is going to impact on their workplace safety, this is important and serious. I call for this matter to be addressed urgently on behalf of these firefighters.

#### AUSTRALIAN IDOL

**Mr CAICA (Colton):** In the CIA primer there are two principal ways of taking over a country: you can burst through the front door—and we know how that works—or you can waltz in the back. The latter is slower but much more effective. If you are wondering what tune Australian culture will dance to under the baton of the imperialistic orchestra, a look at the teleguide will tell you that we are already halfway there. The French and the Europeans, however, are probably doing it a bit tougher. As a reward for liberating Europe in World War II (formalised under the Blum-Burns accord), the US administration sought and gained unrestricted access to European markets for the US film industry. Now, 85 per cent of films broadcast in Europe are American. As a sign of reciprocal fair play, the US has the Dingley bill which prevents French films (as far back as 1987) from being shown in the US. Political pressure and economic threats to achieve this noble, hegemonic end have been the go since France's Lumiere brothers were denied a crack at the American film market.

Australia has been trying to catch up with the French, and we have not done a bad job. Now, under the free trade proposals with the US, the federal government seems to be busting its boiler to get to the number one position. If the second annexe of the free trade agreement does not protect our cultural services (film and television productions mainly, which are defining conduits for Australian identity), then the sheriff has bagged an Oscar in the trade-off agreement.

*Australian Idol*, although it is an Australian production, is an interesting pointer to our cultural future. Besides its over-popular appeal, it is the exemplar of the inexorable, unyielding shift in values for the young as the standard bearers of our future identity. Many of our young—that is, any person slightly younger than me—are being signed up to the McDonald brigade and are happily being seduced by the

anaemic tune from Ronald's pipe where the icons and values of our cultural past are a distant song sung by a geriatric choir. *Australian Idol* in name only—an American concept and copy (the pop musical equivalent of *Model Search and Bachelor Two*, as one wit observed)—reflects the advancing waves of the worst of global culture. Cultural genocide is not over with the speed of a high dive but comes with the stealth of a distance swimmer swimming in slow drying cement.

Should we make a fuss about cultural imperialism, given our initial suffocation of indigenous culture? Should we further cultural relativism by acceding to this cultural intrusion? There is an important difference, however, in becoming multicultural in the global sense and surrendering those aspects of our culture and history which have informed our sense and development of an independent identity. Are not the nurturing and preservation of the good things that create differences between cultures the things that make people and countries interesting? This is not about being culturally elitist either, as against the bland nature of a popular culture: it is about preserving the idea of choice and preserving our history and the right to determine (at least) our cultural future and identity. I do not want Australian youth to be insipid imitations of another culture, nor should another country be expected to accept such cultural intrusion. All countries have a strong right to cultural self-determination.

The film and media industry here have made clear their concerns about local content and the problems associated with the 'stand still' clause, that is, the status quo at the time of signing. If something is removed from our cultural policy or if there is a shift in technology—for example, digital delivery programs—then under the agreement it cannot be renegotiated. I believe that foreign content on Australian television is at about 69 per cent at the moment, but the 'stand still' clause could have us locked into an even higher percentage of foreign content. If Australian film and media are not protected at the current level, then we will not be able to compete. Given the current appeal and tenor of popular culture, we can imagine what is in store. We will be watching *Bachelor X—the Musical* on the ABC, if the latter still exists. If the US can have a Dingley bill, then our film and media industry also warrants better protection.

#### SOUTHERN CROSS REPLICAS AIRCRAFT

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite):** I rise to speak on the subject of the tender process for the Southern Cross aircraft announced this week by the Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts. I remind the house that in April this year following the provision of information to the opposition issues were raised regarding whether the government was secretly planning to sell off the aircraft, possibly to interstate or overseas interests. There was considerable media speculation at the time, and that focused the attention of interested parties and the government on the future of the damaged aircraft.

In May this year I moved a motion in the house which was subsequently debated. It was resolved that the government would advertise in June for expressions of interest from parties who might be interested in repairing and restoring the aircraft to an airworthy state. The minister subsequently advised the house that an advertisement was placed in *The Advertiser* seeking such expressions of interest in June, and that in July tenders were to be submitted. On 15 October, the minister subsequently advised the house that the tender process had been bungled and that it was necessary to go out

to the interested parties again and seek, if you like, a re-tender or resubmission of expressions of interest.

On 16 October I asked the minister questions about the process, and on 11 November the minister announced to the house that a successful tenderer had been chosen. He specified that a number of conditions had to be met, including that the aircraft be owned and operated from South Australia and that it be flown in South Australian skies. The successful tender was the proposal by HARS (the Historic Aircraft Restoration Society), a group based in Sydney.

I must advise the house that I have since had written representations made to me putting very serious allegations about abuse of the tender process, and that those written submissions have been made by parties involved in tenders for the sale of the aircraft. The allegations from three parties—as I said, made in writing—allege conflicts of interest in the tender selection process, bungling and manipulation of the tender process, and discrimination against a bid on the basis of an organisation having been involved as whistleblowers regarding the government's plans to sell off the aircraft.

If substantiated, these allegations have far-reaching implications for the minister and the department, and I feel, therefore, that I must pass them on to the Auditor-General. I advise the house that I have done that, and that the written allegations will be passed to the Auditor-General for him to investigate. I make no comment about the accuracy of the information contained in the letters I have received—I think that is best left to the Auditor-General—but I advise the house that the appropriate and proper thing to do is to pass them to him, and for him to look into the matter.

#### WILLIAMS, Mr R.M.

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** It was my very great privilege and honour yesterday to represent the Premier, along with the member for Stuart who accompanied me, at the state funeral of R.M. Williams held in Queensland. R.M. Williams was a very interesting character, a person with vision and determination. Members will know that Reginald Murray Williams was South Australian-born (indeed, he was born up in Belalie near Jamestown), and South Australia was the birthplace of R.M. Williams Enterprises.

Percy Street, Prospect, is synonymous with R.M. Williams: it is where he established his first factory outlet for his world-renowned stockman's clothing and footwear. The main office and factory of R.M. Williams is now, however, located on Frost Road at Salisbury in the heart of the Premier's electorate, neighbouring my own. So, I think it was fitting that the South Australian parliament and the people of South Australia were represented yesterday at his final farewell.

I congratulate Premier Beattie and the Queensland government for honouring R.M. Williams with what was a very fitting farewell. State-run events, as we well know, can often be overtaken with pomp, ceremony and protocol. Despite this being a state funeral, it was very much a celebration of the life of a man clearly loved by his family and friends. Very much involving his family and friends, it was a welcoming and comforting function for all those who attended. They ranged from the Deputy Prime Minister to a grandad who, I noticed, came along with his four or five year old grandson—who was wearing an Akubra—and watched from the sidelines, his grandad explaining the significance of the event and the person being farewelled. R.M. Williams's daughter, Diane Beer, spoke for some time about her father.

She was able to convey his complexities, his passions, his commitment to people.

The family has been inundated with messages of support since his passing and even they were surprised at the things that he had done in his life to help people that even they were not aware of. Diane spoke of the predictions her dad had made, remembering that RM was born in 1908. She remembered him predicting, for example, that air travel would become the norm and that a man would make it to the moon. She listed a number of these examples. She said he passed away confident that one day soon the values and traditions of aboriginal people would be accepted and properly recognised.

R.M. Williams was held in high esteem by many aboriginal communities and the written tributes sent to the family, and conveyed yesterday, very much attested to this. I would like to formally pass on my condolences to the Williams family. No doubt they will feel the loss of R.M. for some time to come. His great-grand-daughters did him proud as they stood before a huge crowd and sang 'Prayer' and 'Dare to Dream'. His six sons did him proud as they escorted him to his final resting place. What struck a real chord with me was R.M. Williams's comment when asked what he thought would be a suitable epitaph for him. He replied: 'I tried.' Wholeheartedly, I agree. If you try, have a go, you honour yourself and you honour your family.

As I was leaving Brisbane, at the Brisbane airport I bumped into a young South Australian who is also having a go. As we all know, Guy Sebastian has achieved outstanding success during his participation in *Australian Idol*. I was able to give Guy my best wishes for the final. I know that all South Australians wish him well. Indeed, it is hard to walk anywhere in Golden Grove without seeing banners in support of Guy. Our community is very proud of him, and whether he wins the final or not, Guy has tried. He has given his best and that is success in my book. Guy has shown young people of the northern suburbs, many who know him personally and who want him back teaching them at school, that you can succeed. All you need to do is be prepared to take a risk and give it a go. You never know what you can achieve until you do. Indeed, Guy told me that he had reassured his students that he would be back soon. He did not expect to be there for the long run. Of course, he is delighted. He is living a dream and is doing that because he was prepared to try. He is a real inspiration to other young people in our community. Guy was yesterday heading off to Sydney to prepare for the final. I wish him all the very best. Win or lose the final, he has been a magnificent success. He has done his community proud, he has done his students and his colleagues proud and, most importantly, his family, who I am sure are bursting with pride.

Time expired.

#### ROADS, BLANCHETOWN TO MORGAN

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** I would like to draw to the attention of the house the deplorable state of the Blanchetown to Morgan Road, a road, Sir, you are probably familiar with. This road began being upgraded and sealed by the previous Liberal government. It has now fallen into horrible disrepair, after this penny-pinching government called a halt to any further development, as it has done with so many other of our country road projects. The member for Stuart has raised this issue previously, and, in fact, led a delegation to the minister a few weeks ago, and I fully support his efforts.

This road is on the boundary of my electorate, and he and I have received numerous approaches about its poor condition from people living in Schubert. This road services a huge amount of holiday traffic during peak seasons, and there are a great number of holiday homes along it. It not only services holiday homes but also many recreational areas used by young people, situated along the banks of the river. It is also a busy road, used by grape-growers and dryland farmers in the area. The Australian scouting movement has two very important properties along this road, that service the needs of their outdoor educational programs. Other school groups also have recreational facilities along this road.

Scouts Australia are an apolitical organisation and they are greatly concerned for the safety of the people who use this road. They have many scouts, leaders and parents using the road every year. The scouts have a property called 'Roonka' that helps educate the young people. They are able to experience water activities on the River Murray as well as appreciate the ecology of the area. The other property they have is Armstrong Airfield, where the scouts carry out other outdoor activities.

The first part of the Morgan Road was sealed a number of years ago by the previous government and means that many shack owners of that area can travel from their property to the township of Morgan in relative safety. But they do not travel south. The other end of the road comes off the Sturt Highway at Blanchetown, the main thoroughfare from Adelaide to the Riverland and further to the eastern states. Five to 10 kilometres at this end of the road have been prepared for sealing under the previous Liberal government, and that is a relatively safe section of unsealed road. The property owners along the remainder of the road have been preparing for a sealed road, fencing off along the road and removing their cattle grates. When the Rann Labor government came to power, the work immediately stopped.

This has meant that this part of the road has fallen into disrepair and has become very dangerous. This stretch needs immediate and dramatic attention. This 10 kilometres of road are full of potholes, have drifts across them in summer and in some places have an incorrect camber. So, when the road is wet it is very slippery and unsafe. The road remains in a poor state after it has been graded annually, and has been described to me as having limestone ball bearings across the road. After negotiating this difficult section of road, it is with some relief that you reach the previously-mentioned sealed section of the road on the Morgan end.

I have heard reports from local people, including those involved in emergency services and the police, who see this road as one of the most dangerous in the area. These are people who attend numerous accidents along the Sturt Highway every year and who are well experienced in accidents and their causes. The locals also believe that the road is exceptionally dangerous. In fact, in certain circumstances they avoid it at all costs. The road has had at least two fatal accidents in the last five years, which is a shocking statistic for such a small and fairly isolated section of road, as well as rollovers and accidents that happen on a regular basis that are not recorded as statistics. Police have near misses along the road due to its condition. For emergency services this road is a necessary connection between Morgan and Blanchetown. The locals are very wary of this road and they have to use it, but they know its condition. The greatest concern is for holiday makers who use the road and who are unfamiliar with the poor conditions. This is when many of the accidents occur.

The previous Liberal government recognised the issues with this road and set about trying to fix it. Now, however, the current government considers it not to be of high enough priority to allocate funds for its sealing at this time, as relayed to me by letter recently by the Minister for Transport. The minister's letter states:

Nevertheless, I acknowledge that the recent accident rate on this road is far from satisfactory and assure you that the government will do as much as possible to maintain safety on the existing road.

I ask the minister to make this a high priority project. This is not the only road that needs attention in the state, particularly in the country. Rural areas continue to get short shrift from this government. I implore it to pay attention to country roads before they become completely unsafe and more lives are lost.

Time expired.

### HEALTHY SKEPTICISM

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** I recently had the pleasure of representing the Premier at the launch of Healthy Skepticism's ADWatch web page and was enormously impressed by that group's work under their director Dr Peter Mansfield, whom I had not had the pleasure of meeting prior to that day. Dr Mansfield was honoured with the Convocation Medal during the visit of Lech Walesa last month at the Flinders University Investigator Lecture for his many years of hard work in advocating the cause of appropriate pharmaceutical marketing. The impact of inappropriate marketing in South Australia cannot be under-estimated, and members would be fully aware of the difficulties facing our hospital services in the light of the very reduced financial support this state receives from the commonwealth.

Among the many factors responsible for the federal government's parsimony is the huge expenditure it faces in supporting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (the PBS, as it is commonly known). The cost of the PBS has risen enormously over the past few years—from \$1.18 billion in 1989-90 to \$4.19 billion in 2001-02. Members will have seen the recent TV advertisement funded by the commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing which attempts to address this problem by persuading the public to reduce 'demand'. I noted the other day an article in a newspaper said that a fee of \$80 000 was paid to the good gentleman involved in that commercial. Whether the advertisement is likely to achieve its aim is a moot point, but the question must be asked: how much does patient demand affect over-expenditure? Is there any evidence that patient expectation is a significant factor in increasing PBS costs as to justify the advertising cost to the commonwealth government?

Healthy Skepticism is an organisation which is more likely to achieve this aim. It was founded in Adelaide 20 years ago and, although extending nationally and internationally, is still headquartered here. This organisation aims to improve health by reducing harm from misleading drug promotion. Healthy Skepticism raises awareness of the harm caused by inappropriate marketing of pharmaceuticals and other health products under a multi-factored approach and offers effective solutions.

I will explain the rationale behind its approach. Drug companies have consistently been the most profitable industry group in the world. According to Fortune 500, pharmaceutical industry profits were 18.5 per cent of revenue in 2002. Other top ten performers' profits ranged from 6.4 per cent to 13.5 per cent. Since 1995, US brand name drug

companies have increased the number of research and development employees by 2 per cent, while marketing employees have increased by 59 per cent. Currently, 22 per cent of staff are employed in research and development while 39 per cent are employed in marketing. Drug companies spend on average around 35 per cent of sales on promotions. Such massive amounts would not be spent if promotion was not effective in influencing prescriptions. It is well documented in the medical literature that promotion influences prescribing much more than most health professionals realise. Many advertisements and statements from pharmaceutical representatives are misleading, with promotion that exaggerates benefits and glosses over risks, making optimal treatment much less likely.

Currently, drug companies are rewarded for increasing the sales of new drugs regardless of the impact on health care. Newer drugs are more profitable but more expensive for taxpayers and patients and, according to *Prescribe International* (2002), only 3 per cent of new drugs offer significant advantages over older drugs. Furthermore, Lasser et al (2002) have shown that many new drugs have major adverse effects that are not detected prior to launch. Healthy Skepticism's overriding concern is that reliance on promotional information by prescribers may result in harm and might indeed endanger lives. Healthy Skepticism is also concerned that the unsustainable rising cost of drugs is diverting funds from other high priority areas. The problem is not drug companies per se but rather the system that rewards drug companies for increasing the sales of new and expensive, patented, monopoly-protected drugs. Drug companies do not target doctors in the private sector only. Representatives also promote their products and offer incentives in the public sector. Such influence then extends to the costs of pharmaceutical purchases for the state.

Healthy Skepticism has an established record of influencing drug advertising and has been successful in some third world countries in having drugs removed completely from the market. Healthy Skepticism is involved in research, advocacy and medical education. Its latest initiative is AdWatch, the launch of which I attended, and details are on its web site ([www.healthyskepticism.org](http://www.healthyskepticism.org)).

AdWatch is a monthly web page designed to help doctors, pharmacists and the public identify and challenge misleading drug promotion. It presents a critical analysis of randomly selected drug advertisements to give health professionals information on possible flaws or fallacies in the text and the subtle psychological techniques that could influence decision making. In this way, Healthy Skepticism aims to encourage more appropriate prescribing; it also hopes that drug companies will be influenced to improve the quality of their advertising. As an independent not-for-profit organisation, Healthy Skepticism is entirely subscriber funded. It has no full-time paid staff, although its size and scope now justifies such expenditure. It deserves support by and from South Australians because its activities are likely to influence prescribing habits to the benefit of their health. They will also be likely to achieve reductions in the cost of the PBS to the commonwealth, freeing up health funds for the states to share.

Time expired.

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Following question time, the Minister for Transport made a personal explanation in the chamber and indicated that he had spoken to me about questions outstanding from the estimates. He indicated that I had said that there were no further questions outstanding. That part is correct, but I indicated to the minister that there may still be questions outstanding from the leader's office and that he should check with the leader's office. I believe that his implication was that there were no outstanding questions from estimates for him, and I can advise the house that there are still five unanswered questions that the leader's office has.

## DOCUMENTS, TABLING

**The SPEAKER:** I advise the house that the earlier remarks I made to the member for Mawson were inappropriately made by the chair in the limited sense that it is not possible for either the member for Mawson or any other private member not a member of the ministry to table documents in this chamber under our standing orders. It is not possible for the chair to direct that. However, it is possible and orderly for the chair to require a member to provide to the chair any and all documents the member may have that the chair directs the member to provide to enable the chair, in the course of inquiries being made by the chair, to satisfy itself that it has all the facts that are relevant to the matter upon which the chair may be deliberating.

The inquiry made by the Minister for Tourism during the course of the remarks being made by the member for Mawson is a proper inquiry and, appropriately, the member for Mawson has provided to me a copy of the email from which he was quoting. I will, for the short run, keep that copy in the Speaker's office, should any member wish to refer to it. It is not a tabled document in the context of our standing orders.

## NATIONAL ELECTRICITY (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (NEW PENALTY) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

## SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism):** I move:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the house be extended beyond 5 p.m.

Motion carried.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Consideration in committee of the Auditor-General's Report.

(Continued from 12 November. Page 787.)

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Madam Acting Chair, I draw your attention to the state of the committee.

*A quorum having been formed:*

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Ms Thompson):** I declare open the examination of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier in Economic Development, Minister for Police and Minister for Federal/State relations. Deputy Premier, do you intend to make an opening statement?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The member for Davenport?

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** I do not wish to make an opening statement, either.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** I just thought I would clarify that, since I was not asked.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Do you have a question, member for Davenport?

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Yes. In relation to part A, page 11, 'Probity issues and the potential for conflict of interest', has the Treasurer been given any advice since 5 March 2002 about difficulties of any public servants involved in an evaluation process holding shares in entities that 'directly or indirectly might have an involvement with the contracts concerned'?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Like all the answers I give today I will, of course, check my answers and, if there are any errors in them, I will be happy to come back to the house with a clarified answer. The Auditor-General's Report, from memory, does make some mention of concerns about that issue, and I have received advice on that matter.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** In relation to the advice that the Treasurer has received, to which contracts does it relate?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** There may be others (and I am happy to get that checked), but I do not recall any others, apart from some issues with the ICT contract that the Auditor-General has expressed. But I cannot, off the top of my head, recall others. There may well be, and I am happy to have that checked.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What were the matters in relation to that contract about which the Auditor-General expressed concerns?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Auditor-General makes mention to the effect that people involved in government procurement contracts such as the ICT contract should not hold shares in any company that may or may not be involved in it—and any quantum of shares. Of course, unlike the honourable member's government which allowed ministers to hold shares such as minister Armitage, who, I think from memory, had shares either in Optus or Telstra, or both probably. He was able to willy-nilly involve himself, from memory, in contractual arrangements as a minister. We certainly made it clear as a government that that would not be allowed by ministers. The Auditor-General has now expressed a view as it relates to senior public servants.

There is an issue with this, of course, and the steering committee which we have in government overseeing the ICT contract is considering the views of the Auditor-General at the moment. We will have to have some discussions with him and make some decisions. There are issues about whom within government you are properly able to use to advise and manage these issues, given the view of the Auditor-General. Whether one has 10 shares in Telstra or 10 000, on my understanding of what the Auditor-General has referred to, that person has a material fact with which he or she has to deal and that does create problems for government. So, we are working through that.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Have any complaints been received in relation to any particular contract in relation to this matter?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, not of which I am aware, and I am advised certainly not relating to the ICT contract. As I said, I am happy to give that some further thought, but none readily springs to mind but I may be wrong.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Does the Treasurer agree with the Auditor-General's recommendation on page 12, that is:

... no person associated with the evaluation of matters associated with tenders and/or proposals should have any pecuniary interest in the matter whatsoever.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** That is the matter which the senior public servant group is considering. Whether or not I agree with it is an interesting question. What I do believe and we have believed as a government is that ministers certainly should not hold shares. We have set a much higher standard than that set under the honourable member's government when it comes to ministerial responsibility and accountability and conduct. We have to work through that because, to be perfectly frank, it creates problems for government as to who we have to advise us on these contracts and whether or not one can expect public servants to divest themselves of these shares. We would clearly expect public servants to be absolutely 100 per cent mindful of conflicts of interest and all the conflict issues that arise. This takes it to a new level. We will have to look at it and decide how we best address the concerns of the Auditor-General.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Are any of the public servants who are involved in the group giving you advice about this particular recommendation that is the subject of the Auditor-General's recommendation?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I may be wrong, but I do not believe that the Auditor-General has specifically identified individuals at present. If the honourable member's question is: are members of that particular group caught by this, my advice is yes, there are.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** So, the public servants who are caught by this are now advising the Treasurer about what the government's response is to the recommendation by which they are caught. Does the Treasurer think that is appropriate? Should they not step aside from that issue, given that the recommendation applies to them?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** For a start, they are not advising me. I do not have responsibility for this: it is the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Administrative Services. As we know, this finding of the Auditor-General has come down in recent weeks. We have a group of a large number of high level public servants in this state managing this process. We have referred the matter to them and they have taken on board the comments of the Auditor-General concerning their initial response, which is eminently appropriate. Whether we take further advice and whatever we do from thereon will be a decision for government.

However, if the honourable member is suggesting that we should automatically and immediately stop—and this may well be what he is suggesting—the whole ICT process until we work this one through, we will not and have not done that because, thanks to the decision of the honourable member's government to outsource the entirety of our computer system management in this state, we have a very tight deadline with which to work to get this contract re-signed, or new tenderers awarded the contracts.

We have to work through this issue of the Auditor-General very quickly, but the advice of the very people to whom I

have referred will not be the only advice we take—not at all—but I think it is eminently appropriate that they be given the chance to comment and the government be aware of their views. We will take further advice, if necessary, and as soon as we possibly can we will work out with the Auditor-General how one moves forward and, at that point, make decisions about whether or not certain people should be on the panel.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Are senior members of the Treasurer's own department caught by this recommendation?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** As the minister then responsible for those public servants, does the Treasurer think it is appropriate, given that they are caught by the recommendation, that they sit on the panel that will give advice about the recommendation?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I make the point that this has not gone to market as yet, and we are not at the point where decisions are being made about who should or should not win contracts. This matter will need to be resolved very quickly—and I hope that the honourable member is not suggesting that we should mothball the whole process or start again. I am advised that a number of officers will be caught by this recommendation (as there would be right across government), and we have to work through it very quickly.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** I think the Treasurer was about to say, but he stopped himself, that I am suggesting that no-one be on the panel. I did not suggest that. Do I read into that that the majority of the panel is caught by this recommendation?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I was not going to say whatever it was the honourable member said I was about to say. I do not know how many, whether there it is a couple, half, two-thirds or whatever, but senior public servants in this state—surprise, surprise—hold individual shares as part of their own personal finances. This is not just a problem for the ICT contract, it is a problem for government procurement. The Auditor-General has made his views known, that is, if a public servant holds any shares in a company that may be tendering for a particular government service, that public servant should not sit on a panel that decides who should be awarded that contract. That is what the Auditor-General is saying. That is fine. I accept and respect the right of the Auditor-General to have that view, but I think as a former minister the honourable member would see the problems that then creates in terms of identifying the public servants available to do the work for which they are employed.

That is the dilemma we face. We have to work through it, and we are and have been since being made aware of the Auditor-General's views. We have not stopped the process because the process is not at the decision making stage. We think that we can come to some decision very quickly and resolve this matter with the Auditor-General.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** In relation to part A, page 72, capital payments, the Auditor-General reports capital underspending in 2002-03 of some \$145 million. Was this the actual level of underspending in 2002-03 as at the end of the financial year?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We have not published our final figures of underspending. The 2003-04 budget papers report a net underspend of \$145 million, which the *Sunday Mail* article on 2 November has highlighted. I am advised this represents the difference between the estimated level of net capital spending in the original 2002-03 budget and the updated estimate for 2002-03 published in the 2003-04 budget. I am advised that the capital underspend comprises

capital expenditure reclassified as operating expenditure to meet Australian accounting standards rules, and a decline in the general government sector due almost entirely to project spending delays. Such delays are not unusual for large capital projects.

I am further advised that, in particular, \$97 million of capital expenditure originally planned for 2002-03 was carried forward in the 2003-04 budget. These included: deferral of justice expenditure projects including, Mobilong prison expansion, Port Augusta court redevelopment and the Supreme Court refurbishment; \$23 million underspend in DAIS, including \$15.7 million relating to the Government Radio Network (GRN); and delays in the commencement of various other departmental capital projects. I am sure my staff are delighted that at least one briefing has been relevant to this session.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Maybe you have a briefing on this, Treasurer. What was the level of recurrent spending under-expenditure in 2002-03?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We are still working through the underspends; we are still finalising them. From memory, I have only just recently signed off some underspend figures, which are yet to go to the cabinet committee responsible for the budget. So, we will update the house as soon as we are able to confirm those numbers.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What were the figures you signed off on? You obviously have a figure you signed off on.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I do. I know this is novel to a member of the former Olsen government—the disgraced Olsen Liberal government—but we have a process. They will go to a cabinet subcommittee for final debate amongst ministers before we conclude this. Once we have that process followed, we will release the figures.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** I refer to Part A of the Auditor-General's Report (page 36), 'Reporting framework/audit observations.' Under the heading, 'Some audit observations on the fiscal measures,' the Auditor-General states:

However, notwithstanding that the focus on the General Government Sector within that framework is common among almost all jurisdictions, to focus on a smaller sector such as the General Government Sector introduces some issues. One of particular importance, in my opinion, is the following.

General government is only part of the overall public sector as it does not include Public Non-Financial or Public Financial Corporations. While transactions with the other sectors will be included in the General Government Sector results, I believe it important that relevant information also be available for the PNFC sector in particular. Currently the General Government Sector picks up four year forward estimates for that sector. By comparison, the PNFC published data is only for the immediate budget year with some financial position data (eg. net worth) through the forward estimated period. I believe it important that comparative period information be available for users so as not to lose sight of broader public sector activity.

Even Access Economics has recently said that, unlike larger states, Treasury does not publish estimates with the PNFC in overall state sectors, which was in its *Monitor 56*. Will Treasury agree with the Auditor-General, and will next year's budget papers include this information?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** From memory, I read that section of the report with great interest, as well. As I understand it, it was not a feature of the honourable member's government's budgets, and it has not been a feature of this government's budgets. Where they will be in the future is yet to be determined.



**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What is the time frame for that determination? When do you think you will have determined that decision?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** There are a lot of things to determine. I will get to it at some point. The answer will be clear and evident at the time of the next budget.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** I again refer to Part A (page 33), 'The Governor's appropriation fund.' The Auditor-General notes that three payments from the Governor's appropriation fund, totalling some \$1.1 million, had not been approved as at 30 June 2003. When did the Treasurer finally approve each of these three payments, and what was the purpose for each of the three payments?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** My advisers are extremely excited, as this is now the second briefing for which they have anticipated the question. It is important to note that these actions referred to did not compromise the integrity of the government's budget. Further, I am advised that these breaches did not affect the Auditor-General's ability to issue an unqualified audit report in respect of the Treasurer's statements. Due to the ineffective operation of internal controls at the agency level, the agencies inadvertently exceeded their formal appropriations. I am advised that existing procedures for appropriation for administered items and for agencies that draw funds directly against the Consolidation Account do not alert Treasury and Finance until after the event that appropriation authority levels have been exceeded. I am further advised that Treasury and Finance is currently investigating revised procedures to ensure that these breaches do not arise again in the future.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** What was the original budget allocation for public sector wage and salary payments in 2002-03, and what were the actual payments for 2002-03?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** As the honourable member would know, our estimates are in our last budget. The actual outcomes have not yet been published and, when they are, they will be available.

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** Given that we now have an increase in police numbers, I will be quite kind this afternoon and just ask some more generic questions. The police section of the Auditor-General's Report mentions addressing some concerns and issues with respect to payroll. That has also been highlighted in a number of other reports associated with, for example, the Country Fire Service, ESAU and others. Whilst I acknowledge that this is a difficult issue for government, because it is not new that there are problems around managing payroll, can the minister advise me what he is doing, as Treasurer and police minister, to address the concerns raised about payroll in the Auditor-General's Report? As I explained yesterday, I used the Auditor-General's floppy disk in the computer—

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the honourable member have a page reference?

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** It is the third page of the Auditor-General's Report in the section relating to the police department. This section deals with specific areas of audit attention, and payroll is addressed during 2002-03 at the top of that page. I would like a briefing on that.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** A briefing note has just been provided to me. Advice to me is that a personnel audit report is produced fortnightly following the processing of payroll. These reports contain a list of all employees by posting and is forwarded to organisational units. The document is contributed by the Human Resource Information Branch. A recent Auditor-General's Department audit found that these

documents were not being certified by an officer of police or manager or retained for a minimum of 12 months. I have some other information. Is that sufficient?

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** If the minister has other information, perhaps he could send that on to me.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** We will take the balance of that question on notice and provide the honourable member with a considered reply.

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** The fifth page of the section on police talks about police security services and indicates that audit suggested that a review be undertaken to determine whether it is appropriate to merge some of the administrative functions of PSSB with those functions performed centrally for the rest of SAPOL, and it gives some examples. The department has responded, but I wonder whether or not the minister thinks that that is a satisfactory response or whether more could be done to streamline efficiencies.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I am advised that we are reviewing those functions to ensure that we pick up on some of the points that have been raised.

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** The eleventh page of the report displays a chart with respect to operating revenues, operating expenses and the surplus deficits for the past four years. It shows a deficit of \$29 million in that area. I am aware that one of the things that is important to police is the upgrading of their mobile data terminals. Money has been rolled over to allow for the commissioner to accumulate sufficient money to purchase the new mobile data terminals, which are an essential element of a police officer's work. Can the minister explain that deficit and confirm whether there is still a rollover of money for police to be able to purchase these MDTs?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I am advised that the MDT program is funded in the budget—in the forward estimates—and that the issues that the honourable member raised are balance sheet adjustments relating to workers compensation and changes in accounting policy.

**Mr BROKENSHERE:** I have a question regarding workers compensation on page 13 of the report, for which I would like an explanation. It appears both from the Auditor-General's Report and also in the recently tabled police annual report that there have been increases in workers compensation claims/liabilities. That is clearly of concern to all of us in parliament. Can the minister state whether or not that is specific to numbers or whether a different process is being used for reporting? If there is a problem with an increase in liabilities, funding matters and WorkCover injuries, what is happening to address that matter?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I have been provided with a briefing note. I am advised that DAIS, formerly the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, undertakes an annual actuarial estimation of the workers compensation liability for the whole of government. Prior to 2002-03, the actuaries were instructed to break the liability into two groups comprising the health sector and the rest of government agencies. The reported figures therefore contain SAPOL's portion in the context of all other agencies.

DAIS argued that separating the analysis into four main groups would develop a more detailed picture. Consequently, for the first time the assessment for 2002-03 broke the liability into health agencies, education, justice and other agencies. This methodology exposed a greater proportion of the liability to justice agencies than the previously used averaging method. The reported figure cannot be compared

with the previous assessment to conclude that justice is performing worse than in previous years.

In the case of SAPOL, which accounts for some 80 per cent of the justice figure, the incidence of claims has not increased or decreased significantly over the last half decade. Salary costs, that is, weekly payments, and medical treatment costs have continued to increase. The apparent increased workers compensation liability for the justice portfolio is largely the result of changed actuarial methodology which was adopted for the first time in 2002-03.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** In due course, can the minister provide that document to me or some further information on the WorkCover matters with respect to police? I take it at face value that the department is saying that there has not been any significant increase in claim numbers, liability matters or dollar claims with respect to police. I accept that about 80 per cent of claims in the justice portfolio, as a super department, would be SAPOL, because that is where I would expect most of the injuries to occur, given that most police are at the coal face, dealing with all the physical problems that they encounter in their job, compared to officers who work in non-reactive situations. Can I have more detail on that when the minister gets the chance?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The workers compensation claims that I have been provided with from SAPOL are as follows: 1998-99, 643; 1999-00, 663; 2000-01, 723—that is when the honourable member became minister, probably.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** For 2001-02 it was 656; for 2002-03, 659; and for 2003-04 the estimate is 627. So, the six-year average is 661. It would appear that every year since this government has been in office we have been under the average. The above average years happened under the honourable member's government, but even I would be being churlish if tried to make a point of that. But they have been consistent.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** I have a further question to that, which is of concern within this picture of workers compensation and redemption for those people who are actually ready, due to injury, to go out of SAPOL, because it does have an impact on this overall financial matter that we are talking about with WorkCover and the redemption. In the past, redemption money has been allowed to roll over as they have assessed cases. In fact, I understand that there could have been amounts of money like \$1.6 million made available in a certain year for redemption of police officers. I think that is the figure: I stand to be corrected if it is not. I also understand that there are at least 20 long-term redemption cases before the department right now and that those officers who have been approved for redemption but are waiting for that redemption are sitting on 80 per cent WorkCover.

On average, if an officer's salary is \$50 000, they are getting 80 per cent of that. I understand that on average the redemptions come in at around two years' salary, so it does not take long for a situation where you can be cost effective in providing those redemptions. There is also the problem of the stress that that puts on those officers and their families, as well as in the offices where there are 20 officers who are on the books as operational police officers but who in effect are not working. I understand that within those figures in this document only \$500 000 is allocated this year for police redemption and already \$380 000 of that has been taken up. Can the minister explain, given the points raised in the Auditor-General's Report with respect to workers compensa-

tion costs, why there has been a significant reduction in the amount of money allocated for redemption?

The minister may not have had that brought to his attention, and I acknowledge that. Given that I understand that I am pretty accurate in what I am saying, would the minister be prepared to look at that and try to accelerate the redemption of those officers who are not able to provide for the department or their colleagues, for their families or, indeed, for the taxpayers at the moment?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** First, I do not have the answer but I will obtain it. Secondly, I acknowledge that the honourable member and I may have operated differently as ministers, but the police commissioner runs the police force and it is not for me to tell him how to allocate moneys on issues such as that. I am happy to take the honourable member's comments on board and ask for a comment from the police commissioner, but it is not my style of operation to drill down into administration matters that are clearly the responsibility of the commissioner. I am happy to have some dialogue, get some comment from him and pass the information back to the shadow minister.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** I was not necessarily delving that deeply either, and I do not say that this is a matter for the police department specifically, because I understand that this comes from another section of government, it just makes the job of the police more difficult to manage. The reason why I raise this now—and I confess that I was not as aware of the matter when I was police minister, for the same reasons that the minister highlighted—is that I have had contacting me people who are concerned about this change in a government policy that has that impact that I highlighted. I would appreciate some more information. In 2002-03, expiation fees decreased by \$5 million.

*The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:*

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** Decreased. That is not a good message for any Treasurer.

*The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:*

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** Well, you can answer this as the Treasurer or the Minister for Police. The report states that the department advised that the decrease was due to a court decision that notices containing errors could not be reissued, resulting in 484 000 notices being withdrawn in that year. It states further that the introduction of the 50 km/h default speed limit from 1 March 2003 had a three-month education phase. So, it appears that maybe Treasury factored in trying to get fees up without a grace period. It also says that drivers appear to be more cautious with the new speed limits, which clearly is a good thing because this is not about revenue raising, I am sure; it is more about saving lives. However, it does say that the audit has not validated the department's explanations of that. I would appreciate some background to that.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** This reminds me of the trouble they are having in Victoria where fixed cameras have been removed from their positions because they clocked a truck doing 180 km/h uphill, or something. They are in all sorts of trouble. I am advised that the decrease to which the honourable member refers involves the fact that a figure had been budgeted for but that the 50 km/h speed restriction came in after the budget was done. That answers the question in part. As to the first part of the question, the honourable member is right, there was an error and those notices were withdrawn.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** Given what the Auditor-General states in this area with respect to expiation fees and tying that in with the recent budget papers where, from memory, the

projection is an increase in mainly expiation notice fines of \$40 000—primarily that comes in from traffic offences—does the Treasurer have any preliminary indication as to how the collection of the projected budget expiation fees is going so far this year?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** That would be contained in the end of year results for the current financial year. I am advised that we do not provide that level of detail in our midyear budget review. However, I say this: in no area of government revenue would I be more pleased to see a sharp reduction than the collection of speeding fines, DUI notices and other offences, because that would mean that people are finally getting the message to slow down and not to drink and drive. That would then obviously mean that there would be less carnage, injury, death and trauma in our society.

My simple message is: if people do not want to be caught speeding, don't speed; if you don't want to get a fine for drink driving, don't drink and drive. It cannot be made much more simple and basic than that. The tragedy is that the road toll is horrifically high. The government can never slacken its resolve to try to find ways to further shock the public into changing their behaviour. If that means that there are more measures taken by governments to penalise drivers for breaking the laws of the land, so be it. Until we see some significant changes in driver behaviour what choice does the government of the day have?

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** Will the Treasurer rule in or rule out fixed speed cameras coming into operation?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Fixed cameras are clearly now being trialled or are operating in Victoria. I would assume governments are always considering what various devices it should consider for various matters. I suspect that even under the honourable member's watch and government he would have considered such matters. I am not aware of specific details other than that I would be sure those matters are considered from time to time. My adviser has indicated that these issues are and will be considered by various committees of government over time. Whether or not they are good policy or needed is yet to be determined, but I certainly would not close my mind to them. Unless we see significant driver behaviour changes in our community, everything should be on the table.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** Page 8 of the section relating to SAPOL talks about matters around sick leave and so on. Sick leave can be caused for a number of reasons. Good working facilities can assist in the reduction of sick leave, so I applaud the minister's continuation of the PPPs we started under Treasury when in government. It rides on the back of the fantastic record we have of capital works for police where we built those police stations with taxpayers' money. In order to provide additional police stations we are bipartisan on the PPP, given that we started the idea, albeit that we grabbed some information from the Blair government. How are the PPPs going for the police stations the minister has announced, based on the fact that that would assist stress levels with police who need new stations?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** While not wanting to prolong this, I hardly think the former government can claim credit for the decision of this government to build all these new police stations. Whether PPP or not they were not at a sufficiently advanced stage that I can recall. The deputy leader would be over the moon that this government is delivering a new police station for Victor Harbor.

**The Hon. Dean Brown:** I thanked you and said that you had continued a commitment given by the previous government. I said that I thanked you very much indeed.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** You are one of a kind, Dino. We are building those stations and they are going well with tendering and work being undertaken. The future capital program of the police department is yet to be determined and other station requirements or needs will have to fit in both within the department's capital works schedule and the government's general capital works schedule. I am not in a position to elaborate, but they provide much better working conditions for the work force, and that can only be a good thing for policing in the state.

**Mr KOUTSANTONIS:** Running on from what the member for Mawson said about speeding fines, when will the minister pay back all speeding fines taken by police services vehicles parked illegally while operating speed cameras, as they do not have an exemption under the act to park illegally as do police vehicles?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I will take that question on notice and bring back a reply.

**Mr RAU:** In the spirit of the last question asked by the member for Mawson, I have received a lot of calls to my electorate office along the lines that the public is very happy about having more police on the beat as a result of the government's announcement of an additional 200 police officers. Comparing the position that applied back when the PPPs originated, does the minister feel that this has been well received by the public?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I do, absolutely.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** I have a supplementary question, given the fact that I have had to share this precious little bit of time. As I said, we support PPPs, and I would be particularly pleased to see PPPs come up for police, because back in 2000-01 when we set up that section in Treasury and asked for the strategic documentation to plan the stations I was told that, of all the PPPs that were put up, PPPs for police stations would be one of the more difficult to get approved within the criteria. I hope that the criteria has changed, as Treasury in that section (and we put about a million dollars in there to fund it that year) has been able to be innovative, and I will support that. With an example such as Victor Harbor, I ask, first, where is the land going to be for that development and, secondly, if the PPPs for some reason are not approved—and, as I said, I want them to be—will you go ahead and build them out of capital works?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** All the advice we have received to date is that these are very do-able PPPs, and I am advised that one of the major reasons for that is that, in the main, they will be in main street locations and locations for which there is high residual value, which is one of the key determinants as to whether or not these things are considered by the appropriate accounting standards to be PPPs. We are confident that that will occur on these.

The issue of whether or not they should be funded by capital works if they do not has not been a matter for consideration. These are unchartered waters to a certain extent, so I am not going to bet my house on it; however, we are very confident that these things will get through as PPPs.

**Mr BROKESHIRE:** I have a final supplementary question. Will the Victor Harbor PPP be located in the main street?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I do not know. Given the way Victor Harbor has developed, there probably would not be too many sites. I am sure the scarcity of sites would be a

problem, but I assume that someone has located some options. We are not certain—

**Mr Brokenshire:** Could you advise this in due course?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes, when we know I will let you know.

*Members interjecting:*

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Ms Thompson):** Order! The time for consideration of matters raised in the annual report of the Auditor-General relating to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer, Minister Assisting the Premier in Economic Development, Minister for Police, Minister for Federal/State Relations has expired.

We will now proceed to the examination of matters relating to the Minister for Social Justice, Minister for Housing, Minister for Youth, Minister for the Status of Women.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** My first question to the minister is in relation to information that was provided in the 2001-02 Auditor-General's Report and, in particular, I am referring to all the information from pages 316 to 320, some of which comes under this minister and some of which comes under the Minister for Health. It is under a heading of 'Changed Accounting Procedures', and it lists unaudited figures from metropolitan hospitals, country health services, disability services, and mental health services. Yet none of that is in this year's Auditor-General's Report.

I have rung the Auditor-General and asked for the information (because I think it is information we deserve), and the Auditor-General said that I should raise the matter with the minister. Can I have that relevant information, which is largely for disability services and which was in last year's report, for this year? The fact that it is unaudited is okay; I appreciate that it might still be unaudited.

In addition, there are no figures in the Auditor-General's Report for Family and Youth Services—or I cannot find them. Will the minister point me to where I can find the information? For instance, I cannot find how much was spent on Family and Youth Services this year compared to last year. I think that is fundamental.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** In relation to the first question, as far as my responsibilities go I am more than happy to come back with that information. As the honourable member is aware, I do not have that information with me and I would not expect the staff to have it with them, either. That is only in relation social justice, housing, status of women and youth.

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am more than happy to give an undertaking to the honourable member with regard to Disability Services. In relation to FAYS, I am advised that the FAYS component is not shown separately: it is part of the consolidated budget.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is my point. Here we have an organisation that is a very significant component. The budget papers show a specific allocation for FAYS, so the Auditor-General's Report should show the specific allocation for FAYS. I would like to see what specific expenditure there was in FAYS—and I think we deserve that. Will a Family and Youth Services specific annual report be handed down to the parliament so that we can see not only financials for FAYS but also information about what FAYS is doing? I think we are spending \$88 million a year on FAYS each year. I am looking at recurrent expenditure, not including what might be concessions and other funds such as that. If concessions are put in, it takes it to about \$170 million. I ask

that a formal annual report for FAYS, both on performance and audited figures, be presented to this parliament.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Minister, do you wish to respond? I understand that the Auditor-General is responsible for this report.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I want to make a couple of points. First, we have found some references which I can make available shortly to the deputy leader. The whole financial analysis of Family and Youth Services is something about which I have spoken in this house a number of times. As the deputy leader would be aware, a financial analysis of FAYS is currently being conducted at my request. A number of other analyses are occurring, in addition to the work force analysis, of which members in this house would be aware. When I have received that report, and when I have a good understanding of some of the issues I have raised in that report, I will be more than happy to make it available publicly.

Again, the deputy leader, as well as the Leader of the Opposition, would be aware that a number of concerns have been raised with me about alleged misappropriations within the Family and Youth Services budget, particularly in relation to the anti-poverty measures for which Family and Youth Services have responsibility. I believe that that information will be available shortly. So, there will be quite a detailed analysis available shortly about Family and Youth Services. As I said, once I and possibly the cabinet, or at least the Treasurer, have had an opportunity to consider the implications of that report, it will be made available.

I am not sure that an annual report is part of the agenda today. As the chair has indicated, those questions of how matters are set as well as their interpretation—particularly to do with the Auditor-General's report—are the interpretations of the Auditor-General, not me. I am just responding to the points that he makes. I will give the deputy leader—

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I am looking at page 566.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Page 566, the third paragraph down, at K8 where there is a reference to the FAYS duties. Page 565, as the deputy leader has already mentioned, shows the program K8, which is Family and Youth Services. So, there is page 566, which is Income and Expenditure, and page 565, which is the Program Summary.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I appreciate that. I had not realised exactly how those tables worked. I take up the point—which you said was not proper, Madam Acting Chair, because we are dealing with the Auditor-General's report. I point out that I rang the Auditor-General after I received his report and specifically asked him why information that was provided last year had been left out this year, as well as other relevant information that I thought should be provided such as capital works. He specifically said that they were valid issues that I was raising and that I needed to ask the question of the minister about that information. That is exactly what I am doing.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Yes, I noted your comments, which is why I allowed the questions. Would you like to proceed with another question?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I would just like to respond to those comments. I have already undertaken to provide that information, despite the fact that it is not part of the examination today. I have already indicated to the deputy leader that I am happy to provide some further information to you, so far as my responsibility for Social Justice, Housing, Women and Youth is concerned.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** My next question concerns the Disability Program. We can pick up from the Auditor-General's report that the federal government has provided an increase in funding from \$56.9 million to \$59.5 million. In particular, I am looking at the source of funding. There is a federal source of funding, but there is no state source of funding, except an overall source of funding. I would like to have some indication as to the state contribution for disability funding. In particular, I refer to page 569, to make it easier, and under 6(b), you will see a complete listing of all the federal government grants. For this last year, as I said, it was \$59.568 million. If you look under 6(a) above, it bulks all of the state contributions together and does not give a specific state contribution for disability funding. I would appreciate knowing, therefore, what it was the previous year and what it was last year, in correspondence with those federal figures.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Again, I think it is important to be able to understand the contribution—quite an increased contribution, I might add—the state has made with regard to disability because of our concerns with regard to unmet need. We have been negotiating through the Commonwealth, State and Territories Disability Agreement to try to come up with appropriate funding not only through the federal government but also through the state government, and I again refer the deputy leader to page 566, the third list of statements under 'K5', which says 'South Australian Government appropriations'. Again, I am more than happy to provide the deputy leader with further details about the disability budget. I am very proud of the increase and what I think are the innovative programs for the disabled we have in South Australia. That does not mean we will not have any unmet need; I am very aware of that.

With the age of our population as well as the fact that there are a number of people, particularly people who have taken on the responsibility of being carers in the disability area who are unable to do so any more, we have some real challenges in the disability area. Therefore, I would be very happy to provide that information and perhaps give the shadow minister an insight into the ways in which we are dealing with those very big problems.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I thank the minister for that. I can see where the minister is picking up the state figure, but it does not show what the state figure was last year. I may have overlooked it, but I cannot see a figure in last year's Auditor-General's Report that would show us what the increase has been. That is the reason why I asked the specific question about the increase from the 2001-02 to the 2002-03 year.

On page 568, about halfway down the page, subheading (iii), under 'Other', shows the funding for this year as \$8.3 million; previously, it was \$4.1 million. I would appreciate a breakdown of what comes under 'Other' and why that funding has doubled, because it is a very substantial increase. If you look at all those above that item, none of them individually accounts for \$4 million. So, I would appreciate knowing where the \$4 million has gone.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Obviously, we are a much more generous government than the previous government. Of course, I am happy to provide a breakdown.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Looking at 'Unexpended commonwealth grants', I note that that figure has increased substantially across the portfolio. It has gone from \$59 million to \$89 million, which is a \$30 million increase. HACC has \$7.6 million under-expended; State Disability Agreement, \$4.1 million; and SAP, \$2.6 million. Could the minister give an explanation as to why there has been a \$30 million increase, although I appreciate some of that she is not responsible for. However, there is an increase in those areas I have outlined to the minister.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** As the deputy leader would know from his experience as a minister, quite often the funding arrangements with the commonwealth lag behind the financial year. Certainly, in the case of the Home and Community Care area, there was a lot of negotiation with regard to the state's offer to match the commonwealth grant. I think the deputy leader will remember through the estimates process that I am still having negotiations with the commonwealth in particular about what our allocation would be for this state.

In addition, I think because minister Andrews was very keen to have his community care review, the amount of time that it took to roll out the home and community care grants, as well as the other grants under that portfolio, was about six months behind the previous financial year. So, at the moment, we are in fact looking at the roll-out from home and community care for the previous financial year, which means that we are always behind time. This is a feature that I am sure the deputy leader will remember when he was leader—

**Ms Chapman:** Not when I was doing it.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am very pleased to hear that the member for Bragg is more efficient at these things. Perhaps she is wasted in here and we should bring her back to get us on time again. But, at a more serious level, my understanding is that this is the—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I see. It would certainly be interesting to talk to the member for Bragg about that. But, as far as the home and community care is concerned—and, again, I have made mention of this in this house—we have what is I believe an unacceptable time lag, but we have one nonetheless. It will be interesting to see, particularly in that area, whether the new minister does conclude the community care investigation. I think the deputy leader will remember that submissions were made by this state, I think from all of us, that we need to tighten up the timetable. In relation to the other areas of commonwealth grants, I am not sure of the reason for the overlap, but I will take advice on that. We do not actually have to hand the reason for that time lag. As I understand it, that is the main region. I have been given a document entitled Schedule 1 that lists all the commonwealth-state programs, and at this stage I can only give overall figures. If the member would like a breakdown of those programs and why there is a time line or amount difference, I am happy to provide that, but I cannot do it at the moment.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I ask the minister to table Schedule 1.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Is it a statistical table?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Yes.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** It will be incorporated in *Hansard*.

## Schedule 1

The department is engaged in a variety of funding programs involving state and commonwealth sources who provide monies to the department on the premise that these funds are expended in a manner consistent with the terms of the program. As at 30 June 2003 the department had outstanding funding commitments to the following programs:

	2003 \$'000	2002 \$'000	Movement \$'000
Commonwealth State Housing Agreement	33 395	35 258	(1 863)
Industrial Relations Award Back Payments	20 000	-	20 000
Home and Community Care	7 589	5 660	1 929
Police Diversion	4 119	2 136	1 983
Commonwealth State Disability Agreement	3 544	4 344	(800)
Quality Development Funding	3 236	2 268	968
Mental Health Programs	2 673	970	1 703
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	1 890	2 079	(189)
Childhood Immunisation Vaccines	1 772	-	1 772
Meningococcal C	1 675	-	1 675
Veteran Homecare Program	1 401	684	717
Diabetes Review and Education	1 180	-	1 180
MMR Vaccination Campaign	910	-	910
Public Health Outcome Funding Agreement	838	-	838
National Health Development Fund	711	2 402	(1 691)
Aboriginal Kinship	675	-	675
Catherine House	650	-	650
Enrolled Nurses Cadetship Initiative	605	723	(118)
Nosocomial Infection Unit	566	-	566
Health Promotions	13	1 021	(1 008)
Patient Assistance Transport Scheme Expansion	-	1 500	(1 500)
Other	2 220	852	1 368
	89 662	59 897	29 765

**Ms CHAPMAN:** At page 552 is reference to the child protection review which your government initiated in March 2002 and which was ultimately released in March this year. A number of recommendations and statements have been made on this matter. Given the time frame in relation to the release and your call for submissions and the opportunity for the public to make submissions in June this year, when is the government proposing to finalise its response to the review, which the Auditor-General has indicated in the last line is still being awaited?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** As the member for Bragg would be aware, the review made 206 recommendations. The major recommendations for reform relate to: early intervention and prevention; the Department of Human Services and Family and Youth Services (and I will come back to that in a minute); reform of the justice system for children; education and children's services in the child protection reform; screening and monitoring of persons working with children; legislative reform; training and education; and children in detention. They are the major areas but, of course, there are many others.

With regard to all the areas that I have mentioned, considerable work has been done across government. We have included the Attorney-General's Department, health, Aboriginal services and children's services, in particular, in working through all those recommendations in the ministerial committee that I chaired. At the same time, we have had an across-government working group that has been chaired by the CEO of the Department of Justice (Kate Lennon). The two groups have been working to try to come up with an adequate response and, in most cases, quite considerable

reform for our child protection system.

I mentioned the Department of Human Services and FAYS. As the member is aware, a workload analysis is being conducted at the moment. A financial analysis is being looked at with regard to explaining some of the anomalies and problems that we have experienced in the Family and Youth Services budget. A review is also under way (and, I would say, a total reform) of the alternative care area which is, of course, very much associated with Family and Youth Services.

We are about to complete some considerable work in relation to alternative care arrangements for Aboriginal children and young people. With regard to children and young people who are under my guardianship as minister, we have also been working to ensure that services have been pulled together to support properly those children and young people. Part of the challenge has been to ensure that other services, such as health services, education and the other support that a child or young person needs to become a successful citizen, are provided, and in some cases (the health area, in particular) that has involved negotiations at commonwealth level.

We have been working through all those areas, and I anticipate that we will have some recommendations with regard to the roll-out of those areas by December. I hope that the member will not hold me to that if we cannot achieve it by then, but I hope to have a cabinet response prepared for December.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** What budget, if any, has been allocated this year for the implementation of the recommendations the minister expects to present by December, or whenever they are presented?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I think that the member is aware that, certainly in the last state budget negotiations, the ministerial group came up with a multilateral bid which was announced a number of times during the budget process. At the moment, I am working on another allocation of money—again, through the different portfolios. The member is aware that, because the whole area of child protection involves so many different government areas, it is important that we coordinate that bid, and I am working on that at the moment. As I said, it is part of both cabinet committee discussions and the across-department CEO group that is rolling out Robyn Layton's recommendations. Obviously, all those are being costed, and some have been finalised. Through the reform process that is currently under way, it is very clear that we will be requesting another budget allocation in next financial year's budget.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Robyn Layton QC in her report was also critical as to the quality of the work force involved. She was not personally critical of those personnel, but she was critical that their standard of training is somewhat deficient for the level of skill and expertise that is required in this area. What action, if any, has the government taken, and when is it proposed to be implemented (if it has not already happened) to add to the training or retraining to deal with this concern?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** The member for Bragg, that sounded like a question on the Layton report rather than the Auditor-General's Report. Do you have a reference?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Page 552.5.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** That is drawing a very long bow. I will see whether the minister wishes to respond.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Certainly. I think there are probably two points that I need to make. First, the Auditor-General's Report, of course, is not talking about the prospective budget; it is talking about the previous budget. But I am more than happy, because of my campaigning, I suppose, with regard to child protection, to tell anyone who wants to know about it of the initiatives that we have in this area. With regard to the specific question, I agree with the chair that it is drawing a long bow, but I am more than happy, at a future stage, to provide that information, because the work force analysis that we are undertaking in this area—particularly in Family and Youth Services, but also in the alternative care area—is currently being looked at. I would be more than happy, when we have finalised that, to provide a briefing to the member about some of the initiatives that we are looking at.

Also, in conjunction with the three universities, we are looking at some of the graduates, because we really do not have enough social workers. There is a work force problem. We certainly need more youth workers, and we need a whole lot of other operational staff in the area, and that is precisely what the work force analysis is looking at. As I said, I am pleased that training and education and retraining is part of that.

The other matter that I think is worth noting is that the Department of Human Services, in the different parts of its portfolio, is looking at work force planning, education and training. So, that is part of our bigger agenda.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** With respect to the status of women (and I refer to page 566, column K3, which provides the budgetary information as audited by the Auditor-General), I think I am in agreement with the minister in my concern in the past of the small allocation of budget for this area. It is under \$1.7 million. Nevertheless, what concerns me (and I would like the minister's explanation) is why, especially

given such a small allocation, we find that in the subject year there is an underspend of some \$223 000. How can it possibly happen that money is so short for such an important portfolio area?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am as surprised as the member for Bragg. I will have to take that question on notice and supply that information to the member. I was of the opposite understanding. I understood that the Office for Women (as it is now called) has been running a very tight and efficient budget.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Might I place on the record that the Auditor-General seems to be a little behind the times and, hence, I was referring to his language. He still refers to the Office for the Status of Women throughout the report, even though since 1 July 2002, effectively, the direction of the government has been to change that (which I have willingly taken on board), and it seems as though the Auditor-General needs some tuition in that regard. Can I leave one question in relation to the women's portfolio. With respect to the accommodation changeover, if any, from Roma Mitchell House, North Terrace, can the minister indicate whether there has been any transfer of personnel from Roma Mitchell House to other premises, in relation to her portfolio, and, if so, what has been the cost during that financial year?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am not sure where that is in the Auditor-General's Report. As you would probably know, the Office for Women changed floors in the Roma Mitchell building. I have been asked to detail those costs before, so I can make them available to you, if that is the point of your question. I am not sure if there is any other information that you need. I am not aware—but I could certainly take advice on this—of any staffing changes in particular, other than the usual changes one has in a particular department. If there are any, I am happy to give you a briefing on that. As you know, I would be more than happy for you to have those details.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** The time allocated for consideration of matters relating to the Minister for Social Justice, Minister for Housing, Minister for Youth and Minister for the Status of Women in relation to the report of the Auditor-General 2002—03 has expired.

We will now proceed to matters relating to the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Under the Auditor-General's Report last year, there was certain information provided which was not provided this year. These are the unaudited figures, as provided on pages 316 through to 320 last year. The majority of these relate to health. That information is not available in this year's Auditor-General's Report. When I raised it with the Auditor-General, he said I should take it up with the minister. So, I take it up with the minister and ask that that information now be provided.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The Auditor-General determines the structure of the report. As far as we are concerned, we have complied with what he required.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I raised this issue specifically—the minister was not here before—and I specifically rang the Auditor-General and asked for that information which had previously been provided but which was not provided this year. He said that that would be beyond his control: it was in the control of the minister to provide that information, therefore I should raise the matter with the minister. I am

raising the matter with the minister: will the minister now provide the information as provided under previous reports as covered in pages 316-320 in last year's report (so that she has a clear understanding of what I am asking for) for this latest year 2002-03?

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** The form of the Auditor-General's report is determined by the Auditor-General as set out in the Public Finance and Audit Act. You may be asking the minister for additional material but I think it is important that it be recognised that it is the Auditor-General who determines the form of the material that is presented in his report.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Madam Chair, I had a longer discussion with the Auditor-General which I would rather not reveal here but if you wish to push the point, I am only too willing to. I am asking that this information be provided. The previous minister agreed to provide it and that is all I am after.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I would never want to stand in the way of transparency and therefore I will provide the deputy leader with all the information he requires. I am quite happy to do that. We will have a chat with the Auditor-General as well, but obviously we would want to be transparent in providing information.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** My next question relates to the graphs appearing on pages 580 to 587. There are a series of performance graphs and I ask that I be able to have access to the raw data, that is the figures, rather than the graphs. It is very hard to interpret the graphs. I am talking about patient admissions on page 580, bed utilisation etc., on page 581 and there are some others later on as well. The main graphs I am interested in are on pages 580 and 581. I would appreciate it if I could have the actual figures from which those graphs were built. Again this is a matter I raised with the Auditor-General and he asked me to take it up with the minister.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** We have no problem with that.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** In the report last year, a specific section dealt with capital expenditure. The report this year does not have specific capital expenditure. Can the minister give an indication of what was the allocation for capital expenditure this year and how much of that was spent? There is a quite separate section on page 295 of the Auditor-General's Report last year headed in bold letters 'Capital Expenditure', and it talked about how much money was spent and some of the major projects on which it was spent. However, for some reason, that information is not available this year. I find it astounding because capital expenditure is a huge portion of the budget. The Auditor-General specifically commented on unspent capital funds in the first part of his report. When I looked under Human Services, I could not find such a section. I asked the Auditor-General for guidance and he asked me to refer the matter to the minister.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I can give the honourable member the information, and I am really pleased to be able to do so. The capital investing program for health had an expenditure level of \$111.9 million against a budget of \$109 million. The small over expenditure will be funded from approved funding this year. A further \$39.4 million of capital type expenditure was transferred to the recurrent budget as a result of changes in accounting treatment. Expenditure was \$38 million. The capital program has been fully utilised in 2002-03. We have been very keen to ensure that, unlike in past years—and the deputy leader would fully remember the underspending of the capital budget that went on when he was the minister—we have made an effort—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I remember *The Advertiser* article in which your former colleague the then premier accused the honourable member of being a major offender in the underspending of capital works budgets in the previous term. We have done a lot of work on the capital works program. We have analysed it very carefully. We have looked carefully at all the projects. We have paced them realistically so that we could take up any possible slackness in time frame which could then enable us to fit in other programs. We have been trying to get the best bang for the buck in terms of addressing the real capital works needs which have been hanging around in our system for a good five, six, seven or eight years; and we will be continuing to do that.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I appreciate those figures, but I would also appreciate the figures for the whole of the Department of Human Services. I think the minister has given the health figures, but the department covers more than that area.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I thought the member for Finnis asked about health. I am the Minister for Health.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is correct; I asked about health.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Ms Thompson):** Order, member for Finnis! We are here to examine matters relating to the Minister for Health, so proceed with issues relating to the Minister for Health and the Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** We are dealing with the Department of Human Services, and the information I have sought is on the Department of Human Services. Surely, the minister is big enough to sort out which it falls under. I will leave it up to the minister to also provide departmental figures, as well as the health figures.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN:** Member for Finnis, I am concerned to ensure that the minister is not asked to commit to something for which she is not responsible. I remind you that we are here to consider in committee the report of the Auditor-General 2002-03 regarding matters relating to the Minister for Health and the Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion. I ask you to relate your questions to that area.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Certainly, Madam Chair. I refer to page 565 and 566. On page 565, Program S2 refers to the Metropolitan Health Services and Program S3 refers to the Country Health Services. On page 566, the table lists the deficit under Program S2 for metropolitan hospitals as \$55.2 million. Program S3 shows a deficit of \$12.8 million. Does that mean that there was considerable over-expenditure in the year, first, on metropolitan hospitals by \$55 million; and, secondly, on country hospitals by \$12.8 million?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I have been advised that there has been an increase in appropriation to allow for increased expenditure in the health units—and part of that has been covered by an equity injection of \$60 million in 2002-03.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I would ask where that is shown in this report. It shows the allocated revenue, the expenses and the \$55.2 million deficit; does that mean that there was over-expenditure by the hospitals to \$55.2 million? When was the \$60 million allocated? Where is it shown in this report? One would have thought that, having been allocated during the year, it would have shown up under state government appropriation.



**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** It can be found on page 559, under 'Cash flows from financing activities—equity contribution, \$60 879 000'.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I appreciate that. Why has that not then been picked up under the tables on page 566? If it was allocated to the hospitals, it would have been a state government appropriation to the hospitals which is not reflected there.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I am informed that the equity provisions are not considered to be an appropriation, which is why it does not appear in that other table.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** So, was it allocated to cover a debt? You have there a \$67 million debt, and I presume it was allocated to cover that debt.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I am informed that it is not related to debt. It is a financing operation. If the honourable member wants further information, we will need to take any questions on notice. Perhaps the honourable member could outline any other questions he has about that.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I now refer to page 569 of the Auditor-General's Report. Under (6a) 'General appropriation' by the state it shows \$1 420 million for the current year. Under (6b) it covers a further \$34.5 million of other appropriations in different areas. Am I correct in saying that the total state appropriation is a combination of those two?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I am advised that that is correct, and then there is the other financing through the equity grant.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Why is that not regarded as a contribution from the state government?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I draw the honourable member's attention to page 569, paragraph (6a)(i). We are following an accounting convention, and that paragraph explains it.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I have read that paragraph. I discussed that with people with appropriate qualifications and asked them to explain it to me. That does not clarify much at all. All it says is that in previous recording periods the department recognised the equity contribution appropriation of \$27.8 million.

In the current period it has removed that. Therefore, to make it a fair comparison it is, in fact, withdrawing the \$27.8 million previously made. As far as state government appropriation is concerned, on a fair comparison, I am told by someone with an appropriate accounting qualification, it has gone from \$1 414 million to \$1 420 million, an increase of \$6 million.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** This part identifies that general appropriations have increased by almost \$30 million. A change in accounting treatment for an equity injection provided by the state in 2001-02 increases the 2002-03 appropriation relative to last year by a further \$27.8 million.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** So, if you make that adjustment (and that is exactly what the accountant said to me) and bring it back to a fair comparison, that is the assumption: that state government appropriation (and I think the minister is confirming the point I am making) was \$1 420 million this last year, and the year before it was \$1 414 million. That is on an equal comparison, because you have had to take out of the figure for the previous year—so that you have a relative increase—the equity and contribution appropriation, because that is not included for this year.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** That is not correct, I am informed. We would like to take that question on notice and give the honourable member a full response, because we are getting tied up in accounting conventions and convolutions.

I am informed that that is not correct, but we will provide the honourable member with the information.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I would appreciate figures which show what the government appropriation was as shown under 6A, 6C and any other appropriation or equity contribution. My accounting source tells me that it is a fair comparison, and I think that is exactly what the Auditor-General is saying. To be able to compare eggs with eggs on the same accounting terms, that is a fair comparison. If you had not deducted the \$27 million from that sum, you would have been comparing apples with pears because, in the previous year (2001-02), you had not only state government contribution but also an equity contribution.

The Auditor-General has made that adjustment to allow for a fair comparison to be made. I think that, on a fair comparison, the state government contribution has gone from \$1 414 million to \$1 420 million.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I stand by what I said previously. We will take the issue on notice. A few moments ago the deputy leader outlined the categories on which he would like information. We will do that and provide it for him.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Does the minister recognise the fact that, under the Australian Health Care Agreement, the base funding arrangement has gone from \$564 million to \$605 million, which in fact represents an increase of 7.3 per cent?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I presume that the honourable member is talking about page 569?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is right.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I can see the two figures. I presume that the deputy leader has done his maths correctly to get the 7 per cent.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is right. I would like to know where the comparative figure is from the state government. There is a state budget and money has been allocated under state appropriations. The Auditor-General thought it was fit, proper and appropriate to put it under this area, so therefore we are comparing what came out of the state budget with what came out of the federal budget. From what I can see, what came out of the state budget as an appropriation is an increase of less than 1 per cent. What has come out of the federal budget is an increase of 7.3 per cent.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** One of the difficulties is that we are looking at the Department of Human Services data, and, as the deputy leader knows, the Australian Health Care Agreement applies to health units. I refer the honourable member to page 567, which sets out a whole range of grants, subsidies, client payments and other recurrent funding to incorporated health services. The honourable member may wish to comment on that.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Does this mean that, outside these areas, there were substantial cuts in other areas? If the minister is saying that that represents the increase from state and federal sources—because there is a mix of federal and state money in those figures at the bottom of that page—does that mean that there was a significant cut in state contribution to other areas of the portfolio, and that may well be under the minister's control?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The honourable member needs to be more specific. Can he tell me which line he is referring to? He is making very general statements.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I go back to page 569, where the increase in appropriation for the department from state government sources is \$6 million. There is a slight increase of \$5 million under 6(c). If the minister adds 6(a) and 6(c) she

will get an increase in funding from state government sources of \$34 million. On page 567, if we look at the combination of federal and state money, but only a portion of the total budget, the minister will see an increase in funding from \$1 633 000 to \$1 764 000.

*The Hon. L. Stevens interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Yes. I was on page 569 and now I am on page 567. If we are taking stuff out of a basket, part of which is going into these health units, there must be other areas where there has been a reduction in expenditure, if there has been an increase from state sources and federal sources, because they have to add up at the end of the day. If there has been an increase in this area there must have been a reduction somewhere else, or, and I suspect this from looking at the annual reports of some of the individual health units, they have pooled funds from two different sources that were previously accounted for under one source as two separate sources. They have now put those together and have shown a significant increase, which is not a real increase because it is simply an accounting increase, by bringing various units together and changing the basis under which the accounts are done as to which entities are included in those accounts. That is why I am asking where is the specific state allocation, out of the entire health portfolio. It is fair to say that we have every right to use table 6(a) and table 6(c) as a clear indication for the whole of the Department of Human Services of the increase in state appropriation, and compare that with 6(b), which is the federal government appropriation.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** There has been an increase in capital and recurrent funding to incorporated health services and NGOs funded by increased state appropriations, commonwealth grants, increased revenue from rent fees and charges, and an equity injection, which we raised before, of \$60 million was provided. We will obtain other information for the deputy leader on the points he raised. In relation to his issue with the Australian Health Care Agreement funding increasing by \$41 million, he might be interested to know that coming from the commonwealth the increase in state funds to health units was \$100 million.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is the very point I am making. If you go back to the gross figures for the whole of the department, the increase in state contributions did not match that. So, where is the extra state money? If you put the federal money together with the state money you come up with a figure that looks to be basically in line with other areas of total expenditure of the department, but the minister has given figures for an increase in incorporated units, and that does not match the total increase in allocation to the department. There is a significant credibility gap on the figures that the minister is using there. And these are figures provided by the Auditor-General.

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** I do not think we should be talking about credibility problems, especially the deputy leader, in relation to the financial arrangements in the Department of Human Services, which we are still trying to come to grips with. However, I have been informed that the issues that the honourable member has raised are accounted for and do not take account of the equity contribution. But we will come back with the answers to the questions that the honourable member has raised.

Time expired.

**The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Ms Thompson):** That completes the examination relating to the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion.

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### PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Infrastructure):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** It was first raised with me on the *Country Hour* radio program today that a decision for opening bridges would delay completion of the third river crossing. I stated accurately on the program that this was wrong. I was asked again at Question Time if a delay would make this government liable to payments to stakeholders. I advised the house that there is no delay. So that the house has the fullest possible understanding of the matter, I offer the following. The government and, I understand, most stakeholders have been aware for many months that the completion time for the Port River Expressway is 2006. This is a departure from the previous government's timetable, for very sound reasons.

Earlier this year it became apparent to the government that the proposed financing model by the previous government was seriously flawed. It was necessary to abandon the model and devise a new one. This resulted in the need to create a public non-financial corporation, details of which appear in this year's budget papers. All this has been known for some time. The timetable for the new form of procurement has been understood for some time. The only substantial delay for the project was the need to abandon the flawed PPP scheme of the previous government, which has also been known for some time.

### SURVEY (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council disagreed to the amendment of the House of Assembly for the reason indicated in the following schedule, and desires its reconsideration:

Because it has potential to add personal cost to the consumer.

### AUTHORISED BETTING OPERATIONS (LICENCE AND PERMIT CONDITIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Returned from the Legislative Council without any amendment.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 5.51 p.m. the house adjourned until Monday 24 November at 2 p.m.

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 10 November 2003

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### TOURISM, REGIONAL

7. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the details of any funding allocated to regional tourism areas in 2003-04, what are the comparative details for 2002-03 and was a regional impact statement prepared for cabinet or the Department on any reduction in funding?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Funding was allocated to regional tourism areas under a number of different programs as outlined below:

##### Infrastructure

##### Minor Infrastructure Fund

In 2002-03 there was \$1 million allocated to this fund that supports regional tourism projects.

In 2003-04 there is \$1.055 million allocated to the fund.

##### Major Infrastructure Fund

In 2002-03 there was \$200,000 allocated for individual projects.

In 2003-04 so far there have been no projects allocated funding.

Submissions are currently being assessed.

##### Outback Infrastructure Fund

In 2002-03 there was \$2 million allocated to this fund that supports tourism projects in the Flinders Ranges and Outback tourism region.

In 2003-04 there is \$2.7 million allocated to this Fund.

This fund is a 3-year Fund with 2003-04 being the third year.

##### Industry and product development

Various sectors of the tourism industry receive support on a project by project basis that can have a generic, but not necessarily a specific, effect on regional areas. Projects such as regional workshops on food and wine branding, direct assistance with the formulation of a product brochure and assistance with business planning are all examples of this type of assistance.

##### Product Development

In 2002-03 there were 14 individual projects that were allocated \$144,000.

In 2003-04 there are 11 projects identified that have \$151,000 budgeted for them.

##### Visitor Information Centres

In 2002-03 there was \$260,000 allocated to support the on-going operation of the network of accredited Visitor Information Centres throughout the State.

In 2003-04 there is again \$260,000 allocated to support accredited Visitor Information Centres.

##### Marketing

##### Regional Tourism Marketing Committees Funding

South Australia is divided into twelve tourism regions. Each tourism region has a Tourism Marketing Committee. The South Australian Tourism Commission provides funding to each of these Marketing Committees on a dollar for dollar and a dollar for two-dollar basis that is matched by regional stakeholders.

In 2003-04, funding to these twelve regions totals \$2.135 million. After matching funds, from regional stakeholders, this translates to at least

\$4.2 million that the Marketing Committees can spend on promoting tourism and marketing their regions.

In 2002-03, a total of \$2.13 million was provided to the State's twelve tourism regions.

##### Regional Events and Festivals Program

The South Australian Tourism Commission also administers the Regional Events & Festivals Program, which provides funding to a range of events and festivals across the State to assist event organisers with promotion and marketing activities.

In 2002-03, almost \$412,000 was allocated to 49 events.

In 2003-04 to date, 62 events have been allocated funding sponsorship to a total of \$616,450.

##### Policy and planning

In 2002-03 funding was granted to the District Council of Wattle Range and District Council of Clare and Gilbert Valley, who each received \$15,000 to prepare a Wine Tourism Plan Amendment Report (PAR).

A grant of \$10,000 was also provided to the District Council of Mount Barker to assist Council in leveraging additional funding towards the development of a Master Plan for the Hahndorf Main Street.

In 2003-04 the regional areas of Kangaroo Island and a joint Clare/Barossa each received grants of \$50,000 as part of the Strategic Tourism Planning for Regions grant initiative. These grants were matched by funding from each of the regions.

#### TOURISM PORTFOLIO

8. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Does the Tourism Portfolio have any input to the Social Inclusion Board and if so, what are the details?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The Tourism Portfolio has not, to date, had any input into the Social Inclusion Board.

The Social Inclusion Board 'Terms of Reference' identifies three specific references as the key social policy issues for the Board to initially address. These are Homelessness, School Retention and the Drugs Summit 2002. Tourism does not have any direct relevance to these references.

Tourism may develop a role in the future depending on new 'Terms of Reference'.

#### HEART OF THE ARTS PROMOTION

25. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the details of the 'Heart of the Arts' promotion and how will it be marketed?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Arts events and experiences are regarded as a key tourism attribute of South Australia, and recent additions to the event calendar such as the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and the Adelaide International Film Festival continue to build on the positioning that the Adelaide Festival of Arts helped create.

In a competitive marketplace where Sydney and Melbourne are both seeking to position themselves as leading locations for the Arts, the South Australian Tourism Commission has developed a brand and positioning for South Australia as the 'Heart of the Arts'—a statement that reflects quality over quantity and recognises the history, heritage and achievement of South Australian arts activities.

The 'Heart of the Arts' branding and visual elements will be used in co-operative marketing of events interstate, with the objectives of increasing both the level of interstate visitors at these events and the awareness and perception of Adelaide and South Australia as the nation's premier arts destination.

#### TOURISM, ADVENTURE

30. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many adventure tourist operators in South Australia have reported difficulties with rising insurance premiums, how many have ceased operating during this time and how is the South Australian Tourism Commission assisting the adventure tourism market?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Ten (10) adventure tourism operators have reported difficulties with rising insurance premiums. The first report of difficulties was made to the South Australian Tourism Commission in September 2000.

The South Australian Tourism Commission is aware of one (1) adventure tourism operator that has ceased operating. The South Australian Tourism Commission is also aware that three (3) other operators have ceased to offer certain types of activities, however they are still open for business.

In 2002 the South Australian Tourism Commission conducted a series of 15 free risk management workshops. Approximately 200 operators attended the workshops.

More recently a specific Insurance & Risk Management presentation was well received by the industry when presented by South Australian Tourism Commission staff at the Regional Tourism Conference at Whyalla on 22 August 2003. A further presentation on this issue was conducted by South Australian Tourism Commission staff to tourism operators on 24 September 2003 at McLaren Vale.

The South Australian Tourism Commission provides the services of two Industry Advisers to provide advice to tourism operators on issues such as risk management and insurance arrangements.

#### ELLIS, Mr B.

55. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many ministerial speeches have been written by Mr Bob Ellis in 2001-02 and 2002-03, what were his charges and from which lines were any fees paid?

**The Hon M.D. RANN:** I am advised that Mr Bob Ellis contributed to approximately 22 speeches over the period 2001-02 and 2002-03 at a cost of \$34,500 paid from the Office of the Premier's Contractors—General line.

For the shadow minister's information, I would also like to draw his attention to the figures below which I am advised set out the payments to Ms Alex Kennedy for speechwriting and other services from 1997-2001.

Date	Description	Amount
7/01/1997	Reimbursement of expenses	\$48.52
17/06/1997	Services provided in June 97	\$2,115.38
1/07/1997	Services provided in June 97	\$2,115.38
15/07/1997	Services provided in July 97	\$2,115.38
29/07/1997	Services provided in July 97	\$2,115.38
1/08/1997	Services provided in July 97	\$15,769.24
13/08/1997	Services provided in August 97	\$5,000.00
19/08/1997	Services provided in August 97	\$5,000.00
27/08/1997	Services provided in August 97	\$5,000.00
10/09/1997	Services provided in September 97	\$5,000.00
24/09/1997	Services provided in September 97	\$5,000.00
8/10/1997	Reimbursement of expenses	\$9,745.22
22/10/1997	Services provided in October 97	\$5,000.00
5/11/1997	Services provided in October 97	\$5,000.00
19/11/1997	Services provided in November 97	\$5,000.00
3/12/1997	Services provided in November 97	\$5,000.00
11/12/1997	Reimbursement of expenses	\$69.00
17/12/1997	Services provided in December 97	\$5,000.00
31/12/1997	Services provided in December 97	\$5,000.00
19/01/1998	Services provided in January 98	\$25,000.00
22/06/1998	Services provided in June 98	\$20,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$134,093.50</b>

Date	Description	Amount
22/07/1998	Services provided in July 98	\$10,000.00
7/08/1998	Services provided in July 98	\$5,000.00
3/09/1998	Services provided in August 98	\$5,000.00
1/10/1998	Services provided in September 98	\$5,000.00
1/11/1998	Services provided in October 98	\$5,000.00
14/12/1998	Services provided in December 98	\$5,000.00
11/04/1999	Services provided in April 99	\$15,000.00
21/05/1999	Services provided in May 99	\$15,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$65,000.00</b>

Date	Description	Amount
3/08/1999	Services provided in July 99	\$10,000.00
1/02/2000	Services provided in January 2000	\$30,000.00
31/03/2000	Reimbursement of expenses	\$8,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$48,000.00</b>

Date	Description	Amount
17/11/2000	Services provided in September 00	\$4,695.00
18/12/2000	Services provided in October 00	\$4,695.00
15/01/2001	Services provided in November 00	\$3,360.00
14/02/2001	Services provided in December 00	\$3,750.00
28/02/2001	Services provided in February 01	\$4,800.00
2/03/2001	Reimbursement of meeting expenses	\$194.60
20/03/2001	Services provided in March 01	\$3,450.00
1/04/2001	Reimbursement of meeting expenses:	
	19/3/01—Pescatore	
	30/3/01—Pescatore	
	22/3/01—House of Robert Timms	\$93.80
11/04/2001	Services provided in April 01	\$3,630.00
24/04/2001	Conference: Competitive Electricity Attendee—Pina Mascolo	\$1,980.00
30/04/2001	Services provided in April 01	\$4,620.00
23/05/2001	Reimbursement of:	
	Phone/Mobile/Fax calls/Rent	\$721.88
22/06/2001	Services provided in June 01	\$5,050.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,040.28</b>

Date	Description	Amount
2/07/2001	Services provided in June 01— Provision of assistance with Production of Promotions	\$3,750.00
17/07/2001	Services provided in July 01— Provision of Research Work	\$3,336.00
23/07/2001	Services provided in July 01— Specific assistance with Production of Promotions	\$4,364.00
31/07/2001	Reimbursement of taxi fares Reimbursement of meeting expenses:	
	10/4/01—House of Robert Timms	
	7/5/01—Pescatore	

	4/6/01—Chapel Cafe	
	9/7/01—Chapel Cafe	\$278.80
9/08/2001	Reimbursement of:	
	Phone/Mobile/Fax calls/Rent	\$817.41
30/08/2001	Reimbursement of meeting expenses:	
	30/7/01—House of Robert Timms	
	6/8/01—Chapel Cafe	
	17/8/01—House of Robert Timms	\$53.90
26/09/2001	Services provided in August 01	\$4,125.00
26/09/2001	Services provided in September 01	\$7,700.00
10/10/2001	Services provided in October 01— Provision of Research Work	\$4,620.00
16/10/2001	Services provided in October 01— Assistance with State Promotion	\$4,180.00
18/10/2001	Reimbursement of meeting expenses	\$171.10
16/11/2001	Reimbursement of:	
	Phone/Mobile/Fax calls/Rent	\$661.21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,057.42</b>
	1997-1998	\$134,093.50
	1998-1999\$	65,000.00
	1999-2000	\$48,000.00
	2000-2001	\$41,040.28
	2001-2002	\$34,057.42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$322,191.20</b>

#### JAM FACTORY, SUBSIDIES

##### 59. Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:

1. What is the extent of Government grants and subsidies received by the Jam Factory during each of the years 2000-01 to 2003-04, and has there been an increase in real term funding during this time?

2. What are the retail sales for the same years and what percentage is returned to the artist and retained by the Jam Factory, respectively?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I am advised that the following grants and subsidies were received by the Jam Factory during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04.

	2000-01	2001-2	2002-03	2003-4
Grants and subsidies received	900,000	792,000	842,000	797,000

The movement between years reflects a once off project grant in 2000-01 for the Chihuly exhibition (\$64,000), grants paid in advance to assist the Jam Factory in cash flowing its operations and part CPI increases. The average increase in funding for inflation to the JamFactory over the four years is 0.7% per annum.

Contemporary craft is sold through the JamFactory's two retail outlets and gallery, with returns to artists based on standard commercial terms. Retail sales for the Jam Factory are as follows:

	2000-2001	2001-02	2002-2003
Gross Income from retail sales	\$894,156	\$980,698	\$824,565
Amount Paid to Artists	\$462,001	\$570,709	\$485,658
Percentage of income paid to Artists	52%	58%	59%

#### EXHIBITIONS, FUNDING

61. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much exhibition funding has been provided by the government in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 to the—

- Art Gallery of South Australia;
- South Australian Museum;
- State Library; and
- History Trust Museum?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I am advised that the government does not provide any specific funding for exhibitions to the Art Gallery of South Australia, the South Australian Museum, the State Library and the History Trust.

The government provides these institutions with general operating grants, which they allocate to fund their activities, including their permanent exhibition programs.

The institutions fund their temporary exhibitions through corporate sponsorships, entry fees and/or other sources of funds.

**BART, Ms C.**

73. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many Boards include Cheryl Bart as a member and what is her remuneration from each Board?

Board Name	Position	Appointment dates	Remuneration arrangements
Adelaide International Film Festival Board	Chair	1/7/2002-30/6/2005	No remuneration paid
Economic Development Board and its allied committee of the Defence Industry Advisory Board (for which she receives no additional remuneration)	Member	5/12/2002-4/12/2005 4/7/2003	\$45,000 per annum
Information Economy Advisory Board	Member	27/2/2003-27/2/2005	\$160 per four hour session

Ms Bart was appointed to the ETSA Board by the previous Liberal Government in 1995. The Howard Government appointed her Chair of the Australian Sports Foundation and as a non-executive director of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation. Ms Bart is also the Chair of the Audit Committee of that Foundation. Ms Bart is held in bipartisan high esteem, not only for her business and legal acumen, but also because of her tireless commitment to the task at hand. I will be grateful for any advice from Mr Hamilton-Smith for any future roles he believes Ms Bart could fulfil for South Australia.

**AUTISM**

78. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. How much funding has been provided to—
  - (a) psychological testing of autism sufferers; and
  - (b) the Autism Association of South Australia: in 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04?
2. What family support and respite programs were cancelled by the Association in 2002-03 and 2003-04?
3. How many new clients were referred to the Association by the public health system in 2002-03 and 2003-04?
4. What joint education and health sector programs are currently in place to assist autistic children and their families?
5. What plans are in place to assist families with autistic children who are unable to access Association programs?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:**

1(a) Funding is not allocated against particular disciplines, tests or therapies. Psychological testing for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder may be conducted by a range of agencies including the Autism Association, Intellectual Disability Services Council (IDSC), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and community health services, depending on the circumstances and needs of clients.

(b) Recurrent funding by the Department of Human Services to the Autism Association since 2000-01 is:  
 2000-01 - \$417,142  
 2001-02 - \$451,342  
 2002-03 - \$464,342  
 2003-04 - \$578,272<sup>1</sup>

The Autism Association also received an additional \$100,000 of once-off funding in 2000-01.

The Department of Education and Children's Services Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities (MACSWD) provides funds to the Autism Association on the basis of calendar years:

Calendar Year	Early Intervention Funding \$	School Support \$	Total Funds pa \$
2000	293,980	505,651	799,631
2001	219,302	541,085	760,387
2002	245,745	511,189	756,934
2003	184,877	705,584	890,461

2. During 2002-03 the Autism Association reduced the number of school holiday camps from 4 to 1. These camps are supported by one-off grants from a variety of sources including the Carer Respite Centre and Apex. The number of camps that can be offered in any year is dependent on receiving one-off funds.

In 2003-04 the Autism Association has received an additional \$100,000 from DHS to expand support services available for families. The Association is also planning to extend camp services by working in conjunction with other agencies providing a similar

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Ms Bart is making an outstanding contribution to our State and played a key role in the success of April's Economic Growth Summit.

The Boards and Committee Information System held by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet currently records Ms Cheryl Bart as a member of the following boards and committees:

- service.
3. During 2002-03, the public health system referred 110 clients to the Autism Association comprising 47 for assessments and 63 for services. In 2003-04 there have been no referrals to date.
  4. Both the health and education sectors fund support services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families. The DECS Ministerial Advisory Committee: Students with Disabilities (MACSWD) funds early intervention and school support programs. DHS funds assessment and family support.
  5. All families are able to access IDSC Options Coordination, the agency responsible for assessing eligibility for disability services and coordinating services for clients. Those families that cannot access the Autism Association, or where the programs offered by the Association are not appropriate to meet their needs, should be referred by Options Coordination for appropriate alternative services.  
<sup>1</sup>Includes 3 per cent indexation for 2003-04.

**WOMEN, FUNDING**

82. **Ms CHAPMAN:** For all Departments and Agencies reporting to the minister—

1. Since March 2002, are there any instances where Federal Government funding has not been, or will not be provided due to the State Government not co-funding joint State-Federal programs and if so, what are the details, including foregone Federal funding?
2. Were all required budget savings targets for 2002-03 met and if not, what specific savings programs were not implemented?
3. What was the cost and the details of each consultancy undertaken in 2002-03?
4. What are the classifications and TEC of all current surplus employees?
5. What are the details of any program under-spend in 2001-02 not approved by Cabinet for carryover in 2002-03?
6. What is the estimated level of under-spend for 2002-03 approved by Cabinet for carryover in 2003-04?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:**

1. There have not been any instances in the Status of Women portfolio where failure to co-fund joint state-federal programs has resulted in Federal funds not being provided.
2. All required budget savings for 2002-03 were achieved by the Office for Women.
3. No consultancies were funded by the Office for Women (previously called the Office for the Status of Women) in the 2002-03 financial year.
4. The Premier has responded on behalf of the Government to this question. Please refer to the Estimates Hansard.
5. For the 2003-04 Budget, financial information for the Office for Women is presented as a separate program of the Department of Human Services. Prior to this, the Office for Women was a part of the Transport and Urban Planning portfolio. There were no underspends in 2001-02 that were requested for carryover into 2002-03 for the Office for Women.
6. For the 2003-04 Budget, financial information for the Office for Women is presented as a separate program of the Department of Human Services. At the time of the 2003-04 Budget, there were no expected underspends in 2002-03, and as a result no carryovers have been approved in 2003-04 for the Office for Women.

**OUTER HARBOR UPGRADE**

114. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:**

1. What will be the Governments total contribution to the proposed Outer Harbor upgrade and how will this be spent?

2. Which bulk grain operators currently load Panamax ships and where are these ships destined?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:**

1. It is not possible to nominate the government's total contribution to the proposed Outer Harbor upgrade at this time.

The deep-sea grain port development at Outer Harbor has two main elements

- the construction of a new grain terminal by AusBulk Ltd and the construction of a new grain berth by Flinders Ports.

The new grain terminal will include grain storage capacity for around 60,000 tonnes (initially), a rail loop, rail and road unloaders and a conveyor belt linked to the new grain wharf. AusBulk will fund this development, which is estimated to cost around \$70 million.

The new grain berth will handle Panamax class vessels (capable of carrying between 60,000 and 80,000 tonnes) and will include a deepened berth pocket (from 9.3 metres to 14.2 metres) and a deepened channel (from 9.3 metres to 12.2 metres). Flinders Ports is obligated to complete this development by way of the commitment it made under the Ports Corp sale documentation. Flinders Ports expects to spend around \$25 million on these developments, money which was foregone by the government when it sold Ports Corp.

The cost of the works being undertaken by Flinders Ports is now some \$20 million less than the solution written into the original sale agreement under the previous government and under a variation to that agreement, which I signed on 31 December 2002, those savings have been quarantined and may be made available for other, as yet unidentified, port related works.

A commitment has been made to upgrade Pelican Point Road to handle B Double trucks at an estimated cost of around \$1.5 million.

Work is being undertaken with Australian Rail Track Corporation and the Port Adelaide Enfield Council to improve the rail freight corridor serving Outer Harbor. The Government is committed to working with industry to make rail transport to Outer Harbor an efficient option and to ensure that action is taken to mitigate community impacts that might result from the projected increased rail traffic along the Le Fevre Peninsula rail corridor. Negotiations on the nature of the works required and the contributions to be received from the various parties are still to be finalised.

The government is a party to investigations into the feasibility and environmental impacts of further deepening the Outer Harbor port to a channel depth of some 14 metres. No commitments have been made by the government at this time to fund these works or any part thereof.

Investigations into infrastructure requirements to service port related industrial land at Outer Harbor are also ongoing. Normal commercial arrangements will be negotiated with infrastructure providers, wherever possible. No commitments have been made to fund any headworks or augmentation charges at this stage.

The government is also progressing the Port River road and rail bridges at an estimated total capital cost of \$131 million, less net toll revenue received. This represents a significant commitment to the Port Adelaide area and will significantly enhance the efficient operation of both the rail and road corridors serving Outer Harbor.

2. AusBulk Ltd is the only bulk grain handler in South Australia. Other Australian grain bulk handlers include Grain Corp (operating in NSW and Victoria), CBH (operating in Western Australia) and Grain Co (operating in Queensland).

All bulk grain handlers currently load Panamax class vessels, as well as other smaller vessel classes, but only at the ports that have Panamax capability, such as Port Lincoln.

The Panamax vessels ship grain to the Middle East markets, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, Iraq, Dhubi and Abu Dhabi.

#### SOUTHERN SUBURBS PORTFOLIO

122. **Dr McFETRIDGE:**

1. What is the minister's role and the objectives of the department?

2. What are the current and future funding allocations for the Department?

3. How many staff are currently employed, what are their roles and are additional staff likely to be employed?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:**

1. The role of the minister is to provide a whole of government focus and set a strategic direction for the southern suburbs. The role and objectives of the office include:

- developing an integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental priorities of the region

- encouraging partnerships with local government and between organisations within and outside the region
- providing a whole of government focus for the region.

2. In it's first year of operation the budget for the Office for the Southern Suburbs was \$440,000. This amount included \$40,000 establishment costs. The future annual funding for the Office is \$400,000. This amount includes salaries, office accommodation and operating costs.

3. The salary budget allows for four staff. Currently three staff are employed—including the Director, Project Officer and Administration Officer. The fourth salary will be used to second public sector employees from other agencies to undertake specific project work. For example, a Project Officer from Department of Children's Services (DECS) has been seconded for a six month period to develop a community based education project. That secondment concludes at the end of October 2003.

#### HOUSING TRUST, WAITING LIST

126. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** What action will be taken to reduce the waiting lists for Housing Trust accommodation?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** The number of applicants on the waiting list for South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT) accommodation has reduced from 41,600 in 1993, to 26,670 at 30 June 2003.

The reduction in the waiting list over the last decade has been primarily due to changes to housing policy in March 2000, which introduced income and needs-based eligibility criteria for access to social housing, and a new needs-based waiting list structure. 13,992 new applicants registered on the SAHT waiting list in 1999, compared with 9,079 in 2003.

At the same time new allocations of SAHT housing have declined over the past decade with 4,187 new allocations during 2002-03, compared with 7,993 in 1992-93. The reduction in new allocations is a result of the decline in overall social housing stock managed by the SAHT, Aboriginal Housing Authority and community housing organisations registered with the South Australian Community Housing Authority. In 1992, South Australia's social housing stock stood at 63,022 (all managed by the SAHT). This has declined by 8,918 dwellings to 54,104 at 30 June 2003, a 14.1 per cent reduction. The reduction of SAHT managed properties declined from 63,022 to 48,271, a 23.4 per cent reduction.

A major factor in the decline in housing stock is the ongoing reduction in grant funding available under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA). Funding under this agreement has declined in real terms by approximately 31 per cent over the past decade. Under the new CSHA for the period 2003-08 the commonwealth government has again reduced funding through the withdrawal of GST compensation for housing authorities, which was valued at \$9.5 million to South Australia in 2002-03.

Within these constraints the SAHT is accelerating its new build program with 350 new dwellings expected to be completed in 2003-04, compared to 252 in 2002-03, 149 in 2001-02 and 153 in 2000-01.

#### RECREATION, CODE OF PRACTICE

131. **The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:**

1. What is the fee structure to register a code of practice under the Recreational Services (Limitation of Liability) Regulations 2003, how were they determined and can the fees be waived or reduced in respect of organisations which cannot afford the fees?

2. How will the revenue derived from these fees be disbursed and are there any plans to use this revenue on projects or programs directly related to recreational services?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** 'The Minister for Consumer Affairs has provided this information:

The application fee for the registration of a code under the Recreational Services (Limitation of Liability) Regulations 2003 is \$850 and there is an additional registration fee of \$350. Applicants initially pay both fees and \$350 is refunded if the code is not registered.

Once a code is registered, any person can lodge an undertaking to comply with the code and the fee for this is \$250.

The fees were set with a view to obtaining partial cost recovery for the administration of the Act. In the current financial year, the program is expected to generate revenue of \$33,000 and will cost \$286,000 (including setup costs). No net revenue is expected from this program and so there are no additional funds to disburse towards

recreational services. In later years, it is expected that the program may become self-funding.

The assessment of codes is a responsible and complicated task, as we need to ensure that there are appropriate safety measures for all reasonable risks that can occur through a recreational activity. It is not a simple clerical exercise.

There are no provisions in the Regulations to allow for fees to be waived or reduced. We expect that organisations will seek to register a code only if they are likely to save in excess of the application costs in liability insurance premiums, and so can afford the costs through an internal redirection of existing funds. If an organisation's recreational service activities are such that they will not save enough in insurance premiums to pay the fees to register a code, then there would be no benefit in the organisation or the Government spending funds to draft and register a code.

**OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, REVENUE**

146. **The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:** With respect to Office of Consumer and Business Affairs in 2003-04:

- (a) what are the details of the expected \$1.2 million revenue increase derived from compliance audits; and
- (b) which fees have increased and how much additional revenue will be raised?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I have received this advice:

Details of the \$1.27 million revenue increase expected of the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs for financial year 2003-04 is as follows:

- Increase in auditing and compliance to reduce unlicensed activity \$350k
- Abolition of partnership discounts for building work contractors, plumbers, gas fitters and electricians \$400k
- Introduce commemorative business names certificates \$45k
- Birth Death Marriage certificate validation service \$5k
- Trade Measurement Instrument audit fee \$40k
- Plumbing, gas fitting and electrical apprentice license fee \$30k
- Plumbing, gas fitting and electrical increase in license fee \$230k
- Across the board fee increase of 1 per cent above mandated amount \$150k
- Licensing managers of licensed second hand vehicle dealer companies \$20k.

The fees that have increased are in parallel with the 2003-04 Cabinet mandated general fee increase of 3.9 per cent. All fees collected by OCBA were increased by one percent over and above the mandated amount. This will increase revenue by \$150k.

To approach cost recovery for the administration and licensing of plumbers, gas fitters and electricians, the triennial license fee of \$91 was increased to \$161. This will increase revenue by \$230k.

Increased fees generate \$380k of the total \$1.27 million increase in 2003-04 revenue.

Offering new services, amending internal charging policies, and increasing activity levels will realise the balance of increased 2003-04 revenue, as detailed below:

- Auditing and compliance activities will identify unlicensed trade activity, and in turn license qualified yet unlicensed tradesmen, to generate a \$350k increase in revenue.
- Internal policy previously allowed building-work contractors, plumbers, gas fitters, electricians and security & investigation agents to operate in partnership with a person already holding a license, without paying a fee. Abolition of this policy and requiring all partners to pay licensing fees will generate a \$400k increase in revenue.
- Offering customers who register a business name the opportunity to purchase a commemorative certificate is expected to increase revenue by \$45k.
- Current internal policy of not charging for the audit of a trade measurement instrument that had been certified by a licensee or inspector to 28 days earlier will be reviewed. It is estimated that a \$40k increase in revenue will be achieved by charging for this service.
- Requiring plumbing, gas fitting and electrical worker apprentices to contribute to cost recovery for the administration and licensing of apprentices would generate an increase in revenue of \$30k.
- Previously a company that was licensed as a second hand vehicle dealer could nominate a manager to be licensed at no cost. The same operational costs are incurred in assessing a manager's license as compared to an individual applying for a dealer license. To achieve cost recovery, requiring managers to be licensed would generate revenue of \$20k.

- The Certificate Validation Service is an on-line, real-time computerised validation service to enable organisations that use birth certificates as part of their proof-of-identity regime to ensure that the certificate being presented is a valid certificate issued by the Births Deaths and Marriages registration office. An increase in revenue of \$5k is expected.

**DISABILITY AND HEARING IMPAIRMENT SERVICES**

154. **Ms CHAPMAN:** Why have the coordination positions at the Disability and Hearing Impairment Services Office in Bern been reduced from 2.2 to 1.4 will other offices also be reduced?

**The Hon. P.L. WHITE:** I am advised by the Department of Education and Children's Services that the member's claim that there will be a reduction to the Disability and Hearing Impairment Services coordinator position in Berri next year is wrong.

**THINKERS IN RESIDENCE**

162. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much funding has been allocated to the 'Thinkers in Residence' program?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised that the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence program has a budget of \$.5 million per year for four years.

A key element of the program is the achievement of matching funding from partner organisations for the direct costs associated with each appointment.

Matching funding is being achieved for all appointments. The total anticipated revenue to the program from partners will be approximately \$345,000 in this financial year.

**REGIONAL ARTS FUNDING**

175. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What is the current level of funding available for regional touring by state based theatre companies and has this funding been reduced since March 2002 and if so, what are the details and consequences of this action?

2. Which South Australian based arts groups have performed overseas since March 2002 and how many will perform overseas in 2003-04?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I am advised that:

1. State Theatre Company, Mainstreet Theatre, Para//elo, Vital-statistix and Patch Theatre undertake regional touring as part of their annual programs. Mainstreet Theatre is based in Mount Gambier, but tours throughout the South East, regional SA, Adelaide and interstate. Until 2003-04, Arts SA has provided \$20,000 per annum to Country Arts SA to provide supplementary funding to those South Australian arts companies (i.e. not just theatre companies) wishing to tour to regional SA. This funding has been withdrawn in 2003-04 as part of the current budget savings strategy. Although all of the above companies have regional touring plans for 2004 within their current budgets.

2. Since March 2002 the following South Australian Arts groups have performed overseas:

Company	Touring	Dates
Australian Dance Theatre	UK	May 2002
	Singapore	June 2002
	USA	Oct-Nov 2002
Windmill Performing Arts Co	Montreal & New York	February 2003
Australian String Quartet	Europe & Asia	Sept-Oct 2003
Adelaide Chamber Singers	USA	August 2002
Elder New Music Ensemble	Scotland	August 2002
Fresh Track Productions	Scotland	August 2002
KneeHIGH Puppeteers	China	November 2002
Patch Theatre	Seattle, USA	2002
Slack Taxi	Europe	2002
SCAMP Productions	Scotland	August 2002
For 2003-04, the following South Australian Arts groups are planning to perform overseas:		
Company	Touring	Dates
Australian Dance Theatre	Netherlands	October 2003
Windmill Performing Arts Co.	Asia	June 2004
KneeHIGH Puppeteers	Europe & Mexico	June-Aug 2004
Para//elo	Argentina	2004
Restless Dance Co.	UK	2004
Savage Wit Productions	New Zealand	2004

