

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 6 May 2004

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

RURAL SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I move:

That this house notes the recently released South Australian Farmers Federation policy paper entitled 'Rural South Australia policy for the future—a triple bottom line for the bush'.

From the outset, I wish to disclose to the house that I am a financial and active member of the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF). I wish to compliment SAFF and the writers of this report for its presentation and for commissioning it. The report was prepared by Professor Richard Blandy, who was assisted by Mr Phillip Hagan, from the Adelaide University's SA Centre for Economic Studies, and Ms Nicolle Flint.

We all agree that rural communities and rural people face huge problems and that their future looks bleak unless we can reverse some of the long-term trends which have been occurring since the 1930s but which have certainly accelerated since the mid 1970s. This report is an excellent reference document in that it contains very relevant data which illustrates very clearly that all is not well in the bush. Many of these facts are well known to us all. This document backs that in with statistical data that graphically adds weight to these startling realities.

A lot of what is contained in this report is not new: we have heard much rhetoric about many of these matters for years. State and federal governments of both persuasions are strong on rhetoric. We all know what the problem is and we all know why it is happening. We talk about support, but the decline continues.

I give the federation credit for having a go. We can be critical and say that we have heard it all before, but it is making a good attempt at cataloguing the problems, highlighting the critical issues and coming up with recommendations. There is new material, and it certainly lays a path for people studying the subject and dissects the problems quite well.

On page 7 we have a snapshot, and that one page almost says it all. It talks about the number of farms. In 1968-69 there were 29 137 rural holdings in South Australia. In 2001-02 that figure was down to 14 824, a loss of 14 313; it was reduced almost by half. That is a staggering figure. The number of broadacre farms has declined by 1.5 per cent per annum every year, from 9 360 down to 7 944. The number of dairy farms is down from 842 to 667 in the same 10 years. The size of farms is shown to have increased by just under 1 000 hectares (2 470 acres in the old terms) in 10 years. They are also quite staggering figures. That is a huge increase when one considers that it has happened in 10 years. It is a lot of land coming into the hands of fewer farmers. The size of farms is certainly increasing in terms of land. The report states that the contribution by the farming sector to the state's economy was \$5.205 billion in 2001-02. Rural populations do not include near city centres such as the Barossa, the Hills, the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and so on, but the relevant figure fell by 3 358 in the 10 years to 2001.

In the executive summary it is quite clearly documented that Australian farm numbers have been falling for years and that rural populations are on the decline. Farmer and rural populations must be stabilised if South Australia is to prosper in the future. I quote from the document as follows:

A South Australia without Adelaide's hinterland of farms and small country towns would represent a huge betrayal of our history and heritage. Such a loss is unthinkable, if we are to remain true to our forebears, ourselves, our children and our children's children. Therefore the objective of this new policy initiative from SAFF is to raise the economic, social and environmental viability of farmers and other country residents to stabilise farmer and rural and regional population numbers. In taking this initiative, the federation will work in partnership with the South Australian government to develop a strategic plan for rural and regional South Australia.

The report also notes that it has been shown that, throughout the developed world, policy is shifting towards funding business to provide multifunctional outcomes for their societies. The point is also raised that there is an inequitable shortfall of spending on services in the regions by both state and federal governments. This highlights a point not mentioned in this document. Surely it is not an oversight. No doubt, it will be picked up.

The demise in our rural communities, and especially government support for rural communities, took a severe downturn, and that coincided exactly with when the government got hooked on the one vote one value system during the Dunstan years in the 1960s, and rural representation in this parliament was absolutely devastated. I still believe that certain of our regional isolated and sparsely populated electorates ought to have a look at the Queensland electoral system, which has a loading. That is a Labor state, and its rural seats contain a loading, particularly for those areas that are sparsely populated. So why do not we? It is obvious that governments, especially Labor governments, do not need any rural vote to govern here in South Australia.

Where do the resources go? They go into those targeted marginal seats. I believe that this document is deficient in not highlighting this matter and not urging a critical look at our electoral system here in South Australia. Even the change in our upper house, from when we had regions across this state to a one electorate house, has obviously worked against rural and regional South Australia. We have only four or five councillors who have a rural background, out of a total of 22. It is obvious that governments, especially Labor governments, do not need any rural vote to govern here in South Australia, so it does not happen. It is all targeted at these marginal seats, and I am very concerned about that.

I would also like to quote a passage from the document under the heading: 'Triple bottom line for the bush—economy', as follows:

The fall in numbers has many causes, most obvious being the abolition of subsidies afforded to Australian farmers, industry restructuring and encouragement by governments for those farmers deemed 'inefficient' to leave the industry.

I will pick out the highlights of the document, because time does not permit me to go into a lot of detail. On page 29, under the title, 'Triple bottom line—social', the document states:

... the remainder of non-metropolitan South Australia lost about 11 000 people over the decade—a fall of nearly 6 per cent. However, other major non-metropolitan towns such as Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Peterborough lost just over 7 000 people (from causes essentially unconnected with the broad acre farm sector).

Further on the page it states:

If similar principles were applied to rural and regional spending by the South Australian and commonwealth governments within

South Australia, there would be greater provision of government services in South Australia's non-metropolitan communities.

On page 30 I think it says it very clearly and succinctly, and this is quite sobering to read:

On this measure, South Australian government spending in regional South Australia should be \$1.702 billion, not \$1 billion. If the allocation of spending were equitable (on an equal per head basis) government spending in regional South Australia would be raised by \$700 million.

Further down the page it states:

Hence, on the evidence available in the 2000-01 Regional Statement, it can be argued that there is a shortfall between equitable and actual regional spending by the South Australian government—probably between \$300 million and \$700 million annually.

This proves the point I have just made. What is not mentioned in this document is the changing voting system in South Australia and the decimation of rural representation in this parliament. I do not know whether that omission was deliberate but I think it is sad that it was not at least mentioned. Page 35 talks about commodity prices, and we know the world markets are very important to the rural community. It states:

More and more food is being produced by fewer and fewer people with less and less capital; it is therefore ever more plentiful and cheaper.

That says it all. Finally, the recommendations are on page 5. I know all members were sent this document, and I urge them to at least read the snapshot page and then the recommendations on page 5. The key recommendation was:

That the South Australian government and the South Australian Farmers Federation work in partnership to establish a task force to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure a sustainable triple bottom line for rural and regional South Australia. The task force would:

- include key rural and regional stakeholder representatives as well as parliamentary members
- be charged with formulating both medium and long-term policies with commensurate budgetary provision; and
- be required to deliver its plan to the Premier by Friday July 16, 2004.

The first supplementary recommendation says:

That the strategic plan identify additional, ongoing, environmental and community services that can be provided by farmers and other persons living in rural and regional areas funded by the South Australian and commonwealth budgets starting in 2005-06 with an allocation of \$100 million per year.

The next one will seek clarification. I read it exactly as it is written. Recommendation 2 reads as follows:

That an essential objective of the strategic plan be to raise farm family incomes by a minimum of \$5 000 per year starting in 2005-06 as a result of the provision by farmers of additional environmental and community services.

I want that clarified because it is not clear to me. It is not explained in the rest of the document, so I will seek further advice on that. I agree with these recommendations. They are good in principle but I do not know whether they will stand up.

I commend the South Australian Farmers Federation for commissioning this report, sir. No doubt it will interest you and many members of this parliament. Even though much of the detail is well known, it is a very useful reference book, particularly for members of the government. I do not want to be rude or political, but by reading this book you can see the problems in a snapshot. They exist and we cannot run away from them. This is a very useful reference, and the detail is laid out simply and very clearly in a small book, giving a brief explanation for those who do not understand the

situation. I am concerned that there is no mention of the federal government in the recommendations but that is surely an oversight because they are the principal source of funds for rural Australia.

Governments over the years have paid lip service to this problem and the Liberals have tried to solve it. We set up the regional development boards when we were in government, and big efforts were made even back in the Tonkin years. But, when you look at the graph showing the statistics and results, we have failed. We do not have much time. Friday 16 July is mentioned here and I hope that the government takes note as we come to the budget. I note the member for Enfield is here and listening, and I commend him for that and also the speeches he makes in this place. They do not go unread or uncommenced upon. His efforts on behalf of the farming sector are appreciated and it gives one some heart that at least somebody on that side of the house understands and, more importantly, cares.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: Who are we talking about?

Mr VENNING: The member for Enfield. He obviously puts a lot of thought into his efforts.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr VENNING: You do not have to convince anyone on this side. The bottom line figure here is \$100 million. That is a lot of money in any terms. I wonder whether the government has any comment to make about this document because we have not heard a thing about it except when the Premier waved it in his hand when he released it in the mall. The budget will be coming out and we will see whether the government is really dinkum and will take action. Let us hope that the budget shows that the government has noted this report and is sympathetic and will take action. Those of us in rural South Australia and the South Australian Farmers Federation will await the outcome. I commend this report to the house.

Mrs GERAGHTY secured the adjournment of the debate.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Ms RANKINE (Wright): I move:

That this house recognises the enormous contribution to the South Australian community made by Meals on Wheels and its many thousands of volunteers, and congratulates them on 50 years of continuing service to our state.

I think all members in this house would agree that 50 years of service to South Australians is a magnificent milestone and one worthy of celebration. It certainly is worthy of our recognition and deep appreciation.

Meals on Wheels is a voluntary organisation that provides a comprehensive service which, in a very real way, touches every family in our state. It would be a rarity to find anyone who has not been assisted by Meals on Wheels or had a family member so assisted. While that assistance, in a very practical and real way, helps thousands of South Australians to stay in their own homes, it is much more than a meal-providing service. A large part of the success of Meals on Wheels is the personal contact that is provided daily to those elderly and isolated members of our community. Many people, and I have seen them on my regular visits with Meals on Wheels, would otherwise not have any human contact during their day. Their faces light up as their visitors arrive with their hot meal for the day, have a quick chat and maybe undertake a quick chore for them. I know volunteers are not supposed to do that and I have found myself in strife in one

way or another a couple of times for doing just that—in fact, I nearly electrocuted myself one day—but to see those volunteers go in, pat someone's arm or touch them and extend their hand in friendship is really quite heart wrenching. Their volunteers and committee members do a wonderful job, and an entire community is truly in their debt. The organisation that goes into providing the right meal for the right person every day has to be seen to be believed. I can think of a few people who might actually benefit from a bit of the organisational training that Meals on Wheels provides.

It was through the vision, dedication and determination of Doris Taylor that Meals on Wheels in South Australia was established. Meals on Wheels was incorporated in 1953. I understand that Doris approached a young solicitor at the time, Don Dunstan, to help draw up the incorporation. Don was later roped in to becoming its president. The first meals, which were delivered to eight people, were cooked and delivered 9 August 1954 in Port Adelaide. It involved 11 volunteers. Doris Taylor was a remarkable person. She understood, I imagine from a very personal perspective, the importance of maintaining dignity and independence. Her actions in the 1950s had resulted in thousands of people being able to maintain their personal dignity and independence long after they would have been able to do so otherwise.

Our Governor recently hosted an afternoon tea at Government House as part of the Meals on Wheels 50th celebration. It was a wonderful afternoon and I know from speaking to the many volunteers who came from all around South Australia that they felt very special and honoured that our Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson recognised their efforts. The Governor made these people feel very welcome in the grounds of Government House.

Since that first day in 1954 with 11 volunteers, Meals on Wheels has grown to incorporate something like 10 000 volunteers over 100 kitchens across our state. They prepare, cook and deliver over 5 000 meals a day. They cook, help out in the kitchen, drive and deliver meals. Most of them offer their services on a weekly or fortnightly basis. About 70 per cent of the meals are produced through fresh-cook kitchens. The Salisbury Meals on Wheels kitchen in my electorate is one of those that prepares, cooks and delivers over 200 meals a day. Meals are also prepared through some hospital-based branches, and the Kent Town cook-chill facility produces and freezes a range of meals that go out to other kitchens for delivery.

Seventy per cent of the recipients are over 80 years of age, and about half of these are on Meals on Wheels for the short term. That is, they just need a hand as they recover from a short illness. Others are long-term frail aged. Sixty-five per cent of recipients are women and 35 per cent are men. Eighty per cent of the organisation's funding comes from meal sales, that is, recipients who have meals delivered pay a small amount for it. The remaining funding comes from Home and Community Care, a joint federal and state government program.

Meals on Wheels SA Incorporated is governed by a voluntary board of 13 people from across the branches in the broader community. A small group of paid staff based in Adelaide provides administrative policy and other support. Last year I had the honour of presenting 40-year service awards to nine Meals on Wheels volunteers. I am sure that everyone would agree that that is an outstanding agreement and an amazing contribution. At the Government House function, I met volunteers who have given 45 years' service. I also met one lovely lady who had volunteered at Wallaroo

for over 30 years. She is clearly held in great affection by others involved at Wallaroo, and she now has the special role, I am told, of being their meet and greet person. She is there each day to extend a welcome to the volunteers who come along. That is a wonderful way of honouring her contribution. She now plays a very different but important role in that organisation. We know, as I explained to her, that if we want people to give up their time they need to feel welcome and valued, and she plays that important role in Wallaroo. I would also like to play a tribute to Mary Davidson AM, who volunteered at Meals on Wheels for 30 years, and who resigned last year as president.

Last year, Meals on Wheels was also part of the signing of the volunteer partnership between the volunteer sector and the state government. Meals on Wheels played an important role in negotiating that partnership agreement, and the CEO, Cam Pearce plays a vital role in providing a very important link in that process. He continues to represent Meals on Wheels on the volunteer ministerial advisory group.

I will take a moment to pay a personal tribute to those volunteers at the Modbury and Salisbury kitchens. As I said, Salisbury cooks and distributes over 200 meals each day. As I said, I have managed to get myself in a little bit of strife on occasions. I will not go through all the stories, but one day I arrived at a house where an elderly couple were in some strife. The calm with which the volunteers dealt with that and arranged the help needed was truly wonderful to see. Their skill and expertise is extensive, and they deal daily with a range of situations, where they cope competently and capably and always with the best interest of the people they serve. They deal with them incredibly respectfully and in a way that always maintains their dignity.

Meals on Wheels is a dynamic organisation that is prepared to meet new challenges, adapt and change to community expectations. It is also an organisation that services elderly people and looks to involve young people. I understand that, in October last year, the CEO presented year 10 students at Mt Gambier's Grant High School with a commemorative plaque which recognises and appreciates the 30 years of service and cooperation between the school and the Mt Gambier kitchen. Each day two students volunteer in the kitchen and deliver in Mt Gambier.

I look forward to this year and the continuing celebrations that will occur. During the Clipsal 500 it was lovely to have many Meals on Wheels volunteers around the state invited along on Volunteers Day. I know that many of them would not have otherwise gone to a car race, but they had a wonderful day and really enjoyed the atmosphere and the fact that they were the Premier's guests, and that he took some time to join them and talk to them throughout the day.

I will wind up by paying tribute to Doris Taylor and Don Dunstan. I imagine that back in the early 1950s they were quite a formidable pair, so it is no surprise why Meals on Wheels is such a wonderful organisation today with those two getting their heads together to ensure its establishment. My congratulations and sincere thanks also go to the past and present volunteers, who for 50 years have selflessly served so many people in our state.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): As shadow minister for volunteers, it gives me great pleasure to rise to support this motion. Volunteering in South Australia is something that we should all value, and I look forward to addressing the volunteer representatives on the Monday public holiday that is coming up shortly—Volunteers Day and Adelaide Cup

Day. The value of volunteers in South Australia is estimated at \$5.1 billion. That can never be underestimated. The cost to government of replacing volunteers in South Australia is something that should be examined very carefully. In the case of Meals on Wheels, I had the pleasure of attending the V8 races with many volunteers from Meals on Wheels who were hosted there. It was a great day to catch up with Cam Pearce and the many others who were there.

The one whom I will name is Mrs Rosemary Clancy. Rosemary Clancy and I have been associated through a number of backgrounds. Rosemary stood against me as the Labor Party candidate in Morphett, and I will not say that it did not give me some pleasure in defeating her, because otherwise I would not be here. Rosemary is a hard worker for the area, and I understand that she is the Labor Party's candidate in the seat of Mitchell now and is already out there doorknocking. Rosemary Clancy has worked very hard for Meals on Wheels over many years and I congratulate her on her effort.

Fifty years of Meals on Wheels in South Australia is something that should not be glossed over, and I am glad that this motion has been moved. I was at the annual general meeting of Brighton Meals on Wheels recently and it was fantastic to see the number of volunteers who were being awarded merit badges and pins to commemorate their years of service—and not just five or 10 years: some of them were for 25, 30 and 35 years. Millions of hours must have been put in and millions of miles driven by volunteer drivers. I understand that there are some members in this place who help out or who act as drivers for Meals on Wheels. I understand that the hard-working member for Light is one of those people, and he will be speaking on this motion as well. I know that there are other members in this place who try to get in with the volunteer organisations and support them in their electorate. Certainly, a bipartisan approach is good to see in this place.

Another wonderful thing that I have done as a member of parliament for the seat of Morphett was go out to the Glenelg North kitchens and have a look through them with the staff. I must congratulate them on the standard of cleanliness of the kitchens, on the professional way that they prepared the meals in those kitchens, on their organisational ability, and on the strategies and tactics that they had in place and the logistics they had implemented to be able to not only prepare very nutritious and balanced meals, but also to have those meals packed in a safe way to allow them to then be transported at the recommended temperatures. Not only were the meals delivered in a rapid, efficient manner but they were also delivered at a temperature that made them very appetising.

The reason I was at the Glenelg North Meals on Wheels was to look at the kitchens and then to deliver the one-millionth meal to a lady at Glenelg North. This lady was in her mid-nineties, and was a very bright lady but she had some physical problems getting around the place. Like the hundreds of thousands of recipients of Meals on Wheels in South Australia, she certainly appreciated getting this meal and having it delivered by friendly staff, having a bit of a chat, and having some social contact. It was a wonderful thing, not only for me to do as a member of parliament but also personally to see that the community is still out there and that people are still volunteering and contributing to the community. And as I said earlier, we need to support volunteers.

I should raise one issue which has concerned me and which is concerning the volunteers at Meals on Wheels, and

that is the implementation of the Australian and New Zealand food safety regulations. The average cost of delivering a meal for a Meals on Wheels recipient in South Australia nowadays is about \$4.50, and that is because the meals are delivered and, more importantly for this particular concern, they are prepared by volunteers and, as I said before, they do it in a very professional and hygienic manner. It cannot be questioned in any way. In Victoria, however, the volunteers were given the flick; they were pushed aside by the Labor government and now professionals are cooking those meals, and the price has gone up by not 10 or 20 per cent, but 50 per cent. It is now \$6.50 to deliver a meal in Victoria because of the need to pay professional chefs to provide those meals—a service that, in South Australia, is being done by dedicated volunteers who maintain the highest standards of hygiene in those kitchens.

I understand that the previous Liberal government was going to give the volunteers exemptions under the food safety regulations to allow them to continue cooking in the Meals on Wheels kitchens. I hope that the Premier, as Minister for Volunteers, listens to the volunteers here and that the government supports the Liberal government's previous moves and gives the Meals on Wheels volunteers the opportunity to continue doing what they are doing, doing what they love, and doing what the people of South Australia love, that is, providing a top class service. They have been doing it for over 50 years and they should be able to continue to do it for many more years with the dedication of their volunteers. I support every volunteer in South Australia, but in this particular circumstance the volunteers from Meals on Wheels deserve to go to the top of the class.

Today is the 50th anniversary of the running of the four-minute mile. The way this organisation works and the way that the volunteers deliver those Meals on Wheels—they do not speed around the place but they do it with efficiency and accuracy, the right meal to the right person at the right time and at the right place—is something that even Roger Bannister, the four-minute miler, would have been proud to see. I commend the work that Meals on Wheels is doing, and I commend this motion to the house.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): It would hard to add very much to what we have heard this morning about Meals on Wheels, that fabulous not-for-profit local community organisation working throughout South Australia providing meals, personal contact and security to elderly, infirm and disabled members of the community through its wonderful branch-based network of volunteers. One of the things that I would like to throw up for consideration in this debate this morning is the thought of how Meals on Wheels might extend its service, perhaps to new mothers. The reason I say that is because of our work on post-natal depression through the Social Development Committee which often sees isolated new mothers. A Meals on Wheels type of service, perhaps for the first few weeks, might relieve a bit of the burden of work and provide that link with another person coming into the home each day. I put that on the record this morning as something that we might think about, without trying to overburden our fabulous volunteer network in the kitchens.

As it was said, Doris Taylor was indeed a remarkable woman who, from her childhood accident in the early 1900s, lived her life confined to a wheelchair. And it is often only when you are in those circumstances yourself that you understand the very difficult plights that you face. Doris was an incredibly community-minded person who lobbied

mercilessly, and I am just very grateful that we do not have as many mercilessly lobbying people around parliament house at the moment.

Our work on the Social Development Committee, of course (without pre-empting anything that may be said about the Obesity and Overweight Report), looked at nutrition as well, and I am pleased to say that the hot meals that are delivered each weekday, Monday to Friday—but, sadly, not on public holidays—are available at very reasonable prices and also represent excellent value for money and nutrition. The meal consists of soup, a main course and a dessert and accounts for about one third of an elderly person's daily nutritional requirements. It is nice to see, too, that special dietary needs are also catered for when requested.

My own local Meals on Wheels kitchen is the Modbury, branch and a former member of this place, Molly Byrne, and a former mayor of the City of Tea Tree Gully, John Tilley, are well-known residents of the area who called the first meeting for Meals on Wheels in Modbury. The Modbury kitchen celebrates its 30th year this year and will be commemorating this enormous achievement with a celebratory dinner in July, and I am not sure if that is going to be a Meals on Wheels meal or something a little more upmarket. I am not even sure, at this stage, who is being invited.

At Modbury, which services the north-eastern area, the demand for Meals on Wheels is increasing, with an average of 95 meals delivered daily by a dedicated group of around 110 volunteers. I am sad to say that I am not there as often as I would like to be; I know the member for Wright's commitment goes a lot further and that she actually makes it on a regular basis, whereas mine is infrequent. I would particularly like to acknowledge Brian and Ruth Dallow who celebrate 25 and 30 years of service respectively, as well as Lois Slee who has 30 years service, Marj Hibbert who has 40 years of service, and Pam Cairns who has 38 years of service. These are remarkable periods of service to any entity and show how rewarding such service to the community must be to have reached such milestones, which I know—from some of the stories that we have heard here this morning—are not uncommon. I have also managed to find a list of people who have created such astounding records themselves, and not only the people but the kitchens too.

At a presentation in December 2003 at the Port Adelaide kitchen, in the presence of the Mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield, long time volunteers Betty Hazeal received her 45 year badge and Margaret Corcoran, her 40 year badge. Woodville kitchen celebrated its millionth meal on 11 February 2004. The kitchen commenced operation in June 1957 and delivers around 110 meals a day. The Glenelg kitchen also celebrated its millionth meal this year which was delivered by Dr Duncan McFetridge, now shadow minister for volunteers. You didn't tell us about that this morning you shy thing, did you?

Members interjecting:

Ms BEDFORD: Oh, you did. It must be my turn to deliver a millionth meal. I am going to have to go to Burra and hope they need someone.

Barbara Wilton, Joan Fraser and Betty Morse have volunteered for Meals on Wheels at Prospect for 45 years. There are 72 volunteers who work on the Meals on Wheels delivery roster at Berri, taking meals to 25 to 45 people a day. Margaret Potts from Berri has been delivering meals for 25 years and is in her fourth year of presidency at that Branch. So, we obviously have a huge regional commitment as well.

Burnside Meals on Wheels volunteers Jean Patterson who is 83, Fayette Smith who is 82, and Margaret Greaves, have been serving meals for 40 years. Mrs Patterson and Mrs Smith were foundation volunteers at Burnside Meals on Wheels kitchen when it opened at the T.A. Philips Reserve, Leabrook in 1962.

Stansbury Hospital branch recently celebrated its 25 000th meal, and McLaren Vale Meals on Wheels recently celebrated its 30th birthday. Founding volunteers Colleen Booker, Joyce Ellis, Tod Lang, Lorna Oates, Audrey Hunt and Gladys Stillwell celebrated 30 years of service. Volunteers Nellie Sax, Pat O'Brien, Edna Mason, Irene Sells, Vivia Riedel, Ivy Elsegood, Joan Minson, Maureen Hodgson and Pat Keats have all given over 40 years of service. Payneham branch, which is in the member for Hartley's area I think—

Ms Ciccarello: No. It is mine.

Ms BEDFORD: No. Sorry. It is Norwood now—boundaries move too quickly for me. Payneham has delivered meals for the last 39 years and celebrated its millionth meal on Tuesday 18 November 2003. Were you involved in that, member for Norwood?

Ms Ciccarello interjecting:

Ms BEDFORD: I wonder who delivered that millionth meal. Another interesting recognition of this incredible service in kitchens is the Australia Day honours list or community awards, and I want to mention several people who have been honoured in this way: Shirley Reavill, Chair of the Henley & Grange Branch, received a Medal of the Order of Australia (go Shirley!); former Edwardstown Branch chair, Dough Wenham, also received a Medal of the Order of Australia; and Kath Wicks, Onkaparinga Valley Branch, received an Australian of the Year Award and the branch was awarded a Civic Award from the Adelaide Hills Council. The following volunteers received Council Citizen of the Year awards for services through their local Meals on Wheels: Alan Hall, Barossa Valley Branch; Dorothy Benecke, Campbelltown Branch; Valerie Tilbrook, Clare Branch; Joy Griffiths, Gilbert Valley Branch; Peter Burt, Laura & Districts Branch; Lynette Sims, Mount Barker Branch; Norma Martin, Northfield Branch; Norm Chapman, Peterborough Branch; Colleen Schmitt, Port Broughton Branch; Joan McAuley, Ridley Branch; Natalie Ling, Robe Branch; and Evelyn Wilson, Waikerie Branch. And that just shows how much of a commitment exists in the regional areas.

Lions Citizen of the Year awards have been given to Ann and John Duell at Mount Barker and Jan Hardy at Robe. Con Traeger at Waikerie Branch received a Senior Citizen of the Year award; D'Arcy Button at Minlaton Branch received the SA Great Award for services to the community; Una Potter who, unfortunately, has recently passed away, Gaynor Way and Bob Watts all received Certificates of Appreciation from the West Torrens Council; and Joan Lindner, Barossa Valley Branch, received the Aged and Community Service Volunteer Award. The 400 000th meal of the Stirling Branch was delivered in February of this year. So, as you can see, the commitment does not end with the first couple of meals that you give out in your community.

I know that many other members of the house deliver meals in their electorates, and it is a great way to keep in touch, not only with the individual residents who receive the meals but also with those working out of the kitchens. Each year I look forward to packing the Christmas hampers at Modbury. It is one of the happiest occasions of the year there. They contain so many items baked and supplied by the

volunteers themselves, and without this additional gesture of kindness Christmas would be a much less enjoyable occasion for so many. In conclusion, I add my congratulations to everyone involved not only at the Modbury kitchen but at all kitchens in the entire network within South Australia and also commend the administrative staff at head office, without whose help also the Meals on Wheels phenomenon would certainly not continue.

The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY (Light): I rise to add my support to the motion put forward by the member for Wright. The Gawler Meals on Wheels branch is particularly active. It delivers about 100 to 120 meals a day. It is one where a number of very dedicated volunteers do an outstanding job, as I am sure they do in all other areas. I think one of the most important things about Meals on Wheels is the fact that it enables people to stay in their own home without going into a nursing home or into a higher level of care. Many whom I deliver to on a fortnightly basis have got to the stage where they are not able to cook a hot meal for themselves, either because of frailty or other reasons, and the meals that are supplied by Meals on Wheels are of a very high quality and enable people to have a very nutritious meal and a very balanced diet. Often we find that in many cases as people get older they do not eat as much and, as a result, the lunchtime meal that we deliver will last them many times for their dinner at the same time.

One aspect of Meals on Wheels that has changed recently is that until the end of last year we used to collect cash from people, and now it has gone over to a direct debit from people's bank accounts. This has seen, particularly in the Gawler area, a lessening in the number of meals that we deliver, for obvious reasons: some people do not want others or Meals on Wheels to have access to their bank account—but it is being picked up by other areas within the community.

The number of volunteers and the amount of time that people put in, particularly the cooks in the kitchen, often astounds me, because in the Gawler branch they usually start to prepare lunch at about 8.30 to 9.00 a.m. and they have completed by the time we return at about 1.00 p.m. I pay my compliments to those people who do the cooking of the meals. All the meals that we deliver are very nutritious, and we certainly do not get any complaints from the people we deliver to. They cater for all sorts of needs, whether people are vegetarians or diabetics. Where there is a special meal, each meal is named so that we ensure that we get it to the right person. I think that my partner and I who deliver have made a mistake only once, and that was where we gave somebody soup and they were not supposed to have it, and by the time we got to the end of the run we realised that we were one short. So, we had to apologise to the last person on the route. Apart from that, things go very smoothly. It is an extremely well-organised organisation and I commend all those volunteers who undertake work for Meals on Wheels. It is a model which is very successful in our community and which certainly enables people to remain in their own home and stay there for a far longer period of time than they would otherwise be able.

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): I would briefly like to add my support to this motion, and I will begin by acknowledging the very important contribution of Doris Taylor, the founder of Meals on Wheels. Doris was born in 1909 and, after a terrible accident as a child, she was paralysed and spent some nine years in hospital before she was able to leave

the hospital and get around in a wheelchair. After that, she returned to live in her home in William Street, Norwood. Doris was concerned about the institutionalisation of elderly people. So, on 6 October 1953 she held a meeting in the Rechabite Hall on the Norwood Parade, which hall is now the home of Vinnies (not my office, but Vinnies run by the St Vincent de Paul Society), and here she planned a system whereby hot meals were to be provided to the elderly so that they could remain in their homes. As pointed out by the member for Wright, it is now known as Meals on Wheels, a program which is very successful and which has now delivered many millions of meals to people around South Australia. It is also a system that has been looked at by other countries, because it has been so successful.

Doris Taylor continued to fight for the rights of the elderly. She was a very politically active person; in fact, she managed the political campaign of the young Labor candidate for Norwood, Don Dunstan, from her bed. She was armed only with a telephone. In order to answer the telephone, she had to knock it off the stand with her elbow, because she did not have much movement. One sad reflection is that, although it was Doris Taylor's dream to start these services in Norwood, it was at Port Adelaide, the traditional rival of Norwood, that the first office was opened.

I pay tribute to all those thousands of volunteers who have added their support to Meals on Wheels over the years. We need to reflect that, whilst it is wonderful that many people are receiving acknowledgment for 40 years' service, we have to start looking at encouraging younger volunteers to participate. When I visit the Meals on Wheels kitchens in my electorate, it is often astounding to see the very advanced age of the many people who are there. They get up very early in the morning so that they can come to the kitchens to prepare the meals. Equally, other people come along early to deliver the meals. The service has also been extended, and I acknowledge that we now have an Italian Meals on Wheels service that provides meals which—

The Hon. S.W. Key interjecting:

Ms CICCARELLO: I was trying to find a way of acknowledging the fact that the organisation is providing a different menu. I think we have to acknowledge that, in our multicultural society, we do not all like to eat the same sort of food. So, now there is that variety added. I commend all those people who continue to contribute to this wonderful service which allows the elderly in our community to have contact and appropriate meals, and this makes their lives worthwhile.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I have pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the member for Wright which recognises the enormous contribution made by Meals on Wheels in providing meals to many thousands of people, particularly the elderly, in our community. Last July, I had the pleasure of attending the 25th anniversary of the Onkaparinga Valley branch of Meals on Wheels at the Woodside Institute. It was a tremendous event, with a capacity crowd of at least 250 people. There was not a spare seat in the place. It was a great event that celebrated the tremendous benefit that this group of volunteers brings to the community, particularly the elderly members of our community. As other speakers have noted, this volunteer service allows elderly folk to maintain a level of independence they would not have if this service was not provided to them. As I have said, the Onkaparinga branch of Meals on Wheels celebrated its 25th anniversary. The President,

Mr Bill Kidd, and secretary, Mrs Gloria Seidel, of that branch work tirelessly for the community and put many hours into seeing that their branch of Meals and Wheels continuous to be successful. The Hon. Alexander Downer, the federal member for the area, the Mayor of the Adelaide Hills council, Mr Bill Cooksley, and I were invited guests, and it was a tremendous celebration of what these volunteers contribute to the community.

My mother-in-law was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels when she lived in the Riverland, before she moved to Adelaide. I know she found her time volunteering at the Meals on Wheels branch at Berri very rewarding. She has since commented about how grateful those folk she visited and delivered meals to were for the service provided to them by these volunteers who gave up their time and were tireless in their efforts in providing that service. The service to the community provided by Meals on Wheels is very valuable because, if it were not provided, a significant percentage of the elderly members of our community would be unable to remain in their own homes and maintain the level of independence they enjoy. They would obviously have to look to moving into retirement villages or aged care facilities where meals are provided in-house. From memory, before my paternal grandmother moved into a retirement village, she used the Meals on Wheels service. I know she appreciated the very strong support provided by that service. Unfortunately, due to ill-health, she had to move into a retirement home and be cared for there. I commend the member for Wright for bringing this matter to the house, and I have pleasure in supporting this motion.

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): I, too, commend this motion and the mover for bringing it to the house. It is important to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of Meals on Wheels and its founder, Doris Taylor. I can say that, in the three council areas of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters; Burnside; and Campbelltown, all have active Meals on Wheels branches in my electorate. I am mostly familiar with the Meals on Wheels branch in Edwards Street, Glynde, because that is the area in which I was brought up. Over the years, I have witnessed the excellent work done by the volunteers in providing meals for those who are unable to cook their own. Apart from food and nutrition, which is important to maintain the health of the elderly, the human contact that these individuals receive on a daily basis is also important. The emotional nutrition that is provided is just as important as the food that is delivered at a very small cost.

The concept of Meals on Wheels has been extended to multicultural communities such as, for example, PISA, which stands for Pasti Italiani Servizi Anziani, which provides meals for the elderly in the Italian community, and the Greek community and other migrant communities. That happened under the previous government, and it is supported by this government. So, this organisation has become very flexible in providing for diversity. If we did not have the pioneers who came up with the idea and committed themselves to providing meals, we would not be able to have these other programs today, so this is an important development. Given that we have an ageing population, it is even more important today. As I said, the human contact, the psychological nutrition, is just as important as the food.

I commend the member for Florey for her suggestion that perhaps this concept should be extended to new mothers. We are both members of the Social Development Committee which is looking at postnatal depression. There is no question

that flexibility is important, but if we did not have this base we would not be able to come up with these ideas. Per head of population, South Australia has more volunteers than any other state, and that should be acknowledged. Meals on Wheels is a very good example of that. I commend the motion to the house, and I look forward to continuing to congratulate at functions in my electorate the many volunteers who play such an important role in the development of community spirit in South Australia.

Motion carried.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to grant a conference as requested by the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council named the hour of 1.30 p.m. on this day to receive the managers on behalf of the House of Assembly at the Plaza Room on the first floor of the Legislative Council.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC TECHNOLOGY

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): I move:

That this house notes the application of innovative hydro-electric technology used to generate renewable energy from a mini-hydro plant at SA Water's terminal storage tank site in Adelaide's north-eastern suburbs which is a joint venture between SA Water and Hydro Tasmania.

Hope Valley became the home of South Australia's first mini-hydro plant in September 2003. This motion goes back almost that far. It is fortuitous that I am speaking to this motion today, because this scheme has been nominated for a Water Industry Alliance award which will be announced tomorrow. I wish everyone involved with the mini-hydro scheme all the best for that award.

The Hon. S.W. Key interjecting:

Ms BEDFORD: Yes. Everyone will cross their fingers and hope that recognition comes our way for this spectacularly innovative project. The mini-hydro is powered by River Murray water that flows from the terminal storage tank site at Canopus Avenue, Hope Valley. The project to build the mini-hydro scheme was a joint venture between SA Water and Hydro Tasmania. In May 2003, the Premier announced that, as part of the government's commitment to innovative alternative energy sources, this mini-hydro plant would be built. I was honoured to be present at the function where the Premier launched this scheme. It works by water being diverted through a turbine where jets channel the flow into buckets causing a runner to spin. At the launch, the Premier said:

Electricity is then generated into the national grid via a high-voltage connection. The energy created by water flowing through our reservoirs is being wasted. This will reduce carbon emissions by more than 8 000 tonnes—equivalent to taking 1 900 cars off the road.

That is a fairly staggering figure. As part of its major pumping operations, SA Water transfers a large volume of water each year from the River Murray across the Mount Lofty Ranges for distribution within metropolitan Adelaide. The mini-hydro project is particularly innovative in that it uses an existing city water supply to produce clean, renewable hydro power. As the transfer closer to Adelaide is gravity based, considerable kinetic energy is developed as water passes through pipelines in the down gradients. Previously this energy has been wasted through mechanical dissipation. However, technically and economically viable

hydro energy can be harnessed by replacing pressure reducing devices with hydro power turbines.

In March 2001, SA Water saw proposals to develop mini-hydro opportunities and, following analysis of proposals, Hydro Tasmania was selected as the preferred partner in a 50-50 joint venture for projects at the terminal storage tank near Anstey Hill and the Mount Bold dam. The estimated capital costs of the mini-hydros are \$2.6 million and \$2.8 million respectively. The two projects will collectively generate on average 11 gigawatt hours of renewable energy. This is equivalent to supplying about 1 700 households. At terminal storage there are also water quality benefits from improved water circulation in the storage tank.

This hydro plant is part of the government's plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy use by South Australian government departments and strongly backing alternative energy uses such as wind and solar power—and now water power. It makes sense to use free power generation wherever we can by harnessing the energy created by water flowing through our reservoirs rather than wasting it. In this case, the hydro plant sits below the terminal storage tanks. The water flow and pressure creates energy when water is diverted through the turbines. Electricity is then generated into the national grid via a high-voltage connection. This mini-hydro installation adds to the creation of productive economic activity within this state. This is consistent with the directions set out in the Framework for Economic Development released in May 2003 as a result of the Economic Growth Summit in April that year.

A key government initiative, this summit brought together business, community and government leaders to develop a framework to move our state's economy forward. This framework forms a set of economic building blocks that will assist us to construct a more robust South Australian economy. It is pleasing to see that Adelaide has been named in a survey by KPMG as one of the lowest cost centres in the world to do business. The Premier is taking that message interstate through his Billboard advertising campaign.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stimulating the renewable energy sector are key objectives for our government. In this way, the state can deliver on commitments made under international agreements entered into by the commonwealth and implement the National Greenhouse Strategy, the national approach to greenhouse gas abatement. By the year 2010 the commonwealth Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000 aims to achieve an additional 2 per cent of Australia's electricity from renewable sources. The act established the government's Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (on 1 April 2001) of the generation of 9 500 gigawatt hours of extra renewable electricity per year by 2010—enough power to meet the residential electricity needs of about 4 million people.

The act provides the framework and incentives for generators of electricity from renewable sources to register with the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator and receive certificates for the renewable energy they generate. This mini project in Hope Valley is consistent with national objectives to reduce greenhouse emissions. The approval of the station as a green power generator accredited by the Sustainable Energy Development Authority enables the sale of green power rights and will add to South Australia's renewable energy generating capacity.

The South Australian Labor government's sustainable energy policy reaffirms the government's drive and focus on improving energy efficiency, reducing dependency on

existing energy resources, increasing use of renewable energy and promoting new energy supply industries based on renewable energy sources. The mini hydro project clearly demonstrates the commitment of this government to taking an active role in future change for the sustainable economic development of the state. The project is also a wonderful example of key government departments, agencies and industry working collaboratively.

On matters of planning and development approval, a high quality liaison was provided by the office of the then minister for urban development and planning, the Hon. Jay Weatherill, who was also minister for administrative services, in particular through Planning SA and with the Tea Tree Gully council. I acknowledge and thank all parties and individuals in South Australia and our joint venture partners, Hydro Tasmania, representing the Tasmanian government, who have played their part in the development of this scheme and for the contributions they have made. This is an exciting development for our state and our area in particular. As we marvel at the generation of electricity through natural flowing water, it reminds us how doubly valuable a resource water is.

Economic activity must become progressively more sustainable if this state is to move ahead in a manner that meets our present needs without placing at risk the living standards of future generations. The application of sustainability principles to energy use is inherent in this. Hydro Tasmania is at the forefront of the renewable energy business in Australia and has helped SA Water to develop this hydro turbine, which will generate an average of about 7 000 megawatts per year—enough for 1 000 homes. Further opportunities for the installation of mini hydro technology within South Australia's water networks have been identified at Anstey Hill tanks and Mount Bold, as well as the Hahndorf dissipaters.

The SA government's contribution to the mini hydro plant is around \$1.4 million. At the moment I look forward to the implementation of the government's \$1.25 million scheme to solar power 50 state schools, as recently announced. Plans to use solar power at Parliament House too are on still track, I hope, and I look forward to being involved in the commissioning of that plant when it actually happens.

Mr CAICA (Colton): I will be brief in my remarks and start off by commending the member for Florey for bringing this matter to the attention of the house. The member for Norwood also wished to contribute, but has taken the chair to allow me to speak. This matter came before the Public Works Committee and, contrary to some of the views around the place, it has an enormous amount of work come before it. It was a very good initiative and was greeted favourably by the Public Works Committee.

As was said by the member for Florey, it was back in 1989 that SA Water commissioned the B.C. Tonkin/Sinclair Knight Mertz alliance to carry out a feasibility study into the technical and economic aspects of generating electricity from energy presently being dissipated in pressure reducing devices at the terminal storage—tanks on the Mannum to Adelaide pipeline. This study confirmed that the terminal storage is both technically and economically feasible for the small hydro scheme now in place.

As was said, it is a joint venture between SA Water and Hydro Tasmania, specifically for the purposes of commissioning two small-scale hydro schemes on SA Water assets at the terminal storage tanks at Anstey Hill. The terminal storage will be connected to the existing water supply

infrastructure. The Mount Bold mini hydro will be attached to the base of the Mount Bold dam structure and connected to the existing pipe. More importantly, as was said by the member for Florey, we have to look at alternative ways in this state of generating energy from what are existing resources. This is an ideal way of doing it.

We have seen our foray into wind, and the results from this initiative will be such that we can expand this type of facility into other areas and get the net gains from it. The revenue from the joint venture will be from the sale of electricity and green power credits.

The creation of the two renewable power sources will have an expected life span of 40 years. That is a fairly good investment: a 40-year term for infrastructure is very good. There is probably not too much in our houses that lasts for 40 years, so it is a good project from that perspective. It also involves, as I mentioned earlier, the creation of a productive economic activity within the state.

The receipt of green power credits from the Sustainable Energy Development Authority for the two renewable energy projects is another benefit arising from this project. It provides increased revenues for SA Water. It allows for electricity sales into the national electricity grid, where a significant amount of money will be returned to the state through that process, and it provides renewable energy credits. It is a credit to the government that it has undertaken this project and done it in such a way that it has brought hydro expertise from interstate to assist in the process.

There was a concern by the Public Works Committee that there was a significant project risk with both sites in relation to the coordination between the contractors and the water supply operations staff to ensure that there were no disruptions to the water supply, and I understand that everything has gone fairly hunky-dory in that regard and that there have been no problems. I commend the member for Florey for bringing this matter to the house for noting and I congratulate the South Australian government for embracing this initiative. I look forward not only to the Public Works Committee receiving similar projects in future but also to a fundamental review of the delivery of electricity in this state, utilising resources which are already available and being used in such a way that they can be for the net benefit of the people of South Australia.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I speak in my capacity as shadow minister for consumer affairs because one of the things we need in this state is cheap power. Had the old electricity network worked as former Prime Minister Keating envisaged, we would probably all have cheap power. Don Dunstan back in 1968 wanted to build nuclear power stations, and he had the Industrial Development Commission look at it. He wanted the commission to look at building nuclear power stations for two reasons: cheap power and desalination of water. We all know that those are the two things on which South Australia is reliant as the driest state. Without water we will go nowhere, and certainly we want a plentiful supply of power, which we need to get from all sources. We have gas and coal-fired power stations, and we have modified jet engines providing peak power during high electricity demand, but they are using non-renewable sources of energy.

We need to look at renewable sources of energy and at recycling. We see a plethora of wind farms around South Australia, and I congratulate the people who are helping to develop the forms of renewable energy in the way that wind farms do. I understand that electricity from wind farms is

dearer, but I think the cost is worth the effort because it is a non-polluting, renewable form of energy.

At the Glenelg waste water treatment plant a lot of water is being wasted and put out to sea, but the methane gas from the sewerage plant is being used to fire the large generators. They have a co-generation system where they do not have to use a lot of electricity from the grid. Rather, they use their own electricity which is generated from their own source of power fired by methane gas. That is a very small way of hooking into renewable power systems. Mini hydro power is certainly something that I have been very keen to look at. It is good to see that people are investigating it and installing mini hydro power stations around the place. I lived at Kangarilla years ago, where I had my veterinarian practice. We would go to Mount Bold and see this huge dam wall holding back millions of litres of water, with a pipe at the bottom about 1½ or 2 metres in diameter, and the water would be just gushing out of it. I often thought, even then, that the energy that was being wasted should be harnessed, and it is good to see that a mini power station is being developed there.

I think we should be developing more large dams in South Australia. When we were living in the area years ago there was talk about putting a dam on the lower Onkaparinga below Kangarilla. I do not know whether that is still a consideration. The building of a large dam on the Finnis also was being considered. I am sure that, if other large dams are built in South Australia (and that is not in my area at this stage; I will leave it to others), they should be fitted with mini hydro systems. In fact, every possible source of renewable energy should be used to produce electricity.

I know an engineer in Glenelg who is getting on in years, and he is a very innovative fellow. He asked me to come around and look at a gadget that he had designed to use exhaust gases from all industrial gas outlets. It was, basically, an electricity generating turbine, and it was not much bigger than a washing machine. This gadget had two contra rotating turbines that were driving through a universal joint to then turn a shaft to a generator. These were mini plants, obviously, but if we were to hook up a lot of them to the hundreds of waste gas flues in South Australia I am sure we would be surprised at the amount of co-generation of electricity that would take place. I know that Holden's is co-generating power at its plant. Certainly, it is not something that is new to South Australia. We are innovators in South Australia. We are trying in every possible way to make this state an even better place in which to live than it already is.

The Australian National Committee on Large Dams held its national conference at Glenelg about 18 months ago. It certainly was pushing the need for more large dams to be built in Australia and in South Australia. I hope that the government looks at building more large dams and reservoirs, and I hope that every one of those has a mini hydro plant connected to it. I commend all the innovators in South Australia who are working very hard to look at renewable sources of energy for the use of industry and individuals in South Australia. We need to make sure that the government supports innovators and industry and does not just leave them out there to find their own funding. We need to be very aware that South Australia is a dry state, and it has limited power sources when it comes to coal and gas.

We need to be reliant on a national grid for electricity but, unfortunately, it is not quite as effective as the Keating Labor government would have had. There does not seem to be any light on the horizon there—no pun intended! I hope that the

efforts of the innovators in looking at alternative power sources—in this case, hydro power, even if it is mini hydros—is given as much assistance as possible. I commend all those involved.

Motion carried.

SURF LIFE SAVING SA

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I move:

That this house calls on the government to finalise the 2003-04 budget funding arrangements for Surf Life Saving SA, to honour its commitment to pass on any savings made by the cessation of the helicopter shark patrol service and to provide additional funding to offset its current financial deficit.

This motion has been on the *Notice Paper* for a while but it is still very relevant. In fact, I suggest that it is even more relevant than when I gave notice of the motion. I know that a number of members of parliament on both sides of the chamber are absolutely committed to surf lifesaving and are either members of surf lifesaving clubs or patrons of Surf Life Saving SA. I am confident that, overall, there is absolute bipartisanship in the parliament when it comes to supporting Surf Life Saving SA. I think it is important that I put that on the record at the outset.

What concerns me immensely is that Surf Life Saving SA is in a difficult financial situation at the moment, and it will not go away unless the parliament applies maximum pressure to the Minister for Emergency Services and the Treasurer and also, through them, sends a message to the fund manager of the emergency services levy that Surf Life Saving SA needs financial support.

Thousands of dedicated volunteers patrol our beaches right throughout the summer period and keep our community safe. In South Australia we are blessed with some very good beaches. Not only do we like to go to the beach for recreational and family opportunities but also many people from country areas—and, indeed, from other states—travel to South Australia during the summer as tourists, spending money, creating jobs and keeping small business going, to enjoy the beaches of South Australia. Where else in the world can you drive onto a beach on a hot summer's afternoon with your family, your esky, your footy and cricket bat and whatever else you take, and have a very cheap, fun day as a family or a community? It is unique.

When people come from across the world and see that we can drive onto our beaches and park and have a picnic tea and a glass of wine or champagne they say, 'We would love to have this in the country in which we live.' But with that comes the need to ensure that people are kept safe. In order to keep them safe the volunteers do a magnificent job, but money is required for this to happen.

Several years ago, when the Liberal government was in power we introduced the emergency services levy (with a fair bit of pain because of the political debate at the time), because it was the right and proper thing to do to fund these organisations. Indeed, it is worth noting that the current Labor government has continued with that levy, even though some of its members at that time were critical of the initiative. The intent of that legislation was clear, that is, that Surf Life Saving SA and marine rescue are now recognised in the parliament, in the legislation and in the emergency services funding act as a provider, just like the Country Fire Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service, the SES and other such organisations. Therefore, by law, Surf Life Saving SA is now required to be funded on a recurrent basis. It does need to go

and put its budget bids forward but, as I understand the act and the debate at the time (and I have advice to support this argument in its entirety), it is not to be treated as a grants program type of funding arrangement. That was not the intention of the parliament.

I call on the parliament to support me in this matter and to ask the Minister for Emergency Services to give Surf Life Saving SA, and marine rescue, proper budget bilateral bidding opportunities and treat to them like the other three services and then fund them properly. They have lost their revenue base when it comes to the bingo ticket sales that they used to have in so many shopping centres throughout the metropolitan area. They are now down hundreds of thousands of dollars in that revenue. I believe that some of the revenue from the enormous growth we have seen just in the area of the super tax on pokies (forgetting the other gaming and gambling revenue) should be allocated to organisations such as Surf Life Saving SA to offset the situation that we see at the moment, where it is in decline financially. Clubs this year will not get a dividend from the levy because, I understand, the amount of money that they receive will have to be absorbed for funding the management of the state organisation—although it is not that the state organisation has not looked at cost efficiencies and rationalisation in its work practices.

Since I first put forward this motion, I know that Surf Live Saving SA finally was provided with its funds for 2003-04, but they received the cheque something like six months after they should have, and that is not acceptable. Secondly, there was a commitment by the minister's spokesperson about 18 months ago, when the government decided that it would no longer fund the helicopter shark patrols, that the savings would go to surf lifesaving. That is contained in the transcript of the radio news at that time. I was also on the news, calling for the funding of the shark patrol—which was no different, I might add, to what the present Premier did when he was leader of the opposition and we were assessing whether or not there should be a helicopter shark patrol service. The spokesperson for the minister clearly said on the radio news that the savings would go to Surf Life Saving. That is being denied at the moment but the evidence is that that is what the spokesperson said, and the fact of the matter is that money should be delivered recurrently to Surf Life Saving.

The minister made a commitment to assist with the financial deficit to offset that but he was very clever with his words because he now says that Surf Life Saving effectively must become insolvent before he allocates any additional money. Members of the house know that the board of Surf Life Saving could not be put into a position where its organisation was insolvent. They were promised the money and the commitment changed, and that is not satisfactory. I am sure the fund manager and the minister know that deep down and that they should provide the \$100 000 approximately that was allocated if Surf Life Saving could not pay its bills. It had to make alternative arrangements, and I can tell the house that the organisation is not sustainable in the way it is funded at the moment. Surf Life Saving SA might have got away with it this year, but my advice is that in future years it will not be able to continue in the same way.

The thousands of volunteers in surf lifesaving, their families and the organisation deserve better treatment than they have had from this minister. Members have an opportunity in the house, as well as in caucus, to put the pressure on ministers and, in this instance, on the minister responsible for the funding of surf lifesaving. I know that the Surf Life

Saving board is open and transparent and is happy to meet with the minister or the fund manager at any time and put all the books on the table. I have looked at some of the figures, and I can tell the house that they are not mucking around.

I also want to say that from Bill Jamieson right through the organisation no-one has been political—indeed, nor have I. I could have been political but I would rather just see a good outcome for Surf Life Saving SA because it is all about getting an outcome that it deserves. This is beyond politics, and that is why I am calling for bipartisanship with this motion: Surf Life Saving SA is more important than politics. I would be the first person to go to Surf Life Saving SA's headquarters with the minister and publicly congratulate him if he gets the funding requirements that Surf Life Saving SA needs on a recurrent basis to put it in a satisfactory situation. I would congratulate the minister and, in fact, would be happy to write a letter and have it published in the media saying that he has done a good job. You could not get any more bipartisan than that.

The other thing I want to say is that New South Wales now pays its surf lifesavers. That is a very expensive way of protecting beaches and, further, it is not the best way to go about building the social fabric and community spirit that we all desire to see grow. I am sure that the New South Wales model is not the one that South Australia wants for surf lifesaving. Surf lifesaving here has been right up at the top of the tree in performance and successes for a long time—indeed for as long as I can remember and beyond that. Well before I was born, surf lifesaving was doing a great job in this state.

The other benefit of surf lifesaving, if we can keep it going as it is, is what it does to develop our young people. If members have ever been to a surf lifesaving club, they will know that it is often the young people who eventually bring in the mums and dads and the family to be part of that club, and the opposite is the case in a lot of organisations. But, from the point of view of health and fitness, developing skills, confidence and empathy and being able to compete at a state and national level, you cannot put a dollar value on it. These young people are not out there trashing the streets, writing graffiti and causing other problems as some continually do. These are the young people who will be the future leaders and achievers, and the people who will grow South Australia as a state in the future. All they want from this government is a fair and reasonable go.

The structures, as I said earlier in the debate, are in place but the funding is lacking, and it should not be and does not have to be. In my opinion, Surf Life Saving has an excellent board. Also, I commend Elaine Farmer for the work she does with her people. There are not a lot of paid staff in the organisation. They have been stretched financially and also stressed to a level beyond which they deserve. We all know there are three ministers who run the cabinet and government—the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Infrastructure. They effectively dominate the cabinet and the decision-making processes of the whole government. They sit next to each other in this parliament and I would say, knowing how the cabinet table works, that they would sit next to each other at the cabinet table. I appeal to the Minister for Emergency Services, and also ask the Treasurer to assist the Minister for Emergency Services.

I try to be fair in these matters and I know that the Minister for Emergency Services will not be able to provide all the money required by Surf Life Saving because there are some limitations under the act. However, I suggest that he ask

the Treasurer to give Surf Life Saving a global package to replace the money that it lost from its income stream through the growth in gaming and bingo ticket sales in shopping centres so it can continue its operations. I call on both the Minister for Emergency Services and the Treasurer, in particular, and my colleagues (whether they be Liberal, Labor, Democrats or Greens does not matter because there are people from all political persuasions in Surf Life Saving—which is not a political organisation: they do not march in the streets or demonstrate through the media) to give them a fair go. I ask each and every colleague in this chamber to support this motion.

Time expired.

Mr CAICA (Colton): I move an amendment to this motion as follows:

Replace all the words after 'this house' with 'congratulates the government on finalising the budget funding arrangements for Surf Life Saving SA and recognises the government's increased commitment to Surf Life Saving SA.'

Mr MEIER: I rise on a point of order, Madam Acting Speaker. I believe that that it is a totally new motion which certainly does not amend the motion before this house and which, therefore, cannot be allowed.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Ciccarello): We will look at the amendment to ensure that it is appropriate and not in direct negation, or that it is not a completely new motion.

Mr CAICA: Very well, Madam Acting Speaker; I will defer to the knowledge of the chair. I will declare an interest from the outset: in 1969 I joined the Henley Surf Life Saving Club as one of the first nipper groups in South Australia. I have remained involved in the club ever since, and I know the outstanding contribution they make to beach safety and safety awareness in South Australia. To that extent, that is the very reason why the government has increased the level of funding to surf life saving over the last few years. In speaking to my amended motion I take the opportunity to bring to the attention of the house the shadow minister's role in Surf Life Saving SA and his previous actions and craven attempts to attract publicity for himself during the round of funding negotiations.

Mr Meier interjecting:

Mr CAICA: The honourable member points out that it is not true; it is blatantly true and has been blatantly obvious. Despite the shadow minister doing his best work demanding that the government lower itself to his government's standards, we are not going to do so. The honourable member for Mawson's motion is, of course, just one example of him wishing to lower our government to his standards. The government never promised to pass on any savings made by the cessation of the helicopter shark patrol; he has simply made that up. In addition, on many occasions the government has attempted to provide additional funding to offset Surf Life Saving SA's current financial deficit.

Unfortunately, to a certain extent, Surf Life Saving SA has not taken up the offer, and the member for Mawson should be well aware of that, as he professes to be well informed about the situation but, of course, he is quite fanciful. The member for Mawson's mischief making motion is simply a silly attempt to promote himself once again. We know that he has moved further towards the front, and I expect that as he moves further someone will tip off at the end; they are working towards that. He is a self promoter. Our government has committed \$470 000, GST exclusive, for operational costs from the community Emergency Services Fund to Surf

Life Saving SA for 2003-04. For the benefit of the house, that is an increase of 6 per cent over last year's funding and a 7.3 per cent increase on the year before that. As members would know, the fund is made up from moneys collected from the community via the emergency services levy, contributions made by the Treasurer from consolidated funds and interest and accreditations arising from investment in the fund. Commitment of moneys from the community Emergency Services Fund must comply with the requirement of the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998 introduced by the previous government.

We have seen examples of the ineffectiveness of the opposition, when in government, about how that fund would be utilised. It paid no attention whatsoever to probity or transparency. The previous government handed out moneys willy-nilly from this fund without funding agreements. That was without arrangements with the organisations that received them to ensure that they were being used for appropriate purposes or, indeed, in compliance with the act. It is absolutely shameful. I do not believe that that is acceptable to the community which we are here to represent and from which the levy is collected for a specific purpose. On 14 January on ABC 891 the member for Mawson said:

All they need do is stop being pedantic, go back to an agreement similar to what they've had for the last four years, and provide \$400 000, that I might add taxpayers have given the government to look after surf lifesavers so they can save our lives on the beaches.

Well, nobody in government can find any record of a funding agreement, although I understand that Surf Life Saving SA used to send an acquittal to the minister saying that they had spent more money than they had and asking whether they could give them more for the next year.

Ms Thompson interjecting:

Mr CAICA: We would all like to be able to do that with our bank. This government does not treat the Community Emergency Services Fund as if it were its own money, and we believe that we should be accountable to the community for its expenditure. It is a bit rich for the member for Mawson, a member of the opposition and a former minister, to criticise this government for being too careful with the community's money following his dismal performance in the area of the Emergency Services Fund. In the 2001-02 budget, he as minister signed off on the government contributing only 45 per cent of the emergency services levy from consolidated revenue. No wonder emergency services budgets were such a disaster when we came to government! Clearly, emergency services was unable to get enough money from the minister to fund it properly.

This government has now committed 49 per cent of the Emergency Services Fund from consolidated revenue in the last two budgets, and the fund has grown from just over \$145 million to \$162 million. I suspect that I have digressed a little, but it is all very important information. Finally, when the deal was done between Surf Life Saving SA and the government, the government very responsibly provided, as per the agreement, three quarters of the payment up-front. I was surprised to hear in the media a former minister advocate that the government should have paid before it was due; that is what they did.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr CAICA: That is what it was. It was shabby; perhaps he is still expecting—

Ms Thompson interjecting:

Mr CAICA: It would be very good if we could do it with our pay. It was an example of the very shabby performance

of the previous government, in particular, the member for Mawson. It was shabby, but he still expects this government to set the same standards as the previous government with the community's money, but we have no intention of doing so.

Having said all that, I understand that there is always going to be competing interests with respect to how we utilise taxpayers' money in the most effective way in South Australia. Surf Life Saving SA has 4 000 volunteers across South Australia, and I know that every member of this house appreciates the contribution they make to beach safety and safety awareness. Last Friday I was at the Henley Surf Life Saving club for their presentation night and congratulated them for the work done during the previous summer. We all know the outstanding work they do; we acknowledge and thank them for it.

I believe that our minister, who is completely different from the previous minister, takes an abiding interest in it and makes sure that the funding is provided in such a way that this government is accountable for the taxpayer's money. For that I congratulate the Minister for Emergency Services for taking such an approach, which is the appropriate approach to take. It is nothing that we expected from the previous government but, of course, that is not what they did. That is part of the reason why we are in government today. It is recognised by the electors. We are building on that fine financial tradition that we have built since coming to office. I congratulate Surf Life Saving SA and the minister for the funding provided. I know that there will always be caps and hands out for more; we are utilising it effectively. The minister and this government are completely committed to Surf Life Saving SA and all aspects the delivery of volunteer emergency services in this state.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Given the form of the original motion, the amendment is in order.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): I am absolutely gobsmacked that the member for Colton, someone who has come up from the nippers and gone right through and spent many years as a dedicated life saver, would move this sort of amendment. It is a political amendment and I am very disappointed that this would happen.

The emergency services levy has been called for for decades in this state. What happened in 1983, after the Ash Wednesday bushfires, was that there was such a huge hue and cry that people started to take notice of what was going on. The former Liberal government made the tough decision to put in the emergency services levy, and who stood in this place and objected to it? The member for Colton was not here then, but members opposite fought tooth and nail to try to stop the emergency services levy coming in. Now we have it, they are not going to take it away. They are doing all they can to make sure it does not look like they are going to increase it, but then they have a billion dollars in land and property taxes coming into the state—

Mrs Geraghty: I am having great difficulty trying to reason the member's contribution to the motion before us.

Dr McFETRIDGE: This is all part of funding for Surf Life Saving SA and, as the shadow minister for volunteers, I stand here to support every volunteer who puts their life on the line—whether that is down at Glenelg or at any of the number of surf life saving clubs around South Australia throughout the summer. They need every bit of support and every bit of funding that we can possibly give them, and this Labor government should put every bit of energy it can possibly muster into supporting volunteers and into getting

that money out of the Treasurer. It is not just about a AAA budget: it is managing the state, it is funding the people, funding industry, and funding the volunteers.

Let us look at the volunteers partnership agreement that the Premier brought in with much fanfare—and I congratulate him on taking notice of the volunteers—

Mr Brokenshire: We started that: he just rebadged it.

Dr McFETRIDGE: As the previous minister for volunteers said, we actually started the progress on the compact. As the Minister for Emergency Services said when he opened the new surf life saving headquarters on Henley Beach Road, a facility we started, ‘Some gets the pleasure; some gets the pain.’ We started this compact: members opposite finished it off.

It is important to note what the Premier said in his volunteer partnership agreement: that the Rann government was committed to action. So far all we have seen is inaction and obfuscation. We have seen people trying to stop volunteers doing what they can by not giving them the support they require, and by not giving them the funding they should be getting. The Rann compact promised us equity and inclusiveness—we are not getting that with the volunteers. It is really disappointing, and it is an outstanding example of the way this government is not listening to the people of South Australia.

Closer to home are the Glenelg and Somerton Park surf life saving clubs. I am not declaring a conflict of interest, because I do not see any conflict at all in saying that I am the patron of the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and the vice patron of the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club. I am glad that the relevant ministers are in the house, because I can tell you that, if the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club does not get a brand new, purpose-built facility—whether it is the government’s plans or Urban Construct’s plans or the council’s plans—the public fuss over Magic Mountain will look like an absolute molehill. There will be thousands and thousands on the streets. The Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club was hand-built by members of the surf club without any government support. Now, if we are not careful, the surf club at Glenelg will not get a new facility in a timely fashion, but I can guarantee that if I am alive and breathing they will get a top class, purpose-built facility down at Glenelg. They deserve every bit of support that they can get, not only from me as their local member and their patron, but also from this government.

I had the pleasure of attending the Somerton Park Surf Life Saving Club’s presentation afternoon at Glenelg a couple of weeks ago. Steve Cornish, the retiring president, has put in hours and hours of work—10 years of work—and his wife Michelle has also spent hours down there. That is family dedication. And surf clubs are about families and about communities—not just individuals. They do it over and over again, and they do it for free. At last we are getting some plans up for a new surf life saving club at Somerton Park—\$1.3 million—and I commend the government for putting up the funding to assist the City of Holdfast Bay build this new facility. The plans look great and the club is very excited about the new facility. Certainly, I will welcome the Minister for Emergency Services down there to open that new facility when it is finished.

I look forward to increased funding for surf life saving in South Australia, because it is an icon of this state. It is like the trams and the frog cakes, but it is on a much higher plateau than all of those. Surf life saving in South Australia is something that we need to protect and fund. It is something

that we need to hold up as the highest ideal of community contribution. People in the other emergency services—the CFS, the SES, the volunteer ambulance service, and the others—put their lives on the line, but you only have to read about that wave down on the south coast in this morning’s paper to imagine having to rescue someone out in that wild surf. It is an amazing experience to get tossed under by a big wave, to not know which way is up, and think you are going to drown. But then when you have the surf lifesaver’s hand on your shoulder guiding you to safety—that is something that cannot be put in monetary terms. But we need to provide money so that surf lifesavers can be there at all times. We do have one or two paid surf lifesavers down at Glenelg, and it is a shame that paid lifesavers are happening interstate. As I said in a previous motion, in Victoria volunteers in Meals on Wheels kitchens are being replaced by paid cooks. The last thing we need is to push our volunteers aside and give them the flick. We need to support volunteers in South Australia, and I urge this government to complete the funding arrangements. I am absolutely amazed that we have this amendment before us.

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for Colton and to express my delight that we now have a minister and a government who are prepared to grapple with the complex factors that are involved in appropriate funding for what is, essentially, a volunteer organisation. Surf life saving clubs are an institution in South Australia. They fulfil many roles in our community and they fulfil many roles for their members. Surf life saving clubs have an important role in providing safety on our beaches, and volunteers put their lives at risk in order to undertake rescues of people in peril. They provide important safety advice on beaches, both about where to swim safely and how to ensure that we keep our skin and ourselves safe on the beaches. Surf life saving clubs also provide an important social role in the community. They are traditionally a very active and fun place, and I know the recent redevelopment of the Moana Surf Life Saving Club and the current redevelopment of the Christies Beach Life Saving Club are seen as adding to the social life of the community as well as to the provision of volunteers undertaking important safety work in our community.

Surf life saving clubs are also important family-focused activities. There are many families where the parents are senior members of the club, often providing training roles and important committee roles, and they support their children in their activities right through from the nippers to their teenage years. Parents thus support their children to get involved in community activities and to play a role in the community while learning that important skill in a family environment. Thus, we see that the role of the surf life saving club is quite complex. Another role they have taken on lately, which must be commended, is participation in the active8 scheme.

In the south, the Seaford R to 12 school and the Christies Beach High School have been involved in active8 programs with local surf lifesaving clubs. This, of course, has helped to give the schoolchildren different skills and a different opportunity to learn self-discipline, teamwork and commitment to the community, as well as giving the organisations the opportunity to show these young people the benefits of participation.

Members opposite seem to be a little bit concerned about four-wheel drives. I am not sure that four-wheel drives have a lot to do with surf lifesaving clubs, but apparently they did

not read the Economic and Finance Committee report yesterday in which we quoted the South Australian Tourism Commission, which indicated that there are different objectives of tourism in the state.

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

Ms THOMPSON: Mr Acting Speaker, perhaps you could ask the member for Mawson to show a little courtesy to the chamber. He is behaving in his normal manner of not providing any courtesy to the chamber.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Rau): The member for Reynell is making some important contributions and should not be disturbed. I think I have given members a fair go, and enough is enough.

Ms THOMPSON: Perhaps members would like to read the reports of the Tourism Commission, which are important to issues relating to the safety on our beaches.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: I rise on a point of order, Mr Acting Speaker. My point of order relates to relevance. The member for Reynell should be debating the pros and cons of the amendment moved by the member for Colton, not referring to a report brought down by the Economic and Finance Committee.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I do not think there is a point of order. The member for Reynell is working up a very sophisticated argument. If members pay attention, I am sure they will understand where she is going.

Ms THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I am sure that, if members opposite did pay attention, they would understand a lot more about what goes on in this chamber. They apparently were not listening to remarks yesterday. However, they may be interested to know that beach safety is an important tourism issue and that the surf lifesaving clubs contribute significantly to safety on our beaches and, therefore, to tourism in the whole of Australia. They do not seem to be able to appreciate that basic fact, just as they cannot appreciate responsible financial management. We certainly had many examples during the time of the Brown-Olsen governments of their inability to focus on responsible financial management—and certainly their inability to grapple with important points when we are dealing with the issue of the responsibility of funding in relation to volunteer activities and essential service activities.

The previous minister had absolutely no idea of how to deal with responsible financial management, as has been ably demonstrated by the member for Colton. However, we now have a minister who is able to grapple with the issue of responsible financial arrangements for Surf Life Saving SA. This amendment seeks to commend the government for being able to come to grips with this complex issue.

Locally, I am pleased that, at the moment, the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club is in the process of redevelopment and is now looking for new members to use its new \$1.5 million premises. The City of Onkaparinga has been very proactive in working with surf lifesaving clubs and the state government to find a way through this complex issue of who should have the responsibility of supporting surf lifesaving in our state. If members opposite had been listening instead of chuckling in a silly inane way about things they misunderstand and have not read properly, they would understand that surf lifesaving plays many different roles in our community and that, therefore, there is a complex approach to funding of this activity.

I would like to congratulate the President of the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club, Mr Ron Harwood, on his efforts to redevelop that club. In a recent edition of the

Southern Times Messenger, he indicated that he is hoping that many new members will join the club as a result of the redevelopment. He went on to say:

The 40-year-old clubrooms have been demolished and the frame of the new two-storey building is almost complete.

He said that lock-up would be close to the end of May. It is certainly an impressive looking building down there on the Esplanade at Christies Beach. Mr Harwood said:

When the Moana. . . [Surf Life Saving Club] was redeveloped, their membership went up by 100 per cent and we would certainly love to see that happen.

Mr Harwood is inviting people to come and get involved in surf life saving now so that they can undergo training in winter, get their qualifications and be ready to patrol the beach at the beginning of summer. He is also inviting people to come down and get involved in the social life of the community at the new club. As I indicated earlier, the social life of surf lifesaving is important. Surf lifesaving has many functions and, therefore, many funding demands and many contributors to the funding, including the community using the beach, who contribute on a voluntary basis, as well as commitments from local government. Finally, we have a minister who is able to work through a formula which is fair and which ensures that surf lifesaving has some certainty about funding in the future. I am very pleased to support the amendment moved by the member for Colton.

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): I am very disappointed that the government has moved this amendment. As I said during my remarks, this motion was above politics. It was put on the table because I wanted to get bipartisan support from this house to apply appropriate pressure to the minister and the Treasurer to look after a valuable organisation. During the debate—the normal sort of debate we get across the chamber—we heard the member for Colton say that he would enjoy trying to stop me from winning my seat, and so on, as well as the remarks of the member for Reynell. That is all part of politics. I just love working for the community in the electorate of Mawson. My electorate will get 110 per cent of my efforts for as long as I remain in this place.

However, rather than that sort of comment, I would have expected some bipartisanship on this matter, with members not playing the political game. It is now on the public record, and it is now up to the surf lifesavers to have a look at this debate to see what they think about the Labor Party and the contributions from some of the local members representing communities where people are either in surf lifesaving or enjoy the beaches along our coast, particularly in the southern areas that I have the pleasure of representing, along with other members of parliament.

If members look at what the member for Morphett and I said in our contributions, they will see that all we are trying to do is get a fair and reasonable go for Surf Life Saving SA. What I said in my contribution is totally accurate. When members vote on this amendment, they should remember that Surf Life Saving, through the volunteers and the organisation as a whole, put about \$1.2 million, as I recall, into protecting lives on our beaches, and that is not including championships and other areas of lifesaving in which they are involved. They get only about \$350 million to \$400 million globally from the government. So, the organisation is already putting the lion's share into the emergency services aspects of the organisation. They have lost their other revenue stream, so I would have thought that after all the ways that we have attempted to get

this government to acknowledge the importance of Surf Life Saving we would have got better than this political amendment. It is an absolute nonsense and an outrage, from our point of view, that they would treat Surf Life Saving in such a disgusting manner. There are other ways in which the opposition can go about getting proper funding to assist Surf Life Saving, and we will have to go down those paths.

Mrs Geraghty interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: The member for Torrens said that when we were in government we just threw money out. That is not true. We fixed the State Bank, we rebuilt the economy, we had the intestinal fortitude to bring in the emergency services levy, and we left them with a balanced recurrent budget and an economy that had been growing since 1997 so that now they are awash with money. They are ripping taxes and charges out of the community like you would not believe and developing a war chest for the next election, and they will not even give a few hundred thousand dollars of funding to Surf Life Saving so that the thousands of volunteers can protect the South Australian community on our beaches. They should hang their heads in shame. They got sucked in by the Minister for Emergency Services to propose this dumb amendment.

That is what happened to the members of the Labor Party this morning, and we are extremely disappointed. If the service level funding agreements satisfied the Economic and Finance Committee when we were in government, and they were reported in the parliament, why procrastinate, why play games, and why have Surf Life Saving hanging on a clothes-line without providing that funding when they should have? Now they are ignoring the other financial problems of the organisation and not honouring their commitments when it came to the reinvestment of shark patrol funding and funding for the deficit problems that they had and still have. I am disgusted and disappointed, and I call on the Labor Party to save face now, because they have one more opportunity to help Surf Life Saving and that is to vote with us to destroy this ridiculous political amendment and get on and fund the organisation properly.

The house divided on the amendment:

AYES (24)

Atkinson, M. J.	Bedford, F. E.
Breuer, L. R.	Caica, P. (teller)
Ciccarello, V.	Conlon, P. F.
Foley, K. O.	Geraghty, R. K.
Hanna, K.	Hill, J. D.
Key, S. W.	Lomax-Smith, J. D.
Maywald, K. A.	McEwen, R. J.
O'Brien, M. F.	Rankine, J. M.
Rann, M. D.	Rau, J. R.
Snelling, J. J.	Such, R. B.
Thompson, M. G.	Weatherill, J. W.
White, P. L.	Wright, M. J.

NOES (18)

Brindal, M. K.	Brokenshire, R. L. (teller)
Buckby, M. R.	Chapman, V. A.
Goldsworthy, R. M.	Gunn, G. M.
Hall, J. L.	Hamilton-Smith, M. L. J.
Kerin, R. G.	Kotz, D. C.
Matthew, W. A.	McFetridge, D.
Meier, E. J.	Penfold, E. M.
Redmond, I. M.	Scalzi, G.
Venning, I. H.	Williams, M. R.

PAIR(S)

Stevens, L.	Brown, D. C.
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Majority of 6 for the ayes.

Amendment thus carried.

The SPEAKER: I will now put the motion as amended.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Divide!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! All honourable members need to recognise the right which each member has to pursue the belief that they think is in the best interests of the public and more particularly their constituents. No-one during the course of a division, more especially than at any other time, ought to engage in loud interjections and conversation across the chamber. It is highly disorderly and in direct contravention of standing orders to seek to coerce an honourable member to change their mind other than through orderly debate.

The house divided on the motion as amended:

AYES (22)

Atkinson, M. J.	Bedford, F. E.
Breuer, L. R.	Caica, P. (teller)
Ciccarello, V.	Conlon, P. F.
Foley, K. O.	Geraghty, R. K.
Hill, J. D.	Key, S. W.
Koutsantonis, T.	Lomax-Smith, J. D.
McEwen, R. J.	O'Brien, M. F.
Rankine, J. M.	Rann, M. D.
Rau, J. R.	Snelling, J. J.
Thompson, M. G.	Weatherill, J. W.
White, P. L.	Wright, M. J.

NOES (21)

Brindal, M. K.	Brokenshire, R. L. (teller)
Buckby, M. R.	Chapman, V. A.
Goldsworthy, R. M.	Gunn, G. M.
Hall, J. L.	Hamilton-Smith, M. L. J.
Hanna, K.	Kerin, R. G.
Kotz, D. C.	Matthew, W. A.
Maywald, K. A.	McFetridge, D.
Meier, E. J.	Penfold, E. M.
Redmond, I. M.	Scalzi, G.
Such, R. B.	Venning, I. H.
Williams, M. R.	

PAIR(S)

Stevens, L.	Brown, D. C.
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Majority of 1 for the ayes.

Motion as amended thus carried.

The SPEAKER: As the member for Hammond, I will comment so that people in my constituency know what I thought of the matter. It is my belief that if the assertion made by the member for Mawson in the proposition in the first instance, namely, that the government did undertake to provide additional funding to offset the current financial deficit equivalent to the savings from the cessation of the helicopter shark patrol, the government should have honoured that. However, notwithstanding that observation, equally I would argue that the government is to be commended for what it has already done in dealing with the finances of Surf Life Saving services, provided by volunteers in South Australia. My remarks ought not to be construed to mean that I believe the helicopter shark patrol was either effective or ineffective. The important point I make is that, if the savings made were in a public commitment pledged to the association, then they ought to have been provided. I thank the house for the opportunity to say so.

COETZEE, Prof. J.M.

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): I move:

That this house congratulates South African novelist, current Adelaide resident and former Booker prize winner, J.M. Coetzee, on having been awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Professor John Maxwell Coetzee, born in 1940 in Cape Town, South Africa, son of a sheep farmer of both Boer and English decent, grew up during the period of apartheid. In 1960 he left South Africa for some 10 years, following the Sharpville shootings, in which police fired on demonstrators and 70 people were killed.

In England he worked for IBM as a computer programmer. He then moved to the USA, where he studied literature and earned a doctorate from the University of Austin. He taught literature and English at the State University of New York at Buffalo until 1983. In 1984 he became Professor of English Literature at the University of Cape Town. In 2002 he moved to Adelaide, where he is an honorary visiting research fellow at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Coetzee made his debut as a writer in 1974 when he published his first book, *Dusklands*, which paralleled America's role in Vietnam with the early Dutch settlers in South Africa. His international breakthrough came about in 1980 with the novel *Waiting for the Barbarians*. He was also awarded the Booker Prize in the United Kingdom for *Life and Times of Michael K* in 1983.

In 1999 Professor Coetzee became the first author to be twice awarded the Booker Prize. The second award was for his novel *Disgrace*, in which the plot, as in his novel *In the Heart of the Country*, takes place mainly on a remote farm in South Africa.

A fundamental theme in his novels involves the values and conduct resulting from South Africa's apartheid system, which in his view could arise anywhere. In addition to his novels, Professor Coetzee has also published translations and acted as a literary critic for esteemed publications such as *The New York Review of Books*. His latest book, *Elizabeth Costello*, is about a character born in Melbourne who is herself a novelist and whose best known work is *The House of Eccles Street*, in which she gives Molly Bloom from Ulysses her own story to tell.

In February this year Professor Coetzee was awarded the keys to the city by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, and this week it has been reported that his book *Elizabeth Costello* is a finalist in the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Our lifestyle is envied by many, and Adelaide has just been judged third among the top cities in the world in which to do business, following an international study by KPMG. Professor Coetzee's reasons for moving here in 2002, following his visit in 1996 for Writers Week, were that his first impression was of Adelaide's being paradise on the Torrens. As quoted in an article by Samela Harris in *The Advertiser*, he said:

What kind of a place is this—paradise? What does one have to do to live here? Does one have to die first?

He and his partner, author and professor Dorothy Driver, had visited Adelaide earlier and rhapsodised about waking to the song of the magpies, so he barely needed to discuss the decision to move here. He is described by many as being quiet and retiring and does not make many public appearances. However, we had the opportunity of listening to him during Writers Week, and several thousand people were very thrilled to be able to do so, too. We are very proud that he and his wife, Professor Dorothy Driver, have chosen to live in Adelaide, and I commend the motion to the house.

Debate adjourned.

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

RIVER MURRAY LEVY

A petition signed by 269 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to remove the requirement to pay the River Murray levy from SA Water clients who do not use River Murray water on the Yorke Peninsula, was presented by Mr Meier.

Petition received.

CHILDREN IN DETENTION

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The state government has responsibility for the protection of children in this state and, while the federal government has custody of children in immigration detention, Family and Youth Services has regular contact with children in detention as a result of child protection notifications. From the outset, this Labor government's position on children in detention has always been very clear: no child who is free of having committed a crime should be kept in detention. We have already had plenty of evidence from HREOC and the Layton report on just how damaging detention is for children.

Today we have the disturbing news that Australasian Correctional Management, the very organisation that ran these immigration detention centres on behalf of the commonwealth, itself says that these places are unfit for children. The damage to children of being kept in detention is undeniable. In the child protection report, Robyn Layton points out that children in detention are denied anything remotely resembling a normal family life. There is inadequate nutrition for children, a lack of safe places for young children to sleep and inadequate education.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Children see parents and other adults who are severely depressed, go on hunger strikes and attempt suicide, placing children at risk of long-term psychological harm. The report states:

Children demonstrated a variety of problems including regressive behaviours and anxiety and suffered from symptoms ranging from bed-wetting, night terrors and suicide ideation.

One submission points out that, if a child in the community exhibited these symptoms, there would be assumptions of abuse or trauma and there would be intervention. But in detention these symptoms are commonplace.

The plight of children in detention in this country has attracted international interest, for all the wrong reasons, and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is due to release its final report on this issue shortly.

This morning it has been revealed that an analysis of a draft of the HREOC report by the former operators of the Woomera and Baxter detention centres (ACM) reveals that the draft is critical of health and education services, the treatment of disabled children and the level of hygiene in bathrooms at detention centres. It notes that children have been called by numbers instead of names, placed in security compounds used to manage the behaviour of adults, and were not protected from exposure to tear gas and water cannon.

I am deeply concerned by suggestions that the federal government may attempt to bury the HREOC report by releasing it on budget day next Tuesday. This issue deserves full and proper scrutiny. There is no justification for keeping children in detention, and the state government does not accept that the federal government should make second-best decisions for the care of these children because of its immigration policy.

Despite the evidence, the commonwealth insists on keeping children in detention. Five children aged between 8 years and 15 years remain in Baxter, and 17 children aged between 11 months and 17 years are in the Port Augusta facility. While the Port Augusta Residential Housing Project addresses some of the risks of keeping children in Baxter, child protection notifications continue and the demand on the GP service is high. The FAYS Baxter response team visits children and their families in detention once a fortnight. Visits range from two to three days, with additional visits when there are child protection notifications.

Over the past two years we have worked hard with the commonwealth to ensure better outcomes for children in detention, and it has to be acknowledged that some important steps have been taken in removing unaccompanied minors from detention. While these children technically remain in detention, with schools and foster homes being declared detention facilities, there is a greater resemblance to normal family life than there was in Baxter and Woomera. Fortunately, the working relationship between the state and commonwealth in dealing with the welfare, health and education of detainees—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —has improved significantly. However, more needs to be done to protect children from the long-term effects of being kept in detention. Today's information about the HREOC report further reveals the importance of removing all children from detention. I call on the federal government to release the HREOC report immediately.

MURRAY RIVER

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for the River Murray): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: In May 2003 the government announced that, due to the prolonged drought across much of the Murray-Darling system, South Australia needed to reduce the volume of water that may be taken from the River Murray during the 2003-04 water year. A package of water policy measures was announced in June 2003 to achieve a reduction in water use that equated at that time to 65 per cent of licensed water allocation. This decision was based on inflows expected seven years in 10, or a 30 per cent risk profile. Allocations for 2003-04 were based on the need to strike a balance between the availability of water to all water users and the quality of water available to users downstream of lock one. By November 2003 the authorised level of water used from the River Murray had been increased to 95 per cent of allocation following improvements in water availability.

The extended dry period in the Upper Murray system continues to impact on the volume of water held in storage by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. While there has been a slight improvement in overall storage levels relative to this time last year, the storage has remained well below the

long-term average. Advice from the commission indicates that better than average rainfall is required to achieve any significant improvement in the net overall storage conditions at the end of the 2004-05 water year.

Data from the Bureau of Meteorology shows deficiencies in rainfall across much of the Upper Murray system between February and April of this year, and inflows to commission storage in April were the lowest on record. The current seasonal outlook issued by the Bureau of Meteorology shows a 50 per cent probability of median rainfall between May 2004 to July 2004. The latest advice from the Murray Darling Basin commission indicates that it cannot, at this time, guarantee that South Australia will receive its full entitlement flow during the 2004-05 water year.

In March, I indicated to the house that it was highly likely that all jurisdictions within the River Murray system will commence the 2004-05 water year with limitations on the water available for consumptive purposes. Water users advised me during consultation in 2003-04 that if restrictions were again required they would appreciate early advice, reduced risk of further reductions in their allocation and a better understanding of decision-making processes.

I will make an announcement in the second week of June regarding the initial water allocations that will take effect from 1 July 2004. This announcement will follow consideration of advice from the high-level task force on the River Murray. However, if I were to make an announcement today—and I emphasise that it is hypothetical—on the basis of the current water resource information, the initial water allocations for 2004-5 would be 70 per cent of licensed allocation as at 1 July 2004. As requested by water users, I have reduced to 10 per cent the level of risk attached to this prediction from the 30 per cent that applied last year. That means that there will now be nine chances in 10 that the allocation level announced will improve during the 2004 winter/spring period. Seventy per cent is a likely figure, but there are nine in 10 chances that it will be better than that as the year progresses.

The government continues to monitor developments very closely and ensure that the most up-to-date information is made available to water users as quickly as possible. I extend my appreciation to the irrigation community for their forbearance and cooperation in this important process.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr CAICA (Colton): I bring up the 205th report of the committee, on public capital works consultancies.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr CAICA: I bring up the 206th report of the committee, on the Mobilong Prison independent living unit.

Report received and ordered to be published.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I have to report that the managers for the two houses conferred together and it was agreed that we should recommend to our respective houses:

As to Amendment No. 1:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its Amendment No. 1 but makes the following amendment in lieu thereof:

Clause 3, page 3 lines 10 to 20—Leave out subclause (1) and insert:

(1) The objects of this Act are, consistently with the principle of the Executive Government's responsibility to Parliament—

- (a) to promote openness in government and accountability of Ministers of the Crown and other government agencies and thereby to enhance respect for the law and further the good government of the State; and
- (b) to facilitate more effective participation by members of the public in the processes involved in the making and administration of laws and policies.

(1a) The means by which it is intended to achieve these objects are as follows:

- (a) ensuring that information concerning the operations of government (including, in particular, information concerning the rules and practices followed by government in its dealings with members of the public) is readily available to members of the public and to Members of Parliament; and
- (b) conferring on each member of the public and on Members of Parliament a legally enforceable right to be given access to documents held by government, subject only to such restrictions as are consistent with the public interest (including maintenance of the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions) and the preservation of personal privacy; and
- (c) enabling each member of the public to apply for the amendment of such government records concerning his or her personal affairs as are incomplete, incorrect, out-of-date or misleading.

And that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to Amendment No. 2:

That the House of Assembly do not further insist on its disagreement thereto.

As to Amendment No. 3:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its Amendment No. 3 but makes the following amendment in lieu thereof:

Clause 3, page 3, line 34—after "public" insert:
and Members of Parliament

And that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to Amendments Nos. 4 to 10 (inclusive):

That the House of Assembly do not further insist on its disagreement thereto.

As to Amendment No. 11:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its Amendment No. 11 but makes the following amendment in lieu thereof:

Clause 8, page 9, lines 14 and 15—Leave out this clause and insert:

Amendment of s. 53—Fees and charges

8. Section 53 of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by inserting in subsection (2) "reasonable administrative" after "reflect the";
- (b) by inserting after subsection (2) the following subsection:

(2aa) A fee or charge can only be required by an agency under this Act in respect of the costs to the agency of finding, sorting, compiling and copying documents necessary for the proper exercise of a function under this Act and undertaking any consultations required by this Act in relation to the exercise of that function.

And that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to Amendment No. 12:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its Amendment No. 12 but makes the following amendment in lieu thereof:

Clause 11, page 10, lines 14 to 17—Leave out paragraph (g) and insert:

- (g) by striking out from subclause (2) of clause 6 "and the truth of those allegations or suggestions has not been established by judicial process" and substituting "the truth of which has not been established by judicial process and the disclosure of which would be unreasonable";
- (ga) by striking out subclause (4) of clause 6;

And that the House of Assembly agree thereto.

As to Amendments Nos. 13 to 15 (inclusive):

That the House of Assembly do not further insist on its disagreement thereto.

As to Amendment No. 16:

That the Legislative Council do not further insist on its amendment.

QUESTION TIME

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Attorney-General. When was the Commissioner for Public Employment first consulted about the payout to be offered to the then DPP?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): My recollection is that it was immediately after Mr Rofe came to see me on the Thursday.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS, ECONOMY

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell): My question is to the Minister for the Southern Suburbs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms THOMPSON: What work is being done at a local level to support the economy of the southern suburbs?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for the Southern Suburbs): I am sorry that members opposite seem to find questions about the southern suburbs so amusing but it just shows that their emphasis is elsewhere in the state. As members may know, the southern suburbs is a fast-growing region with great potential but the region has lacked a strategic plan for its economic development. Over the past 12 months or so I have been meeting with both the councils covering the area—Onkaparinga and Marion—to discuss the region's priorities, and it was agreed that an economic development plan for the southern suburbs should be developed. This plan has now been developed by senior officers in government and in the Onkaparinga and Marion councils.

The plan identifies key opportunities for growth, particularly in food, tourism, ways to wealth and knowledge industries, and it identifies a need to build a climate of business success in the south. Importantly, the plan has been developed by the region—it is not just a government report that is to be imposed. It includes practical recommendations, and I can advise the house that the Minister for Trade and I have approved \$814 000 worth of projects recommended in the plan for economic development. These new projects include:

- investigating the establishment of a green business incubator;
- funding an extra 125 apprenticeships and traineeships over two years;
- attracting business migration;
- undertaking an energy infrastructure review;
- undertaking a feasibility study into the establishment of a community telco; and
- developing a Fleurieu peninsula food distribution plan.

The southern suburbs region has strong export potential and that is why the largest initiative that the government has agreed to fund is a regional export and investment extension service. Almost half a million dollars will be spent over two years to help local businesses seize export opportunities.

The economic development plan will be a resource for the local community, government and councils to work together to develop new economic opportunities for the southern suburbs. I expect that plan will be ready for publishing in the next week or so and I will certainly make it available to any member who may have an interest. I look forward to working with local members, particularly the member for Reynell who asked this question and who has a strong interest in this area, and the member for Mawson, who is the newly appointed shadow minister for the southern suburbs—and on that I congratulate him.

DOOR SNAKES

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): Will the Minister for Energy explain to the house why he stated yesterday, in reply to a question from me, that the government did not provide door snakes as draught stoppers for South Australians struggling to pay their electricity bills? If his statement was correct, can he explain why tender No. 9422, called by the minister's department, Energy SA, on 13 October 2003, was for the supply of 20 000 compact fluorescent light bulbs and 10 000 door snakes? When I asked the minister yesterday how many door snakes had been handed out, he replied, 'We do not give out door snakes.' He continued:

It's only in the fevered imagination of the member for Bright that there is a program of giving out snakes.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Energy): For the benefit of the member for Bright, who believes that matters of the snake variety are the only important ones in energy in South Australia because the only questions that he asks about energy are about door snakes, I will explain in greater detail what I said yesterday. I said that the program is not about door snakes. It is about an energy audit for low income households, a no interest loan scheme to do works for low-income households, and a whitegoods replacement program. It has giveaways including a AAA-rated shower rose, some low energy use light globes and, if it is useful to a home, a door snake. I cannot explain the preoccupation of the member for Bright with snakes any more than I can explain—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I rise on a point of order. This is all quite amusing but the question was: how many door snakes?

The SPEAKER: Order! Obviously the minister does not know or does not care. The honourable member for Norwood.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: With your indulgence, sir, I have a supplementary question. Will the minister now apologise for misleading the house with his comment yesterday? The minister told the house yesterday—

The SPEAKER: The honourable member for Bright may not make an allegation in the form of a question where it relates to a breach of standing orders, and misleading the house is a breach of standing orders. The question, supplementary or otherwise, is out of order. The honourable member for Norwood.

CHINESE TOURISTS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. What new initiatives has the state government taken to support the tourism industry in attracting Chinese visitors to South Australia?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Tourism): I thank the member for Norwood because she realises that the economy of the state is intricately involved with the number of international tourists we get. She will also be interested to know that we have poised the SATC to take up the opportunities offered by the predicted increase in Chinese tourists coming to Australia. The ATC office in Hong Kong is now also hosting a member of staff from the SATC, Anna Cheung, who is signalling our desire to take up the increasing numbers in tourists and be poised to capitalise on this growing market.

We believe that, between 2002 and 2012, the number of Chinese tourists coming to Australia will rise from 190 000 up to 819 000. By acting now, we will take our opportunities by using the offices of the ATC, particularly in Shanghai, where they have been looking at the number, knowledge and market awareness of potential tourists about destinations in Australia. Interestingly, where Chinese tourists are particularly aware of destinations, they name Sydney, Melbourne and the Great Barrier Reef as their premier destination wishes in Australia, but Kangaroo Island is equal fourth in the list and comes ahead of the Gold Coast in their knowledge of Australia's assets.

South Australia is also a favourably regarded destination for students who recognise the high quality learning opportunities in this state, the community acceptance and the amount of pastoral care we can offer. The economic benefits of linking SATC marketing with Education Adelaide marketing are ones we are beginning to leverage and enjoy in the future. We recognise that the tourist industry will benefit from the international markets in China, and we expect the branding, imaging and promotion to work between the opportunities for business investment, international tourism and education.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My first question to the Attorney-General was: when was the Commissioner for Public Employment first consulted about the pay-out for the DPP. Following a short discussion just now with the Attorney, I ask whether the Attorney would like another crack at answering the question.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): It is very kind of the honourable member to ask. Regarding—

The Hon. R.G. Kerin interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: No; an amplification, not a correction. After consulting Mr Rofe last Thursday, through the head of my department, the acting head of the Department of Justice, Bill Cossey, I contacted the Commissioner for Public Employment. However, prior to my meeting with Mr Rofe, Mr Cossey had obtained the precedents on pay-outs to executives.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ms RANKINE (Wright): My question is to the Minister for Health. Does the report by the consulting firm, Lizard Drinking, into the management and operation of the South Australian Ambulance Service support claims by the opposition that the service has fallen into disarray?

The SPEAKER: The question is out of order in that it seeks to get the minister to comment on a report in some other publication outside the parliament, which the honourable member and other honourable members may or may not

choose, according to their inclinations, to read themselves. It the same as asking whether the minister agrees with a report in the daily press. It is simply out of order.

HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Health. When the Minister for Health became aware early last year that the emergency department at the Flinders Medical Centre was 'unsafe', what action, if any, did she take? Minutes of the Flinders Medical Centre board meeting reveal that early last year—

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I would have thought that this was a pretty serious matter—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: Just wait and listen. Minutes of the Flinders Medical Centre board meeting reveal that, early last year, the emergency department was found to be 'unsafe due to overcrowding and understaffing of the facility'.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Deputy Premier! The Minister for Health has the call.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I am very pleased to answer this very important question, particularly because I have seen the deputy leader's press release, which was embargoed until 2.15 p.m., where he says that 'I sat on my hands for 12 months' in relation to this matter. I ask the house now to give me the time to outline the issues around the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department and to explain just what has happened, particularly over the past 12 months, in relation to the whole range of issues that led to this.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I would like to answer the question. Overcrowding and its implications at the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department date back at least to 1992, as the workload has progressively increased to over 50 000 annual attendances. There are many reasons for this increasing demand. The Flinders Medical Centre takes acute cases from the emergency units at both the Noarlunga Health Service and the Repat, and this focuses the acute caseload from the southern region on the Flinders Medical Centre. The aging population, the lack of hospital avoidance programs, and the shortage of nursing home accommodation and GPs in the south all contribute. There is also the increasing acuity of those presenting. For example, last November, out of 4 175 attendances, 1 695 people were admitted to the hospital. To accommodate this increasing demand, a \$5.8 million upgrade of the emergency department commenced in 1995, and staffing has increased from 110 in 1998-99 to 164 in December 2003.

I note that while I am giving this answer the opposition is paying it little attention. In 2000-01 the emergency and trauma services plan initiated by the former minister recommended a new emergency extended care unit. This new 12 bed unit was opened by me on 19 March 2003. Like the earlier redevelopment, however, the new emergency extended care unit, by itself, has not solved the problem of overcrowding. Because of concerns about the emergency department workload, the Flinders Medical Centre's Director of Clinical Governance, Professor David Ben-Tovim, undertook a systematic analysis of the emergency department at the

beginning of 2003. As a result of that analysis, the Flinders Medical Centre Board has progressively initiated a number of improvements. However, because overcrowding continued in the emergency department, I sought further advice in July 2003. The hospital board engaged Professor Marcus Kennedy, Director of Emergency Services at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, to provide an independent opinion. On 22 January I received advice from the Chairman of the Board of the Flinders Medical Centre setting out further action to be taken on the advice of Professor Kennedy to meet overcrowding and potential safety issues.

As a result of the work of Professor David Ben-Tovim and Professor Kennedy, changes that have been implemented include the following. Staffing levels have been increased in the emergency department. The Flinders Medical Centre has introduced bed management practices to improve the flow of patients through the hospital. An ongoing building capacity initiative has been established. A new model of care providing intensive rehabilitation and support to stroke patients and acutely ill elderly patients has been implemented. The 37 bed City Views has been opened as a transitional care facility to free up bed capacity. The hospital has initiated a recruitment drive to increase the number of ED doctors. The shadow minister might have noted the advertisements in the national press in recent days for a whole range of clinical positions for the emergency department. The hospital has maximised the amount of time when there are two ED consultants on duty.

The hospital has recruited additional general medical consultants to strengthen senior medical cover across the hospital. It has opened up to 25 extra beds at times of peak demand. It has initiated building work to convert the old ICCU area into space for additional bed stock. It has run a workshop with 67 senior clinicians to explore and action further strategies. It has worked in partnership with the United Kingdom National Health Service to redesign patient flows via a new initiative called ED Works. As a result of this initiative, waiting times have been cut by 20 per cent.

The review of regional relationships is also paramount, and the recent appointment of the Southern Health Service Board and the imminent appointment of a regional general manager will facilitate this process. I have also asked the Flinders Medical Centre Board to develop plans for the redesign of the emergency department as identified by the ED Works project and the replacement of outdated information technology systems. The Flinders Medical Centre has been directed to ensure the quality and safety of services at Flinders Medical Centre, and that is what all these issues have been about.

Professor Chris Baggoley, who is now the Director of Emergency Services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the adviser on emergency services to the Department of Human Services, has reviewed over 30 emergency departments in the past decade. He is also providing advice to the government on this hospital and on the emergency departments of all our metropolitan hospitals. He has advised me that the recommendations being implemented are sound.

I reiterate again that I am surprised that this is such big news to the deputy leader. He might have known that the issues around the Flinders Medical Centre and what the government is doing about it featured as a front page story in *The Advertiser* about a month or so ago, so I am surprised that it seems to be such a shock to him. It was also a feature in *The Australian* last week, when an article was written on the improvements at the Flinders Medical Centre, with one of the nation's biggest public hospital emergency depart-

ments. To sum up, the issues at the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department are long standing and date back to 1992.

The extent of overcrowding and business at the hospital is a direct result of a whole range of issues impacting on our public hospital services. The former minister knew all about this. Unfortunately, he did not have the commitment and drive to get on top of the real issues. We, at last, have acted in relation to dealing with the issues at Flinders Medical Centre. We have done so on a consistent basis over the past year.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: On a point of order, sir, the minister's very long explanation has now degenerated into debate and I ask you to rule accordingly.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: By way of supplementary question, will the Minister for Health advise why she has just advertised in the past few days for additional staff for the emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre, when in fact the board papers acknowledged the need for additional staff more than 12 months ago?

The Hon. L. STEVENS: It is quite clear that the deputy leader did not listen to the answer I have just given. He was too busy interrupting, too busy sniggering.

The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Member for Bright, just be quiet.

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Bright!

The Hon. L. STEVENS: The government has taken appropriate action. The government acted to work with the Flinders Medical Centre to get to the bottom of this problem. It has put in place a whole range of initiatives, which we will continue, in our very busy Flinders Medical Centre.

WHYALLA, SERVICES

Ms BREUER (Giles): My question is directed to the Minister for Consumer Affairs. How has the government improved services to the Whyalla region?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Minister for Consumer Affairs): Mr Speaker—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: They are going to corrugate the roads, apparently.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:—I thank the member for Giles for this question. The Whyalla area is fortunate to have such a strong and persuasive voice in parliament. In February, I was fortunate to be able to travel to Whyalla to launch the extension of services for the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA). The Labor government appreciates how frustrating it can be when crucial services close. I am pleased that OCBA's services are now available five days a week in Whyalla, thanks to its partnership with Services SA.

Most interactions that customers have with the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs are straightforward, such as applying for a birth certificate, lodging a rental bond, applying for a licence for a trade, lodging an application form or paying a licence renewal. Services such as these will be handled by Services SA on behalf of the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs. There are other matters that may require in-depth discussion (as the member for Newland would have known when she was the outstanding opposition spokesman on consumer affairs), particularly if the matter is about a dispute with a trader, a landlord or a tenant. This one

on one advisory service is available in Whyalla at Services SA each Thursday.

While I was in Whyalla, I was also pleased to launch South Australia's new commemorative business name certificates that are now available in the colours of people's favourite football teams—and there is even one for the Woodville-West Torrens Eagles!

The Hon. M.D. Rann: What about the Panthers?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: There is one for the mighty Panthers—and, of course, for the Crows and Port Power—or featuring South Australia's flora and fauna, such as Sturt's desert pea and the hairy-nosed wombat—not to forget the leafy sea dragon, which I am sure is one that the member for Davenport would not forget.

After my visit to Whyalla I went on to Port Augusta and met magistrates Fred Field and Clive Kitchin, who are now, thanks to the Rann Labor government, living amongst the regional communities they serve. Mr Speaker, you will recall when the former attorney-general Trevor Griffin and the Brown Liberal government summoned every magistrate home from the country and made them all live in Adelaide. The Rann Labor government is committed to an open, accessible and accountable government for all South Australians, particularly those who live in regional areas. That is why we have not one but two magistrates in Port Augusta, and we have magistrate Chas Eardley in Mount Gambier. That is because we look after country South Australia.

CHILDREN, SEXUAL ABUSE

Mr BRINDAL (Unley): What actions has the Minister for Families and Communities taken to protect children in his care from sexual abuse since he became minister, and how many outstanding child abuse cases have not yet been investigated by the minister pursuant to his responsibility for the protection of children in this state? In his statement today, the minister said, 'The state government has responsibility for the protection of children in this state,' and you, Mr Speaker, more than most, would be aware that he has added responsibility if such children are in his care.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I accept my responsibilities for the children in my care, and we are taking steps to address those very issues. Indeed, at a public forum just a few days ago, I admitted that the child protection system is in crisis, and it is.

Ms Rankine interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Wright!

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Frankly, despite two substantial responses to the Layton report—the first tranche involving expenditure of \$58.6 million over four years and a further tranche of reforms involving the recruitment of an additional 73 staff costing \$3.6 million each year—there remain deep and systemic problems within our system of child protection. But one of the important things we have done is change the culture of the system. There has been a culture at the very top—

Mr BRINDAL: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. My question was very specific: how many outstanding cases are there? I would like the minister to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Notwithstanding the precise nature of the inquiry, the minister is addressing the matter. But if the minister seeks to debate it that will be the end of it as far as the chair is concerned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Mr Speaker, there is an important piece of information that members of this house

should be aware of and it concerns the culture that has been endemic within these agencies that deal with child protection. A culture has existed among people at the most senior levels of government—and I am talking now of a period prior to our term of office—where they simply did not want to hear the truth about child protection and they went to extraordinary lengths to prevent themselves being told the truth.

Ms Chapman: Name them.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The member for Bragg invites me to name them. I say that senior members of advisory bodies sought to communicate to the previous government that this system was in crisis and, in fact, emissaries were sent by the previous government to tell them that they should not use inflammatory remarks to describe the child protection system. Indeed, they went further. (The member for Finnis knows this and he should sit forward and listen to it.) They set up structures to ensure that those agencies could not get the message through. That is the way the previous government dealt with child protection—cover-ups and lies. They created a culture of bullying and cover-up.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: Mr Speaker, the minister's response has again degenerated into debate, and I ask you to rule accordingly.

The SPEAKER: I simply do not share that view. There is no point of order on that point. The honourable the minister.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: We have established a new Department of Families and Communities. This area now has been disaggregated from the Department of Human Services, where many of these unfortunate patterns of behaviour had been perpetrated. Extraordinary efforts have been taken to increase resources in child protection. Our system needs to turn around and face those people at the coal face who deal on a day-to-day basis with families in crisis. Early intervention is at the heart of the Layton report, and further significant responses to the Layton report will be released soon.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ms RANKINE (Wright): My question is to the Minister for Health. Is it true that the management and operation of the South Australian Ambulance Service has fallen into disarray, as stated by the opposition yesterday?

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): I am pleased to answer this question from the member for Wright because, of course, members would know that last evening the member for Bright made a completely unfounded attack on our ambulance service. He told the house that the management of the service has fallen into disarray.

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: I rise on a point of order. I did no such thing. The minister is misleading the house if she continues in that vein. I did no such thing; I made no attack—

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will resume his seat. The member for Bright is attempting to make a point of order. The point of order is?

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW: The minister claims that last night I attacked the ambulance service in this house. I did no such thing.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member knows that that is not a point of order. If the member feels as though he has been misrepresented he may, at the conclusion of question time, seek a personal explanation.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Last night the honourable member told the house that the management of this service has fallen into disarray. There was no evidence, just a blanket smear; he was playing the wrecker and attempting to create trouble.

The SPEAKER: The minister will not debate. That is a pejorative and inflammatory statement. The minister may state whether or not it is true, and cite whatever authority she relies upon for her view, not that that will necessarily mean that it carries any greater weight than the honourable minister's view herself who is, of course, as members know all ministers are, expert in their portfolio.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Before I come back to the issue I need to put on record that the member for Bright told the house how he saved the troubled service in 1993, but I am told that what he actually wanted to do was amalgamate the ambulance service with the fire brigade. Fortunately, wiser heads prevailed. The recent review of the ambulance service by consultancy Lizard Drinking dated May 2003 soundly contradicts the member for Bright's criticism of the ambulance service. The report by individual consulting firm Lizard Drinking states that the ambulance service is 'professionally managed' and that it is 'a properly funded service'. The report states that the service is 'a respected provider of emergency and health services and that criticisms from stakeholders are rare'. The report also states that the service is staffed by committed people from the road to the executive management team, who are dedicated to delivering a competent service to the state.

The report also states, 'The service must move to best practice to meet future challenges.' The report recommended that the service be transferred from the Department of Justice to the Department of Human Services to allow more integrated planning for the delivery of primary and emergency care services.

Accordingly, the responsibility for the South Australian Ambulance Service was transferred from the Minister for Emergency Services to the Minister for Health, effective from Thursday 29 April 2004. This decision not only puts into place one of the key recommendations of the May report that I just referred to but it is also consistent with the Generational Health Review.

HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Health. Given that the Flinders Medical Centre board minutes show that the hospital's emergency department was found to be 'becoming increasingly unsafe' in early 2003 and 'grossly unsafe' by December 2003, will the minister explain why she allowed such a deterioration to occur last year and such dangers to patients to continue? The board minutes of 5 March last year state:

Professor David Ben-Tovim has been asked to investigate an increasing incidence of adverse events in the emergency department over the last 12 months and report back to Ms Davidson.

The investigation found 'clear evidence that Flinders Medical Centre is becoming increasingly unsafe'. An external review by Professor Kennedy reported to the board in writing on 15 December but had verbally reported in November last year, that 'the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department is grossly unsafe'. In other words, throughout last year the situation got worse.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows that his last remark was clear, unequivocal, pure debate and he would do better, if he seeks the call again, not to engage in such practices.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): As I said in my previous answer, the issues of overcrowding and increased demand at Flinders Medical Centre have been occurring over a number of years. But, in relation to the things that have happened over the last 12 months, in particular, the government has been in charge of affairs here for just over two years. In the first of the government's years a number of things happened in relation to the Flinders Medical Centre's emergency department, including the opening of the emergency extended care unit and the City Views arrangement at Julia Farr, in an attempt to deal with these issues.

Last year it was clear—and I have already stated this in my previous answer—that these issues alone were not dealing with the issue of the overcrowding. Those broader issues have been canvassed widely in the Generational Health Review and in many other publications. We all know these issues. At that time Flinders Medical Centre took its own action in relation to David Ben-Tovim's work in terms of what needed to be done in that department. I myself followed up, because I was very concerned to ensure that we were operating safely and that we were able to deal with the masses of people coming into that hospital. That is why Marcus Kennedy was put in place to give further advice on exactly what we needed to do. The government acted, and all the time during which that was occurring there was a clear direction to the hospital about taking whatever action they needed to take to ensure that the service was safe.

In relation to the comments that the deputy leader made about the report in terms of being grossly unsafe, I would point out that Kennedy states very clearly in his report:

It is intuitive to state that an ED [an emergency department] which is overcrowded (and therefore by definition under-resourced) will be less safe than one which is not. In this sense, the Flinders Medical Centre is grossly unsafe.

That is where the deputy leader has taken his quote. Having said that, though, Kennedy also went on to state:

It is, however, important to note the trends identified and the performance of the Flinders Medical Centre ED in this regard do not appreciably differ from local or national trends.

As I said before, I took this report very seriously, and I have stressed to the department and to the management of the Flinders Medical Centre that safety must be the priority and must be maintained at all times.

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: The member for Mawson asks me what I have done about it. I just say to the member for Mawson, after you leave question time go and get the *Hansard* and read the answer that I gave.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS

Mr O'BRIEN (Napier): Will the Minister for Science and Information Economy inform the house of any South Australian involvement in the World Congress on Information Technology?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Science and Information Economy): I am pleased to say that the state government is contributing \$27 500 to support the South Australian delegation to that congress to be held in Athens on 19-21 May 2004. Funding will be put towards an exhibition

site at the event and towards airfares for five small and smart local ICT companies with global export market potential. These companies include Capture Cam Pro, a developer of advanced training and communications software located at Aberfoyle Park, and True Life Creations, a producer of sophisticated visual communications, located in Hindley Street in the city.

The presence of South Australian companies in Athens will create valuable opportunities to build international recognition of Adelaide's and the state's world-class capabilities in ICT and capitalise on the exposure from the last World Congress that was held here in Adelaide. The South Australian delegates will be able to access over 2 000 representatives from markets in all major international locations, representing 95 per cent of the world market. This offers an excellent opportunity for our companies to forge new relationships and develop new sales and investment opportunities, especially within the European market and also in emerging markets in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

In addition to the state government's support of the World Congress delegation, the ICT Council was successful in securing a \$20 000 grant from the Australian Information Industries Association Financial Legacy Grant Scheme, on behalf of Solution City. Members might be aware that Solution City was supported by the state government and is an initiative of the ICT Council of recent times. It is a way to market Adelaide's and South Australia's ICT capabilities. It is a member-driven organisation, and it has a range of big and small software and hardware companies. The delegation to Athens will be the only Australian delegation at the congress, and I wish the South Australian delegation every success at the World Congress, and I thank the Solution City executive for promoting South Australia's capabilities on behalf of our local ICT industry.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Mr RAU (Enfield): My question is to the Minister for Families and Communities. How will the St Vincent de Paul Society's winter appeal make a difference to South Australians facing difficult times?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I had the privilege to assist in the launch of the South Australian element of the winter appeal. Nationally, the appeal is being launched by the Wiggles, but South Australia had to settle for me and the Archbishop. The winter appeal serves two purposes. Of course, it is about the very basic things, such as warm blankets, clothing, food and financial assistance. I took two blankets along, and I encourage other members to chip in and make their contribution. Secondly, it is also a valuable opportunity to remind us about those most disadvantaged people in our community—those who are out sleeping rough and who, as winter sets in, will increasingly become very severely disadvantaged. Vinnies, of course, is not alone in its support of the homeless. The South Australian government has committed \$12 million over four years for the homelessness initiative. Members would be aware that homelessness is not simply about providing shelter, although, of course, it is that, but it is also about supporting people whilst they are in that shelter, ensuring that they are able to sustain a public housing tenancy or, if they have exceptional needs, providing the very special level of support that is necessary.

The winter appeal aims to raise \$200 000 and will provide assistance to over 50 000 people over the winter months. I appeal to the community spirit of all South Australians and members of parliament in particular. I would also mention the theme of the appeal, which is 'Add a little hope, add a little dignity, add a little smile, and your donation, and help change a life today.'

HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Minister for Health. Was the minister informed by her department last year that the emergency patients at the Flinders Medical Centre were spending, on average, 5.7 hours waiting for or receiving medical treatment in the emergency department, and is she aware that this is well outside accepted national medical safety standards? The minutes of the board meeting of last September state in relation to this matter state:

There are clear indicators of a decrease in safety of service. The current average time spent in the emergency department by each patient is 5.7 hours. This needs to be reduced.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Health.

The Hon. L. STEVENS (Minister for Health): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health has the call.

The Hon. L. STEVENS: Thank you, sir. My department tracks the performance of the emergency departments across the metropolitan area as a matter of course. Obviously, the government discusses these matters regularly. Regarding the Flinders Medical Centre, it is precisely those figures and the issues that have spawned the intense work and the massive upgrade that is now taking place. This is happening not just because the deputy leader found out about it today; it has been ongoing now at the Flinders Medical Centre for nearly 12 months.

I say again: the Flinders Medical Centre has taken specific action in relation to the management of the flow of patients through its emergency department. I suggest that the deputy leader have a briefing from the Flinders Medical Centre. He might even have read in *The Australian* last week a feature article describing the gains and improvements that the Flinders Medical Centre has made in relation to the flow through of its patients and managing its patient workload. We still have a long way to go at that hospital. We still have to improve the working relationships between the Flinders Medical Centre, Noarlunga and the Repat. We still have to improve our efforts regarding hospital avoidance and we still have to do more with our primary health care networks—our GPs. We are working on all these issues. The Hon. Tony Abbott after a discussion with me in Adelaide regarding the shortage of GPs in the southern area, which is one of the biggest shortages in Australia—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. L. STEVENS: I am very pleased that the federal Minister for Health has now agreed that the southern and northern suburbs of Adelaide will now be designated areas of special need in terms of GPs. That will enable us to work more effectively with them and hopefully get more GPs into those areas so that we can start to reduce some of the massive demand that is coming out of the community and being loaded onto the Flinders Medical Centre. I reiterate: the

government is aware of the issues. The demand for health care, particularly in the southern suburbs, which focuses on the Flinders Medical Centre, is a major issue for the government. However, I say once again that we are working on it, and we have been working on it constantly.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. L. STEVENS: I have already outlined a whole range of things that we are doing. We will continue to monitor those and we will continue to make this a priority. Finally, I again reiterate the work that my department and I have done with the board and the hospital on the issue of running a safe hospital. This issue is paramount. The hospital has been given an imprimatur by me and the department to ensure that the hospital is made safe.

The Hon. DEAN BROWN: I ask a supplementary question. As the minister has acknowledged that the emergency department was unsafe last year, why did she not issue a public warning?

The Hon. L. STEVENS: As I have said a number of times during question time today, the board and management of the Flinders Medical Centre were directed by me and the department to take whatever action was required to keep the hospital safe. If they had to spend more or open more beds, they had to do what they needed to do to keep the hospital safe, and the range of issues and strategies it is implementing have begun to work. We will be continuing the effort.

RIESLING TRAIL

Mr KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens): My question is to the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Mr Brokenshire: How good is Nigel Smart?

Mr KOUTSANTONIS: A lot better than you, sunshine. What is the government doing to upgrade and promote the Riesling Trail?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I thank the member for West Torrens for his question—he is a regular user of the Riesling Trail. One of South Australia's premier cycling and walking trails, it stretches from Auburn to Clare for a distance of 25 kilometres. The region is well known for its magnificent wines. The government, through the Office of Recreation and Sport, has worked closely with the community and council to undertake a major upgrade of the Riesling Trail and develop new marketing products. I have been advised that the new section of the trail through Auburn is near completion. This will enable everyone, locals and tourists alike, to safely walk or ride the distance.

The Mawson Trail now links to the Riesling Trail at Auburn as it traverses northwards to Burra. This will encourage cyclists riding the Mawson Trail to visit the Clare and Gilbert Valleys, which should result in more visitors to the region, which means more dollars in the pockets of local businesses.

A management plan has been prepared to guide maintenance programs and safety audits of the trail. A significant minor works program is being carried out, based on the recommendations of a risk management audit. New signs have been installed that direct trail users to the wineries and places of interest off from the trail, again assisting local businesses by ensuring that tourists know what the region has to offer.

Three new loop trails have also been marked to provide opportunities for trail users to explore such areas as Spring

Gully, Polish Hill Valley and Hughes Park. Six interpretive signs have also been installed along the trail featuring historical information on the local area. A new Riesling Trail brochure, with a map of the trail route, is now available through visitor information centres statewide and, I understand, from many of the local businesses in the Clare and Gilbert Valleys region.

I am also pleased to announce that on 2 May the Riesling Trail won the South Australian Tourism Commission Regional Attraction Award for the Clare and Gilbert Valleys area. This award recognises the partnership between the Office for Recreation and Sport, the council and the local community. The work done by the government to upgrade and promote the Riesling Trail pays dividends for South Australians in a number of ways. It promotes healthy lifestyles through physical activity by providing attractive opportunities for walking and cycling and helps enhance the experiences of tourists when they visit the region, and therefore has the potential to increase the benefits to the local community. In answer to the member for Mawson: we want to see Smart playing on Saturday night so that Port Power can beat their best team.

The SPEAKER: Order! Notwithstanding the fact that much of what the minister has just had to say was more in the form of debate than information which might reasonably be sought by way of question, the last statement was quite gratuitous. The chair notes, however, that there are two minutes left of question time. Notwithstanding the commitment made in the compact of good government, the opposition has just reached its sixth question. The member for Mitchell.

BAXTER AND WOOMERA DETENTION CENTRES

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): My question is to the Minister for Families and Communities. Does the minister's avoidance of reference to adult asylum seekers in his statement to the parliament today about detention centres indicate his and his government's approval of detention of adult asylum seekers in the appalling conditions of Baxter and Woomera that he described?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): The answer to the question is no, it does not. Rather, it reflects the fact that I do not have responsibility for federal immigration policy, and neither does anyone in this state parliament. But I will say this. One of the important recommendations of the Layton report is that, when we consider matters concerning child protection in relation to children in detention, we should be—

An honourable member: What about the adults?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: If the member just listens for a moment, she might learn something about children in detention. I know it is a matter of supreme disinterest for those opposite, but it is a matter of grave concern to us. Children in detention should have their circumstances and their welfare judged by the same standards that would apply to any children in the community. To the extent to which it is necessary to change the arrangements of adults—and that becomes the necessary consequence of making a decision about what is in the best interests of the children—that should follow. That is clear from the recommendations of the Layton report. Ms Layton recommends that one should not ask for a second best system of child protection. One should not seek second best solutions in relation to child detention simply because the federal government is

running a particular type of immigration policy. That certainly is something that is supported by the government. Unfortunately, there are constitutional and legislative limits to the authority that the state government has over children in detention. What responsibilities we do have we take seriously, hence my earlier ministerial statement.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): Mr Speaker, I move: That the time for asking questions be extended by 20 minutes.

The SPEAKER: Is that motion seconded?

Honourable members: Yes.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: No.

The SPEAKER: I put the question: those of that opinion say 'aye', to the contrary, 'no'. I believe the 'ayes' have it. Motion carried.

WESTWOOD

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen): My question is directed to the Minister for Housing.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I am asking, on behalf of the government, whether question time has been extended. I was waiting for the motion.

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: For how long?

The SPEAKER: The member for Stuart moved, and I heard more than one voice second the proposition. I hesitated and put the question. I could hear plenty of interjections and debate across the chamber. There was a loud call of 'aye'. I called in favour of the 'ayes' and I waited. There was no call to the contrary for a division and, therefore, I allowed the proposition to stand. It does stand. The member for Heysen is asking a question.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Sir, I ask you to recommit the matter. No-one on the government side—

The SPEAKER: They ought to pay attention. The chair has called, after hesitation. If the minister wishes to proceed down that path, it will be necessary to suspend standing orders to rescind the motion before any other motion can be entertained. The member for Heysen.

Mrs REDMOND: My question is directed to the Minister for Housing. Is it the case that Westwood, the developers that have the contract to undertake refurbishment and rebuilding of Housing Trust properties in the area known as The Parks, have a contractual obligation to address social issues in those areas? On ABC Radio earlier this week a caller asserted that, in its contract for rebuilding Housing Trust properties, Westwood has an obligation also to address social issues.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Housing): I understand that it does.

Mrs REDMOND: Sir, I have a supplementary question. If the minister's answer is that Westwood does have an obligation to address social issues, can the minister please advise the house what steps he is taking to ensure that its contractual obligations are met?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Extraordinary lengths. I will bring back a detailed answer to the house.

ALDINGA BEACH DEVELOPMENT

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for the Southern Suburbs. When can the constituents who wrote the 700-plus letters relating to the development of

lot 796 Aldinga Beach expect a response? I am advised that 500 of these letters were handed directly to the Minister for the Southern Suburbs for forwarding to the Minister for Planning, and I am further advised that 200 were sent directly to the Minister for Planning. I am advised by some of these constituents that, to date, none of them has received a response.

The SPEAKER: Order! None of that necessarily makes the meaning of the question clearer. The purpose of an explanation is to do just that. Everything the member for Mawson said was debate and is highly disorderly. It is factual information, albeit for no other purpose than to support an assertion or allegation. However, the question stands.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for the Southern Suburbs): I wrote to all my constituents in that location on one occasion and I intend to write to all of them again next week.

PORT RIVER BRIDGES

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Transport. When will the tenders for the Port River bridges be released? On 31 March this year the then minister said that tenders will be going out very shortly but, as yet, these tenders have not been released.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): I will check with my department. When I made that statement I understood that they were going out the very next week. I will check the date for the member.

The Hon. R.G. KERIN: I have a supplementary question. Will the tenders be for both opening and closing bridges?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: This is a repeat of a question that was asked of me I think probably a month ago, and my answer is exactly the same. The government has stated on several occasions that those tenders will be for opening bridges.

YOUNG PEOPLE

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): My question is to the Minister for Youth. How is the government encouraging young South Australians to become active participants in our democratic process?

The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Minister for Youth): I thank the member for Florey for her question, and the suggestion from the member for Bright that they could join the Labor Party is a very good one. We will ensure that we publicise it. I also acknowledge the member for Florey's ongoing commitment to young people in ensuring that young people, particularly in her electorate, have the opportunity to be involved in public policy and decision making. I also acknowledge your commitment in this area, sir, because I know that you have been a keen supporter of our initiatives to try to engage our young people.

We believe that it is absolutely crucial for the future of our state that young people are positively engaged in the public life of the community, including the process of government and the democratic process in general; and I know that the six previous youth ministers in this chamber support that process. The government has provided \$90 000 over three years to help ensure that the Youth Parliament builds on its past success and continues to grow. This year we have received a record 194 applications from young people wanting to

participate in the 2004 Youth Parliament, an increase of 117 from last year. Of those 194 applicants, 100 have been chosen to participate.

Mr Brindal interjecting:

The Hon. S.W. KEY: It has surpassed the previous record, the member for Unley may wish to know. The YMCA has done an excellent job, along with the Office for Youth. Also, special mention needs to go to the parliament's Education Officer, Penny Cavanagh, because she has tried to make sure that we have a successful program and that this continues. This year's Youth Parliament will be held from 12 to 16 July. I commend you, sir, and other members in this chamber for the ongoing support given to young people in their own electorates. I thank you for that and ask you yet again to make sure that you are available as mentors and supporters for the young people who have been involved.

PORT RIVER, BRIDGE TOLL

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): My question is to the Minister for Transport. When can I expect an answer to my question of 31 March about what toll charges will apply to different categories of vehicles using the proposed opening Port River bridges?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): Soon.

Mr WILLIAMS: I have a supplementary question. Can the minister categorically rule out a toll being assessed on non-commercial vehicles?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I understand that the legislation that was passed with the support of parties in this house allows for that. I will talk to my department and bring back a considered reply.

SCHOOLS, STURT STREET COMMUNITY

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): My question is to the Minister for Education—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier, the Attorney-General and the member for Schubert will come to order.

Ms CHAPMAN: Why is a lift being installed at the Sturt Street Community School, and how much will it cost? Will every school with a three-level building also be entitled to a lift?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): It is a matter of disability access, and it is a matter of law. The state government is required to comply with regulations that are held nationally. It is a costly enterprise and it cannot be done overnight, but we are attempting to comply.

SCHOOLS, CLASS SIZES

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg): I have a further question for the Minister for Education. Have any schools other than the Port Lincoln Primary School been informed that they will no longer benefit from the government's lower class size promise? Port Lincoln Junior Primary School has been informed that its extra teachers will be withdrawn and that next year class sizes will rise from 21 to 26 students.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I thank the member for Bragg. I think she misunderstands the way we administer our JP160 extra teachers to reduce class size. The pre-requisite was that there was an assessment of the degree of need in

each school. Clearly, as the matter was introduced and there was a reassessment for the socioeconomic levels of each of the schools, there was some fear that some schools dropping into a different category might lose teachers. I have to tell you—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: No, not changing the rules; they were assessed. From time to time schools are assessed. I promise this house that we are not in the business of increasing school class sizes, because our commitment has been to decrease class sizes, and we have done that significantly since we have been in government. Where there is a change in the socioeconomic or the demographics of a school, we have given a commitment that we will not be increasing class sizes in those schools.

Ms CHAPMAN: As a supplementary question: if it is not the commitment of the government to increase class sizes and where schools have been given a class size of 21, will the minister confirm that no school where they have got down to that size will have their class sizes increased?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: The member for Bragg does not understand the complex funding and the local management issues. We believe that under local management—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: No, no, no—the schools have the capacity—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for MacKillop will come to order.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: It is quite apparent that the funding mechanism and local management allow the schools to determine how the funding will be distributed in each school location.

RIVER MURRAY LEVY

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): Will the Minister for the River Murray immediately grant an exception to non-profit organisations from paying the River Murray levy? As you would understand, Mr Speaker, with a lot of small non-profit organisations in your own electorate, community halls and other organisations are classed as commercial and are paying \$135 per unit. For example, the Yongala hall, the Marree Progress Association, and the combined community sports facility at Cummins have been charged three times and they are going to have to pay \$405. I therefore seek the urgent intervention of the minister, because in some cases these people are never going to be connected to the River Murray and they have very poor water quality.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for the River Murray): When the River Murray levy legislation was introduced into the house a number of concessions had been granted. I am not sure whether the particular examples that he has referred to are covered by those exemptions, but I will certainly have a look at it for him.

INFRASTRUCTURE TAX

The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition): Will the Treasurer assure the house that the government has no plans to introduce any infrastructure tax on new houses and land developments?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer): All will be revealed in the budget in a few weeks' time.

CARRICK HILL

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite): My question is to the Premier as Minister for the Arts. Is work being done within government to reassess the prospect of selling land at Carrick Hill, and will the Premier rule out any sale of land at the site?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Minister for the Arts): I absolutely take this solemn occasion to rule out the sale of Carrick Hill. I am told that there are Liberals who do support the sale of Carrick Hill, but Labor does not.

KINDERGARTENS, HECTORVILLE

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Will the government honour its promise to relocate the now closed Hectorville kindergarten to the East Torrens Primary School campus, and will the Hectorville kindergarten be reopened at East Torrens Primary School in time for the 2005 school year?

At public meetings held in November and December 2001 the community expressed its overwhelming desire to relocate the kindergarten to the East Torrens Primary School campus, and the former minister for education and children's services expressed in principle support for the project in a letter dated 9 May 2003. One year on and the kindergarten and school communities are disappointed that the Hectorville kindy has closed without provision for continuing services at East Torrens Primary School. I have not received an answer to my question of 25 February in this place.

The SPEAKER: Can I tell the member for Hartley that all but the last sentence was debate.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I thank the member for his question. I am actually surprised that there is a groundswell of anger about the Hectorville kindergarten closing, because the information I have been given was that at the time of its closure it had nine enrolments. That being the case, I think the substance of his argument might not be correct.

YELLABINNA REGIONAL RESERVE

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): Can the Minister for Environment and Conservation assure the house that rock holes and rock formations of ecological and indigenous significance in the Yellabinna region will be preserved, notwithstanding the prospect of mining in the area, and, if not, when will the minister be in a position to give such an assurance?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): The member refers to the Yellabinna area which is a regional reserve, and the government is currently looking at which parts, if any, ought to be a wilderness protected area. That raises a number of issues but what he is really asking is whether, outside a wilderness protected area, a rock pool or whatever of significance will be excluded from mining. As I understand the way that the Mining Act operates, those areas are usually excluded from mining exploration and mining activity, but I will get a more detailed reply for him.

ROADS, OUTBACK

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): My question is to the Minister for Transport. Given the comments of the member

for Reynell yesterday that 'deteriorating roads may actually attract certain visitors to the region', will the minister advise the house if the government has a policy of allowing deterioration in roads to enhance adventure tourism?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): This is not only a silly question but it is a mischievous one, and it is quite a serious matter that a member of the Opposition has been running around, publicly taking out of context comments made by the member for Reynell, who is chair of the Economic and Finance Committee, and trying to paint a wrong picture. Just now, the honourable member selectively quoted parts of sentences from *Hansard*. The comments to which he refers were made by the member for Reynell as part of a reference to statements by the Tourism Commission. I wonder if the honourable member even read either the *Hansard* or the report of that committee, because if he had he would know that the comments that he has been handed (perhaps by another member) have been taken out of context. That section of the member for Reynell's speech begins, 'The South Australian Tourism Commission suggested that,' and she went on to make those statements. So, it is quite mischievous, if not worse, for a member of parliament to take out of context comments that were made in reference to evidence given to the committee.

TREATED EFFLUENT REUSE

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.
Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Is leave granted? I cannot hear if there is any honourable member saying yes or no.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I rise to inform the house about the rate of treated effluent reuse in South Australia. This follows on from a question by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. The latest figures show that South Australia continues to lead the nation in treated effluent reuse. Waste water reuse from all metropolitan plants in Adelaide is now at 23.7 per cent, that is year to date, up from 15.9 per cent in the year 2001-02. Of course, the government wants more of the state's waste water to be reused. That is why the government has announced funding for new reuse projects at Victor Harbor and Whyalla, which will support reuse as well.

A 3 000 megalitre increase in reuse of the Bolivar Waste Water Treatment Plant is also being negotiated with users in the Virginia triangle. The government is also looking at expanding treated effluent reuse in McLaren Vale by increasing storage for effluent from Christies Beach or the possibility of piping waste water from the Glenelg Waste Water Treatment Plant. This would help meet the increasing demand for waste water from McLaren Vale producers during summer. I seek leave to have inserted in *Hansard* a table with statistical information about the reuse of treated effluent since 2000-01.

The SPEAKER: Can the minister assure the house that the table is purely statistical in nature?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I can give that assurance, Mr Speaker.

Leave granted.

Plant	Available effluent megalitres	Effluent reused megalitres	% Effluent reused
2000-01			
Bolivar	44 449	10 327	23.23
Port Adelaide	14 050	0	0
Glenelg	19 490	1 844	9.46
Christies Beach	10 740	1 764	16.42
Aldinga	173	173	100
Total	88 902	14 108	15.9
2001-02			
Bolivar	45 671	9 714	21.27
Port Adelaide	13 731	0	0
Glenelg	20 812	1 918	9.22
Christies Beach	10 718	1 918	9.22
Aldinga	201	201	100
Total	91 133	13 804	15.1
2002-03			
Bolivar	47 119	12 751	27.06
Port Adelaide	9 326	0	0
Glenelg	19 452	1 380	7.1
Christies Beach	10 478	2 299	21.94
Aldinga	214	214	100
Total	86 589	16 664	19.2
2003-04 (until February 2004)			
Bolivar	33 473	10 716	32.00
Port Adelaide	6 294	0	0
Glenelg	13 771	1 907	13.54
Christies Beach	7 038	1 599	22.72
Aldinga	158	158	100
Total	60 734	14 380	23.7

The Hon. J.D. HILL: That table shows, for the four years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, the amount of the effluent available and the amount and percentage of effluent reused. For example, in 2000-01, 88 902 megalitres were available and 14 108 were reused, giving a percentage of 15.9 per cent; in 2001-02, the percentage of reuse was 15.1 per cent; in 2002-03, it had gone up to 19.2 per cent; and year to date it 23.7 per cent. What is interesting to note in this table is the water reuse from Glenelg. I draw the house's attention to that because of comments made by the member for Morphett about the lack of reuse in that area. This table shows that, in 2001-02, 9.2 per cent of the Glenelg waste water was used (that is, 1 918 megalitres). That had declined to 7.1 per cent in 2002-03.

However, in the year to date (2003-04), the amount of waste water used at Glenelg has increased to 13.54 per cent, a total of 1 907 up to February. That is almost as much as was used in the whole of 2001-02. So, whatever the problem was last year at Glenelg, and I suspect that it was something to do with the quality of water, that has now been corrected and Glenelg is now increasing the amount of waste water being used. So, we have a very good record. Year to date figures are: 32 per cent of Bolivar's waste water is used; Glenelg, 13.5 per cent is being used; Christies is 22.7 per cent; and Aldinga is, of course, 100 per cent. None, of course, is being used from Port Adelaide, because that water is in the process of being transferred through to the Bolivar works.

Mr BRINDAL: I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. I make this point of order now because I did not want to interrupt the minister during his statement. However, during the course of his statement, the member for Adelaide audibly interjected, 'There's a lot of untreated effluent in here.' I believe that comment is derogatory, offensive of the dignity of this whole house, and unparliamentary. I ask that you ask her to withdraw that remark.

The SPEAKER: Perhaps some interjections are better ignored. Will the Minister for Education and Children's Services withdraw the remark, if she made such a remark, to

which the member for Unley has taken offence?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: I apologise, Mr Speaker. I would in no way mean to suggest that the member for Unley was untreated effluent.

PORT RIVER EXPRESSWAY

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: During question time today, the Leader of the Opposition asked me when the tender for the Port River Expressway project would be released. In my answer I indicated that I believe that it had already been released but that I would check that. That statement was correct: the tender was put out a month ago to three shortlisted companies, and it will close in August.

ROAD PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Minister for Transport): I seek leave to make a further ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: I wish to advise the house of the government's agreement to apply \$14.5 million to the purchase of new road plant and equipment. The majority of this commitment which has been approved by cabinet is for South Australian company Cavpower to supply to the government over 60 items, including a significant number of graders, loaders, rollers and asphalt plant. This is the first major instalment of the government's buyback program for transport plant and equipment. Members would be aware that the previous Liberal government sold Transport SA's light vehicles, plant and workshop assets for about \$42 million. They then spent twice that amount (\$84.1 million) leasing those assets back over the next five years. Last year, the government announced that it would reverse that policy by setting aside \$29 million for a staged repurchase of plant and equipment.

My announcement today supplements the \$1 million that has already been expended on plant replacement purchases. Further contracts committing the remaining \$13.5 million will be awarded during the course of this calendar year. The prices at which the plant is being purchased are very competitive and consistent with the projected savings of \$6 million per annum, with a payback period of five years. Much of the new plant will be applied to the maintenance of outback roads. The lower charges—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: —just listen—for plant and the improved availability of new plant are expected to increase maintenance output by as much as 15 per cent per annum on the road network. This contract represents an increase in employment for regional South Australia. Estimates are that there will be a net increase of between five and 10 new jobs created in regional South Australia as a result of this investment. This will occur because the lower charges for the new plant will allow Transport SA to add five new positions, four of which will be on outback gangs. Cavpower has also indicated that it will create five new positions in northern South Australia.

MINISTER'S REMARKS

Mr BROKENSHERE (Mawson): I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

Mr BROKENSHERE: I believe that the Minister for Transport misrepresented me in her answer to my question regarding the comments of the member for Reynell, because the minister said that the comments were related to what the SA Tourism Commission had to say. In yesterday's *Hansard* the member for Reynell said (page 2041):

The SA Tourism Commission suggested that the improvements to parts of the unsealed road network have increased the tourism potential in these regions. . .

The member for Reynell then says:

Personally, I wonder about all those people driving Toorak tractors in the eastern suburbs and whether they want to drive on beautifully sealed roads to the Outback, or whether they want some dirt roads to drive on.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure that this necessarily explains the member for Mawson's grievance that he has been misrepresented. I think it strays into the area of debate, but I will listen carefully.

Mr BROKENSHERE: That is the point that I wanted to put on the record. I have completed my explanation.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright): In the time available to me today I wish to put on the record more detail in relation to the transfer of the South Australian Ambulance Service to the Department for Human Services. During an answer to a question today by the member for Wright, the Minister for Health selectively quoted from a government report. That report was commissioned by the government and handed to it last year. It was prepared by a consultancy with the rather unusual name of Lizard Drinking. The Minister for Health alleged to the house that I had attacked the South Australian Ambulance Service. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When I rose to my feet in the grievance debate last night, I started with the words, 'I raise to state in part the case for the South Australian Ambulance Service.' I took issue with what the government is now doing to this service. The consultancy Lizard Drinking came up with a series of recommendations in relation to the Ambulance Service and not just the recommendation from which the minister selectively quoted. Indeed the recommendations were as follows: recommendation 1, governance; recommendation 2, executive management practices; recommendation 3, reciprocal responsibility; recommendation 4, separation from St John; recommendation 5, operational planning and management; recommendation 6, management improvement; recommendation 7, ambulance cover scheme; and, recommendation 8, transfer to the Department of Human Services. It was only to part of the last recommendation to which the minister referred. When one reads the complete report, one sees that that particular recommendation does not actually sit well with the recommendations in the rest of the report. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that it appears to have been appended to the rest of the recommendations and is almost inconsistent with the findings of the report.

In my address last night I expressed concern at the findings of this consultancy into one of those recommendations. The recommendation to which I was referring was that of operational planning and management. The consultant found and detailed in full under the heading 'Management, point 3.5 of the report on page 16, as follows:

Suffice it to say we would like the South Australian Ambulance Service and the justice portfolio—

the justice portfolio and not the human services portfolio; they were not envisaging a transfer when this was written—

to consider a management structure capable of remedying the perceived efficiencies of the management arrangements. These perceived efficiencies have been identified in other sections of this report and include: inadequate strategic financial planning and management skills; poor work force planning arrangements; inadequate capacity to present financial cases and arguments during budget bilateral discussions selling the benefits of a strong South Australian Ambulance Service; a lack of connectedness, especially with respect to the health service but also to other emergency services; limited strategic planning skills, which draw from and bind all levels of the organisation from the board to the road; poorly defined operational management requirements and lines of accountability, for example, appropriate and useable KPIs and SLAs and ensuring that the communications function is properly integrated with the total operation function; a lack of focus on the organisation development; and, a lack of consultation, balance and planning in making and implementing major policy changes.

The minister conveniently today did not refer to these matters, nor did she disagree or refute in any way the following statement I made to the house:

To undertake such a retrograde step of amalgamating the management of the ambulance service into the Health Commission is a decision that reeks of sheer idiocy. It is incompetent, it is foolish to the extreme and this government will bear the full brunt of the consequences.

PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINATIONS

Ms RANKINE (Wright): It will be Mother's Day on Sunday, and the most important thing for any mother is the health, safety and wellbeing of her children. There could be no better gift. Let us forget the advertisements that we have seen on the television for diamond rings, perfume and the like. There is nothing more important and there is no better gift that Mr Howard could give to all Australian mothers than to provide free pneumococcal vaccinations to all Australian children, as recommended by his very own health experts.

Mr Howard wants to win over families. We have seen him time and again sitting on the floors of schools and kindergartens (looking very uncomfortable, I might add) trying to sell that caring message. Let me tell him that, so far, he is not going the right way about it.

Members know that I have worked very hard over the past five or six months to raise public awareness and to try to convince the federal government to act in relation to the recommendation of its very own technical advisory group on immunisations. Let me again say how much I appreciated the support of members opposite when I moved a motion to that effect in this house. Last Thursday, I presented petitions from over 100 childcare centres to the shadow minister for health to present to federal parliament. The shadow minister for health, Julia Gillard, along with the Labor candidate for Makin, Tony Zappia, visited the Golden Grove Homestead Childcare Centre. As members know, I have in this respect written to MPs around the nation and elicited great support from all political parties.

Tony Abbott is starting to feel the pressure, and it looks as though he has a bit of a fight on his hands—and I am not

only referring just to myself. It seems that Mr Howard is not quite as caring about our families as he has been making out, and I refer to an article which appeared in *The Australian* on 5 April which was headed, 'Razor gang thwarts Abbott on vaccine funds'. The article stated:

Health Minister Tony Abbott is fighting a rearguard campaign to win millions of dollars in budget funding for a national vaccination program to combat the deadly pneumococcal disease.

It seems as though Mr Abbott has cottoned on and is out there trying to get the money. The article continued:

But the government's budget 'razor gang' has rejected Mr Abbott's push for \$60 million a year to provide the vaccine free to children and the elderly, who are considered most at risk. Well placed government sources confirmed last night that the cabinet's Expenditure Review Committee had rejected Mr Abbott's call for new money for vaccinations against pneumococcal disease, polio and chicken pox. The battle over immunisation comes as John Howard said yesterday the government could meet its spending priorities while delivering sizeable tax cuts.

So, he is much more interested in tax cuts than the health and wellbeing of our children. The article went on to state that more than 3 000 people are hospitalised each year because of pneumococcal disease.

The claims in that article were, in effect, restated last Sunday in *The Sunday Age*. It again talked about Mr Abbott's strong plea and stated that the AMA president Bill Glasson had said that the government already paid for children to be vaccinated against the meningococcal C infection, which was less common than pneumococcal disease, and urged the coalition to urgently reconsider. In fact, they have included that in the AMA's budget submission.

The last time I spoke in this house about this issue I think I said that we had had 15 cases. As of today, in South Australia we have had 24 cases of children three years and under who have suffered from pneumococcal disease. We have had 68 cases in total, but we have had six under one-year olds, 10 one-year olds, six two-year olds and two three-year olds so far this year. There have been 16 cases of children in Adelaide, seven in rural and remote areas, and I am not yet aware of where the child is from in the case that was reported today.

One the other day I spoke to a young mother whose 13-month old daughter contracted pneumococcal. She told me that she would hate anyone else to go through what her family went through. She talked about being advised about pneumococcal at a meeting with child and youth health nurses but, because the government does not fund it, only one mother went out and had their child immunised. People do not understand—

Time expired.

CAMPBELLTOWN

Mr SCALZI (Hartley): Today I would like to refer to an article by Andrew Spence in this week's *East Torrens Messenger* entitled 'Shoppers caught short'. The article refers to the lack of public toilets at the Campbelltown Shopping Centre. I would first like to commend Mrs Cynthia Hood, Secretary of the Residents Association, who has done a lot of work for the community. She has been involved with Lochiel Park and the Murray Park swimming pool at Magill (through the friends of the swimming pool), and she will again be involved in giving community support to address the needs of the area.

In the past, there have been several representations on this issue, but to no avail. In September 2001, a constituent

described in a letter how he had been caught short at Campbelltown Shopping Centre and was told to go across to the Mobil Service Station. Apparently, this practice has been commonplace. Other businesses in the vicinity should not be expected to provide facilities, at their cost, for the centre's patrons.

This year, I was approached by a 96-year old constituent who was most concerned about the lack of facilities for elderly shoppers, in particular, and for women, who he said would be caught short. He could not understand why this situation still existed in a modern metropolitan area. He was also concerned at the closure and lack of replacement of public toilets in some areas due to problems associated with them.

We are all aware of difficulties with public toilets. Sometimes they are closed without considering the whole community. The provision of toilets is not a council obligation, because the shopping centre is privately owned and, due to the age of the centre, the owners were not required to install toilet facilities at the time of building, as would now be required. At present, there are toilets for tenants that patrons may request to use, but it is at the discretion of the tenant. However, it is clear that facilities are inadequate, and this is no solution.

In recent years, despite public pressure, the owners of the centre have resisted the call to provide facilities. According to the *East Torrens Messenger* of 5 May, more than 20 shops are owned by five separate landlords, and this has made negotiations more complex. This issue has been exacerbated by new extended trading hours. I believe that, if we are to have extended trading hours, and if we have an elderly population, shopping centres should meet the demands of the residents and the need for adequate facilities so that they are able to shop.

The council is supportive of a cooperative approach, and I am told that later this year it will conduct a study into the improvements to the shopping precinct around the Campbelltown centre. I note that it has received a government grant of \$15 000, and the total cost of the study has been reported to be about \$30 000 to \$40 000. Council is currently considering some seven consultancy tenders that it has received. I am told that the council will look at linkages across the road, traffic implications, improvements to pedestrian areas and the provision of public toilets. It hopes that the local traders will also participate in efforts—and I encourage them to do so—to rejuvenate and improve the facilities of the precinct with such things as verandahs and plantings.

There is also a problem with access for disabled parking, and a constituent of mine, Gary Parkin, whom many members would know, has petitioned many times for adequate parking in that area. I urge the owners of the shopping centre to address the issue of toilet facilities and adequate parking. It is not good enough to just extend trading hours without providing proper facilities, especially with an ageing population. I look forward to those improvements.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I rise today to talk about the Seasons for Growth program which runs in South Australia and has been developed and sponsored by the Mary MacKillop Foundation through the Sisters of St Joseph. It is a strengths-based program that supports families and young people to deal with significant change, loss and grief in their

lives due to death, separation or other events. It has been developed as a preventative model, so it is aimed at those young people who might be at risk of developing some mental illness or emotional disturbance arising from loss or grief through death, parental separation, and those sorts of issues. In 1999 an evaluation was conducted by the department of health which found that the program: (1) reduced the sense of isolation for participants; (2) built self-esteem; (3) assisted them to create networks support; and (4) was an early intervention strategy against youth suicide. I do not need to remind anyone in the house about our unacceptably high rates of youth suicide both in South Australia and nationally.

Seasons for Growth provides training for either a school counsellor or school teacher—someone whom the school nominates to undertake training. After being trained in the program, that person conducts a Seasons for Growth group in the school, and the school is responsible for identifying students it considers might be at risk. Since being funded in South Australia by the Department of Human Services in December 2003, the program has focused particularly on disadvantaged schools and has operated in Port Lincoln, the Fleurieu Peninsula, Port Augusta, Elizabeth and Whyalla (and members would be aware of the particular social disadvantage faced by communities in Elizabeth and Whyalla).

So, I bring to the attention of the house this particular program which, as far as I can see, is an excellent program and a very cost-effective way of trying to prevent emotional and mental illnesses and disturbances which seem to plague our young people—which, of course, once they have taken hold, are very difficult to bring under control, causing a tremendous cost to the government and society generally. I think this particular program is excellent and I look forward to its work continuing in South Australia.

NAIRNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I want to bring to the attention of the house a very important and serious issue that is confronting a community within my electorate of Kavel. I talk about the community and township of Nairne, which is a reasonably sized town in the eastern region of the Mount Lofty Ranges. The matter regards the Nairne Primary School crossing on the main road of the township, and also vehicular access to and from the school's site. Parents must travel along a side road off the main road, namely, Saleyard Road, to pick up and drop off their children at the school. This has been an unresolved issue for a number of years. I do admit that it was an issue facing the previous government, but it has not disappeared. It is an issue that this government needs to address pretty quickly.

I am certainly pleased that the newly appointed Minister for Transport is in the chamber so that she can gain first-hand knowledge of this issue confronting the community within the Nairne township. As I said, it is a traffic management issue, which impacts on traffic flows, particularly at the school's pick-up and drop-off times. Certainly, it has its complexities as a result of the configuration of the roads in and around the school's site, but, certainly, the problem is not insurmountable. The school's community and I feel strongly that the government has a real duty of care to the children who attend the Nairne Primary School—

Mr Brokenshire: And all primary schools.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: Indeed. The member for Mawson makes a very good point—and all primary schools. But this is a particular issue relating to Nairne, hence I am

raising it in the house. Consultants engaged to look at this issue have completed a study and have put forward several options to remedy the situation. All stakeholders have met, and that includes the school's community, the general community within the township, the District Council of Mount Barker and Transport SA (the responsible government body), and they have settled upon one option.

We see it particularly with this government, but you go through the consultative process, you settle on an option and then it comes down to a commitment of funds, and this is the exact situation we are finding with this issue. We need the will of the government to commit money to remedy this issue. There may need to be some compulsory acquisition of property to satisfy the preferred option that has been agreed upon by all the stakeholders. I have met with members of the school community and members of the broader Nairne township community, and the barest minimum required is that the existing method of traffic management at the school crossing—the hand-held sign method of stopping traffic operated by years 6 and 7 children—be replaced by a set of lights that can be operated from either side of the road.

That would alleviate the need for children to operate what I would regard and what the school community regards as an outdated method of traffic management, particularly at a school crossing. That is the barest minimum required at the moment, because the minister should be aware, as her predecessor should have been aware, that these children have been subject to abuse. Motorists go through the crossing and abuse the children for holding out signs and stopping them. That is totally unacceptable. There is an article about it in the local hills newspaper, *The Courier*. It is entitled 'Traffic crossing delay frustrates Nairne School'. It is not the first time that this issue has appeared in the media. I recall seeing an article in *The Sunday Mail* last year which highlighted the problems.

HOSPITALS, QUEEN ELIZABETH

Mr CAICA (Colton): I would like to commence by talking about the fact that we have been here for a week and we have suffered what I think has been week of question time. I want to talk about the lack of performance in regard to the reinvigorated frontbench. If that is clearly the best that can be provided they might as well start looking elsewhere. It was not any of the new people who are going to the reinvigorated frontbench asking any questions; it was the usual old dinosaurs.

Having said that, I want to move from something that I see as sad and almost farcical to something that I am very pleased and proud of: an icon that exists in the western suburbs, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Of course, is not just an icon for the western suburbs, it is an icon for many South Australians with respect to the very close association that they have had with that hospital over the many years that it has existed. In fact, I will declare an interest. I was born at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in 1957. I am pretty sad that it was that long ago, but that is the fact. For the benefit of the member for Florey, that is almost 47 years ago. Indeed, another member of our caucus, the Hon. Steph Key was also born there and I understand that the Premier's son was born at that hospital. It has a close association with many South Australians.

On Sunday 8 February during the community cabinet I was fortunate enough to be at the new 200 bed in-patient facility opened by the Premier that morning. It is known as

a stage one redevelopment of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It was a great day for hospital, for the western suburbs and all South Australians. Anyone who has visited the hospital will come to the conclusion that why would you, if you need the services of a hospital, go to places like the Ashford or any of the private hospitals when the facilities there at the cutting edge of what is available anywhere in the world.

It is an outstanding facility and I am pleased to say that it is stage one of a three stage redevelopment. The position of the QEH prior to the commitment to redevelop was one of almost dire consequence for its future. When we took office, there was still a question mark about its future. We know that the previous government had downgraded the hospital and their long-term view was to transform it from a tertiary teaching hospital to a community hospital. That was its future. Despite what the deputy leader might say, we do acknowledge that they committed to stage one. Of course, they were always going to commit to stage one because their ideal for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital was to only do stage one and have it turned into a community hospital without tertiary education, research and without the outstanding range of services that it currently provides. The QEH has always had a reputation of excellence, but that reputation had been undermined because of lack of future commitment when the opposition was in government. There is no doubt or argument about that despite the deputy leader trying, on numerous occasions, to rewrite history. It is just fanciful to say otherwise.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital faced 10 years of uncertainty. It went through a series of plans going from a privatisation model through to a downgrading to the community model that I just spoke about. The position of the previous government and, indeed, the deputy leader in his time as the minister for health, was quite shameful with respect to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. However, all of that has changed with the announcement of the Premier on 8 February with respect to the opening of the new 200 beds in-patient facility and the \$120 million going to the development of stages two and three. It will continue to be a tertiary teaching hospital of the highest standard as well as providing the full range of services, including the outstanding research facility that is underpinned by the Queen Elizabeth Research Foundation. That was great day for South Australians with our Premier's announcement.

In the short time left me, there was a great degree of uncertainty; there were 10 chief executive officers over 11 years, and I am glad that Ms Sue Belsham is there now to provide stability to the hospital. Confidence and stability will be provided as a result of the exciting future now assured for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I congratulate all the outstanding staff who work there; and I congratulate and thank all the volunteers who work there. With respect to stages 2 and 3, I know the redevelopment committee is consulting with all people at the hospital in order to ensure they have input into the further redevelopment of the hospital. The difficulty is that stages 2 and 3 were never envisaged by the previous government: they were spoken about, but never committed to. How do we fit stages 2 and 3 into a hospital that was developed to be simply a community hospital? It has its challenges but, with the Premier's announcement, the future of the hospital is certainly secure.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
(MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

The Legislative Council, having considered the recommendations of the conference, agreed to the same.

Consideration in committee of the recommendations of the conference.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I move:

That the recommendations of the conference be agreed to.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: In acknowledging the agreement that has been reached between the two houses to reach a conclusion which will allow these amendments to the Freedom of Information Act to pass can I make this report and commitment to the house.

The basis upon which agreement was reached is that regulations that are made under the Freedom of Information Act pertaining to the limits up to which MPs can seek work done for the purposes of obtaining an FOI application is presently by regulation in the sum of \$350. It was acknowledged, and forms part of the basis for the agreement to be reached between the houses, that that sum will be increased to \$1 000 and indexed in that amount by the government promulgating such a regulation and, of course, sustaining that regulation.

Motion carried.

The SPEAKER: I thank the house for its attention to those matters and crave its indulgence to express my own views about the process and, more particularly, the outcome of the legislation not so much as Speaker but in no small measure—I guess—in consequence of becoming Speaker. For the purposes of ensuring that the house is in no doubt whatever as to what I had in mind at the time that I included freedom of information in the compact for good government, and to ensure that the house is not detained unduly, I will cut to the chase and point out that it was a mess. The honourable minister who took up the responsibility in the discussions with cabinet made a good fist of most of the material that came forward in the form of legislation but it is not possible for the chair, from the chair, to ever move for amendment to any such legislation—or, if it is, it is awkward, and it is not something in which I have sought to engage.

It was my belief—and it is still my very strong belief—that parliament has now referred the matters which it ought to be determining itself to lawyers and the courts through the process of enacting this legislation and it has wimped out on its responsibilities. Parliament itself in my judgment could easily, house by house, have empanelled nine members elected by exhaustive secret ballot at the time when the officers of the chamber and the committees of the chamber or their members where they have joint committees were elected on the first day of sitting after an election has been held.

Those nine members would then be empanelled as a group from whom at random three names would be drawn by the clerk and any member wishing to observe the process as a scrutineer, to review on a regular basis any applications for freedom of information arising from a member of parliament to ensure that the stupidity and the inanity of trawling and other such practices as some members may have been tempted to engage in would not arise. Or if they did, they

would be knocked out by the committee of review as unnecessarily expensive or inadequately defined in the thrust of their inquiries.

That, however, has not happened. We have now given lawyers lunch and dinner, because members will now be able to take appeals to the courts to determine whether the government's decision to answer their freedom of information inquiries are legitimate. To my mind, that is wrong. If the approach and proposition that I have put was not appropriate, I am surprised that all honourable members think it appropriate to provide another organ in society, namely the courts, with the right to decide on their behalf whether or not their inquiries to government are legitimate.

It is just, for the life of me, top-heavy as well as being unnecessarily expensive and an abuse of the nature of parliament itself by the members of this parliament to subject themselves in the course of their duty to the will of another court to which they delegate the responsibility. I still think it is not past time to deal with it—not necessarily on this occasion but some time in the fairly near future—so that all honourable members when they make a freedom of information inquiry will know that, if it is thought to be in any way unreasonable, three of their peers whose identities will not be known to them at the time they submit it will nonetheless review it and decide whether or not it was a legitimate inquiry.

Such inquiries would then not only go to where they are legitimate according to the costs that they might incur on the public purse but also legitimate as to the type of information they seek where that information ought not to be released as it is thought to be other than in the public interest to avoid its release. As it stands at present, the legislation is clumsy. As it stands at present, you have an assurance to the parliament from the minister of the day that it will not exceed \$1 000 in total value in any one year from any one member, but that is not written in legislation.

My experience tells me that the minister of the day does not stay a minister forever and, where such assurances have been given in good part and good faith by the minister, it is fairly smartly abused for political purposes by people who become ministers subsequently, whether their office was in a government of the same political persuasion or government of the opposite political persuasion.

Frankly, I do not trust ministers, because they are advised by not only their caucus or party rooms, if you want to call them that, but more particularly they are advised and often beholden to the public service who will give them advice that suits the goals, interests and outcomes desired by the department or agency from which the public servant comes. The public interest in all instances comes a very poor second or, if there is a second elsewhere, a third.

For those reasons, I am distressed that we have not achieved the measure of what I would have thought was balance and fairness in the way in which freedom of information, which we do need in a contemporary society, has been obtained in this instance. I commend the house for at least making an effort to get it somewhere down that path.

PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I move:

That the time for bringing up the committee's report be extended until Monday 24 May 2004.

Motion carried.

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (INTERVENTION
PROGRAMS AND SENTENCING PROCEDURES)
BILL**

Consideration in committee of the Legislative Council's amendments.

(Continued from 24 February. Page 1409.)

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be disagreed to.

The government does not concur with the amendments to the bill that were made in the other place to include a schedule 1, a requirement for an independent review of services included in intervention programs. There are reasons for our opposition. For a start, there is no precedent for a review of this kind in South Australian legislation and no reason to establish one now. Unlike the requirement in this amendment, each other such requirement is concerned with a statutory regime, body or regulatory system that the act established, or with the operation of the act itself. This act establishes no statutory regime, body or regulatory system that could be reviewed, and the amendments do not require a review of the operation of the act. Instead, they require an investigation and review of services provided to support programs to which a court might direct a defendant under the authority of the act. The provision of such services is not the subject of the act and not, with respect, its business.

It might help if I explain the subjects of independent reviews required by other South Australian acts. In its transitional provisions, the Shop Trading Hours Act required an independent investigation and review after the third anniversary of the commencement of the operation of the amended act. The review was to look at the transition between one regime and another. The Gene Technology Act requires an independent review of its operation four years after its commencement. The aim is to review the way in which South Australia applies a nationally consistent scheme of regulating certain dealings with genetically modified organisms by the states and the commonwealth. By national agreement, there are equivalent provisions in the gene technology legislation in all other states and territories and in the commonwealth legislation. The Construction Industry Training Fund Act requires an independent review of the effectiveness of the statutory board it establishes and the attainment of the objects of the act over a period of three years.

Another point I wish to make is that, even if an independent review of these services were a proper subject for statutory review—and it is not—the review proposed by the amendment is too early. Most reviews of the operation of acts occur after three years. Finally, an independent review of these services, were they a proper subject for statutory review, is unnecessary. The services are under constant scrutiny of evaluations of the programs themselves.

Each intervention program has been evaluated at least once, and there is a model in place for the current and future evaluation of each program by the Office of Crime Statistics. Detailed overviews of the office's evaluations are published in the office's information bulletins that are available on the office's web site—and I refer to www.ocsar.sa.gov.au. For example, an evaluation of the mental impairment program was published this way in 2001 (I refer to Hunter, N and McRostie, H, Magistrates Court Diversion Program: Over-

view of key data findings, Office of Crime Statistics Information Bulletin No. 20, July 2001).

The report of the evaluation of the Drug Court program is still being prepared, and is expected to be made available on the office's web site in the same way as the report into the mental impairment program. The final report on the independent review of the violence intervention program in South Australia, entitled 'The Whole Box and Dice', is not online but was released to stakeholders by the then Attorney-General (Hon. K.T. Griffin) of blessed memory. It was prepared by independent consultants Morgan Disney & Associates, with Leigh Culpitt and Associates, in June 2001.

The previous government, like this one, supported and maintained evaluations of intervention programs. But the need for an external independent review of services provided to support such programs, in addition to evaluation of the programs themselves, has not been demonstrated. Any independent review would rely heavily on past and current program evaluations in coming to any conclusions. Its findings would be predictable, along the lines of the existing evaluations.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: The member for Bragg interjects that these must have been very poor evaluations. I do not know how she could assert that. It would be a waste of money. It would be a more effective use of public funds for the government to commit to triennial evaluations of each program and its services by the Office of Crime Statistics and commit to issuing overviews of the key data findings online in the office's information bulletins, and I make that offer now. I urge members not to accept the amendment introducing schedule 1 to the bill.

Motion carried.

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I move:

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

Motion carried.

**GAMING MACHINES (EXTENSION OF FREEZE)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 4 May. Page 1984.)

Mr BROKENSHIRE (Mawson): First and foremost, I need to put on the public record that, as with any bill associated with gambling, it is a conscience vote. I speak as the lead speaker for the Liberal Party on this bill. However, I want to reinforce the fact that what I say does not necessarily represent the views of all members of the Liberal Party, just as I am sure the minister's views will not represent the views of all members of the Labor Party. I am disappointed with the government. Whilst the current minister was critical of me at times when I was minister and whilst I have been critical of this minister at times, I am not critical of him now but I am of the government. This is a very sensitive area which has the potential, at times, to damage the social fabric of our community, but it also has an enormous positive impact on the economy by virtue of the large number of

people who are employed in the gambling sector. It is disappointing that this government is already onto its third minister for gambling since coming to office. So, I do not blame the current minister for the delay, but clearly I do blame the government.

The Liberal government under former premier Olsen put the first freeze into place. That freeze was supposed to end in May 2002, and the reason for it was concern about the number of people getting into trouble with gambling. Something had to be done to address that in the long-term interests of the South Australian community. So, that freeze was put into place and, at the same time, the Liberal government did a lot of work. In fact, we were the first government to set up a portfolio of gambling, and I had the privilege of being the first minister for gambling. It was a fairly interesting task setting up a brand new portfolio. The gambling portfolio is difficult because you have to consider all aspects of the gambling industry and concerned groups. It includes industry sectors such as the horseracing industry which, until recently, was the third largest industry in this state. So, it is a difficult portfolio for a minister and a shadow minister in trying to balance the way forward by addressing the problems with gambling whilst at the same time not destroying the economic opportunities, etc. on which I have already touched.

The Independent Gambling Authority was set up as part of the work that we did in setting up the portfolio. The Independent Gambling Authority is massively under-resourced in terms of both funding and human resources—I have acknowledged that before, and I do so again. There is also a lot of concern about the way in which the Independent Gambling Authority goes about its business. Sometimes as a member of parliament you can only shake your head at what you see coming out of the Independent Gambling Authority. It is now three years since that authority was set up, and I would still like to see a committee of the parliament look at just where it is at, because I think it is healthy to evaluate any new direction, especially in such an important area. Many new agencies and initiatives are automatically evaluated a couple of years after they have been implemented and endorsed, and I would like to see this happen with the Independent Gambling Authority.

Again, I slate the blame back to the government for why we are debating this extension today. The government has had plenty of time to have the IGA focus on problem gambling in terms of gaming machines and the cap. As I said, was it this minister? He is just fortunate enough to have the portfolio now! The first and second ministers (especially the first minister for gambling) sat pretty well on their hands. So, as a parliament, we had to agree to an extension of that freeze, and that meant that there was uncertainty in the industry after a lot of enormous investment by it. We should remember that, whilst there are major problems with a sector of the community that utilises gaming machines, prior to the introduction of gaming machines by the Bannon-Arnold Labor government and prior to the first part of the legislation being passed, hotels were really battling. They were pretty rundown and not a lot of jobs were being created in the industry.

On the upside, there has been an enormous upgrade of those facilities. They are very modern and people feel comfortable with those facilities and, for the absolute majority of the community, there has been enormous benefit by virtue of the upgrade of these hotels. They offer quality food at cheaper prices than used to be the case, and many

people in my own electorate say that they quite enjoy having a bit of fun with poker machines. On the other hand, some families in my electorate and in that of every MP in this house, are suffering enormously as a result of the gaming machines.

They are still suffering because we have not been able to put forward a firm position on the way ahead for gaming. Now, after the government sat on its hands and did very little for the period when it first came into office except extend the freeze for 12 months, we are back in here extending it again. I certainly do not want to see another extension of the freeze after this. That is why I now foreshadow amendments that I have filed (83(1)) regarding the time during which this bill can remain alive, because it needs a sunset clause.

I think that the minister would be happy to get this out of the way as soon as possible, too, because the way we are working with it just causes more problems. This bill extends the freeze that expires on 31 May 2004. According to the bill, the freeze is extended until the provisions contained in the Gaming Machines (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2004, or as modified by the parliament, comes into force. For the record, I point out that both bills were tabled only this week and I thank my colleagues in the Liberal Party for agreeing to cooperate on a sensitive and difficult conscience matter and to get on with the debate in less than the normal time, which is that the bill sits on the table for seven sitting days. I know that the minister is finding timelines difficult, so that is why we are here debating it this afternoon as a matter of priority.

The bill is not complex from the point of view of drafting and debate. The next bill for debate (the Gaming Machines (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill) is actually more complex. The second aspect of this bill is to give the Roosters Club (which is effectively the club that creates the revenue stream for the North Adelaide Football Club) an extension of time in which to relocate. We went through this debate as well only last year when, by law, the club could not continue to operate at 255 Main North Road, Sefton Park.

I am advised that the Roosters Club is now looking to relocate to the Greenacres football and sports complex, but has not been able to negotiate all of that and get it ready for relocation by the time required in the act. I am a little disappointed about that personally, but it has not been able to do it and the parliament now has to make a decision on whether or not it agrees to allow the Roosters Club to have a further extension.

I point out to the house that in the years I have had the privilege of being a member here you see a few precedents, but the bill that came in for the Roosters Club was unprecedented in my time here. It was passed by the absolute majority of the house and supported on a conscience basis by many members of this house. On the other side of the coin, some for conscience reasons did not support it.

That is really the thrust of the bill: to give the government more time to come up with a way forward with respect to what is essentially a focus on problem gambling. I would hope—and I am sure that all members would agree with me on this (certainly on the opposition side)—that, if the government is serious about a way forward, a key component will be some of the massive windfall gain they received from the revenue going into the break-even programs and helping address problem gamblers in a real way. The hotel industry and Clubs SA members have done more to work in the interests of preventing problem gambling and assisting

problem gamblers on a dollar for dollar and in-kind basis and with initiatives than has the government.

I hope the new Minister for Gambling will develop a closer relationship, and I would support him in getting more control and being involved in what happens financially around the cabinet table for the distribution and allocation of money for the concerned sector that has to do such tremendous and difficult work with those people who are finding that problem gambling is affecting them and their families.

I was tired of the former two ministers saying, every time I raised this, that it was for the ministers for social inclusion or social justice. I would like the Premier to give the Minister for Gambling much more authority on the prevention side. If you are going to be holistic about preventing the problems with gaming, you need in my opinion to give one minister the full control. I would support the minister if he ever wants to raise that with his party because it makes good sense.

The final point I make is that there is a good lesson in this for any government. You have to do more than come out and make announcements in the media to give you front page stories and make the Premier in particular look like the crusader. I do not hear the Premier talking about the fact that we are now debating a bill in the parliament to extend a freeze extension of an extension that the parliament has already given. He is conspicuous by his absence and sends out his minister for the whack on that one. When the announcement came up in the first instance the Premier was going to champion the whole cause of poker machine number reductions and personally drive it through the other 68 members of parliament in a conscience vote, ensuring that he became the first Premier in Australia, if not the world—the greatest, the world's best, the largest and longest—to champion a reduction in poker machine numbers.

A lot more than that will have to be done to champion the correction of the issue of problem gamblers in South Australia at the moment. The fact is that you must have an absolutely holistic approach and a consistent and sustainable plan in the gambling portfolio if you are to manage all the matters that I have raised in my debate. In conclusion, I reinforce that this is a conscience vote for all members. Personally, I support this bill, but with the amendments that I have filed and, at the committee stage, I will discuss in detail why I want to see those carried.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop): I do not know how many members will contribute to this debate, but I rise today because I particularly want to reaffirm the comments I have already made in this place a number of times in the past on this matter, that is, that it is a nonsense. I have read through the *Hansard* of 12 months ago, and we last discussed this issue on Tuesday 13 May 2003. However, today we have two issues rolled into one. In the first instance, I will talk about the freeze and the extension of the cap, and I will come to the Roosters matter in a moment. We have already had a cap to give the government of the day the time to get its mind around what it wants to do. We then had an extension, another cap and the setting up of the Independent Gambling Authority so that we could get that authority on board, get it out into the community and bring back recommendations to the parliament. We have now had another extension, and here we are, 12 months down the track, and the government still does not have a bill to solve the alleged problem with gambling in South Australia. We have a cap and extension after extension. I could stand here and read what I said last time word for word—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not have to do that.

Mr WILLIAMS: I do not intend to, sir, but I want to cover the same points—and they are just as relevant today as they were on 13 May last year. The minister has indicated to me that several bills are before the house.

The Hon. M.J. Wright: Two.

Mr WILLIAMS: The minister has indicated that there are two bills before the house. The other bill (and I accept what the minister tells me) is the government's response to the problems that are alleged to occur in South Australia associated with gambling in the community.

This extension of the cap is necessary in the government's eyes because it has certain ideas about how it can solve the alleged problem. I cannot speak against the cap and the reasons why I disagree with the extension without talking a little about where the government wants to go with this supposed solution to the problem. The government says that it will reduce the number of machines by 20 per cent throughout the community and that that will decrease the accessibility and impact on problem gambling. I say to the house that that is utter bunkum. Reducing the number of machines in South Australia by 3 000 will have no impact whatsoever on problem gambling.

The reality is that the Treasurer is absolutely aware of this, because his advice from Treasury officials is that there will be no impact on the revenue that he will receive. If there will be no impact on the revenue that he will receive into the Treasury, it has to come from the same amount of gambling activity. The Premier, the Treasurer, every minister and every backbencher in the government knows that this is a nonsense. The way they will achieve the reduction is to reduce the number of machines that a particular locality will have and, in the localities where there is the maximum number of machines—up to 40—they will come back by eight machines. But the proprietors will then be able to go out and buy other machines and put them in their premises, so they will retain 40 machines.

I direct the minister to the report of the Productivity Commission. I also direct him to a report of the Social Development Committee of this parliament. The committee came to the conclusion that it was the number of machines in any venue that drove the amount of activity with respect to those machines. If you have a venue with 20 machines in it, the revenue generated from each of those machines is substantially less than that generated from each machine in a venue where there are 40 machines. That information is contained in the report of the Social Development Committee of this parliament. That is why I have always said that, if you are going to reduce machines and expect it to have an impact on the incidence of gambling, you have to reduce the number of machines per venue and not allow the venue to recover those machines.

Another issue I wish to raise is that, by introducing any sort of cap, you do several things. One thing you do is to stop new developments from being able to put poker machines in their premises, unless you make other provisions. You set an unfair burden on new suburban development and new growth, whether it be on the outer fringes of Adelaide or in regional areas. The other thing you do (and they probably go hand in hand) is to develop a system of trading, where you can trade a machine from one site to another. That is what the government intends to do. As soon as you do that, you build in a new value on a poker machine and a poker machine licence, and all of a sudden we have the problem that we experienced in the taxi industry, for instance, where a taxi

plate becomes very valuable. In fact, we have had debates in this house—and there has been plenty of discussion out in the public arena—on measures that need to be taken to maintain the value of a taxi plate, because people have gone out and bought a taxi plate, operated a taxi and then found that, for some reason (and I will not go into that), the value of the taxi plate has fallen. We have passed legislation through this parliament to maintain the value of those taxi plates.

Do we really want to go down that path? Do we really want to have a system where the location of the machines, up to that level of 40, is determined by some sort of auction system? We will have a situation where the market will ensure that the machines that are available—20 per cent less than what we have now—will be placed where they will generate the most revenue. That does not mean that they will be evenly situated across the state. If anyone has thought for even a moment about the gambling industry and its impact, and particularly the problem gambling situation, they will know that it is the problem gambler who generates the most revenue from a poker machine; it is the problem gambler who feeds the machine faster than anyone else. It is from the problem gambler that most of the revenue is generated. You do not have to be an Einstein to work out that market forces will ensure that those machines are situated where the problem gamblers are living. The machines that are currently in areas where there are no problem gamblers will be purchased and moved to where the problem gamblers are.

I cannot support the continuation of the cap, because it is all about giving us a little more time in which to introduce some more nonsensical legislation—legislation that allows the Premier to stand up in front of the cameras, hairy-chested, and say that he is doing something about the gambling problem, when everyone knows that he is doing nothing. Everyone knows that what he is attempting to do will have no effect on problem gambling in South Australia. That is what frustrates me and what has frustrated me every time this matter has come before this parliament. As I said, year after year we go through the same motions, and the problem is that the Treasurer of the day knows full well, as does his Premier and the other senior ministers, that the only way you will have an impact on problem gambling in South Australia is to reduce the amount of gambling, and that reduces the income flow to the Treasury. You actually have to do something serious and it will have a dollar cost.

The government will have no problem passing the legislation that it has on the books, because it is at no cost to the government. The community will know that, because there has been no reduction in the tax revenue to the government, there will be no reduction in the income to the so-called pokie barons. That is not a term that I use but one I attribute to people like the Premier and the Treasurer. The income to those people will not change. Consequently, you can draw from that that there will be no impact on problem gambling in South Australia.

I now address the matter of the Roosters Club, because this is even more concerning. We had the spectacle virtually 12 months ago when the then minister responsible for gambling—and it was a different minister—

Mr Caica: There were different shadows, too.

Mr WILLIAMS: There were indeed. On Tuesday 27 May last year the minister introduced a measure to allow the Roosters Club to have ongoing gambling activity on site against the express wishes of this parliament in the relevant legislation. I could make the same speech as I made on that occasion, because very little has changed. What has changed

is that what I predicted on 27 May last year has indeed happened. I said (page 3132 of *Hansard* of 27 May):

... I am absolutely certain—

Members interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: Not allowed to do what?

Members interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: I can do what I like.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Everyone else seems to be in this place.

Mr WILLIAMS: There has been a bit of a debate about whether we are listened to, and sometimes you have to repeat yourself to be heard.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Wright! I think it is a blessing if it is only twice, in some cases.

Mr WILLIAMS: I stated:

... I am absolutely certain that the Roosters Club will want to trade on this site until 31 May. I am absolutely certain that the club will endeavour to trade until the last possible day. It sees this as a very advantageous site, and this gives the club the ability to do that with plenty of head room if it made a few mistakes in the arrangements to move forthwith at that date to another site.

I was talking about a little quirk in the legislation we passed 12 months ago. We gave the Roosters 12 months and also changed the act to say that, if they had not moved by 31 May, they would stop operating at that site but their licences would go on, whereas the act said that if they became illegal at that site on 31 May they would also lose their licences. But we changed the act to allow them to trade up to 31 May and then retain their licences while they suspended trading and found somewhere else to go.

I made the point that that told me that the Roosters Club had no intention of looking for somewhere new until 31 May. They were going to stay there as long as they could because they saw that as an advantageous site. And I have been proved right on that. Worse than that, though, the then minister, in answer to a question as to whether we could be absolutely certain that come 31 May they would stop trading at that site, said:

Yes, save for any subsequent legislative change, which I am not suggesting is likely or in the contemplation of anyone.

Well, here we are 12 months later and the legislative change is about to happen, and I hope that minister hangs his head in shame. He stood and told this house that on 31 May the Roosters Club would be out. The provisions in the act passed by this parliament were a harm minimisation strategy and we would not allow gaming houses and poker machines in or near shopping centres. That is what this is about: it is harm minimisation by keeping gaming machines away from shopping centres. The minister told us it was a special cause and a special case and would last for only 12 months. However, I was wary when he put in that little extra which allowed the club to trade right up to that date and not lose its licence, because it was obvious that it was going to trade up to that date and then maybe move.

But the worst thing has happened, which I did not contemplate. The Roosters Club has come to the government and said, 'We do not only want to trade to 31 May but also we want to trade beyond it,' for several reasons. One reason is that it is an advantageous site and it obviously is doing well there. The other reason is that the Roosters Club wants an advantage over every other holder of a poker machine licence in this state, particularly those with large gaming rooms and more machines. When the government's bill goes through—it

may not go through but I presume it will—every other licensed hotel and club in the state, if they have 40 machines, will have to renovate their gaming room if they cannot buy the other machines, and there will be some cost involved in that. The Roosters Club, by sitting back and awaiting the fate of that further piece of legislation, will have the opportunity, when it finds new premises, to erect a building for exactly the number of machines which it will have in the future. That gives it an advantage over every other operator in the state. I believe that this parliament has already been very generous to the Roosters Club—extremely generous—and I am very loath to continue that when I believe the Roosters Club has abused the generosity already offered to it by this parliament.

As I said 12 months ago, I do not want to see the demise of the Roosters Club. I think I said at that time, as did many other members, that the Roosters Club is an icon in South Australia and is part of the SANFL heritage. I do not want to see its demise and I would like to see it prosper, but I do not want to see the Roosters Club, or any other organisation, abuse the generosity of this parliament. In fact, I argued at the time (12 months ago) that we should not have extended that sort of generosity to the club. I argued that we should have undone the wrong done to it, because I thought some of that wrong and some of its problems were caused by poor advice and poor decision making by government agencies. I thought that the government should have compensated the Roosters Club and undone what had happened until the government got its legislation through.

It appals me that, having gone through the angst (and I know a lot of members supported the bill last year because, like me, they did not want to see the Roosters Club disadvantaged and they did not want to see its demise), I think a lot of members are being put in a very awkward situation today because the Roosters Club has abused the generosity afforded it by this parliament. Again, 12 months ago I pointed out that there are other clubs and organisations around the state (and I remind members of the W&W Dance Club, and I do not know what its fate has been in the meantime) that do not get the treatment that was afforded the Roosters Club.

The Roosters Club not only got the treatment once (which I thought was unfair), but, if this bill goes through, it is now about to get it twice. I believe that we are sending the wrong signal to the community. On the one hand we have the Premier, in a hairy-chested manner, saying that he is going to do something about problem gambling, yet he is trampling all over the harm minimisation measures in the bill and allowing a gambling house virtually in what was part of a car park of a shopping centre which the legislation clearly would have prohibited.

Now he is going to extend a very generous offer to enable the club to take 12 months to find new premises and, in doing so, give that particular club an advantage that no other club or hotel in this state enjoys. I cannot support either of the provisions in this piece of legislation.

Mr SNELLING (Playford): I look forward, at the earliest opportunity, to sending the member for MacKillop's speech to the North Adelaide Football Club. I am sure that it will be very interested in everything he has had to say—

Ms Rankine interjecting:

Mr SNELLING: Yes, if someone can get through it. Perhaps I will highlight the relevant passages for the club.

Mr Caica: It won't take long.

Mr SNELLING: It will not take long, the member for Colton says. I do not want to go into too much detail about

what happened, but I believe that the North Adelaide Football Club was caught up in a problem that was not of its making. What the parliament has done is to give the club an opportunity to rectify the situation, and that is all that is being proposed here: giving the club an opportunity to rectify a problem, and for the life of me I cannot understand what objections the member for MacKillop has. I find the honourable member's comments and those of the member for Mawson galling, particularly the criticisms of this government's attempt to try to do something about problem gambling.

I was a member of the parliament that introduced the first cap, and I well remember the then government, particularly the former premier, John Olsen, basically calling 'last drinks', which resulted in a sudden flurry of applications for gaming licences. A friend of mine is a hotelier and he did not have gaming machines and he had no plans to install gaming machines. When he was told, 'This is your last chance. Get in. Get your gaming machines in', he made application simply because he did not want to miss the boat. Instead of the original cap (which the previous government introduced) having the effect of reducing the spread of gaming machines it caused a sudden increase because the previous government was disingenuous with respect to the original cap.

This government has introduced a bill to try to remedy the errors of the previous government and to try to reduce the number of machines. It is only sensible that, while that legislation makes its passage through the parliament, the cap be continued while the parliament makes the decision as to what it is going to do with regard to gaming machine numbers. I am quite happy to indicate my support for the bill before the house. I think that it should be uncontroversial. I am saddened by the fact that the members for MacKillop and Mawson would try to politicise such a sensitive issue. I wish the bill speedy progress through the house.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I certainly support the bill and the continuation of the freeze. I want to add a subject which is akin to the subject, that is, poker machine freezes in small country communities. I want to quote an exact example of what happens in a little community like Palmer, near Mannum. The Palmer Hotel has no poker machines because the previous owner did not think they were required, and he was going to retire, anyway. So, he never sought poker machines when were first introduced.

Today we see the little community of Palmer with the hotel at its centre, and it does not have any poker machines and, of course, is not able to get them. I believe that at another time we need to look at this situation. Even though I am in favour of extending the freeze, I think some leniency should be given to a hotel in a small community, enabling it to have, say, a maximum of five machines. Without these machines being introduced into the Palmer Hotel, its future is bleak and, if the Palmer Hotel goes so does the community. People in that community travel to the Mannum Club and also to the Pretoria Hotel to play poker machines. One can therefore understand the frustration of the current lessee of the Palmer Hotel.

I would like to put on record, first, my support for the continuation of this freeze and, secondly, I ask what can be done about anomalies (because it is an anomaly) such as the Palmer Hotel and others, certainly, that were not granted licences before; I do not believe they should be locked out forever, particularly when the life of the community is at stake.

Mr RAU (Enfield): We are dealing with only the shorter of the bills, so I will not make any remarks about the very large and complex piece of legislation that is coming up. In relation to this bill, it seems that this one is so obviously sensible that it should be carried by acclamation. The fact is that we have a freeze on gaming machines licences. We have had a major inquiry by the Independent Gambling Authority into questions about how the gambling industry should operate in South Australia. That inquiry recently met, and a major bill which the minister flagged to the parliament is being prepared with a view to giving effect to those very comprehensive recommendations.

Whatever we might think of the gaming authority and its recommendations, surely we want to keep the status quo until such time as the parliament has an opportunity to consider a major reform. How absolutely ludicrous would it be if we allowed the freeze to vanish thereby, in effect, pre-empting the whole debate that the parliament is about to have in a few weeks about the major bill.

Quite frankly, I am astounded at the member for MacKillop, unless he has some very sophisticated Machiavellian plan afoot which I am unable to fathom. I confess that that may be the case, and I take my hat off to him if it is. But, unless that is the case, I think he is being a little short-sighted, if I might be as strong as that. Does he not want to have a debate here in a few weeks about the real issue, which is the whole complex problem of gaming machines? Does he not think that this parliament should actually express an opinion about that? If he does not, the suggestion that he is making to let the cap go is, I suppose, an eminently sensible one. But, how ludicrous if the cap goes.

In a couple of weeks we will be here trying to resolve the problem of reducing something back by 3 000 machines. By the time he is finished there could be another 8 000 in the market. Are we then going to reduce them back by 11 000 machines? Honestly! On reflection, I assume that he is just pulling our leg.

I congratulate the member for MacKillop on his very fine, dry sense of humour. It is very nice to have in the parliament somebody with a sense of humour and who has an ironic and sardonic approach that he showed us today: he came in with something. He comes in and he is like a Stealth fighter, coming in right under the radar. None of us picked it up; it was that humorous. I actually reproach myself and the member for Colton, who did not laugh, either. You didn't laugh, did you?

Mr Caica: No.

Mr RAU: The minister did not laugh. No-one laughed. I want to say to everyone who laughed: I apologise to the member for MacKillop because I did not get it, either. I take my hat off to him. It was very clever.

The other thing, aside from the freeze on gaming machines, is the question of the North Adelaide Football Club. The North Adelaide Football Club is a club which supports junior sport in my electorate. I think there is very little more important in this day and age than to have community groups giving young people activity and focus in their life. The fact they do that throughout the northern suburbs is very important for the people I represent. I strongly support the North Adelaide Football Club's community role as a supporter of junior sport.

It was for that reason that I found myself compelled earlier to support their move to have this special measure to enable them to continue to trade at Sefton Plaza Shopping Complex—which has its problem. I do not pretend it does not

have its problems. It does have its problems, particularly for me because I am an opponent of gaming machines, anyway, but here we have the devil providing money for a good cause. So I was rather compromised when this issue first arose—and I remain that way. Again, surely the point is this: why should we be interfering with the status quo for North Adelaide when everything else is on the table? Surely, the same point can be made about the argument for keeping the status quo at North Adelaide—and I notice that, aside from the member for MacKillop who is watching from the wings, we do not have a lot of people from the other side listening to my very interesting speech. Surely, we leave the status quo until such time as we get the main game on.

Again, I missed this particular ironic bit of humour from the member as well, because it is the same point. He actually hit us with two jokes almost simultaneously. It was like Rowan and Martin or the two Ronnies and I missed them both.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr RAU: Derek and Clive, yes, exactly! I apologise to everyone for missing both those jokes, but I think he has been pulling our leg. Well done to the member for MacKillop. It is fairly obvious what we will do—and I think we will find him voting for it in the end, anyway. That will be the really funny part because he will say, 'Ha, fooled the whole lot of you. I will vote for it.' I think it is so obvious that I do not need to say anything further about it. I look forward to the member for MacKillop demonstrating his intensely dry contribution on this matter.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I want to follow on the words of the member for Enfield and his support of the freeze situation being retained for the next period but also, particularly, supporting North Adelaide Football Club. I cannot think of a more community-based organisation. While many people would not want to support the proliferation of poker machines, as has been said this organisation does invest considerable time and energy into the community. The advantages they have received over the last year by moving the poker machines out of their home club has been dramatic, and they have every intention—and they have tried very hard—to move to another location to comply with the regulations. It has been extraordinarily difficult to go through the planning process, get all the systems, approvals, licences and other facets of the approval process in place. They have worked diligently over the past year.

The renewed vigour and enthusiasm the club has had since last year has been shown on the field. The first three games this year have been stellar. The achievements have been extraordinary. After a very much weaker performance last year, it has been outstanding for the team to win the first three games this year. I think it is due to the reinvigoration of the community spirit, the enthusiasm which has got behind the club to make it survive under difficult circumstances, and the support it has received from both sides of the house. I commend the amendment, the extension and the minister's bill, and I support everything the member for Enfield has said on this occasion.

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Gambling): I thank all the speakers for their contributions and I thank the opposition for its courtesy in agreeing to proceed directly to the second reading stage of the bill. Obviously, in committing to that it has allowed us to proceed without requiring the bill

to sit on the table for the normal one week period. I understand that there is also a commitment that we will be able to get this bill through both houses in the time required, so it is the intention today to complete the second reading stage. I note that a couple of amendments were filed this afternoon by the shadow minister, and I will certainly have a good look at those and give them some consideration. Despite the fact that this is a conscience vote, I would like to take them to our caucus room. I thank the opposition for that.

As has already been highlighted, particularly by the member for Enfield, this is a very simple bill. There has been some discussion which I think has been a bit harsh and on which I will make a few brief comments. There has also been some traversing—not by the shadow minister but by the member for MacKillop—about the bigger bill. I do not think that it is wise for me or for anyone to have that debate about the bigger bill, because obviously we will have that debate. Suffice it to say that this week I have introduced two bills. The bill we are debating now is a very simple bill that extends the freeze until we are able to deal with the bigger bill, and it also provides an extension for the Roosters club until we are able to deal with that bigger bill.

Members of parliament will need some time to digest the bigger bill because as has been said—once again by the member for Enfield, if my memory serves me correctly—that is a major bill. I will not run through all the concepts today because I do not want to do that disservice to members, but there is a lot there to digest. I gave a commitment to the shadow minister and to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when I spoke to them earlier in the week—and I thank them for their commitment to debate this today, and I understand that the shadow minister has already had a briefing about the bigger bill—that when they are ready we will provide the briefings that all members are entitled to for the bigger bill which we will be debating at a—

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT: Yes. The shadow minister has already made a date for that, and if people could let me know we will, obviously, extend that courtesy to individual members, and we look forward to debating that bigger bill.

I reject some of the criticism that was made of former ministers because there is a range of various areas that have been brought forward by previous ministers such as the Gambler's Rehabilitation Fund, which is working well with regard to counselling, and the Dicey Dealings program which is in our schools. In the short time that I have been Minister for Gambling I have had the pleasure to see through the legislation on family protection orders, but I pay full credit to the former minister for gambling, the member for Cheltenham, who drove that. And, of course, the codes of practice began last Friday and, as a result of that, I think it is simple for people to be able to get their head around the fact that this government is not standing still—quite the opposite—when it comes to problem gambling.

I also strongly reject any criticism of the Premier, because the Premier has been, and will continue to be, at the forefront of this debate. No other state in Australia has put together a range of measures, nor has it adopted the position that this government is adopting, and that is to rip 3 000 machines out of the system, as is proposed by the bigger bill, which members will have the opportunity to debate.

There is a whole range of other things. It is a very detailed major bill. So, I certainly want to totally reject criticism of former ministers, and certainly the Premier has and will continue to champion this whole course. In fact, the Premier,

just this week, with myself and the Treasurer, met with the hoteliers—I cannot remember what day, I think it might have been Monday or Tuesday of this week. So I think that is very harsh criticism indeed.

I also want to say and support very strongly what has been said by the member for Enfield, the member for Adelaide and the member for Playford about the North Adelaide Football Club. I met with the North Adelaide Club—Glen Elliot and Barry Dolman came to me. They wrote to me and they set out their case, and included in that correspondence they asked to meet with me. Of course, I agreed to that and, by the way, in the short time that I have been the minister, and this is as it should be, I have had the good fortune of meeting with a whole range of groups, which includes the hoteliers, the Clubs Association, the North Adelaide Football Club, the welfare groups, and I think I have got an appointment coming up shortly with the SANFL. I will continue to meet with the various stakeholders as we work through the bigger piece of legislation which is to be debated at a later stage.

I have got to be frank. I did say to Glen and Barry when they met with me that this is a hard ask for government. In fairness to them, I think they nodded their heads. But I asked for them to be able to demonstrate to me that they had done everything possible to do what was required of them. I certainly have had advice from the member for Enfield and the member for Adelaide, which complements the advice that they gave to me that they had been earnestly endeavouring to undertake their responsibility during this 12 month period that was provided to them.

So, it was not just a simple matter of us ticking off on this. They had to convince me of not simply the merit of their case but what they had been doing. I can assure the house that the work they had been doing is extensive. I do not think it is any secret that they are wanting to relocate to the Greenacres Football Club. I am confident that they are perusing that actively and going through the due process that is required. They are getting the assistance of their local members—the member for Enfield and the member for Adelaide. The member for Playford will become more involved if and when they do ultimately get to Greenacres, because I think Greenacres is in the member for Playford's area.

You cannot have it both ways. The member for MacKillop talked about not wanting to disadvantage them. Well, if you do not want to disadvantage them, let us just get on and do this. We need to get this bill through quickly. We need to extend the freeze until the bigger legislation is dealt with. We need to give the Roosters the appropriate extension, so that they can continue their endeavours to relocate, which is the intent of the parliament. This is a simple bill. It is straight forward. When we come back in a couple of weeks time we will deal with the amendments that have been filed today and we will get this into the Legislative Council. Members will obviously need to start—if they have not already done so, and I dare say probably most have—to think about the major bill which is before the parliament which I introduced this week, which is a major piece of legislation which will be a conscience vote that everyone will need to give very careful thought to. Briefings will be provided. You will need to meet with the key stakeholders in digesting all that information because it is very much leading edge legislation which has major changes proposed in it and, of course, it adopts all of the recommendations of the Independent Gambling Authority.

The member for MacKillop talked about the Productivity Commission and his thoughts in regard to the inadequacy of

removing 3 000 machines. The IGA is talking not only about the removal of 3 000 machines but also about having fewer venues, and we will talk about this issue further when we deal with the bigger bill. I have read the material that the member for MacKillop invited me to read, and I am hopeful that he will read and gives careful consideration to IGA's report, if he has not done so already. He may well choose to meet with IGA as well.

Of key importance to the IGA's recommendation to remove 3 000 machines is that it will reduce the number of venues, and that is of key importance to having an impact on problem gambling. It is also important that we do not look at ripping out 3 000 machines in isolation. That is very important, but so are other measures that are already in place, some as recently as last Friday. The codes of practice are mandatory. Some other states either do not have codes or practice or, if they do, they are voluntary. Codes of practice in a

couple of states are mandatory, and I congratulate those states for that.

If we are serious about problem gambling, codes of practice need to be mandatory, and these are. I congratulate the parliament, particularly the former minister, for putting the codes of practice into place. We need to look at harm minimisation of problem gambling in totality with what we have as a package, because it will have an impact.

Bill read a second time.

In committee.

Clause 1 passed.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.50 p.m. the house adjourned until Monday 24 May at 2 p.m.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 3 May 2004

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ELECTRICITY CONCESSIONS

119. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** What Government budget initiatives have been implemented to assist low income earners and will concessions on electricity charges be increased?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The 2003-04 Budget for Human Services contained new initiatives directed at groups who may be regarded as disadvantaged. Examples are:

- An additional \$20.9 million over the next four years to provide accommodation and support for people with disabilities and their carers, and
 - An additional \$8.2 million over the next four years for improved health and wellbeing, and for a regional office and infrastructure for rehabilitation and respite, in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands;
 - An additional \$6.4 million over the next four years for increased maintenance of South Australia Housing Trust housing stock.
- Subsequent to the 2003-04 State Budget, on 23 November the Premier announced that the government will, from 1 January 2004:
- Increase the annual electricity concession available to pensioners and allowees from \$70 to \$120 – the first increase since 1990, and;
 - Extend the electricity concession to self funded retirees who hold a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.

The cost of increasing and expanding the concession is estimated at \$12.6 million per annum.

In addition, the Government has introduced a one-off \$50 Electricity Transfer Rebate for people eligible for electricity concessions who switch from the standard contract to one of the better value-for-money market contracts offered by electricity retailers. To ensure equity, the ETR will be available retrospectively to electricity concession recipients who have already switched to a market deal. It is estimated the ETR will cost over \$13 million.

The government has also implemented a range of measures to regulate increase in electricity prices and assist South Australians, particularly those on low and fixed incomes, to reduce their energy costs.

For example, the government has:

- Established an Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) to protect the long-term interests of consumers with respect to price, quality and reliability of essential services;
- Amended the Electricity Act 1996 to empower ESCOSA to ensure that electricity retailers justify any price increases to small customers;
- Legislated for penalties of up to \$1 million for companies that breach their licence conditions; and
- Negotiated an agreement with other states to support harsher penalties for generators spiking prices in the electricity market (re-bidding).

The government has also adopted an approach recommended by the Social Development Committee's Poverty Inquiry, released on 13 May 2003. recommendation 17.1, relating to the impact of electricity price increases on low income households, proposed an examination of the feasibility of a State domestic energy management strategy including:

- Education / information to help households reduce electricity consumption;
- Low cost or free energy audits for low income households;
- Free energy audits for all South Australians Housing Trust tenants in older housing stock; and
- Low interest loans for items to assist in reduction of energy use.

In response to the committee's recommendations, the Minister for Energy recently announce \$2.05 million over 2 years to fund an energy efficiency program for low-income households. The program will be run in partnership with local community-based organisations.

The program includes free energy audits for low-income households, which identify how the householder can reduce the cost of heating and cooling without reducing their own levels of comfort. Details of the program are currently being finalised. I anticipate that all members will be advised of the way the scheme will operate in the near future.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM, COSTS

120. **Dr McFETRIDGE:**

1. What is the total cost of all projects listed in the 2003-03 and 2003-04 Capital Works Program and how much of that expenditure was incurred in previous years?

2. What is the expenditure estimate of each project listed in 2003-03 and 2003-04?

3. Which works have either commenced or will commence in 2003-03 and 2003-04, respectively?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:

1. The capital Investment Statement shows the estimated total cost of all projects with expenditure above \$300 000 in the budget year.

The following tables show the estimated total cost of all projects listed in the 2002-03 and 2003-04 Capital Works Program and how much of that expenditure was incurred in previous years.

	Total Cost of projects \$million	Cost prior to 2002-03 \$ million
2002-03 Capital Investment Statement	2 524.7	926.0
	Total Cost of projects \$million	Cost prior to 2003-04 \$ million
2003-04 Capital Investment Statement	1 949.6	621.3

2. The expenditure estimate for each project is listed in the Capital Investment Statement as "Estimated Total Cost". It should be noted that items listed under annual programs by definition do not have a specific project cost.

3. The Capital Investment Statement clearly distinguishes between new works, new works carried forward and works in progress. Works commencing in 2002-03 are listed as "New Works" in the 2002-03 Capital Investment Statement. Works commencing in 2003-04 are listed as "New Works" in the 2003-04 Capital Investment Statement.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS STRATEGY

133. **The Hon. D.C. KOTZ:**

1. For all Departments and Agencies reporting to the Minister: (a) what is the portfolio contribution to the \$967 million whole of Government savings strategy;

(b) what are the details of each program targeted by this strategy for each year 2002-03 to 2005-06; and

(c) What are the details of any program under-spend in 2001-02 and what are the respective details of any approved carryover expenditure for 2002-03?

2. What are the specific program details of the expenditure line 'other'—\$18.5 million in the 2003-04 Operating Statement?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:

1. (a) The \$967 million savings target was quoted in the 2002-03 budget papers (reference budget paper 3 page 3.1). The Recreation, Sport and Racing portfolio of the Department for Administrative and Information Services contribution is \$14.674 million over the four years 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(b) I have been advised the following are the details of each program targeted.

	2002-03 \$'000	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000	2005-06 \$'000
Community sporting infrastructure grants	3 000	3 000		
Community recreation and sporting facilities grant reduction	443	443	443	443
Increased external sponsorship for industry awards	25	25	25	25
Increased external sponsorship for the ORSR directory	10	10	10	10

Increased external sponsorship for sports shorts	10	10	10	10
Internal ORSR publications to cease and be transferred to the internet	5	5	5	5
Redefine scope of the workplace physical activity program	35	35	35	35
Removal of funding for SACA grandstand	750	1 500	1 750	1 750
ORSR operational and efficiency initiatives	163	163	163	163
State Association House rental savings	30	30	30	30
Greater use of fee for service in sports science	10	10	10	10
TOTAL	4 481	5 231	2 481	2 481

(c) I have been advised the following is the under-spends for the financial year ending 30 June 2002 and approved carryovers into 2002-03.

	2001-02 Underspends \$'000	2002-03 Carryovers \$'000
Grants program	5 230	0
Trails program	680	680

2. I have responded to this question previously. I refer the honourable member to Question Without Notice 50/2/466. (Reference Parliamentary Debates (*Hansard*) – Estimates Committee A and B Replies to Questions 17 to 20, 23 and 24 June 2003). The expenditure details were listed in that response.

HOME DETENTION

189. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are there any plans to change prisoner eligibility for home detention and if so, what are the details?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Minister for Correctional Services has advised:

Amendments to the eligibility criteria for Home Detention are presently being finalised.

These amendments will in effect restrict home detention to the last 12 months of a prisoner’s sentence and will ensure that prisoners who have been sentenced to less than 12 months will complete at least half of their sentence before becoming eligible to be released on Home Detention.

These amendments also provide the Chief Executive with the opportunity to consider the seriousness of the offence for which the prisoner has been sentenced when considering an application for Home Detention.

COASTAL WATER STUDY

221. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** What is the total cost of the Adelaide Coastal Water Study and how much funding is allocated to study sea grass loss off the Glenelg and Somerton Park foreshores?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Adelaide Coastal Waters study was initiated by the former Minister Iain Evans.

The cost for all 3 stages is \$2 826 924.50 (excluding GST) and focuses on seagrass loss, seafloor instability and water quality degradation in Adelaide’s coastal waters, including Glenelg and Somerton Park. However there is no specific allocation of funds by locations.

WATER CONSUMPTION REDUCTION

222. **Dr McFETRIDGE:**

1. What has been the total percentage and volume reductions in water consumption for the greater Adelaide Metropolitan Region since the introduction of water restrictions and how has this impacted SA Water revenue and return to Government?

2. What costs were associated with the recent water conservation campaign?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:

1. Water restrictions were introduced on 25 June 2003 for water systems off the River Murray. Subsequently, water conservation measures were introduced on 26 October 2003 covering the state. To the end of February 2004, metropolitan Adelaide customer billed consumption was 4GL below budget equating to \$3 million reduced revenue. The customer consumption forecast for 2003-04 financial year is a reduction of 13GL, an \$11 million reduction in revenue.

2. The costs associated with the water restriction/conservation campaigns include advertising, education, enforcement, rebates and customer calls. To the end of February 2004, costs totalled approximately \$1.7 million.

SPEEDING FINES

225. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many speeding fines have been issued to motorists travelling along Military Road, West Beach in 2002, 2003 and 2004?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Commissioner of Police has advised that in 2002, 479 motorists were issued with speed camera fines along Military Road, West Beach. 1480 fines were issued in 003. The figure for 2004 is not yet available.

GLENELG TRAM

242. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Will the Opposition be provided with ongoing briefings and documentation regarding the Glenelg Tram upgrade?

The Hon. P.L. WHITE: As the Glenelg Tram upgrade currently is the subject of a tender process, probity issues will impact on the level of information afforded at this time.

Nonetheless, in accordance with usual practice, the Member should contact the Office of the Minister for briefing on any specific issue or update required.

SPEEDING, REVENUE

256. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** For each year since 2000:

1. How many motorists were detected speeding and how much revenue was raised by the use of speed cameras, laser guns or other means, respectively, and according to the following default ranges— 60 to 69kmh, 70 to 79kmh, 80 to 89kmh, 90 to 99kmh, 100 to 109kmh and greater than 110kmh?

2. In each South Australian postcode area:

- (a) how many times were speed cameras and laser guns used;
- (b) how many speeding fines were issued;
- (c) how much revenue was collected; and
- (d) how many serious motor vehicle accidents were reported?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:

1. The Commissioner of Police has provided the following information:

	Number of motorist caught speeding in 2000					
	Detections			Revenue		
	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total
60 kph	204, 834	29 091	233 925	\$24 737 597	\$4 176 067	\$28 913 664
70 kph	4, 031	1 609	5 640	\$577 972	\$236 513	\$814 485
80 kph	7 416	2 836	10 252	\$886 321	\$419 723	\$1 306 044
90 kph	2 311	402	2 713	\$256 672	\$55 579	\$312 251
100 kph	456	1 550	2 006	\$50 607	\$206 720	\$257 327

110 kph	724	13 704	14 428	\$85 250	\$2 192 381	\$2 277 631
Grand Total	219 772	49 192	268 964	\$26 594 419	\$7 286 983	\$33 881 402

Number of motorist caught speeding in 2001

	Detections			Revenue		
	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total
60 kph	216 909	27 195	244 104	\$24 862 120	\$3 854 813	\$28 716 933
70 kph	1 846	1 130	2 976	\$178 734	\$159 862	\$338 596
80 kph	16 412	2 745	19 157	\$1 966 569	\$384 790	\$2 351 359
90 kph	6 630	455	7 085	\$778 756	\$64 816	\$843 572
100 kph	1 909	1 767	3 676	\$217 759	\$248 192	\$465 951
110 kph	2 720	13 633	16 353	\$309 192	\$2 137 736	\$2 446 928
Grand Total	246 426	46 925	293 351	\$28 313 130	\$6 850 209	\$35 163 339

Number of motorist caught speeding in 2002

	Detections			Revenue		
	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total
60 kph	195 400	29 232	224 632	\$23 687 481	\$4 230 780	\$27 918 261
70 kph	1 789	1 566	3 355	\$244 231	\$236 355	\$480 586
80 kph	12 577	4 258	16 835	\$1 605 182	\$621 233	\$2 226 415
90 kph	5 159	560	5 719	\$612 950	\$75 603	\$688 553
100 kph	4 010	2 687	6 697	\$483 474	\$399 999	\$883 473
110 kph	1 921	13 748	15 669	\$244 864	\$2 188 666	\$2 433 530
Grand Total	220 856	52 051	272 907	\$26 878 182	\$7 752 636	\$34 630 818

Number of motorist caught speeding in 2003

	Detections			Revenue		
	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total	Speed Camera	Other Means	Total
60 kph	100 447	21 609	122 056	\$13 292 119	\$3 354 393	\$16 646 512
70 kph	1 111	1 543	2 654	\$151 353	\$241 733	\$393 086
80 kph	7 623	5 050	12 673	\$1 020 364	\$789 109	\$1 809 473
90 kph	2 419	797	3 216	\$328 516	\$113 950	\$442 466
100 kph	3 550	4 364	7 914	\$499 574	\$649 805	\$1 149 379
110 kph	2 140	17 903	20 043	\$288 502	\$2 947 220	\$3 235 722
Grand Total	117 290	51 266	168 556	\$15 580 428	\$8 096 210	\$23 676 638

2. SAPOL does not collect expiration notice data based on postcodes and therefore cannot provide this information.

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

259. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many people sought welfare assistance from South Australian welfare agencies in each year since 2000 and how many under the age of 19 sought assistance in the past 12 months?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The number of people who sought welfare assistance from South Australian non-government welfare agencies in each year since 2000 is unavailable. Welfare agencies in South Australia do not report to a central agency on the numbers of people seeking assistance.

Information from the Family and Youth Services (FAYS) database indicates that financial payment and financial counselling and advice was provided by FAYS as follows:

	2000	2001	2002
Emergency Financial Assistance	15 367	14 578	13 777
Financial Counselling and Advice	4 144	3 936	3 196

2 269 young people under the age of 19 sought emergency financial assistance from FAYS in the 2002-03 financial year.

Within FAYS, emphasis is placed on working with people on a longer-term basis, providing financial counselling and advice services to strengthen the capacity of individuals and families to manage their financial resources in the best way possible.

CHILD PROTECTION REVIEW

260. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** Have the recommendations of the SA Child Protection Review been implemented and if so, what are the details and if not, when will this occur?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The Child Protection Review made over 200 recommendations dealing with a range of service, structural and legislative issues across government agencies and the community sector.

Public consultations on the recommendations made by the Layton Report were completed in July 2003.

Since then, the government has been developing a whole of government response to the report aiming to make sure we have the best possible child protection system in place. The government's immediate focus is on enhancing services and making the child protection system work better for children and young people and their families.

Since Robyn Layton handed down her report, this Government has committed an extra \$58.6 million for child protection initiatives over four years.

Some of the major actions that have been undertaken by the government include:

- the establishment of a special paedophile taskforce and hotline within SAPOL;
- the removal of the statute of limitations for initiating sexual abuse prosecutions;
- the creation of a new Special Investigations Unit to investigate allegations of abuse of children in care by foster carers or

- workers;
 - the provision of \$8 million over the next four years to employ new school counsellors;
 - the development of new guidelines for appropriate Internet access in schools;
 - the allocation of \$8.3 million extra funding over 4 years for children under the guardianship of the Minister;
 - the allocation of \$8.3 million over 4 years to improve the alternative care system;
 - the allocation of \$6 million over 4 years into violent offender and sexual offender treatment programs;
 - the establishment of new programs working with identified indigenous communities to care for children;
 - plans to reform child pornography laws;
 - the establishment of a new school-mentoring program involving 80 teacher mentors working with 800 students across 45 schools;
 - improving screening by police of people working with children;
 - the provision of an additional \$500 000 to SAPOL to provide police screening of people working in the non-government sector;
 - working with the Family Court to streamline the process in disputes where there are allegations of child abuse;
 - the provision of an extra \$12 million over 4 years for early intervention programs to support families at risk;
 - commissioning and releasing a workload analysis of Family and Youth Services, the results of which are currently being actioned; and
 - the creation of a new Department for Families and Communities.
- In addition to this, a further 73 full-time positions have been created in Family and Youth Services at a cost of \$3.6 million per annum to provide better services for children at serious risk, and to support children under the guardianship of the Minister.

These are just some of the many actions this Government has taken so far in response to the Layton Review in order to develop an effective child protection policy.

PRISON POPULATION

264. **Dr McFETRIDGE:**

1. What has been South Australia's prison population in each year since 1999?
2. What is the average prison term for all prisoners and the percentage of violent offenders in each year since 1985?
3. How much has the Government spent on prisoner rehabilitation programs in each year since 2001-02?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: The Hon. Terry Roberts MLC has provided the following information:

1. Details taken from the Department's Annual Reports and also the Justice data warehouse reveal the following:

Year—30 June	Prisoner population numbers
	Prisoners in Custody
1999	1196
2000	1299
2001	1389
2002	1463
2003	1460

2. The average prison term is for a particular day in time and calculated as follows; the difference between the date of admission and the earliest release date for sentenced prisoners. It does not include those who do not have an earliest date, e.g. lifers without a non parole period.

Year—30 June	Average expected time to serve—months
1994	37.0
1995	41.5
1996	43.2
1997	47.3
1998	51.2
1999	58.6
2000	56.2
2001	60.4
2002	58.7
2003	57.9

Percentage of violent offenders in each year since 1985

The Department does not collect data in this area.

3. It is difficult to identify the exact amount spent on rehabilitation programs because there are a number of aspects to rehabilitation including work, education and offender development which is detailed in the following.

Prison industries:

Full-time industrial and commercial activities operate in the Adelaide Women's, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln Prisons and the Cadell Training Centre. In excess of 300 prisoners are involved in these activities which involve textile production, cereal and vegetable production, workshop vehicle maintenance, engineering, furniture manufacture and assembly, joinery, paintshop, laundry, food production, bakery, horticulture – nursery and orchard work and dairy and milk production. Prisoners involved in these activities develop skills and also work ethics which contribute to their rehabilitation. The Department contributes approximately \$2m per year to support these activities.

Prisoners are also involved in a number of prison community service activities including the national parks program operated out of the Adelaide Pre-release Centre.

Education:

The Department's Registered Training Organisation, Vocational Training and Education Centres of SA (VTEC-SA) is represented in all State prisons providing a broad range of training opportunities, including prison industry related training. As a Registered Training Organisation it complies with the stringent requirements of the Australian Trainer Quality Training Framework (AQTF) requiring all staff presenting these programs to be qualified to do so.

A range of subjects are available including training in backhoe and forklift operations, building and general construction, clothing production, literacy and numeracy, first aid, horticultural, hospitality, kitchen and commercial cookery and bakery. As well, distance education courses are available at tertiary and university and through open access college. The Department contributes approximately \$1.1 million to these activities.

In addition, the Government has committed \$1.5m per year over the next four years, to new prison based rehabilitation programs concentrating on rehabilitation for sex offenders, anger management, and culturally appropriate programs for sex offenders.

Offender development:

Programs focussing on the most frequently identified criminogenic areas of need are also presented. These programs include alcohol and other drugs, anger management, domestic violence and literacy and numeracy. Supporting these program activities is the work undertaken by the Department's psychologists and social workers and for some prisoners this work is then under pinned by their access to the methadone program. As such, it is very difficult to attach a definite dollar figure to rehabilitation programs.

LAND TAX

266. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How much Land Tax has been raised from the sale of residential and commercial properties at the Holdfast Shores Development in each year since 1998-99?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I note that the member for Morphett raised a similar question in November 2003 to which I responded on 19 February 2004. The commissioner of State Taxation advises that to determine the amount of land tax raised from residential and commercial properties at the Holdfast Shores Development in each year since 1998-99 is an extremely difficult and resource intensive exercise.

I reiterate my response in February that this would involve identifying and examining the individual circumstances of every owner of each property (ie, all apartments and marina berths) in the Holdfast Shores Development since the project began in 1997, whilst also taking into consideration factors such as exemptions, where the owner may be entitled to a principal place of residence exemption, and the aggregation principles, where the owner may own more than one property in South Australia.

It should also be noted that the land tax is calculated on the basis of determinations of site value in force under the Valuation of Land Act 1971, as at midnight on 30 June immediately preceding the commencement of the financial year, and not when a property is sold.

SCHOOLS, EXPENDITURE

274. **Mrs MAYWALD:** What is the per capita expenditure by the State and Federal Governments, respectively, on South Australian public school students?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: This financial year, the State government is contributing just over \$1.4 billion to South Australian public schools, which is a record amount. In comparison, the contribution of the Federal Government to our public schools languishes at approximately \$187 million.

I am advised that in the 2003-04 Budget, the Federal government allocated \$894 for each public school student, while allocating a \$3983 for every non-government school student.

In 2003-04 the State government is spending \$8033 on every student attending government schools.

For every dollar that the Federal government spends on education in South Australia, almost 68 cents goes to the non-government school sector, with 32 cents spent on public schools. 10 years ago, the Federal government spent approximately an equal amount on both the private and public sector.

By the Federal government's own figures, from the 2002-03 to 2003-04 Budget the increase of State government funding for government school students is \$397 per capita, while the per capita increase of Commonwealth funding is \$73 for each public school student.

The State government is investing a record amount of money into public education. However the Federal government must review its funding priorities and commitment to public education so that more opportunities can be shaped for South Australian children and families.

SPEEDING FINES

277. **The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** How many motorists have been caught and how much expiation revenue has been raised for exceeding the 50 kph limit on each of the following Gawler roads—Lyndoch Road, Main North Road and Adelaide Road?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Commissioner of Police has provided the following table:

Number of motorist caught speeding between 1/6/03-29/2/04.

	Detections Speed Camera	Revenue Speed Camera
Adelaide Rd	56	\$ 8 179
Lyndoch Rd	200	\$ 27 841
Main North Rd	0	0
Total	256	\$36 020

278. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** How many speeding fines were issued and how much expiation revenue was raised in respect those roads which are now limited to 50 kph during the six month period prior to its introduction and what are the comparative details in the six month period after the introduction of this limit?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: The Commissioner of Police has advised that the separation and comparison of speeding offences along all roads which were 60 km/h to those which are now 50 km/h is not subject to electronic extraction and is not able to be provided without manual intervention.

ENVIRONMENT, DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY

280. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** Where are the historical information and Departmental records previously available at the Departmental Library currently located, is this information appropriately catalogued and stored and if not, when will this occur?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I have been advised:

The collection has been boxed and is currently store at a secure location, at the Department for Environment & Heritage Netley site.

The Environment & Conservation portfolio is currently in the process of going to tender for the provision of library services. It is anticipated arrangements with a service provider will be established by mid 2004.

HOSPITALS, WAITING LISTS

282. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** What were the waiting lists and average waiting times for orthopaedic surgery at the Repatriation General Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre and Noarlunga Health Centre, respectively, for each the year since 1999-2000?

The Hon. L. STEVENS: The waiting lists for orthopaedic surgery at the Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) and Repatriation General Hospital (RGH) are detailed below.

Month	FMC	RGH
January 2004	325	308
December 2003	316	295
December 2002	239	288
December 2001	275	283
December 2000	325	289
December 1999	247	313

The median waiting times, in weeks, for orthopaedic surgery for people on the Surgical Booking List at the FMC and RGH are

detailed below.

Month	FMC	RGH
January 2004	10	8
December 2003	10	8
December 2002	7	9
December 2001	15	12
December 2000	14	9
December 1999	9	7

Data on the medium waiting times for orthopaedic surgery at Noarlunga Health Centre is not available as Noarlunga is not part of the Booking List Information System (BLIS).

HOUSING TRUST HOMES

284. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many Housing Trust homes were sold in Warradale, Glengowrie, Glenelg East, Glenelg North, Glenelg, Glenelg South, Somerton Park, North Brighton and Novar Gardens in each year since 2000-01 and what were the total sales in each suburb during the same years?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Since 2000-01, a total of 21 South Australian Housing Trust properties have been sold in Warradale, Glengowrie, Glenelg East, Glenelg North, Glenelg, Glenelg South, Somerton Park, North Brighton and Novar Gardens.

This includes the transfer of 16 properties at Somerton Park from the South Australian Housing Trust to the SA Community Housing Authority (SACHA) for management by community housing organisations. The total sales also include 3 properties which were sold to the occupying South Australian Housing Trust tenants.

The following summary details the breakdown of properties sold in each suburb per annum:

Housing Trust properties sold since 2000-01

	2000-01	2001-02	2003-03	2003-04 (1 July 2003 to 31 January 2004)
Warradale				
Glengowrie	1	1		
Glenelg East				
Glenelg North				
Glenelg				
Glenelg South				
Somerton Park	2	16*		
North Brighton				
Novar Gardens	1			
Total	4	17	0	0

*16 properties transferred to SACHA

The following information is sourced from the Valuer-General's Office. All residential property sales in each suburb per annum are:

All residential properties sold since 2000-01

	2000-01	2001-02	2003-03	2003-04 (1 July 2003 to 31 January 2004)
Warradale	126	91	147	54
Glengowrie	121	135	153	52
Glenelg East	187	133	363	67
Glenelg North	109	132	117	77
Glenelg	327	236	235	90
Glenelg South	85	94	86	37
Somerton Park	163	166	167	72
North Brighton	49	59	48	21
Novar Gardens	41	46	33	16
Total	1208	1092	1349	486

TOURISM, EMPLOYMENT

290. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What is the current level of employment in the tourism sector, how does this compare 12 months ago and what is the future prognosis?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:

Background

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not define tourism in the same way it defines other "traditional" industries. Instead the tourism industry is incorporated within various industry sectors, such as transport, accommodation and retail.

The tourism satellite account (TSA) is recognised internationally as the best method for measuring the direct contribution of tourism to the economy

The ABS uses this satellite method to produce the Australian Tourism Satellite Account. Part of the national accounts, it provides

the official measure of tourism's role in the Australian economy.

However, while the ABS provides this information for the nation as a whole, it does not provide State/Territory breakdowns.

Given this, the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) is required to use a model-based approach to estimate tourism's contribution to the economy and employment.

Employment in the tourism sector

The latest available figures for South Australia are for 2001, derived by Economic Research Consultants.

In 2001, tourism generated \$3.4 billion of expenditure. This expenditure is estimated to directly support 27 100 full-time equivalents.

When indirect effects are added (such as food suppliers to a top tourism restaurant or laundries servicing a hotel), tourism supported an estimated 36 800 full-time equivalent jobs.

Future

The SATC has identified the need for on-going estimates of tourism expenditure and employment at the State level and has commissioned Brian Dermott and Associates (BDA) to develop an expenditure/jobs model for tourism for the South Australian economy.

ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

291. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What percentage of events conducted at the Adelaide Convention Centre are arranged by interstate and international organisers and what percentage is local?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: The following data, provided by the Adelaide Convention Centre has been recorded from 1998 to date. It represents events that have been arranged by interstate, international and local event management persons, and does not reflect where the event originated or from where the delegates came.

Local	78 per cent
Interstate	20 per cent
International	2 per cent

292. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Does the Adelaide Convention Centre compete with interstate venues by offering financial incentives and if so, what are the details and which are the competing venues?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: I have been advised that the Adelaide Convention Centre has never offered, nor has the ability to offer, financial incentives to compete with interstate venues.

TOURISM, ACCOMMODATION

293. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What percentage of tourist accommodation was occupied by intrastate, interstate and international tourists, respectively, in 2002-03?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:

Background

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) quarterly survey provides data in its Survey of Tourist Accommodation of operators in the hotel, motel & guesthouse and serviced apartment sector only, whose establishments have 15 or more rooms.

The survey provides information on rooms available, room nights occupied, occupancy rates and takings from accommodation. The survey does not give any origin of guest (whether from intrastate, interstate or international) information.

The commercial accommodation sector includes hotels, resorts, motels, motor inns; guesthouses, bed and breakfast; self catering cottage or apartment, caravan parks, commercial camping grounds; backpacker hostels; houseboats.

The non-commercial accommodation sector includes accommodation such as staying with friends and relatives, staying in own holiday house, caravan and camping near road or on private property.

Results
During 2002-03, 50 per cent (2 848 000) of travellers in South Australia used commercial accommodation and 55 per cent (3 127 000) used non-commercial accommodation. This adds to more than the number of travellers and 100 per cent as people can use more than one type of accommodation whilst travelling.

Of those who used commercial accommodation 52 per cent were intrastate travellers, 40 per cent were interstate and 8 per cent were international.

During 2002-03, 46 per cent (12 million of the total 26 million visitor nights spent in South Australia) were spent in commercial accommodation.

Of the total nights spent in commercial accommodation 37 per cent were spent by intrastate travellers, 44 per cent were interstate and 20 per cent were international.

BRADMAN COLLECTION, ART

298. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Did the Government consider acquiring "The Art of Bradman Collection" recently on display at the State Library as part of South Australia's Bradman Collection and if not, why not?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I have been advised that the Bradman Collection was set up in 1982 by means of an agreement drawn up between the Libraries Board and Sir Donald with the singular purpose of ensuring the preservation and maintenance of this collection of Sir Donald's own personal memorabilia.

This purpose has been maintained to the current day despite many offers of cricketing items that originally belonged to Sir Donald and which he gave away during his lifetime.

The Bradman Collection therefore contains only items that directly belonged to Sir Donald, making it one of the most unique and valuable private collections in the world.

In January 2004, a private company, Team Duet Pty Ltd wrote to the Government and offered for sale a collection of drawings entitled The Art of Bradman Collection. However, this collection, (by the artist Mr Brian Clinton) does not fit the criteria for possible inclusion as part of the Bradman Collection. That is, they were not part of Sir Donald's personal memorabilia.

The Bradman family maintains a close ongoing relationship with the State Library. This issue has been discussed with the family who wish to continue to maintain the integrity of Sir Donald's memorabilia collection at the State Library.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

307. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What initiatives are in place to encourage the parents of Malaysian and other international students in South Australia to visit their children and what funding has been committed to these programs?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: The SATC's Linger Longer campaign is aimed at generating better economic return from visitors to South Australia who arrive for conferences, conventions and events, as well as families and friends who visit overseas students living in Adelaide. It is designed to encourage visitors to extend their stay in South Australia and visit regional areas. The \$250 000 campaign runs for two years (2003-04 and 2004-05).

308. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What was the extent of the government's financial involvement with the former Barossa Wine Train?

2. Have the rail cars been sold to a hotel consortium in Sri Lanka, and if so what are the sale details?

3. Is there any proposal to develop a new tourist rail service to the Barossa Valley and if so, what are the details?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:

1. The Government provided just under \$170 000 from early 2000 to April 2003. The bulk of the assistance offered was directed to product development initiatives and co-operative marketing opportunities aimed at group and incentive markets.

2. The Barossa Wine Train is a privately owned business and hence the Government is not privy to commercial arrangements that the Barossa Wine Train organisation may enter into.

3. Currently there are no plans by the Government to develop another tourist rail service to the Barossa Valley.