

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Monday 7 November 2005

The **SPEAKER (Hon. R.B. Such)** took the chair at 2 p.m. and read prayers.

### SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

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

That the sitting of the house be continued during the conference with the other place on the Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Aggravated Offences) Bill.

Motion carried.

### VISITORS TO PARLIAMENT

The **SPEAKER:** Before calling on the rest of the business of the day, as indicated previously, I intend to acknowledge the schools and groups visiting parliament. Today we have St Paul's College (local member Ms Robyn Geraghty), Blackwood Combined Probus Club (local member the Hon. Iain Evans) and St George College (local member Mr Tom Koutsantonis).

### IRWIN, Hon. J.C., DEATH

The **Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Jamie Irwin, former president of the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

We pay tribute this afternoon to a very fine South Australian. The Hon. Jamie Irwin was widely respected for his integrity, his compassion and his unflagging commitment to the interests of rural South Australians and for his excellent service, in particular, as President of the Legislative Council. Jamie passed away on Friday at Mary Potter Hospice at North Adelaide after a battle with cancer. He was 68 years old. I personally want to extend my sympathies and best wishes to his immediate and extended family. They deserve to feel very proud of his contribution to this state.

James Campbell Irwin was born here in Adelaide on 16 April 1937. He was educated at the Queen's School and at St Peter's College, and at the Royal Agricultural College in the United Kingdom. He was the son of Sir James Irwin who, among many other achievements, was prominent in the field of architecture. Indeed, Jamie was proud to say in his maiden speech in 1986 that his family had 'played a part in the birth and growth of this state since 1837', and that was certainly very true. He became a farmer and grazier in the Tatiara district around Keith, a region that he called 'the good country'.

Over the years, he was very active in his local community. For example, he was a member of the District Council of Tatiara for a decade. He was vice-chairman of the Keith and District Hospital Board and he was a trustee at the South-East Regional Cultural Trust. He served numerous other good causes in the Tatiara district, including a preschool, golf and football clubs and the Show Society.

He was elected to the Legislative Council for the Liberal Party on 7 December 1985, almost 20 years ago—in fact, on the same day that both Terry Roberts and I were elected to

this parliament. In his maiden speech in February 1986, Jamie touched on a number of issues that would prove to be of abiding interest. He declared his belief in smaller, less intrusive government, and he talked about the financial and other difficulties facing people on the land at that time who, he said, were tired of being bled and taken for granted. Mostly, he discussed the provision of federal government grants to local government with a view towards bringing about a fairer system so that local councils could do a better job and improve services.

In the mid 1990s, Jamie's passionate support for local government even saw him publicly oppose his own government's council reform plans. Jamie served for many years on the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, then eventually sharing the Chairmanship with John Oswald. He was his party's whip, both in opposition and in government. Also, in the mid 1990s, Jamie served as a parliamentary secretary. In December 1997 he was elected unopposed as President of the Legislative Council, a position which he held until February 2003 when he retired from the upper house.

Jamie was widely respected across the political spectrum as President of the Legislative Council. He was seen as a thoughtful, conciliatory and calm Presiding Officer, and never heavy-handed. He was respected by all sides of politics for his impeccable fairness and his impeccable integrity. During his period as President, he oversaw the introduction of the Citizen's Right of Reply in the Legislative Council. From time to time, of course, this measure created its share of controversy, but I think that it is now broadly agreed that it has been a worthwhile change; and it serves democracy and it serves the parliamentary process.

Jamie excelled in one or two other roles. For example, Jamie was the honorary president of the Parliamentary Wine Club, and he helped build up the stocks of the parliament's wine cellar. Also, of course, he was a man of deep christian faith; and, I think, that was demonstrated whenever one met him. He was a family man of great decency, charm and great personal charity; and I know that he was respected throughout his church. He was a person who gave more than he took. He brought out the best in people, and he treated people (including those who worked for him) with great decency.

We know, too, that, in the debate over the republic, he was an articulate and staunch supporter of the monarchy. It is important to note as well that, despite being a public figure, Jamie always made time for family. He was always willing to lend a hand to help family members in need no matter the sacrifice on his own part. I did not have a close relationship with Jamie Irwin. Again, all my dealings with him were underpinned by his integrity. Whenever I met with him or dealt with him, he was approachable, affable and always constructive. There was one occasion when he was particularly helpful to me. I was accused of doing something or other in the parliament and he came out publicly and said that it was not me, that it was him and that he was totally responsible. This, from someone from the other side of politics, I think, is a measure of the man and his integrity. He was a man of the land, a community leader, a son of the Upper South-East, a widely-respected and capable parliamentarian, a leading figure in his church and a gentleman in every sense of the word.

James Campbell Irwin was all these things and more. On behalf of members on this side of the house, I extend my condolences to his family, and I commend and honour him for his contribution to our state and to the lives of South Australians. May he rest in peace.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** It is with great sadness that I rise to support the motion of the Premier, and to convey our appreciation and sadness at the passing of Jamie Irwin. Mr Speaker, I ask that you convey to Mr Irwin's family our deepest sympathies and appreciation of the contribution that he made to South Australia. Jamie was one of the first members of parliament I met. My first impressions were of a genuine, caring and deep-thinking man. Over the nearly 20 years during which I knew Jamie, those first impressions were constantly reinforced. Jamie was a very generous person. He was a very important part of our party and of this parliament. He genuinely cared for his colleagues, and was always willing to offer advice or help, but never in a pushy way. I grew to greatly respect Jamie Irwin. In a political world where most things are black or white, Jamie could always find balance. He understood the needs of both rural and metropolitan constituencies, and was always respectful of the views of his colleagues. He was certainly a senior statesman in his latter years in the parliament, and was deeply respected by all sides of politics, and by many within the community.

Jamie Campbell Irwin was born in Adelaide on 16 April 1937. He completed his secondary education at St Peters College and went on to complete a degree at Strencester Agricultural College in the United Kingdom. Jamie's career prior to entering parliament was centred on primary industries. In particular, he was previously the overseer of the Bungaree Merino Stud at Clare and spent time managing the family farm near Keith in the South-East. Jamie's time in the agricultural industry certainly helped shape many of the beliefs that he would go on to reflect during his time in politics.

Jamie entered the Legislative Council in December 1985 as a member of the Liberal parliamentary team. During his time in parliament he served on various committees and filled various roles within the parliament. Jamie served as government whip in the Legislative Council, and also served as shadow minister in the portfolios of emergency services, local government relations, and agriculture and fisheries. When the Liberal Party formed government after the 1993 election, he became parliamentary secretary to the minister for correctional services and went on to serve as president of the Legislative Council from 1997 through to his retirement in 2002.

As the Premier said, he was well known for his fairness and the way in which he went about doing that difficult task. A gentleman in the true sense of the word, Jamie presided over some of the most important debates held in the Legislative Council in recent years, including debate on the privatisation of South Australia's electricity assets. Anyone who was around this place during that time will remember the significance and the heat that was often felt during that debate. During his time in this place, he was a strong advocate for fairness, law and order reforms, and a firm believer in small government. In researching some facts about Jamie's life I was not surprised that he listed family, sport and life in general as his personal interests. Indeed, Jamie had a passion for all things in life and his commitment to his family could never be doubted.

Jamie is survived by his wife of 45 years, Bin, and his three sons, James, Angus, Campbell and their families. I wish to express my sincere condolences to his family and friends in what must be a difficult period for them. Jamie Irwin made a great contribution to this state in many capacities. I am but one of many, many people who can honestly say it was an

absolute pleasure to know Jamie, an honour to work with him and, like so many, I am saddened by his passing. It is with great sorrow that I support this motion.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier):** I, too, would like to make some brief comments at the very sad news of the passing of Jamie Irwin. I first met Jamie Irwin back in the late 80s, when I was an adviser to then minister Arnold, who held various cabinet portfolios. One, in particular, was agriculture, and Jamie was the agriculture spokesman for the Liberal Party. I got to know a lot of Liberal members of parliament in those days when, perhaps, I was considered as a polite, helpful, adviser to a minister.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** It is true, and I have been able to maintain that reputation throughout my political career. Even the member for Finnis, the deputy leader, would recall all the help that I gave Liberal members of parliament when I was but an adviser—and their secrets will remain safe.

**The Hon. Dean Brown:** I wasn't a member of parliament.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** No, you weren't a member of parliament: you were a former member of parliament. Seriously, I got to know Jamie, and helped him out on a number of issues relating to agriculture during those days. I always had a very good relationship with him and, when I came to serve in this house, I maintained that. Like every single member of parliament who ever met, worked or had dealings with Jamie, I believe that there would be very few politicians of Jamie's ilk. There would very rarely have been an ill word spoken, or any tension on any issue, or any significant disagreement. He was a lovely gentleman, one of the great members of this parliament, somebody whom I highly regarded, and somebody whom I held in very high esteem. It is terribly tragic news that he has had such a short time in retirement. To all his family and friends, I extend my personal condolences.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I stand in honour of Jamie Irwin, a friend and colleague who contributed so much to the Legislative Council, and, particularly, to primary production and the broader issues for which he stood so strongly. Jamie was someone who had very strong personal beliefs that he upheld absolutely to the letter, and he will always be remembered for that. He was a gentleman in the broader sense of the word. You could always take his word, and it would always be upheld. He had a great personal belief in the institutions of government, the parliament and the broader community. He made a great personal commitment to his own community. I can recall a number of occasions when he talked about issues affecting the Keith community; he was a very strong supporter of the Keith Hospital. I think that we should remember him today for what he stood for—those values that he personally stood for—and the way he worked so hard to uphold the broad structures, institutions and beliefs of our community.

He loved things of quality. He had a magnificent old Jaguar which, on one occasion, let him down. He was out in the country at the time and I had to go to his rescue. I was about an hour's drive away, and I came to his rescue and picked him up, because his Jaguar left him on the side of the road absolutely high and dry. But he loved his Jaguar and, despite that incident, he still maintained an absolute belief in Jaguars. That is the sort of person he was. Of course, he inherited many of those values from his father, Sir James

Irwin. Sir James was a friend and colleague of my father—a fellow architect. My father had the highest possible regard for Sir James Irwin. You only need to look around at some of the institutions that he helped to create—the Julia Farr Centre, for instance. Sir James put so much into the Julia Farr Centre and the raising of funds to make sure that a facility was available to care for people who needed care and for the most vulnerable within our community.

Jamie had a calm thoughtfulness about him. He was never rushed into making decisions and you could always be assured that he would think about the issues involved, test them against his values and then uphold the final decision that he made. He had an absolute love of primary production and farming. I had many discussions with him about his farming interests; he had a magnificent property in the South-East near Keith. In this parliament, he made an outstanding contribution, particularly as president. He gave the position dignity and a fairness that I doubt any other person would be able to match or exceed. I think that others will go close to matching it, but they certainly will not exceed it, because no-one could be fairer or more evenhanded in upholding the principles of the presidency of the Legislative Council than Jamie. We honour his role from 1997 to 2002. We honour the contribution that he made to this parliament from 1985 to 2002.

I have mentioned a number of his loves from the Jaguar to primary production to the parliament, but there was one love that completely overshadowed all the others, and that was the love of his family—his love for Bin and the three boys, James, Angus and Campbell. His particular love, which he talked to me about with Bin on a number of occasions, was his grandchildren about whom he was passionate—and he actually said that on a number of occasions. His number one love in life was his family.

Today, we think of Bin and the family—the three boys and his grandchildren—and his broader family. We think of the happy memories with Jamie and, in particular, of what he stood for and what he contributed to this state in a very selfless manner indeed. So, to Bin, James, Angus and Campbell, and to the broader family, I offer my condolences. I say to them: remember the happy memories, because you had a husband, father and grandfather of whom indeed you can be so proud.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** I was pleased to know Jamie Irwin from the time I joined parliament in 1989. I found myself at social functions, whether at Government House or elsewhere, always gravitating into the company of Bin and Jamie. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, he was an outstandingly fair president of the other place. He lent gravitas and dignity to the position, and he was fair to all sides in the other place—a place that is not always easy to manage.

Jamie was active in the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, and he lived a truly Christian life. In this place, I never heard anyone say a word against Jamie Irwin. I enjoyed conversation with him; he was always thoughtful and fair. I think Jamie Irwin was a Tory in the nicest sense of the word—someone who believed in small government, in the institutions of the state, in the rule of law and in the church. I think he was a very faithful Anglican in the Diocese of the Murray in a time when it was difficult to be an Anglican. I shall miss him greatly.

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** I, like the Attorney, knew James Irwin through my association, firstly, in the parliament; he is a person the like of whom I do not think this parliament will see again. As the deputy leader and others have said, he was a product of his times. He was the son of Sir James Irwin but, in many ways, a successor in spirit to Sir Thomas Playford, Sir Robert Nichols and other politicians of that like. He came here as a member of the Adelaide establishment, a member of the Adelaide Club—a member of what would be classed and sneered at by many in this place as old Adelaide. But he was an extraordinary politician, not because he was extraordinary in this place but because he was an extraordinary man. He had values and integrity the like of which I have not seen in this place before or since.

He was a person who stood apart for being able to be part of the hurly-burly of politics but, at the same time, did not subject himself to the duplicity and the mealy-mouthed hypocrisy of which so many of us fall into the trap of partaking. He was a person who had compassion. I remember that, at one stage, Pam and I were going through a difficult patch and, rather than say anything about it, he and Bin invited me down to a meal in the lovely place they had at Glenelg at the time. He could always be relied on for kindness and for compassion.

In many ways, I agree with the Attorney, he was a Tory, but in his gentlemanly fashion he was not prepared to be pushed around, as has been alluded to. He and I had many good conversations over local government reform. He opposed the party, quietly and with great dignity—but opposed the party, nevertheless—over the matter I had problems with—and I think you, too, sir, if I remember correctly—which was the way in which local government reform was foisted through the last government. In that sense while he was a Tory he was, nevertheless, no pushover and could be, in his own quiet way, quite radical.

I can remember something that I think should not go unrecorded in this eulogy, and it is the position that the media in this town sometimes take. Jamie Irwin was a person of huge integrity, great dignity and impeccable honesty and I can remember the very real pain he suffered when once one of his sons got into a minor problem—and it was a comparatively minor problem—but, because it was the son of Jamie Irwin, it was all over the front page of *The Advertiser* not once but on several occasions. *The Advertiser* claimed a right to know (as the media do), a right to invade the private life of a gentleman like that and intrude upon his family in a way that would not happen to anyone other than a politician. If it were me I would say fair cop, but if it were someone like Jamie Irwin I would say to the media, ‘You need to check your morals, you need to check your ethics, and you need to treat decent people a little more fairly than you treated James Irwin and his family on that occasion.’ He did not deserve what the media dished out to him then, and nor did his family.

I used to see him and Bin quite often at the cathedral and other places, both of us being Anglicans, so I would like to conclude with a summation—a poor summation the Leader of Government Business will tell me—of the Gaelic blessing. May the road rise gently beneath your feet, may the wind blow gently on your back, may the sun shine always on you, and may God hold you in the palm of his hand until we meet again. I regret the passing of Jamie Irwin.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health):** I would like to join other members in noting the passing of Jamie Irwin,

and in passing on my condolences to Bin and his children. I did not know Jamie very well but I did know him in three ways (which I will briefly tell you about), and I thought he was a thorough gentleman and a very good person to deal with. The first time I met Jamie was when he was the duty member for the Liberal Party for the seat of Kaurna, I think, and he was out campaigning for Lorraine Rosenberg in the 1993 election.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** He did do a good job on that occasion; but he did stick out in my electorate somewhat, he and Bin hopping out of their Jaguar in a backstreet of Christies Beach. I thought, 'This is good, this is going to help me enormously,' but sadly I was wrong. He repeated that help in the subsequent election but was less successful on that occasion, I am pleased to say. However, he was a very easygoing and pleasant person to deal with and I cannot say that there was anything nasty done during that election campaign—at least not by him.

The second way I know him, I guess, was in this house when he was involved in the establishment of the wine club—and there are many tales that could be told, but shall not be told, about the wine club. I think his motivation for doing it was not just because he had an appreciation of South Australian wine—and he certainly did have an appreciation of South Australian wine—but he also wanted to get that conviviality, that bringing together of members of parliament from both sides around a meal and a tasting of wine to help develop the spirit in the place. I think he and John Oswald had similar views, that their duties as presiding officers of these two places meant that they should do something about bringing the members together in some sort of fellowship other than the Christian fellowship that the Attorney-General referred to.

The third way I got to know him was after he left this place, when one of my first jobs as Minister for Environment and Conservation was to attend a conference with the then minister for urban development and planning. It was an architectural event and award-giving, and there was a medallion, I think, given to an architect in honour of Jamie's father. He was very passionate, concerned and interested in architecture and I remember having quite interesting conversations with him about the state of architecture in South Australia. So, I will mourn his passing and, once again, I pass on my condolences to Bin and his family.

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** I wish to support the motion moved by the Premier. Jamie Irwin was a good and hard-working citizen of this state. I got to know him very well when he came into this parliament. He was very passionate about people in rural South Australia. He spent some of his younger days working just outside of Clare, and his son and daughter-in-law are constituents of mine in the Morgan area. When I spoke to James last week I was not aware that the end was so close, and I would like to have it noted that I greatly appreciated the contribution that Jamie made to the people in country South Australia and the Liberal Party in this state. I extend my condolences to his family.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Administrative Services):** I also would like to support the motion. Jamie Irwin was a wonderful person, and I endorse all the comments that have been made by all the previous speakers. I found Jamie to be very fair and genuine, a person who was always easy to approach, someone with whom you could

converse on a whole range of topics. Clearly, he cared for people across the board, no matter where you came from or what you did. The way in which he went about his business, particularly in parliament where I had most of my dealings with him, was an enjoyment—he was a pleasure to work with.

In his important role as President of the Legislative Council I had some dealings with him. As has already been said, he was easy and fair to work with, and he always gave you an audience; I do not think you could ask for much more than that. We discussed a whole range of topics, but the one that we spoke most about was our shared love of sport. He had a particular passion for cricket and football, and he enjoyed many other sports as well. I quite often saw him at Adelaide Oval at the cricket or the football, but I think I most often saw him at the test matches and one-day matches, and I know he very much enjoyed Adelaide Oval, as do most of us.

I think he has left a very healthy mark on not only this parliament but the broader community. Others who know him far better than I have spoken of the range of activities in which he was involved, but the thing we feel most sad about is that he has had such little time in retirement. He made such a strong contribution to the parliament and the broader community and it would have been much more pleasurable for everybody if he had had many more years in which to enjoy his retirement, as he deserved.

I pass on my sympathies to his family. They can be confident that he has left us as a much better community than that which existed before Jamie came along through his dealings with local government, the community and the parliament. He made a significant contribution in all areas in which he was involved. I join with all members in saying what a pleasure it was to know Jamie Irwin. He was a genuine person, someone who cared for people.

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop):** It is with some sadness that I join in this condolence motion for the late Jamie Irwin. I first met Jamie in the 1980s when I became actively involved in the Liberal Party in the South-East. Obviously, Jamie was very active in the Liberal Party in the South-East, and I guess our relationship grew out of our shared concern for the South-East. Jamie loved things rural: particularly farmers and farming. When I first met him he struck me as a gentleman in the real sense of the word. A number of members have already talked about his strong sense of values, his high morals and ethics, his integrity and his dignity. They have also reflected on his belief in the institutions which underpin our culture and society—although we might not agree with all of them: his belief in the monarchy and the Westminster system of parliament, his faith, and his love for his church. The Attorney also talked about his strong belief in the importance of the rule of law.

Jamie was a gentleman in the real sense of the word, a man who will be sadly missed. I just said that he had a great love for country people and things country. Within the Liberal Party he was a very strong supporter of our Rural and Regional Council. Rarely did I attend a Rural and Regional Council meeting at which Jamie was not present. He was always keen to be a member of the panel, to take questions from the floor and to give an insight into what his party (the Liberal Party) was doing in the parliament.

I worked with Jamie a number of times throughout my electorate in the South-East, and I attended many branch meetings over the years with Jamie. It was quite good to be

at a branch meeting with Jamie, particularly when there was a controversial issue going around. Jamie, because of his very nature, was very adept at disarming people who wanted to have a piece of him or myself or any other member who had put their head through the door. He was very good at that and I gained a lot of pleasure through working with Jamie in those areas. As luck would have it, I was in Keith on Friday evening when I received the news of Jamie's death. I was at a cultural event in Keith, in my electorate, the town that Jamie and Bin called home for many years. I know that there will be a lot of people in Keith who will be very sad at the passing of Jamie Irwin. He will be remembered for a long time in that area. I add my condolences to those to be passed on to his wife Bin, and his three sons James, Angus and Campbell, and also from my wife, Leonie, and all the people not just of the Keith district but all of the South-East, where Jamie did a lot of good work.

**The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW (Bright):** It is with some sadness that I, too, join with my colleagues to speak to this condolence motion for Jamie Irwin, a man I was proud to call my friend. Jamie Irwin was a decent, honest and proud man, a man who was a strong Christian, a man who loved his family, a man who respected those around him and a man who respected life itself. I had the privilege of talking to Jamie not very long ago. The doctor's diagnosis had not been good, and in a bid to extend life he had been on a trip overseas to try out a more radical method of medical treatment in the hope that it may prolong his life. He was fairly optimistic about the chances and said to me that if it worked he might go overseas again towards the end of this year or the beginning of next year and, if it did not work, he would not be around to make that decision. Regrettably, sir, it would appear that the treatment he had did not work.

I first met Jamie Irwin in 1985 when he was a candidate for the Legislative Council and he was also assisting in the campaign for the new seat of Bright, which was then being contested by the member for Glenelg, John Mathwin. Later, in 1988, Jamie became my campaign manager for the seat of Bright, a seat we were delighted to win from the Labor Party in 1989 and Jamie partied as hard as any of us that night in being able to win that seat. He was again my campaign manager for the 1993 election, and when it became pretty obvious that it was an election that the Liberal Party would fairly comfortably win he took it upon himself to also manage the campaign for Lorraine Rosenberg, for the seat of Kaurna, a seat that we also won in that election from the Labor Party. The efforts that Jamie Irwin made to manage campaigns of marginally held seats were enormous and in that way, too, he made a significant contribution to the Liberal Party and to the governance of the state.

I was also privileged to work very closely with Jamie during my time as minister for correctional services and minister for emergency services when Jamie worked with me as parliamentary secretary. During that time he worked on a number of projects, one being a particularly special project. He and I were both disappointed at the time that it was not agreed to by the cabinet of the day but, in fact, was agreed to by the subsequent cabinet, and that was a system of fairer funding for our emergency services. It was Jamie Irwin who chaired the meetings that involved the Insurance Council of Australia, the Local Government Association and the emergency service agencies, as we endeavoured to put in place a fairer, more equitable funding system for emergency services.

Jamie was very passionate about the State Emergency Services, about the Country Fire Service, about Surf Life Saving and about the various sea rescue squadrons. He believed passionately that the existing system of funding was an unfair one. The system that he proposed and put forward, had it been fully adopted, would have been the emergency services levy as we know it today, at about the funding level it is today, with one significant difference: it would have been collected by local government (and, in fact, it had agreed to do so). So, it was always a source of frustration to him and I that that latter part of the intended system was not taken up. However, the emergency services levy system which is in place today has within it a lot of Jamie's work. It has delivered fairer funding for the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Service, and those groups are better able to be provided with equipment and resources, which, frankly, they should have had many years earlier.

Jamie Irwin will be sadly missed by many of the people in the electorate of Bright. He formed a very close working relationship with many people in our community through local government, different community groups and the branch membership. I know that he also will be sadly missed by many in our emergency services because as parliamentary secretary he regularly used to officiate on behalf of the government and he made many good friends. He is a man who will be sadly missed.

It is perhaps a sobering thought for me to reflect on the fact that, of the five members of parliament who closely assisted me in my entry into parliament in 1989, three have passed away within the last 12 months: John Mathwin, Ted Chapman and now Jamie Irwin. It is a sobering thought for me, because I am reminded how little time in retirement each of those men had, and it is something that, perhaps, as members of parliament, we all ought reflect upon. We work long hours and we sacrifice a significant portion of our family life in representing our constituents. I at least am retiring at the next election, and I hope that I have a few more years of retirement from politics in another life than, regrettably, the three recently departed colleagues whom I mentioned. My wife Penny and I and the branch members of Hallett Cove, O'Sullivan Beach and Brighton extend our condolences to Bin, James, Angus and Campbell and their families on their loss.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I also rise to express my sorrow at the passing of Jamie Irwin. He was a man who perhaps more than any epitomised the need of some individuals to give to the community and to give community service throughout their lives. He was a gentleman whose life had perhaps been shaped by the activity of his father. I know that he had great respect for the local government involvement of Sir James Campbell Irwin in the Adelaide City Council and in the role of Lord Mayor. Throughout his life one of his greatest passions was, indeed, for local government, and the experience he gained in chairing the District Council of Tatiara was, perhaps, an experience that helped him in this place and in another place. He particularly was driven by respect for the independence of local government, and the only time when I suspect he was tempted to cross the floor and criticise his own party was when he saw that local government was being affected by a decision made in this place.

In all his dealings with others he was honourable. It has been said by many people that the word 'honourable' could

not have been used in a more respectful or relevant manner to describe him. My experiences of him were always in the context of local government or the arts. Little has been mentioned about his involvement in the arts and his attendance at so many functions and support for so many organisations in this city. However, I shall remember him most for his support for local councils. The District Council of Tatiara (it may surprise people) always has been an innovative council. It has always had good leadership and has had good members locally. I think the legacy he left that council is very significant, as much as the legacy he has left in this place and another place. I offer my condolences to his family—to Bin, James, Angus and Campbell. He will be sorely missed. He is a man like no other I have known.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** I wish to add my condolences and support the motion of the Premier and supported by my leader. We share Bin's and the boys' (James, Angus and Campbell) loss today. He was a good friend, especially to me. Along with a sense of loss, we also feel a sense of injustice. He was a lovely gentleman, respected by all, now taken early—too early. As has been said, too many of our colleagues in this place seem to be denied their just retirement, like the late Hon. Gordon Bruce, taken before the rewards of retirement, and the member for Bright has just listed three others. My late father and my mother and our family had the highest regard for Jamie Irwin. My mother, who is in hospital at the moment, just could not believe that he had gone.

He was very well known in his younger days, as the member for Stuart just said, when he worked on various properties in the Mid North, particularly on the sheep studs. He was a great stud man, particularly with the Hawker family. He was a very enthusiastic and energetic footballer. He was a very rugged competitor. He was very competitive and a great team player. A lot of people still remember meeting Jamie Irwin on the football field, and some would still feel the pain because he gave it everything. Like everything he did, he gave football everything. Everyone knew him, and they still remember him. Jamie and I had a lot to do with each other before we came in here, mainly in the Liberal Party.

He was the rural chairman before me, and he always gave me good advice and support. He worked hard for the party. As has been said, he looked after the candidates in marginal seats. I remember the support for Lorraine Rosenberg, as mentioned by the member for Kaurna. I was down there and, yes, I was in the Daimler, too. It was a blue Daimler, which indeed belonged to his father. I think that was more the point; he kept it because it had belonged to his father. It was a treasured thing. Even when it broke down in Murray Bridge, he fixed it up because it was a memory of his dad. It was a great car. Jamie never changed, even after being elected here in 1985. He looked after me when I got here in 1990—

*The Hon. G.M. Gunn interjecting:*

**Mr VENNING:** The member for Stuart says that that was difficult. Well, what the member for Stuart could not do the Hon. Jamie Irwin did. They both have different characters, but certainly they are very valued friends. Jamie was active in rural affairs of the Liberal Party right to the end. He was a regular contributor to today's Liberal Rural Council, particularly to the bulletins that we regularly put out. As has been said, Jamie was a very parochial South Australian, and everything good that was South Australia, and it was for this reason he set up the Parliamentary Wine Club. Many people

might smile and ask why a person like Jamie, who would not be seen as a heavy drinker, or anything like that, set up this wine club. It was for the conviviality and wine appreciation, and to build up the South Australian parliament stocks of aged quality wine. As the President of the Legislative Council he could not understand why, when he was entertaining special guests from overseas, he could not put his hand on a decent aged red. He sought to address that and it has been addressed, and the parliament now does have reasonable stocks, even though we have to watch it carefully because members like to get into it pretty heavily, especially come Christmas time—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr VENNING:** Yes, buy them for gifts. I am currently the Chairman of the wine club, and the only reason I took on that role was because Jamie asked me to, and he did that in writing. It was a formal letter, and I have kept that letter. I really could not refuse. He was a true gentleman. He was genuine, as has been said, totally trustful and helpful. To Bin and the boys, on behalf of my wife, Kay, and our family, I express our heartfelt condolences. We were all shocked to hear of his passing and we are thinking of you and his beloved family. To know him was a pleasure. Vale Jamie Irwin.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel):** I, too, speak in support of the motion, with a keen sense of sadness and sorrow. The title of honourable earned by Jamie I think was most fitting of the man. Jamie was honourable in every sense of that word. He was a decent, honest, caring and compassionate person, respected by everyone he met and had dealings with. Jamie was a man of the highest principles and integrity. The Irwins have been close family friends of ours for many years. Jamie and Bin were and are close friends of my father and mother, and their sons are friends of mine, and of my brother. Roger spent time with Jamie in his last days, so, I speak to this not only as a current member of this place but also as a friend. Jamie gave me very good advice, which assisted me greatly in my endeavours in being successfully elected to this place.

As we know, Jamie had a long and distinguished parliamentary career with the pinnacle being his election as president of the Legislative Council. He was also a true Liberal to the core. Jamie was a devout Christian and on Friday went to the Lord. On behalf of my family, I extend our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathies to Bin, Oigle, Gus and Cam.

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** I, too, rise to support this motion. I will be brief, not only because so much has already been said but also because one only had to know Jamie Irwin briefly to know that he was a man of integrity and faith, and a man whom you could immediately respect. I am grateful for the privilege of knowing him, of working with him and of knowing him as a friend. To his wife, Bin, his sons, and all their family, our prayers and thoughts are with you all during this period of great loss.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS (Hammond):** I join with other members in supporting the proposition put by the Premier. I did not know Jamie Irwin much at all before becoming a member of this place. I guess that that is not surprising as prior to that time I lived at Athelstone whereas he lived at Keith, and even though we joined the Liberal Party at about the same time in the mid-60s, I had only fleetingly met him.

I agree with the view that has been expressed by other honourable members that, having had the title 'honourable' conferred upon him as a consequence of being elected to the Legislative Council, no-one in the same position would be any more worthy of it than Jamie Irwin. His parents, of course, were proud of him as a son, and his family, no doubt, were proud of him as husband and father, and I join with honourable members in offering them our condolences.

He contested preselection for the seat of Mallee in 1978 and 1979, and that contest—honourable members may recall, if they did not otherwise know—was on 19 February 1979, four days after Don Dunstan resigned from this place. I met him during that preselection campaign because we were both candidates of the ten who contested preselection for endorsement of the Liberal Party for the seat of Mallee, as it was then known. It is probably fortunate for some, certainly for me, that the seat of Mallee was so diverse and so eclectic that nobody could claim to have local knowledge, local endorsement and insight as to what the Liberal Party and the community in that electorate needed. It extended from Strathalbyn to Millicent, from Blanchetown through Pinnaroo to Keith and Wirrega. Jamie lived on a property not far from Keith.

He spent his time in that community doing things that he believed needed to be done, and he set a fine example to others around him in the process. The Keith Hospital was outstanding in that respect and, had it not been for bloody-minded politicians, that hospital, being a private hospital which belonged to all the people in the community of Keith, should have remained a community hospital and properly funded as such. However, the bureaucracy hated it and decided to do everything it could to destroy it. In spite of that, and the people whom Jamie inspired to work with him, that hospital remained serving the people of Keith and providing free medical care to those who could not afford to pay for it for many years. The community did that—not the health commission and its predecessors nor the politicians of either state or federal parliaments. It ought to have been allowed to continue in that role, for it was a fine example of the way communities should accept responsibility for themselves and not expect that someone else would hand it out.

I make those points because he was an outstanding chairman of the board of that institution and he put a lot of time into it. It was through that that he won a great deal of respect throughout the Tatiara region and, ultimately, he became not just a councillor but chairman of the Tatiara District Council. He was ably supported in that role, whatever it was that he did in public life and in his private life, by Bin, his wife.

I suppose it is quaint to say that he shared almost identical values to me, and, of those 10 people contesting preselection, one would have thought that it would be perhaps either Jamie Irwin or Peter Lewis contesting the final ballot for that preselection with someone having different philosophical values. That was not the case. The last ballot was between Jamie Irwin and Peter Lewis. We were both members of the Samuel Griffith Society. He did not take much encouragement from me to join. We are both committed to the concept of constitutional monarchy and the doctrine of the separation of powers. We were both staunch Christians and members of the Anglican Church—

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** And the Diocese of the Murray.

**The Hon. I.P. Lewis:** During the time that he lived in Keith, he was in the Diocese of the Murray and, of course, in the Diocese of Adelaide after his move from Kongal to

Adelaide not long after his father died. Almost immediately, he became president of the state electorate committee in the electorate which I had the honour and responsibility to represent. There was no acrimony in the man about the fact that he had not succeeded in winning endorsement. Nonetheless, he saw the need, regardless of whether or not he won, simply to support someone after he was well satisfied that I had the integrity to be worthy of that support, and his support for me was unwavering for the rest of his life. Even very recently, he encouraged me to continue to stick to the values which I had enunciated in those circumstances in which I was being criticised. I, too, throughout the time that I have known him, equally supported him into higher office wherever that was possible, both into the state council and the executive committee of the Liberal Party and as the chairman of the Liberal Party's rural committee and then council.

In the role which he undertook—vital but thankless, almost so—as the chairperson of the Murray-Mallee Strategic Task Force, a role which has been taken on until recently by the Hon. Carmel Zollo, following his retirement from it, it has been vital to the communities of the electorate of that region known as the Mallee because it enabled those people living there to have, through the organisation of the strategic task force, a voice to government and its agencies independent of the voice of a politician or of local government, saying what it felt like to be affected—indeed, often afflicted—by the decisions taken by bureaucracy elsewhere and not understanding the impact which those decisions had upon the people in the communities in which they were living.

Jamie understood that. He stood for sound principles, as other honourable members have attested. It did not matter who you were and what you did, you were always treated decently and respectfully by Jamie. I never saw him disregard or snub anyone at any time throughout the years I knew him. He always listened to sound argument, but quickly, politely and decently told people they were either mistaken in fact or unsound in the basis of their argument if he disagreed for either of those reasons, but not otherwise; he was never acrimonious. He was an outstanding example: a gentleman's gentleman; nature's gentleman; and an Australian gentleman. Even though he had experience of life through the household created by his parents that took him from Australia to other places and to other experiences, he was, nonetheless, one of us. We will all miss him, and I miss him keenly.

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** I also want to pay my respects to Jamie Irwin's family. I worked with him on the JPSC for a period of time, and I found him to be a really nice man, a gentle man and a gentleman. As the member for Hammond has said, he would, with respect, listen to other people's points of view and then, just as respectfully, disagree with them. I was very sorry to hear of his illness, and I was very sorry this morning to hear of his passing. He was a very pleasant man. I think this place will be poorer for his leaving us.

**The SPEAKER:** Jamie's death is a very sad loss. I regarded him as a gentleman in the true and full sense of that word. He was a person of the highest integrity, full of decency, and we are all the poorer as a result of his passing. I will convey the condolence motion to Bin, James, Angus, Campbell and all the other family members.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

*[Sitting suspended from 3.04 to 3.10 p.m.]*

### FERRY SERVICES, KANGAROO ISLAND

A petition signed by 592 residents of South Australia and interstate, requesting the house to urge the government to remove the annual \$400 000 increase in port charges imposed on ferry services to Kangaroo Island which unfairly impacts on the people of Kangaroo Island, was presented by the Hon. D.C. Brown.

Petition received.

### LAND TAX

A petition signed by 28 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to provide immediate land tax relief through the reform of the current land tax system, was presented by Dr McFetridge.

Petition received.

### ROAD SAFETY

A petition signed by 459 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to investigate all reasonable means of urgently improving the safety of the roundabout located adjacent to the Tea Tree Plaza and Modbury Public Hospital, particularly, the installation of traffic lights, was presented by Ms Bedford.

Petition received.

### QUESTIONS

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the written answers to the following questions on the as detailed in the *Notice Paper*, as detailed in the schedule I now table, be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 75, 268, 379, 468, 492, 508, 509, 515, 518, 523, 530, 547, 548, 550, 554, 557, 567, 570, 572, 573, 575, 577 to 584, 586 to 589; and I direct that answers to questions without notice be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

### HELICOPTER EMERGENCY SERVICE

#### 75. **The Hon. W.A. MATTHEW:**

1. What were the details of all cost recovery and sponsorship relating to the two helicopter based emergency service in 2003-04 and what are the projected details of the three helicopter based service to commence in 2004-05?

2. Will the third helicopter be a contracted or Government owned service, will the pilots be contracted or Government employees and when will this additional service commence?

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The Minister for Emergency Services provides the following information:

1. Recoveries, contributions and sponsorship for 2003-04 totalled \$2.102 million; this comprised:

- user agency recoveries of \$0.0650 million—from the Department of Human Services, SA Police Department, SA Country Fire Service and SA Ambulance Service;
- contributions of \$1.282 million—from the Community Emergency Service Fund and the Motor Accident Commission;
- sponsorship funding of \$0.170 million—from major sponsor Adelaide Bank.

Recoveries for 2004-05 are expected to total \$2.13 million, made up of \$0.669 million user agency recoveries, \$0.499 million from the Community Emergency Service Fund, \$0.794 million Motor Accident Commission contribution and \$0.170 million Adelaide Bank sponsorship.

Recoveries for 2005-06 are expected to total \$2.24 million, made up of \$0.690 million user agency recoveries, \$0.512 million from the Community Emergency Service Fund, \$0.795 million Motor Accident Commission contribution and \$0.240 million Adelaide Bank sponsorship.

2. Australian Helicopters Pty Ltd has been contracted to provide a Rescue Helicopter Service for an initial 7-year period. The new ser-

vice is expected to commence early December 2005. The helicopters will be piloted by Australian Helicopter staff.

The new contracted service provides the Government with an expanded and more flexible helicopter service. Three helicopters will be available on a permanent basis, (a small, medium and large), that will increase the capacity for medical retrievals and winch rescues, with a further helicopter available for firebombing activity during the fire season. Back-up arrangements will also be improved when the regular helicopters are out of action.

### ADELAIDE FESTIVAL CENTRE

268. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** With respect to the findings contained in the Auditor-General's Agency Audit Report 2003-04 regarding the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust—

- (a) what are the instances where established policies and procedures have not been consistently applied;
- (b) what important control processes did not have an adequate independent review necessary for the segregation of duties;
- (c) why weren't additional ticketing system controls improved upon over the previous year;
- (d) why weren't the control weaknesses raised in the previous year completely addressed; and
- (e) what is the reason for the 44 per cent increase in the deficit from ordinary activities to \$3.6 million in 2003-04?

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

(a) The following areas were identified as requiring improvement in adherence to existing policies and procedures:

- Subsidiary system reconciliations including:
  - BASS accounts payable and accounts receivable
  - AFCT accounts payable and accounts receivable
- Make sheets as used by the Client Services area
- Management trail approvals and alterations for event build
- Approvals for changes to user access in the BASS system
- Complimentary and zero-priced tickets
- Settlement calculations
- EFT payments
- Timely return of bona-fide certificate
- Purchasing and financial delegations

(b) The following areas were identified by the Auditor-General as not having adequate independent review necessary for segregation of duties:

- Performance of Micropay payroll system to general ledger reconciliation
- Level of BASS IT access
- Voided tickets review
- Promoter bank account details
- Daily reconciliation between sales and promoter payments
- Monthly reconciliations of BASS clearing account
- BASS bank account reconciliation
- Accuracy of additional theatre hire contract charges
- Independent review of expenditure processing
- Reconciliation between EFT payments and MPAP
- Funds transfer payments
- Review of changes to vendor masterfile

(c) Additional ticketing system controls had not been improved over the previous year (2003-04) because, at the time that the Auditor's preferred additional ticketing system controls were brought to the attention of the Trust, the Trust's budget had been set for 2003-04 and there had been no allocation of resources to this issue.

The Trust has subsequently engaged independent consultants to advise on how the controls may be implemented while still allowing for the effective operation of the system.

(d) The AFCT has been working with the Auditor-General's officers over several years, and has implemented many new policies and procedures to improve the control environment within the AFCT and taking into account the resource requirements. The AFCT acknowledges that, to date, it has not been possible to address all matters raised by the Auditor-General.

In order to further advance the improvement process, the Trust, through its Finance and Audit Committee, has established a status of agreed actions paper that is monitored by the committee on a monthly basis. This process ensures that all matters brought to the Trust's attention by the Auditor-General are prioritised, an action agreed, the responsibility allocated and a



timeline for action established. This process will help to ensure the appropriate allocation of limited resources to deal with the audit issues, based on the risk incurred from non-compliance.

- (e) In 2002-03, the AFCT reported a deficit of \$2.482 million. In 2003-04, the deficit increased by \$1.143 million.

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

379. **Mr HANNA:** Will there be any grants in 2005 for research and development in the area of sustainable energy and if so, when and how much will be allocated?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The Government has acted upon Recommendation 160 of the Layton Report, and has sought a legal opinion in relation to the applicability of the *Children's Protection Act, 1993* to children and their families in immigration detention. The legal opinion is protected by privilege and is not available for public dissemination. It is consistent with previous advice used to draft the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) in 2001.

This Memorandum of Understanding, delineates the roles of DIMIA and the South Australian Government, and identifies that DIMIA has the ultimate duty of care and responsibility for the welfare of those in detention. The Government has maintained its legal responsibility to investigate child protection concerns for children in immigration detention and advise the Commonwealth as to appropriate interventions.

### COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND COMMERCE

468. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What base level of funding will be provided to the Council for International Trade and Commerce South Australia over the next three years and how much of this funding will be provided for in the form of grants or programs?

2. What has been the dollar return in export sales from Government investment in Council activity since March 2002 and what is the anticipated return from this activity over the next three years?

3. What has been the total value to the South Australian economy of economic activity generated by the Council?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The Minister for Industry and Trade has provided the following information:

1. The Council for International Trade in Commerce (SA) (CITCSA) has been granted \$200,000 per annum for the next three years.

These funds will enable CITCSA to provide services to its members and to coordinate activities that may be eligible for grant funding under the Market Access Program (MAP) and South Australia Promotion Program (SAPP).

In the order of \$900,000 annually is available under MAP and SAPP. CITCSA members apply for this funding on a competitive basis, along with industry associations and individual companies.

This is in contrast to the previous CITCSA funding program, the *CITCSA Grants Scheme*, where \$275,000 annually was available for grants to CITCSA members (in addition to the funding for the CITCSA secretariat).

2. In responding to the second question, I draw the member's attention to the former *CITCSA Grants Scheme* which was the main source of CITCSA program funding from the Government prior to the introduction of MAP in 2004.

The CITCSA Grants Scheme provided CITCSA with an on-average annual funding allocation of \$275,000. The scheme supported an average of ten outbound business-matching missions and one inbound delegation per annum. It had also underpinned the introduction of about 100 South Australian enterprises per annum to international markets, and provided adjunct business for many others.

CITCSA reports show that grants from the CITCSA Grant Scheme (a total of \$655,500) for the prescribed period 2002-04, produced a total dollar return from trade of \$205 million.

CITCSA estimates that should its members receive a similar level of funding through the MAP and SAPP schemes each year, the return over the next three years (2005-08) to the South Australian economy will be \$525 million.

3. In response to the third question, I draw on the CITCSA Grants Scheme records.

CITCSA's records from 1999 to 2004 reflect average annual economic activity of \$80 million from grant scheme funds of \$275,000 per annum.

### POLICE BUDGET

492. **Mr BROKENSHIRE:** What were the budgets for the South Australia Police Department and each of its thirteen Local Service Areas in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The budgets for the South Australia Police and each of its fourteen Local Service Areas in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are provided at Table 1 and 2 respectively.

Table 1.

SAPOL (Cashbased)	2002-03 000's	2003-04 000's	2004-05 000's
Operating Payments	380,482	403,605	414,889
Investing Payments	12,008	12,986	13,772
Financing Payments	-	-	15,957
Total	392,490	416,591	444,618

The financing payment refers to repayment of SA Government contributed capital as part of the Cash alignment policy and is a once off adjustment in 2004-05.

Table 2.

Local Service Area (LSA)	2002-03 000's (Excluding sworn salaries)	2003-04 000's (Excluding sworn salaries)	2004-05 000's (Excluding sworn salaries)
Adelaide LSA	4,600	5,540	5,328
Sturt LSA	4,022	4,409	4,491
South Coast LSA	2,747	3,121	3,280
Hills Murray LSA	1,860	1,960	2,116
Riverland LSA	1,296	1,378	1,465
SouthEast LSA	1,400	1,657	1,708
Elizabeth LSA	4,081	4,398	4,734
Holden Hill LSA	3,462	3,802	4,100
Port Adelaide LSA	3,502	3,853	4,121
Barossa Yorke LSA	1,160	1,574	1,638
North East LSA	1,046	1,397	1,320
Far North LSA	1,617	2,303	2,658
Mid West LSA	974	1,096	1,106
West Coast LSA	1,181	1,524	1,520
Total	32,947	38,012	39,585

Table 2 shows each LSA's allocated budget figures.

N.B. Some expenditure items are controlled centrally, such as Sworn (Police Officers) salaries and operating capital such as Minor building works, vehicle light bar sirens, IT equipment purchases that are under \$10,000 individually such as PCs and printers. Other Equipment lines such as speed detection equipment and weaponry, etc are also excluded from the above total.

### SPRINGWOOD PARK ESTATE

508. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Is the Government considering purchasing Springwood Park Estate (which formerly belonged to Mr Andrew Garrett) and if so, why and what will be the anticipated total cost?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** The Minister for Urban Development and Planning has provided the following information:

Springwood Park Estate is a 206 hectare property in the Adelaide Hills that was previously owned by Andrew Garrett Wine Resorts Pty Ltd.

Most of the property is located within the Hills Face Zone, and it is adjacent to a number of public land holdings including Carrick Hill, Brownhill Creek Recreation Park, University of Adelaide (Waite), Eagle Quarry Mountain Bike Park and Brownhill reserve.

The Government has a strong interest in the future of the Hills Face Zone. The Planning Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide includes strategies aimed at protecting the Zone, while the Government's Hills Face Zone Review Implementation Strategy recommended a minimum of 10% per annum from the Planning and Development Fund for the strategic land acquisition, land management and conservation plans within the Zone.

With regard to the question of purchasing Springwood Park Estate, the Government is aware that as mortgagee in possession of the property, the National Australia Bank may choose to sell the property once it receives clear title to the land. I have been advised however that the National Australia Bank has not yet received clear title and as such the property is not currently on the market.

As the property is made up of a number of individual allotments, some of which have quite significant improvements, the Bank may choose to sell the property as a single land holding, or as individual allotments.

Only after the Bank has determined whether it will sell the land, and if so, how the property will be offered on the market, will the Government be in a position to consider the merit of purchasing all or part of Springwood Park Estate, and what the anticipated cost of such a purchase might be.

#### BROWNHILL AND KESWICK CREEKS

##### 509. Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:

1. What role will the Government play in flood mitigation given its decision to abandon the Brownhill Creek and Keswick Creek Flood PAR?

2. What will be Government's potential liability in the event of a major flood in metropolitan Adelaide?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The Minister for Urban Development & Planning and the Minister for Environment & Conservation have provided the following information:

The Brownhill and Keswick Creeks Flood Plain PAR was introduced on interim operation on 11 June 2004 following a formal request from the Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board on behalf of the five affected councils—City of West Torrens, City of Unley, City of Mitcham, City of Burnside, and Adelaide City Council.

The request to undertake a Ministerial PAR, formally received in March 2003, followed the public release of the Brownhill—Keswick Creeks Flood Plain Mapping Study by the Board in February 2003. Councils and the Board considered that a PAR should be undertaken to manage the impact of new development on flooding and watercourse management in and along the Brownhill and Keswick Creek systems.

The agreement to undertake a Ministerial PAR to assist Councils and the Board was purely to provide a forum for co-ordination between the six parties. However, following lengthy deliberations on the policy content, and in the lead up to the 2004 winter season, the interim PAR was introduced as a holding measure in June 2004.

Subsequent negotiations between Councils and the Board continued to demonstrate an inability to reach an agreed policy position between the six parties. In light of this, on Friday 11 February 2005, my predecessor advised of her decision not to approve the PAR. This decision was formalised on 17 February 2005 by way of a notice in the Gazette terminating interim operation of the PAR.

The decision not to approve the PAR followed concerns raised by residents during the consultation process on the interim PAR, and a lack of agreement amongst Councils and the Catchment Board about the most desirable policy framework to guide future development. Thus the original intent of the PAR (i.e. to provide a forum for coordination) effectively dissolved.

The decision arrived at by my predecessor means that each Council will now be responsible for amending its own development plan to ensure that future development is planned in a way that recognises the location of flood prone areas taking account of individual circumstances, and in dialogue with local communities.

Since February 2005, the City of West Torrens has already received approval to introduce the policies contained in its draft Flood Prone Areas PAR, which had completed public consultation prior to the Ministerial PAR being introduced on interim operation.

This Government continues to play a role in a number of areas associated with the issue of flood mitigation. State Government has established the Urban Stormwater Initiative, which is a joint state and local government committee that provides advice to the Minister's Local Government Forum. The Urban Stormwater Initiative is working towards the allocation of responsibility and governance arrangements for stormwater management between the State Government and Local Government. The Initiative is also working towards the establishment of the necessary funding and procurement systems that will deliver the infrastructure required for effective mitigation.

The Urban Stormwater Initiative has already delivered the Urban Stormwater Management Policy for South Australia, which was recently approved by Cabinet. This policy has been developed to lead the way in which ministerial portfolios, agencies and local councils undertake programs and set priorities relating to stormwater management. It recognises and is based on the State—Local Government Relations Agreement signed by the Premier and the President of the Local Government Association in March 2004.

To demonstrate this Government's commitment to stormwater management, in 2003 it increased the dollar for dollar contribution to the Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme from \$2M to \$4M for each year up to 2007. With matching local government contributions this will provide for some \$32M to be available over this period towards the planning and delivery of stormwater infrastructure.

This Government also supports the work of the Catchment Water Management Boards in undertaking a range of stormwater mitigation initiatives as appropriate to their catchment. The Catchment Water Management Boards are currently operating under the auspices of the newly established Natural Resources Management Boards. The Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board is working with affected councils, State Government agencies and the local community to develop a Flood Management Master Plan for Brownhill and Keswick Creek catchments.

In relation to the issue of liability it is not possible to state a general legal principle regarding all cases, and will be dependent on the facts of any individual case. There are two brief points to be made however:

- i. The consideration of whether to introduce planning policy involves the exercise of a power to make what is in effect a form of delegated legislation based on often a wide range of policy considerations.
- ii. The degree of liability rests around complex legal definitions about duty of care, and issues of reasonableness and negligence. The decision about whether or not to introduce planning policy does not automatically mean that duty of care and negligence thresholds have been met.

#### BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

##### 515. Dr McFETRIDGE:

1. How much financial assistance will the State Government be allocating to the Basketball Association of South Australia in 2005-06?

2. How has the Department of Recreation and Sport assisted the Association towards developing safety codes to address public liability and indemnity issues?

##### **The Hon. J.D. HILL:**

1. In 2005-06 the State Government will allocate the following financial assistance to the Basketball Association of South Australia (BASA):

- A grant of \$240,000 through the Office for Recreation and Sport's Statewide Enhancement Program (Stream 1), and
- A grant of \$250,000 for BASA not to hold concerts at the Distinctive Homes Dome.

In addition to the grants above, the Government has a loan to BASA of approximately \$10.5 million that matures in 2020 whereby interest has been waived until 2006-07.

Further details regarding the Government's financial assistance to BASA can be found in the report of the Auditor-General that was tabled in both houses of Parliament in November 2004.

2. I have been advised that BASA has not requested assistance from or indicated to the Office for Recreation and Sport that they are experiencing any difficulty in addressing public liability or indemnity issues.

Sport in general has been able to obtain suitable insurance by utilising 'group insurance' packages provided by the larger insurance companies on a national basis. BASA access their public liability insurance through a national 'group insurance program' coordinated by Basketball Australia.

On that basis, BASA has not needed to proceed in developing Safety Codes.

In recognition of this in the last Parliamentary Session the Government passed amendments affecting Section 9 of the *Recreational Services Act*, the section that says that a recreational services provider can only modify a consumer's liability by using a code.

The revised Section 9(2) now allows a recreational services provider to use another method (e.g. a waiver) to modify liability if there is no code in place until 1 August 2007.

#### SPORT AND RECREATION, DEPARTMENT

518. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How will the Department of Sport and Recreation achieve the \$61 million efficiency dividend target from agencies in 2005-06 and over the next three years?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Of the State Government's \$61 million savings target over 2005-06 to 2008-09, \$14.7 million relates to the financial year 2005-06. Of the \$14.7 million target in that year, DAIS has been allocated \$2.25 million. This represents a required reduction in total expenditure of 0.34 per cent in DAIS' annual expenditure around \$670 million.

DAIS' Corporate Services area (Program 8) will be the focus for this savings target for the whole agency through programs to reduce costs in areas such as procurement, management of the filling of vacancies, and by seeking further efficiencies in DAIS' payment and receivable processes.

523. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** Why was the Country Athlete Award Scheme allocated only \$38,903 in 2003-04, how much was allocated in 2004-05 and how much has been budgeted in 2005-06?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** The Country Athlete Award Scheme has been allocated the same base funding of \$35,000 for each of the 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 years.

#### OFFICE OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS

530. **Dr McFETRIDGE:** How much revenue is expected to be raised from business name registrations by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs in 2005-06?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** The Attorney General has provided this advice:

For the financial year 2005-06 the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs expects to raise \$4.3 million in revenue from fees under the *Business Names Act 1996*.

#### FUNDS SA

547. **Mr HANNA:** Will the Government consider facilitating an "ethical investment" superannuation fund for public servants as an alternative option to the funds currently managed by Funds SA?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** There are several issues to consider in encouraging Funds SA to adopt a policy of "ethical investing".

Clause 7 of the Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia Act 1995 (the Funds SA Act), requires Funds SA "to achieve the highest return possible on investment of the public sector superannuation funds while having proper regard for:

- (a) the need to maintain the risks relating to investment at an acceptable level; and
- (b) the need for liquidity in the funds; and
- (c) such other matters as are prescribed by regulation.

Funds SA encourages its fund managers to emphasize appropriate ethical governance standards, implemented via proxy voting at general meetings and direct engagement with companies. To this extent ethical considerations relating to governance are actively promoted through Funds SA's current investment options.

To date, Funds SA and Super SA have reported little demand from members for the inclusion of a specific 'ethical' choice option. The cost of providing such an option must be weighed against the likely demand from members. Nevertheless, Funds SA and Super SA are monitoring this issue in the normal course of their business and will consider the provision of such a product if member demand is demonstrated.

#### TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS, NATIONAL ACCREDITATION AUTHORITY

548. **Mr HANNA:**

1. Is the Minister a shareholder (on behalf of the Government) in the National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) and if not, which Minister is?

2. Is the Minister aware of widespread concerns amongst translation and interpreting professionals about the integrity of the tests administered by NAATI and the lack of expertise within the Authority in areas of current interpreting, translation practice and assessment competence and if so, what action is being taken?

3. Is the Minister aware of an article appearing on the Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters Inc (WAITI) website alleging that it has received documentation from interpreting and translating practitioners about matters of concern with respect to compromised NAATI performance targets, systemic problems in NAATI test administration and examiner panel qualifications, competence and management and if so, will these matters be investigated?

4. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that the report of the review of quality control in NAATI's administration of tests being conducted by consultants led by Mr John Cook, will be publicly released in its complete and unabridged form?

5. What steps will the Minister take to address the growing level of concern within the profession by ensuring that expertise is introduced within NAATI in the areas of current interpreting and translation practice, modern education, training and assessment competence and professional business management and best practice?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The Minister for Multicultural Affairs has been advised as follows:

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd, (NAATI) is an independent company with all States, Territories and the Commonwealth being equal members.

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs in South Australia holds the membership for the South Australian Government. The Acting Director of Multicultural S.A. is the Minister's representative.

The review will be released publicly. Once the Minister has been advised of the contents of the report, consideration will be given to what action, if any, the Minister should take as a shareholder.

#### SOLAR HOT WATER

550. **Mr HANNA:**

1. How much has the Government's Solar Hot Water Rebate program cost to date and will the program be expanded?

2. What percentage of South Australian homes had solar hot water prior to the program and what is the current percentage?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I provide the following information:

From the commencement of the scheme on the 1 July 2001 to the 31 July 2005 just over 9,000 rebate applications have been approved. The Government has paid out approximately \$6 million in rebates for installations that will result in a reduction of approximately 23,570 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year from the South Australian residential sector.

The original budget of \$700,000 for 2002-03 was exhausted by the end of December 2002. Cabinet approved additional funding of up to \$1.3 million for the remainder of the financial year and for the following financial year 2003-04.

On the 5 March 2004, the Premier announced a four-year extension of the current Solar Hot Water Heater Rebate scheme, thereby extending the program to at least 2007-08. Funding of \$1.8 million per year has been provided in the forward estimates budget.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, March 2002 (catalogue number 4602.0) states a total of 2.6 per cent of homes in South Australia had installed solar hot water systems prior to the rebate scheme commencing in 2001.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, October 2004 (catalogue number 4614.4), a total of 3.3 per cent of homes in South Australia had installed solar hot water systems. These figures indicate an increase of approximately 25 per cent since the commencement of the rebate scheme.

#### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

554. **The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** Is it the Government's intention to proclaim marine protected areas in the Upper Spencer Gulf and if so, will there be further public consultation and who will be defining the boundaries of these proposed protected areas?

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

Of the 19 marine protected areas (also known as marine parks) planned for South Australia by 2010, two are proposed to be located in the Upper Spencer Gulf, in the waters adjacent to Whyalla and Cowell. At this time, however, these are only proposed locations and the boundaries of these proposed marine parks have not been determined and broad community consultation has yet to commence.

The Encounter Marine Park, located between the Murray Mouth and Kangaroo Island, is the first of the 19 new marine parks to be developed and, as such, will inform the development of proposed Marine Parks legislation, including the process for community and stakeholder consultation in the development of zoning arrangements. This new legislation is currently being drafted and should be released for public comment later this year.

Once the new Marine Parks legislation is in place, the Encounter Marine Park will be finalised and work will commence on developing the other 18 proposed marine parks around the State.

Sound scientific advice will be essential in selecting specific areas to be declared as marine parks, to ensure that representative

samples of South Australia's diverse and unique marine environments are included. To provide me with expert independent scientific advice on suitable marine park boundaries, I have established a Scientific Working Group, which includes nine of South Australia's pre-eminent marine scientists.

Furthermore, I have recently established a skills-based Marine Advisory Committee to provide me with independent advice on the development of marine parks and other marine initiatives. This committee has a wide range of skills and an understanding of industry, conservation and recreation requirements relating to the marine environment.

Importantly, boundary selection is only the initial stage in establishing effective marine parks. Following this stage, there will be an extensive period of information gathering and community engagement, which will be instrumental in developing a multiple-use zoning arrangement for each marine park. As part of this process it is proposed that there will be two formal periods of public consultation, where interested persons will be invited to make written submissions to the process. On this basis, I can assure stakeholder groups and local communities that there will be considerable opportunity for input and involvement during the development of future marine parks.

#### TRAFFIC CAMERA MONITORING VEHICLES

557. **The Hon. G.M. GUNN:** Which authorities have access to the images taken by the Departmental traffic camera monitoring vehicles on the Port Augusta bridge, which vehicle categories are mainly monitored, are the images made available to other Government agencies and what criteria is in place to ensure the material gathered is used by authorised officers?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLÓN:** I provide the following information: The cameras on the Port Augusta bridge are part of a camera network associated with the Safe-T-Cam system managed jointly between the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) and the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA) in New South Wales. This Safe-T-Cam system monitors heavy vehicle movements within and across both states. Only Transport Safety Compliance Officers from DTEI and the RTA have access to the photographs taken by these cameras although from time to time SAPOL may be given access to this data in response to a specific request. Access to the data is restricted to only authorised officers via password security protocols.

#### MARKET EXPORT PROGRAM

567. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:**

1. What base level of funding will be provided to support the Market Export Program over the next four years, and how much of this funding will be provided in the form of grants and programs?

2. How many enquiries and applications have been received for Program assistance, and how many applicants have been successful?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** The Minister for Industry and Trade has provided the following information:

1. I assume the honourable member is referring to the Market Access Program (MAP). MAP was introduced in July 2004 and provides grants to eligible South Australian exporters. The funding available under this program is \$700,000 per annum.

2. MAP has received 245 applications for grants, with 150 successful applicants.

#### ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

570. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the expenditure details of the 2006 Adelaide Festival, how much of this funding will be provided for the 2006 Writers Week and what proportion of total funding does this represent?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following:

The total operating budget for the 2006 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts is \$13.89 million. This figure comprises \$4.14 million operating costs; \$1.56 million marketing costs; and \$8.91 million program costs.

The budget for 2006 Writers' Week is \$606,000, representing 9.5 per cent of the State Government of SA's \$6.4 million biennial operating grant provided through Arts SA.

#### NEW INITIATIVES FUNDING

572. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How will the "New Initiatives" funding outlined in the 2005-06 Budget be spent by the South Australian Museum, State Library, Adelaide Fringe and Artlab, respectively?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following: Budget paper 3 outlines 'Budget initiatives' for 2005-06.

The South Australian Museum has been allocated \$500,000 per year for the next two years to restore its Pacific Cultures Gallery to its original state. The Pacific Cultures Gallery holds one of the most comprehensive and important ethnographic collections associated with Melanesia.

The State Library has been allocated additional operating resources of \$250,000 per year; this is estimated to increase to \$270,000 by 2008-09. This money is required following completion of the State Library redevelopment project (completed in 2004) that significantly increased the size and operations of the State Library. This has created a need for the provision of additional operating funding for accommodation costs such as water, gas and storage.

The Adelaide Fringe Festival will be provided with an additional \$200,000 of funding in 2005-06 with ongoing funding of \$150,000 per year from 2006-07 onwards. This funding will allow the Fringe to continue to provide a prestigious event that adds a different dimension to the city's cultural scene at Festival time and provides opportunities for both established and emerging artists to reach new audiences.

This additional funding will cover such costs as salaries and wages, utilities, third party insurance, telephone charges and venue hire charges.

Artlab will be provided with additional funding of \$100,000 per year. This funding enables Artlab to sustain its rare skills base and to provide vital art and heritage conservation services to the North Terrace Institutions, other government institutions and private clients both here in South Australia, interstate and overseas.

Redevelopment works at the Art Gallery, the SA Museum and the State Library have resulted in significant increases in their exhibition spaces and programs, with a consequent increasing demand for Artlab's conservation services (preparation for exhibitions, as well as conservation of works).

#### ARTS SUMMIT INITIATIVES

573. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What specific Arts Summit initiatives will be funded under the \$0.6 million allocated for that purpose?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following:

The funds, which comprise \$300,000 for each of the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years, are directed to:

- \$150,000 for an Out of the Square metropolitan arts strategy, a collaborative enterprise among Adelaide's metropolitan arts centres to present South Australian artists and companies to audiences in our suburbs. *Out of the Square* was initiated by Golden Grove Arts Centre in 2003 and now includes six centres (Cities of Marion, Tea Tree Gully, Onkaparinga, Playford, Port Adelaide Enfield and West Torrens).
- \$50,000 for the development of a coordinated state-wide Indigenous Arts Strategy in partnership with Tandanya to support artists in the creative development of their work in recognition of its cultural value and economic importance to the artists and their communities.
- \$100,000 to increase the value of Arts SA's major commissions program to ensure the realisation of significant new works of art by one or more South Australian artists and organisations for our State.

These new funds address the key direction from the summit, to recognise the fundamental importance of investment in the making of art by artists.

#### ADELAIDE AIRPORT

575. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much will the Government be spending on the commissioning of prominent images and artwork at the new Adelaide airport terminal and what proportion of this will be works by independent or emerging artists?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following:

The South Australian government through the SA Tourism (SATC), the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's (DPC) Special Project Division and Arts SA, has worked closely with Adelaide Airports Limited and the architects, Hassell, on the design and implementation of a series of 14 cultural panels that will span the length of the concourse in the new terminal building.

These cultural panels were conceived as a design based project, and graphic designer David Zhu, was commissioned to design the work and assume the role of project supervisor for the imple-

mentation and installation phases. In addition there were 16 illustrators and photographers involved in creating the images. They are:

- Illustrations—Gerry Wedd and Nick Lewis
- Photographs—Adam Bruzzone; Peter Canty; Peter Fisher; Peter Holderness; Richard Humphrys; Stuart Hutchison; Tony Lewis; Russell Mountford; Michael Mullen; Panache Photography; Rosco Photography; David Witts; Milton Wordley.

David was selected to undertake this project due to his high creative standards and high level of expertise in delivering large scale design based projects. There was a very tight time line to realise this implementation of this design project.

The overall project cost is \$113,580, split into two stages:

- Stage 1—Design development (\$53,000)
- Stage 2—Production and installation (\$60,580)

This expenditure covered:

- Sourcing, selection and refinement of images
- Design fees
- Illustrator's fees
- Photographer's fees
- Printing costs (the printing technique is quite unique with the image printed on both sides of a vinyl film, using a reverse print on one side).
- Scanning costs
- Copyright payments for use of images
- Installation
- Project management and supervision

The funds for the project have been contributed by:

- SA Tourism Commission \$55,000
- DPC Strategic Projects Division \$8,000
- Arts SA \$50,580.

### LIVE MUSIC FUND

577. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Who is managing the Live Music Fund, how has it been spent, how many live musicians have received support and what are the criteria for support?

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

As a major funding strategy to develop the contemporary music sector, the Live Music Fund is managed by Arts SA's Strategy, Policy and Initiatives unit.

In 2004-05, the funds were directed towards the following strategies and initiatives:

- www.musicssa.com.au managed by Ausmusic
- Musicians in Schools managed by Carclew in partnership with Ausmusic and Rockshow 101
- Fuse Festival managed by Arts Projects Australia
- Live Music Grant Program managed by Arts SA

These strategies and initiatives created a wide range of opportunities for live musicians to receive support to develop their skills, profiles and audiences.

It is impossible to give a complete number of the musicians who have been supported through these projects because much of contemporary music is a collective effort.

However, Arts SA has provided me with the following information on 2004-05 programs.

www.musicssa.com.au (\$46,000)

- There are 362 bands and solo acts registered on the site, which is estimated to be 80% of the local music industry. Of those musicians registered, 76% regularly up-date their page.
- There are 232 registered users of the on-line forum, which shares information on industry issues and promotes gigs.
- The site has 14,000 unique visits a month, which puts the site on par with high profile South Australian sites such as the 36ers and the Adelaide Crows.

#### 2004 Musicians in Schools (\$100,000)

- 136 workshops and 21 performances took place in schools.
- 17 established professional musicians were employed for an average of 9.5 days each and 29 emerging musicians were employed for an average of 3 days each.
- 45 emerging musicians participated in the workshops and programs.
- Student audience numbers were in excess of 4230.

#### 2004 Fuse managed by Arts Projects Australia (\$200,000)

- There were 58 paid registrants at the Business Conference and 16 paid registrants at the Workshops. Registrants are usually musicians or their managers.

- 24 acts performed at the Showcase and of these 12 were South Australians.

- An estimated 4000 people attended the showcase performances.

**Live Music Grant Program.** The following projects and artists were supported through the Live Music Grant program during 2004-05. In 2004, the Recording Assistance category, and its allocated funds of \$37,000 per annum, was rolled into the Live Music Program. Not all of the projects supported through funding programs always proceed—Arts SA has provided information on those it understands to have or will proceed.

- **Performance opportunities** to build musicians profiles and develop audiences for contemporary music in SA including:

- With a grant of \$26,460 Chickentown P/L put eleven of Adelaide's best bands, including *The Testeagles, I killed the Prom Queen, Illicit Eve* and *Wolf and Cub* on a centrally located stage at Big Day Out.
- With a grant of \$14,200 the Anzac long-weekend Sema4 Music Festival created performance opportunities for *The Audreys, The Dolls, The Yearlings, Shandy Butchers, the Hillbilly Hoot Allstars, Warren Milera, Tuscadero, the Rustlers, and GT Stringer*.
- With a grant of \$20,000, the Victor Harbor Music, Food, Wine and Craft Festival created performance opportunities for the following SA jazz musicians; the *Bruce Hancock Sextette, Metropolis with Jack Cooper, Caliente, Mathew Loeser, Little Black Dress* and *HarpBeat*.
- Nexus Multicultural Centre received a grant of \$20,000 for a series of cross cultural workshops and two performances.

- **Touring Grants** to extend market share and therefore the viability of careers. *The Beat Smugglers*, received, \$15,350, and *Special Patrol Group*, received \$10,000, to tour both regional South Australia and the East Coast of Australia while the 16 piece jazz funk group, *Goose*, received \$10,000 to tour New South Wales and the *Ramonettes* received \$1,853 to play at the Fifth Annual Ramone-A-thon in Brisbane.

- **Recording and marketing distribution grants** to build local, national and international profiles. Musical acts supported were *Brunatex* (\$7,500), *John Baker Duo* (\$5,638), *Aloysius Leeson* (\$3,355), *Tokyo Story* (\$2,619), *Foreshore* (\$7,500), *Hunting Season* (\$1,409), *Muscle Car* (\$3,036), *Animal Johnson* (\$7,030), *Illicit Eve* (\$7,312), *Kaleidoscope* (\$3025), *Spiral Dance* (\$5769), *The Yearlings* (\$6845), *The Pragmatics* (\$1,909), *Quartio Azul* (\$3,310), *Ramonettes* (\$400) and *Shrine of Illusion* (\$400).

- **Skills and mentoring** to build capacity. Jazz musician, Deanna Djuric, received \$6,440, to undertake a mentorship with renowned Jazz pianist Lynne Arriale and Indigenous reggae band *Kineman Karma* received \$8500 for skills development and performance opportunities. The Stinky Creek Folk Festival at Port Lincoln received \$5,000 towards performances and workshops for local musicians and Music World received \$1,963 for drum clinics also at Port Lincoln. Alistair Cranney received \$3,100 to attend the North-by-North East Music Conference in Toronto. Michael Yuen received \$15,140 for workshops and two concert seasons of music performed by South Australian electro/computer musicians

- Other interesting projects supported during 2004/2005 include:

- \$17,536 for composers, the *New Pollutants* to score and then perform, along with other musicians, a soundtrack to silent classic *Metropolis* at the 2005 Adelaide Film Festival. The New Pollutants have since been invited to take this performance to the *Edinburgh Festival*.
- Through the Airplay—Community Electronic Media category, Radio Adelaide received \$10,400 to record 10 1xhour live performances at the Wheatsheaf Hotel for later broadcast locally and interstate.

The Live Music Fund priorities were set by the Contemporary Music Forum held in March 2003. Guidelines which include criteria for the Live Music Grant program and Recording Assistance program are publicly available through Arts SA.

### ARTS SA

578. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much funding has been provided for each of the Adelaide "Festival of Ideas" since its inception?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following: Funding provided through Arts SA for each biennial Festival of Ideas is outlined in the table below:

Festival	Total operating grant	Health Promotion through the Arts funds	Once-off allocation	Total
1999	\$50,000	-	-	\$ 50,000
2001	\$100,000	\$10,000	-	\$110,000
2003	\$100,000	\$10,000	-	\$110,000
2005	\$100,000	-	\$75,000 *	\$175,000

Note this does not include other funding sources.

\* The Premier approved an additional allocation of \$75,000 toward the 2005 Adelaide Festival of Ideas in response to cost pressures and a shortfall in sponsorship revenue. In particular the reduction by the Adelaide City Council of its sponsorship from \$50,000 to \$10,000.

#### MILLICENT MUSEUM

579. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Has the Government provided any financial or other assistance to the Millicent Museum following the fire in May this year and if so, what are the details and if not, why not what assistance will be provided?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised of the following: Millicent Museum was one of several museums to be affected by fire in the past year. Museums on Eyre Peninsula were impacted by the recent bushfires in that region and there was also bushfire damage at Clayton Farm Museum near Bordertown. Government has provided \$15,000 to improve disaster preparedness in museums in these affected regions.

The History Trust of South Australian and Artlab Australia have devised Disaster Preparedness and Response workshops, which will reach a wide range of participants from community groups across the regions. Nine organisations on Eyre Peninsula and 12 in the South-East (including Millicent Museum) will attend the training workshops. They include museums, historical societies, heritage groups, one library which holds a local history collection, a local theatre and art centre and a local council (Wattle Range Council) which manages an interpretive centre. The workshops will help staff and volunteers in these museums to prepare for disasters and to know how to respond to minimise damage and maximise recovery. The first of the series on Eyre Peninsula was held on 22 September in Port Lincoln.

#### RING CYCLE

580. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What impact will the \$4 million blow-out from the *Ring* Cycle have on future State Opera budgets, activity levels and performances?

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

The unbudgeted increase in the *Ring* Cycle budget will have little significant impact on the future budget and programming of the State Opera of South Australia.

As I announced in Parliament on 12 September 2005, a loan of \$500,000 to State Opera that was associated with the *Ring*, and that was due to be repaid to Arts SA by 2006-07, will be converted to a grant. This will allow State Opera to complement the two mainstage performances programmed for each of the next three years with new and experimental works, such as they have done in the past with *Ahknaten* and *Undertow*.

In addition, State Opera will continue to produce works through its Opera Studio program.

It is pleasing to note that in 2005 there were almost 2,400 subscribers to State Opera's program, over 700 more than pre-*Ring* subscriber numbers.

#### STATE THEATRE COMPANY

581. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many productions will the State Theatre Company be able to sustain over each of the next three years and what is the future of the 'Laboratory'?

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

The State Theatre Company of South Australia program for 2006 will comprise 10 productions, of which four will be State Theatre Company productions, one will be a co-production with the Queensland Theatre Company, two will be buy-ins and three will be creative add-ons and collaborations. At this stage, there is no reason to believe that the State Theatre Company will not continue to present 10 productions in forthcoming seasons.

While the company does not refer to the 'Laboratory' as such, the current board and management of the State Theatre Company are strongly committed to developing and presenting new South Australian and Australian productions.

#### ADELAIDE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

582. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Over what time frame will the \$2.1 million allocation to support the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra be paid and what is the Government's position on the other recommendations of the Strong Report and in particular, the industrial reforms it proposes?

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

The South Australian Government's contribution of \$2.1 million to the Orchestras Review 2005 funding package for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) was paid to the ASO in June 2005. These funds have been held in the ASO's reserves awaiting the implementation of the recommendations of the Orchestras Review. Once the ASO is established as a public company limited by guarantee (as recommended by the Orchestras Review) these funds will be used to (largely) offset the ASO's accumulated net deficit position. The Australian Government's contribution to the package will be used to cover the ASO's remaining net deficit position and to meet all of the other elements of the funding package.

In the meantime, the South Australian Government's funding contribution has been earning valuable interest for the ASO to assist it in its operations in 2005.

The South Australian Government has conveyed its support for the recommendations of the Orchestras Review, as agreed by the Australian Government. However, this support is subject to a fair and equitable outcome for all orchestra employees with respect to current and future superannuation benefits.

#### STATE LIBRARY

583. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Why has there been a significant decline in non-Arts SA revenue to the State Library down from \$2 million to \$0.75 million?

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

In 2004-05 the State Library received \$1.3 million in donations for supplementary funded works associated with the State Library building redevelopment.

These donations were received from corporate bodies, community organisations and individuals to fund a series of exhibitions, including the Treasures Wall that displays items unique to South Australia's heritage, the Multimedia Wall that is an interactive audio-visual display of South Australia's history and the refreshment of the Bradman Exhibition.

The funds were also used for the construction of the Newspaper Reading Area, the renovation of the Royal Society of Arts chamber in the Institute Building and the commissioning of artworks for the main Library entrance, including three woven rugs designed by the Ernabella people.

These supplementary funded works projects have now been completed and as no new major fund raising drive has been identified, the 2005-06 budget does not provide for any major donations.

#### OPERATIONS COST PRESSURES

584. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** What are the "general operations cost pressures" at the State Library, Artlab, Fringe and History Trust, respectively?

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

The State Library, Artlab and History Trust face various cost pressures.

The State Library and the History Trust both have an obligation to continue to grow their collections. Often the costs of these items have increased at a rate greater than inflation.

The State Library and History Trust continue to promote, and have been successful in achieving increased visitation. This has occurred both physically, and in the case of the State Library, also electronically. There is the challenge of maintaining high quality level of services with increased visitation.

These institutions continue to face the cost challenge of storing a growing collection of valuable artefacts in a way that preserves them for future generations of South Australians and the state's visitors.

Artlab, which provides a conservation service to all the collecting institutions, has its own cost pressures. This includes recruiting and retaining highly specialised staff and utilising rapidly developing technology that makes its services sought by museums around Australia, and in some cases, around the world. It also has the pressures of servicing a growing local collection.

The Adelaide Fringe, operating within a biennial cycle of mounting and administering a major event that requires the employment of a large contingent of casual staff, faces the predictable cost pressures of rising labour, venue hire and other production costs.

#### CONSULTANTS

586. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Why did expenses for consultants and contractors at the Playford Centre increase from \$209,664 in 2003 to \$231,931 in 2004?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** I have received this advice:

Playford employed 2 contract investment managers during 2003 and 2004. Payments to these contractors accounted for a major portion of the cost of consultants and contractors. The principal reason for the increased expense was pay rises (including back pay) awarded in 2004.

#### PLAYFORD CENTRE

587. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** Why did expenses for legal expenses for the Playford Centre increase from \$20,567 in 2003 to \$49,137 in 2004?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** I have received this advice:

The increase in legal expenses reflects the fact that Playford had a higher number of accounts under management in 2004.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

588. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How many South Australian companies received Federal Government bio-Innovation funding in the last 12 months and what percentage of the Australian allocation did South Australian companies receive?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** I have received this advice:

The following table shows the number of Federal grants received by all South Australian companies and their percentage of the total national allocation of those grants.

Federal Innovation Grant Scheme	Number of SA companies funded	% of total Australian allocation awarded to SA companies
Commercial Ready <sup>1</sup>	2	18
BIF <sup>2</sup>	3	6
COMET <sup>3</sup>	15	19
R&D Start	8	6
Overall	28	8

All data taken from AusIndustry website, <http://www.ausindustry.gov.au>, accessed 21 September 2005. The Commercial Ready, COMET and R&D start Grant programs provide grants to a number of innovation sectors, while the BIF program (now terminated) was specific to the biotechnology sector.

<sup>1</sup> Data for the Commercial Ready program based on grants finalised in March, April, May and July-present of 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Data for the BIF program based on grants awarded in Round 6, announced November 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Data for the COMET program based on grants awarded and finalised in the 2004-05 financial year.

589. **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH:** How much funding is being transferred to or from Bio-Innovation SA by other Government Departments and Agencies?

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** I have received this advice:

The following tables outline the transfer of funds between Bio Innovation SA and other Government Departments and Agencies for the 2004-05 financial year:

Incoming funds	Amount (\$ '000)
Funds transferred from DTF via DFEEST	7,325
Outgoing funds	Amount (\$ '000)
Fees for services from other agencies	68.2
NB Amounts are GST Exclusive.	

#### CONSULTANTS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (Estimates Committee B, 16 June).

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Details of expenditure on consultants in 2004-05 are as follows:

Consultant	Amount (\$) (incl GST)	Work undertaken	Method of appointment
Mclachlan Hodge Mitchell	70,907	ARPOS Review	Waive of tender
KPA Consulting Pty Ltd	37,080	Review of Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993	Restricted Tender
Taylor Management Consulting Pty Ltd	15,112	Review DFEEST's communication systems	Waive of tender
Phillips KPA	70,372	Review of Systems Model for SA Universities	Restricted Tender
Ray Dundon	13,500	Review of Aquaculture Training	Restricted Tender
Adelaide Research & Innovation Pty Ltd	30,800	Examining Trends in Employment	Tender
Education.au Limited	11,000	Feasibility study on the establishment of a national career development centre in SA	Waive of tender

#### DFEEST, OPERATING COSTS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (Estimates Committee B, 16 June).

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** As indicated in table 2.23 of the 2005-06 budget statement, (Budget Paper 3, pages 2.38 and 2.39), the 2005-06 budget for the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology does not include any savings initiatives.

#### MENTAL HEALTH, PRISONS

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (Estimates Committee B, 16 June).

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I have received this advice:

On 30 September, 2004, I received the Office of the Public Advocate 2003-04 Annual Report, which was then tabled in Parliament on 26 October, 2004.

I have received no further advice from the Public Advocate about prisoners with impaired mental health in State prisons and neither has the Minister for Correctional Services.

#### CONSULTANTS

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE** (Estimates Committee B, 16 June).

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I have received this advice:

Please find below all expenditure on consultants in 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to me:

Agency	Name	Work	Cost \$	Method
Public Trustee	Price Waterhouse Coopers	Review of Taxation Services	32,010	Tender
Public Trustee	Price Waterhouse Coopers	AIFRS Scope Study	21,395	Specialised Services

Agency	Name	Work	Cost \$	Method
Legal Services Commission	Technology One	National Legal Aid system	51,786	National Tender
Legal Services Commission	KPMG	Business Continuity Plan	19,250	Restricted Tender
Legal Services Commission	Mr Kym Kelly	Consultancy on parole issues	7,800	Specialised Services
Legal Services Commission	Trilogy	Info Technology Plan	7,250	Restricted Tender
Courts Administration	McPhee Andrewartha Pty Ltd	CAA Exec. performance management	10,000	Tender
Courts Administration	Bill Cossey/Kym Kelly	Superior Courts Criminal Listings Review	7,013	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Terwiel-Powell	South Australian Aboriginal society info	5,000	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Jardine Llyod Thompson Pty Ltd	Internal Audit of OHSW/Injury management	11,200	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	Purchasing Index Pty Ltd	Benchmarking analysis of expenditure	19,224	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Probity Investigation Consultants	Financial & Risk Analysis of Prisoner Movement Contract provider	8,288	Shared cost with Vic and Commonwealth Government
Attorney-General's Dept	Brinkman Media	Draft SA Protective Security Manual	5,000	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	Catalyst Marketing & Communications Pty Ltd	Draft strategic communications plan	10,000	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Deloitte	Business Continuity Plan Development	8,690	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Experience Matters	Records Management self-assessment survey	36,000	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	Margaret Bonesmo	Criminal Law Consol. Act survey stages 1 & 2	40,000	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Sinclair Knight Merz	Technical assistance for Vulnerable Witness Video-conferencing	18,253	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	Precise media Management	Review of Aboriginal Justice Consultative Committee	13,289	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	Dr Robert Smith	Review of Eyre Peninsula Bushfires (Jan 2005)	24,500	Specialised Services
Attorney-General's Dept	C3Plus Pty Ltd	TOC Project	24,409	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	C3Plus Pty Ltd	SACAD project	40,728	Tender
Attorney-General's Dept	CP Henshaw & Associates Pty Ltd	SACAD project	83,456	Tender

Within the State Electoral Office, there was no expenditure on consultants in 2004-05.

#### WORKERS' INSURANCE, UNFUNDED LIABILITY

In reply to **Hon. R.G. KERIN** (11 April).

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** 'Unfunded liability' is a term only applicable to the WorkCover Insured Scheme. Outstanding liability as reported for the public sector is an actuarial assessment of the amount of money required at the 30 June of the relevant year to meet future payments on claims. Each years' workers compensation costs are budget funded within agency's appropriation and accounted for in the forward estimates.

The primary cause of the increase to the outstanding liability was a revised actuarial evaluation methodology used from 2003 that identified a previously undetected adverse trend in older claim income payments over the previous 2 to 4 years, and resulted in a significant increase over previous years, 20.4 per cent compared to an average increase of 6.8 per cent over the proceeding three years (3.2 per cent inflation adjusted). The increase for 2004 was 6.5 per cent (2.9 per cent inflation adjusted).

To improve government's performance it has:

- embraced the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission 10 year (40 per cent) reduction targets for workplace injury for 2002-12;
- adopted a public sector Workplace Safety Management Strategy for the 2004-06 period, requiring public sector agencies to adopt stretch improvement targets for this period;

- the Premier has published a Premier's Safety Commitment promoting safety as a core value in the SA public sector;
- approved a claims strategy that places additional focus on returning injured workers to work as soon as possible;
- established in 2004, a Review of Standards and Criteria for Exempt Employers in SA, with terms of reference that included specific reference to Crown exempt employers.

#### WATER USAGE

In reply to **Mr WILLIAMS** (Estimates Committee B, 21 June).

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has provided the following information:

*Last year, in answer to a question regarding the exemptions granted since the 1870s to the cities of Adelaide and Port Adelaide Enfield against charges for water usage, you told the committee that 'discussions are taking place with respect to that issue'. Can you inform the committee whether those discussions have led to any conclusion over the past 12 months?*

On 9 March 2005, the Minister for Environment and Conservation announced the Government's intention to provide an annual \$1 000 000 grant to the Adelaide City Council to pay for the water that it uses to irrigate the Adelaide Park Lands. In return, the Government intends to repeal the current provision in the *Waterworks Act 1932* that allows the Council to receive, free of charge, sufficient water for watering streets, lands and buildings used exclusively for public purposes. The repeal of this provision is to be included in the proposed Adelaide Park Lands Bill, which is to be



introduced into Parliament in due course. The grant will be paid once a funding agreement is in place and the provision is repealed.

With respect to Port Adelaide Enfield Council, the Minister for Environment and Conservation has written (10 May 2005) to the Council proposing that negotiations occur on the possible repeal of the same free water arrangement for that Council in return for appropriate compensation. The Minister is currently awaiting a response from the Council.

#### BLUE SKY DEVELOPMENT

In reply to **Hon. DEAN BROWN** (Estimates Committee B, 20 June).

**The Hon. K.A. MAYWALD:** I have received this advice:

As stated in my ministerial statement on 12 September 2005, during the course of the Estimates Committee hearings I undertook to examine information provided by the member for Finnis regarding the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs actions in relation to this matter. As a result of the matters raised by the member for Finnis, I directed the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs to engage an independent person to conduct an investigation into the handling by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs of complaints made against Blue Sky Developments. The investigation was to examine whether the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs had been negligent and incompetent in the handling of complaints about Blue Sky Developments, in particular in its failure to warn consumers about serious complaints about the company; and whether the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs had acted properly in annually renewing the company's licence since 2002.

The report of that investigation has now been tabled in Parliament. The report concludes that the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs was not negligent or incompetent in the handling of complaints concerning Blue Sky Developments and in not warning consumers about complaints about the company, and that the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs acted properly in annually renewing the company's licence since 2002, in the context of its powers under the Building Work Contractors Act 1995. The report also raises issues which, as I have previously advised, I intend to consider further, including the Commissioner's powers to initiate disciplinary action and the effectiveness of those powers; compliance (including arbitration); and time frames for investigations of serious allegations.

As to the third matter raised by the Honourable Member during Estimates, I confirm that in May 2005 I asked the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs to commence a review of the Building Work Contractors Act 1995 in relation to licensing criteria. After the member for Finnis raised these further matters during Estimates, I directed the Commissioner to extend the review to consider the effectiveness of the building indemnity insurance scheme.

#### WATER USAGE

In reply to **Mr WILLIAMS** (Estimates Committee B, 21 June).

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has provided the following information:

*Last year, in answer to a question regarding the exemptions granted since the 1870s to the cities of Adelaide and Port Adelaide Enfield against charges for water usage, you told the committee that 'discussions are taking place with respect to that issue'. Can you inform the committee whether those discussions have led to any conclusion over the past 12 months?*

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With respect to Port Adelaide Enfield Council, the Minister for Environment and Conservation has written (10 May 2005) to the Council proposing that negotiations occur on the possible repeal of the same free water arrangement for that Council in return for appropriate compensation. The Minister is currently awaiting a response from the Council.

#### HOSPITALS, MOUNT GAMBIER

In reply to **Hon. DEAN BROWN** (Estimates Committee A, 17 June).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The claim lodged in the District Court by Dr Kevin Johnston against the Mount Gambier and District Health Service Inc was settled prior to the matter being listed for trial.

As the parties agreed to the inclusion of a confidentiality clause, the settlement details cannot be divulged.

#### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **Mr HANNA** (Estimates Committee A, 17 June).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The Southern Adelaide Health Service is currently developing a proposal for a primary health care centre within the Marion Council Area. This will include new accommodation for the Inner Southern Community Health Service and also space for some adult mental health services, the existing youth mental health service and also the Marion Youth Service.

Mental Health services in the community are mobile services with many services provided in people's homes. The following data on access to services is provided:

Marion Child Adolescent Mental Health Services  
2003-04 Referrals 527  
2004-05 Referrals 544  
Child Adolescent Mental Health—Youthlink service  
2003-04 Referrals 102 direct (client contact) and 53 indirect (telephone support)  
2004-05 Referrals 120 direct (client contact) and 60 indirect (telephone support)  
Marion Community Care Team  
July 2004—there were 360 consumers registered  
July 2005—there were 308 consumers registered—down from last year  
Marion Mobile Assertive Care Service  
July 2005 there are 63 clients registered which is similar to the previous year.

Budgets to these services remain as per the previous year plus an allowance for inflation. However, services will be supplemented this year through the additional \$25 million funding provided to the non government sector for support to people with mental illness in the community.

#### SETTLEMENT PAYMENT DETAILS

In reply to **Hon. DEAN BROWN** (Estimates Committee A, 17 June).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** In settling the claim both parties agreed to a confidentiality clause that prevents the release of these details.

Dr Johnston has, therefore, not been contacted with regards to releasing the amount of his settlement claim against the Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service Inc, as the confidentiality clause prohibits such a release.

#### HOSPITALS, MOUNT GAMBIER

In reply to **Hon. DEAN BROWN** (5 May).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** In 2004, a contract was established between The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) and the South East Regional Health Service Board whereby surgical services provided by TQEH surgeons to inpatients in the Mt Gambier Hospital would be remunerated on a Fee for Service (FFS) basis. This model of funding is based on the South Australian Medical Schedule of Fees for rural practitioners.

In addition to this agreement, it was also determined that outpatient services provided by TQEH surgeons to the Mt Gambier community would be aligned with the model used in country health units where outpatient services are considered as private outpatient clinic arrangements. This model is replicated within many country health units in South Australia and has been for many years – at least since the mid 1980's. It allows private outpatient consultations to be funded in accordance with private medical services using Medicare. The private outpatient service provided in this manner is viewed as an extension of the doctor's private practice. In this arrangement the consulting rooms are provided on the hospital campus as opposed to private rental accommodation. The previous surgeons operating in Mt Gambier chose to use private accommodation for their outpatient service, which is their prerogative.

As summarised in the Stokes Report, there has been a significant improvement in surgical services provided to the Mt Gambier Hospital since TQEH contract was introduced.

The State Government is not illegally obtaining Commonwealth funding through arrangements with TQEH surgeons at Mt Gambier Hospital and these arrangements are within the requirements of the Australian Health Care Agreement.

In reply to **Mr HAMILTON-SMITH** (5 May).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The Director, Labour Relations and Insurance Services, Department of Health, is instructing Crown Law on behalf of Mt Gambier Hospital in two matters lodged by doctors in the District Court.

One matter relates to contractual issues for a former doctor, the other relates to an alleged work injury by a currently engaged doctor. It would be inappropriate to provide further details on these matters as they are before the court.

To my knowledge there are no other legal proceedings by current or former engaged doctors at Mount Gambier Hospital.

### HOSPITALS, FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

In reply to **Hon. DEAN BROWN** (25 May).

**The Hon. L. STEVENS:** The only public radiotherapy service in South Australia is provided at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH). Flinders Medical Centre (FMC) does not provide radiotherapy services.

People in southern Adelaide can access radiotherapy treatment at the RAH service, or for convenience, can be referred to the private service run by the Adelaide Radiotherapy Centre, which is located within the Flinders Private Hospital complex adjacent to Flinders Medical Centre. In March 1999 when the private service was established, there was no state funding to provide an additional public radiotherapy facility or to subsidise public patients seen at the Southern Adelaide Radiotherapy Centre, as these patients could access public radiotherapy treatment at the RAH.

Adelaide Radiotherapy Centre recognises that public patients may face hardship and waives any excess fees when advised of this on an individual patient basis. However, the Centre also encourages patients to use the Australian Government's safety-net to remove any direct cost to the patient once the safety-net limit has been reached, although there will be an initial out-of-pocket expense before the limit to receive benefits is met.

The Government is committed to improving access to radiotherapy services as a priority, not only for people in the south, but also for those who live in the northern suburbs who are also required to travel to the RAH for radiotherapy. The Statewide Cancer Control Plan, currently under development, will assist in identifying a coordinated approach to the management of cancer for all South Australians.

### PETROL PRICES

In reply to **Mr BROKENSHIRE** (12 September).

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I have been advised that Mr Brokenshire is relying on one day's experience (7 September, 2005) to draw the conclusion that fuel prices in Adelaide are much higher than the Australia capital city average.

Retail petrol prices are quite volatile on a daily basis.

Information available from RAA shows that for each of the twelve months to August 2005 the average price for unleaded petrol in Adelaide has been consistently below most other capital cities, apart from Brisbane (where an 8.3 cents per litre State subsidy applies), Melbourne and Perth.

Although Adelaide prices have been higher than Melbourne prices for most of this period, in recent months, average prices in Adelaide and Melbourne have tracked each other quite closely. Adelaide prices were lower than Melbourne's in both June and August.

Compared to Sydney, Canberra, Hobart and Darwin the average price of unleaded petrol in Adelaide has been consistently lower in Adelaide over the last twelve months.

Retail petrol prices can vary from one city to another for many reasons including weekly price cycles, the level of competition in local markets and the availability of subsidies in some cities such as Brisbane.

The ACCC has identified a long list of factors that contribute to differences in the level of competition in local markets and con-

cluded that "it is not surprising therefore that there are considerable variations in petrol prices across locations." These factors include:

- Population and geographical location
- the number of wholesale suppliers
- whether the supplies are sourced directly from the terminal or through distributors
- freight and distribution costs
- the level of price support provided by the oil companies
- the types of retailers (i.e. oil majors, independents and supermarkets)
- the number of retailers and the margins set by retailers.

### FLOODING

In reply to **Mr BRINDAL** (23 June).

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Minister for Environment and Conservation has advised that:

Funding for improved stormwater management is available through the Catchment Management Subsidy Scheme. The State Government contributes \$4 million each year to this Scheme for approved projects, with a matching contribution required by councils or catchment water management boards.

Through the Urban Stormwater Initiative, a joint initiative of State and Local Government, work is underway to develop robust stormwater governance arrangements between these levels of Government, and on other issues. This initiative has led to the recent development of an Urban Stormwater Management Policy for South Australia. The next phase of this work will include consideration of State and Local Government investment arrangements in stormwater infrastructure.

Due to the nature of stormwater management arrangements in South Australia, including flood management, it is unrealistic to expect the State Government to fund all stormwater and flood mitigation works. The current arrangements whereby State and Local Government are working together to address important stormwater management issues to achieve long term benefits, represents a responsible approach.

### PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

In reply to **Mr BROKENSHIRE** (Estimates Committee A, 20 June).

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The honourable member raised the matter of the Public Private Partnership Project and sought some time frame on when the matter would be presented to the Public Works Committee. I undertook to provide the honourable member with a private briefing on the matter, which he indicated his preparedness to accept.

Crown Law advice at the time indicated that it was not necessary to refer this project to the Public Works Committee.

However, as the honourable member would be aware, a Bill is currently before Parliament which will make it mandatory for all PPP's to be referred to the Public Works Committee in the future.

### McGEE, Mr E.

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN** (2 June).

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Commissioner of Police has advised that:

On 1 June 2005 Ms Anderson gave evidence in the Royal Commission stating she had difficulty accessing the police file (highlighted on pages 776-778 and page 901 of the transcript). She claims that Sergeant Hassell, the Officer in Charge of the McGee case, was 'Holding it (*the file*) close to his chest' and that the file had been 'quarantined'.

However, Ms Anderson did clarify this by agreeing she believed that the reason for this action was to 'protect the integrity of the information that was coming forward' primarily owing to Mr McGee's status and reputation in the community. This was clarified in the Royal Commission on 2 June 2005 when Ms Anderson agreed with comments under cross examination from Mr Richard Halliday, acting for SAPOL, at page 897 of the transcript, that the term 'quarantined' and access to the file was restricted to ensure the 'integrity of the prosecution and the quality of justice that was rendered (*so*) at a later date would not be impaired by such things as leaks, rumours..' Further to this Ms Anderson states to support this statement at page 897 of the transcript '...matters involving high-profile?..That's what I was trying to say when I used the term 'quarantined'.

Ms Anderson also stated at page 901 that even though there were some things in the case that could have been done more effectively, 'in fact, we were in a better shape on this file than most prosecutions are'. This highlights that investigating police and the DPP made genuine attempts to preserve the integrity of the McGee investigation file and that police and the DPP co-operated as well as possible in the McGee prosecution.

#### CONSULTANTS

In reply to **Mr BROKENSHIRE** (Estimates Committee A, 16 June).

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** In response to the Omnibus question requesting a detailed breakdown of the expenditure on consultants in 2004-05, I refer you to the following table:

Consultant	Cost \$	Work Undertaken	Method of Appointment
Halcrow Pacific Pty Ltd	11,000	Review of rectifier-inverter equipment at Maintenance Centre	Direct negotiation
Giant 4 Solutions	15,000	Snapshot information technology review and key performance indicator design	Direct negotiation
Golder Associates	15,000	Impact of diesel spill in Lake Torrens - ecological and water sampling, monitoring and reporting	Direct negotiation
PSI Consulting	31,000	Port River Expressway Stages 2 and 3 assessment probity advice	Competitive tender
KPMG Management Consulting-SA	20,000	2004 independent verification report - Government Efficiency plan	Selective tender
Connell Wagner	9,000	Energy audits on small businesses in Adelaide City	Competitive tender
Allens Arthur Robinson and Hedderwicks	8,000	To provide legal advice on the National Gas access code	Selective tender
KPMG Management Consulting-SA	45,960	Provision of advice on Full Retail Competition	Competitive tender
Charles River Associates	41,965	Provision of advice on Origin Energy price applications	Competitive tender
Charles River Associates	8,000	National Electricity market Short Term Forward Market Analysis	Competitive tender
ACIL Tasmin Pty Ltd	62,938	Review of regulation of water and wastewater	Selective tender
SA Centre for Economic Studies	20,414	Review of the efficiency of SA Water's business costs and performance	Selective tender
Capital Financial Consultants	15,400	Preparation of "The Equity Beta for ETSA Utilities"	Direct negotiation

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL REPORTS

**The SPEAKER:** Pursuant to section 131 of the Local Government Act 1999 I lay on the table the annual reports 2004-05 for the district councils of Cleve and Ceduna.

#### ASHBOURNE, CLARKE AND ATKINSON INQUIRY

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.  
Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Whilst giving evidence to the Select Committee on the Atkinson/Ashbourne/Clarke Affair on 26 August 2005, the state's independent Auditor-General stated the following—

**An honourable member:** Here we go.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members will listen.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The Auditor-General stated:

If Ashbourne was charged, a whole lot of ministers in the past have acted in a similar way, and no prosecutorial interest was expressed in them.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I repeat:

If Ashbourne was charged, a whole lot of ministers in the past have acted in a similar way, and no prosecutorial interest was expressed in them. Their conduct has been every bit as compelling and stark as that involved here.

On 6 October, the Commissioner of Police wrote to me, and I will read the complete minute, as follows:

As previously discussed on 6 September 2005, I am concerned that matters raised by the Auditor-General which could involve the commission of criminal offences, should be referred to police for investigation prior to any examination of these matters by the Committee.

During evidence before the Committee the Auditor-General indicated that he was aware of 'a number of incidents in the past where there are factual circumstances similar to Ashbourne'.

*Mr Scalzi interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Hartley will be in serious trouble if he keeps interjecting. The minister.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Thank you, sir. I will start that paragraph again:

During evidence before the Committee the Auditor-General indicated that he was aware of 'a number of incidents in the past where there are factual circumstances similar to Ashbourne'. Given that Mr Ashbourne was charged with criminal offences, notwithstanding that he was acquitted, the other incidents the Auditor-General referred to may involve the commission of criminal offences, and I wrote requesting him to provide relevant information to enable an assessment as to whether a criminal investigation into any of these incidents is required. The Officer in Charge, Anti-Corruption Branch, has spoken to the Auditor-General, but this process has not been completed.

While the conduct of the Select Committee is entirely a matter for Parliament, my concern is that if the incidents to which the Auditor-General refers are examined before the Committee in the absence of any assessment or investigation by police, then any subsequent police investigation may be compromised.

I would be pleased to advise you when the Anti-Corruption Branch has completed their assessment of the matters raised by the Auditor-General.

I have forwarded a copy of the Commissioner's minute to the chair of the committee (Hon. Paul Holloway), and I will keep the house informed of any further developments in these investigations.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The house will come to order.

*Mr Venning interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Schubert!

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer is out of order.

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith)—

Economic and Finance Committee—53rd Report on School Bus Contracts—Government Response to

By the Minister for Families and Communities (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

Children in State Care—Commission of Inquiry—Report as to a particular matter.

### CHILDREN IN STATE CARE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY REPORT

**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:** I have just tabled the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry's report on a particular matter. The report sets out the findings of the commissioner on allegations of sexual abuse concerning a magistrate, which were publicised earlier this year. The member for Hammond and volunteers in his office have played important roles in disseminating these and other allegations in public. The allegations were extensively reported and included an allegation that a magistrate passed his son around a paedophile ring.

The commissioner conducted an extensive inquiry, interviewing numerous witnesses. The commissioner found the allegations to be untrue and went on to say that the allegations:

... are based upon hearsay information given by a youth with a likely serious mental illness and with a history of fabrication, fantasy, delusions, self justification, denial and seeking to attach blame to others. They are of perhaps the most serious nature which can be made against a father regarding his son.

The commissioner went on to observe:

The identity of the judicial officer was probably very quickly discerned by the many persons who knew A's father, his family and of the tragic illness of A.

One can only wonder at the suffering this has caused. On behalf of the government I express my sympathy to the magistrate and his family. I also thank commissioner Mullighan and his team for their careful and thorough inquiry.

### ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** I bring up the 56th report of the Economic and Finance Committee, entitled Construction Industry Training Fund.

Report received and ordered to be published.

### QUESTION TIME

#### ASHBOURNE, CLARKE AND ATKINSON INQUIRY

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney explain to the house why his version of events surrounding corruption allegations, in what is now widely known as the Ash-

bourne/Atkinson affair, is so at odds with the views of so many other people involved in the affair?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** I will briefly explain. The Attorney has consistently told the house that he was never a party to any discussions surrounding offers of board positions to Mr Ralph Clarke. Last week Mr Clarke told a parliamentary committee that the Premier's former senior adviser, Mr Randall Ashbourne, discussed with the Attorney an offer of positions on the boards of two government agencies in exchange for Mr Clarke withdrawing defamation proceedings against the Attorney. Mr Clarke told the committee that Mr Ashbourne said on a number of occasions he would have to check aspects of the proposed settlement with the Attorney. In evidence given at the Ashbourne trial the Attorney's senior adviser, Mr George Karzis, told the court he had witnessed the discussion between the Attorney and Mr Ashbourne during which Mr Ashbourne told the Attorney that Mr Clarke was willing to withdraw the legal action in exchange for government board positions. Further, the McCann report prepared for the Premier in lieu of reporting the allegations to the Anti-Corruption Branch includes an admission by Mr Ashbourne that he and the Attorney had discussed board positions for Mr Clarke.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling the Attorney, I point out that members must be careful not to pre-empt any findings that may come from a select committee, even though it is in another place. I also point out that the minister is not responsible for the views of other people. The Attorney.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank Tonto for the question. Mr Ashbourne's evidence in court, as it relates to me, accords with my understanding of the matter. Furthermore, Mr Clarke admits that he has not spoken to me; he has not communicated with me; we have not written to one another; we have not emailed one another; and we have not had a single conversation in the term of this government. So, everything that Mr Clarke says about me is hearsay and, on top of that, it is said under parliamentary privilege. Mr Clarke was asked would he say these things on oath, having refused to speak to the police, having refused to speak to the DPP and having refused to come to court to give his evidence. Mr Clarke was offered the opportunity to repeat his narrative outside parliament or to make a statutory declaration, and he refused to do so. Why would that be?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The Leader of the Opposition quotes Mr Ashbourne selectively.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Mawson!

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** He does not quote what Mr Ashbourne said in court under oath. The other thing is, the Leader of the Opposition—Tonto, to the member for Waite's Lone Ranger—does not quote the full purport of what Mr Karzis has to say. Mr Karzis is quite adamant that board and committee positions were not offered to Mr Clarke.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The house will come to order. This is a very serious matter, and members must listen.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** What has emerged from Mr Clarke's appearance—I will not dignify it with the term 'evidence'—and what Mr Lockwood told the committee, and what they agree on, is this; that the real reason Mr Clarke withdrew his defamation action against me was because he

had unanimous legal advice that it had no merit and that it was a loser, and he was too ashamed, having lost his preselection—

**Ms Chapman:** He had the guts to turn up, not like you.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, the member for Bragg!

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** He was too afraid to go back to his supporters and tell them that he had lost again.

#### HOSPITALS, MOUNT GAMBIER AND DISTRICT

**Ms BREUER (Giles):** I have the pleasure to ask the new Minister for Health his first question today, and I congratulate him on his new role. Can the minister inform the house of the performance of operating services at the Mount Gambier and District Hospital? A recent newspaper article headlined 'Health woes' stated:

The number of operations performed at Mount Gambier Hospital has fallen by 26 per cent—more than 1 000 operations, opposition health spokesman Dean Brown said yesterday. He said this was a 'direct result' of the government's failure to renew new contracts at the hospital for resident medical specialists.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The house will come to order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The house will come to order! Members who speak when the house is called to order run the risk of being named. Members are getting a little excited. I know that the pageant is coming up, but the house just needs to settle down. The Minister for Health.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health):** Thank you, Mr Speaker; and I thank the honourable member for the question. I was surprised to read in the press on the weekend the quotes articulated by the honourable member, because I was aware that, in fact, the number of operations that occurred at the Mount Gambier Hospital had increased in the last 12 months. I did some research, and, just to give the house the entire situation, let me tell members that in 2001-02 there were 3 961 operations at the Mount Gambier Hospital; in the following year that number declined to 3 321; and in 2003-04 the number was down to 2 931, and that is the figure that the member for Finnis used in his press release.

He used the 2003-04 figure compared to the 2001-02 figure. What the honourable member did not say is that there is a 2004-05 figure, which shows a 15 per cent increase in operations at the hospital to 3 367. There have been problems at the hospital. Those problems have been addressed. Three surgeons will now be resident in the area from next year, and the number of operations is starting to increase. That should demonstrate to the house, and particularly to the media, that the member for Finnis never lets the facts get in the way of a good story. In fact, it reminds me of the saying (I think it may have come from Mark Twain), 'There are lies, damn lies and statistics.' Mr Speaker, I cannot call the deputy leader a liar and I cannot call him a damn liar, but I sure as hell can call him a statistician.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The leader has not been called yet.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is out of order! The leader is waiting to ask his question.

#### LOCKWOOD, Mr G.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** Thank you for your protection, sir. Has the Premier sought and received an assurance from the member for Florey that she was not pressured by the Attorney-General to cease the employment of Mr Gary Lockwood?

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mawson will come to order.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer):** For someone with a very small ego, I must admit that I find it extremely difficult when I get such a raucous response from members opposite so keen to hear me answer a question. I would have thought that members opposite would understand that the responsibility for electorate staff is that of the Treasurer. I would have thought that members opposite, as with members on my side and, indeed, Independent members of parliament, would understand that, from time to time, issues of concern arise relating to the conduct, activities and employment status of electorate officers. I have a very cooperative and open-door approach to members of parliament to assist them in—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. This is all very interesting, but the question was not—

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

**Mr WILLIAMS:** The point of order is about relevance. The question is not about electorate office staff: it is about bullying, and it is about the ministerial code of conduct.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer needs to focus on the core of the question.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Thank you. Any issue relating to electorate officers as they relate to MPs—

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** From memory, the member for Mawson had his electorate staff doorknocking—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** No, ministerial staff.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes, he had ministerial staff doorknocking during an election campaign. I would have thought that members opposite would be very careful. They are treading on shaky ground when they start to ask about the conduct of MPs and staff. However, I will say that, from time to time, there are issues relating to MPs, the staff of MPs—

**Mr BRINDAL:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. Clearly, the Deputy Premier is reflecting on all members of this house, and that is inappropriate. I take objection. I ask the Deputy Premier to apologise and withdraw.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! It is not a point of order.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** All I am simply saying is that if a member of parliament, be it the member for Florey, be it any member opposite—

**Mr BRINDAL:** On a point of order: with great respect, sir, standing orders say that if any member takes offence to the remarks of another person he raises it to the chair, and the chair requires his apology and withdrawal.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BRINDAL:** I have objected to the words used by the Deputy Premier.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BRINDAL:** This is question time and—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley will not give a long diatribe. The exception is if it is directed at an individual member; otherwise people would be on their feet all the time objecting to something.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** In conclusion, can I say that, on the issue, the matter is also my responsibility as Minister for Police, and I can read to the house, in direct response to that question, a letter to the member for Spence. The police spoke to the Attorney-General on this matter, as it was raised by members opposite—

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** To the two members.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Sorry, to the two members of parliament, I am advised—the members for Florey and Torrens—and this is a response from the Police Commissioner to the Attorney-General:

Re: Evidence to Select Committee by Mr Gary Lockwood

I refer to evidence provided by Mr Gary Lockwood to the Atkinson/Ashbourne/Clarke Legislative Council Select Committee on 19 October 2005. Allegations made were that you acted improperly towards other members of parliament in November 2003 and April 2005. A preliminary assessment has been undertaken by the Anti-Corruption Branch, and at this stage a criminal investigation is not warranted.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Is not warranted.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** I rise on a point of order, sir, on relevance. The question to the Deputy Premier is: has he received an assurance from the member for Florey that she was not pressured?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I think the Treasurer needs to focus on that point.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I make it clear, again, Mr Speaker, that if there is an issue with electorate staff an MP can come to me. The Police Commissioner has said there is no issue. If people want to get onto the ground of bullying, so be it. But we are as a government more than satisfied with the way this matter has been conducted and, as I said before, I am happy to help any member opposite with issues in their electorate office.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION

**Mr CAICA (Colton):** My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations. Will South Australian workers who are currently protected by South Australian enterprise bargaining agreements as well as awards continue to have award rights under the federal government's workplace relations legislation currently before the federal parliament?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Industrial Relations):** I thank the member for Colton for this very important question. Awards have been the cornerstone of our work laws for over a century.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Mr Speaker, on a point of order: it is my belief that ministers should not be answering hypothetical questions, and this is certainly hypothetical. The legislation has not even been through the federal parliament.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister cannot be asked for a solution to a hypothetical problem, but he can respond in relation to what is proposed by the federal government and how it impacts on industrial relations in this state.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Thank you, sir. Whether South Australian workers are protected by awards alone or a combination of awards in a collective agreement, we know that award provisions for penalty rates give workers a better chance of enjoying public holidays with friends and family, or getting decent compensation if they work on a public holiday.

*Mr Williams interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for MacKillop has raised his point of order.

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Award provisions for redundancy mean that if workers are sacked because of technological change, through no fault of their own, they can receive a payment to help them to continue to support their families and make a new start in the work force. The federal government's own Work Choices booklet says the work choices legislation 'won't abolish awards', but, of course, now we finally have 687 pages of legislation, and 565 pages of explanatory memoranda. If South Australians have a workplace agreement and it runs out or is cancelled, we have an interesting scenario. South Australians can start to see what the federal government is really doing. We know the contrary to the propaganda. Hundreds of thousands of South Australian workers will have their award safety net taken away—abolished, totally scrapped.

At the moment, if South Australians have a workplace agreement and it runs out or is cancelled, you can keep your award safety net. Under the Liberal government's plans, going on a workplace agreement means that you no longer have any award safety net to fall back on, and the way the Liberal government is doing this is effectively retrospective, because it applies to workplace agreements that have already been made. Many workers may have chosen not to enter a workplace agreement if they knew that it was going to be the death warrant for their award rates. The Prime Minister and the Liberal Party are shredding the award safety net for hundreds of thousands of South Australian workers. The Liberals' vicious and dishonest attack on South Australian working families will obliterate their award rights.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister was debating the question.

#### ASHBOURNE, CLARKE AND ATKINSON INQUIRY

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** Did the Attorney-General ever see, or have read to him, the contents of a handwritten note in which Ralph Clarke outlined the grounds under which he had agreed to drop legal proceedings against the Attorney-General, as referred to at last Friday's select committee hearing?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** No, sir. I am rather surprised how it has disappeared.

*The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Davenport will disappear in a minute.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** I have a supplementary question. Is the Attorney-General aware whether any of his staff, in particular Mr George Karzis, saw this note?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I do not know.

#### SCHOOLS, TEACHER PLACEMENT

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. What is the state government doing to improve the selection process for teachers in our South Australian schools?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I trust that members will not be complaining if they do not get their 10 questions.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I thank the member for Florey for her question about public education. Today, through our recent enterprise bargaining negotiations, we

have reached an agreement with the Australian Education Union to allow state schools to hire their own teachers. For the first time, government schools will be able to advertise agencies and choose locally the best teacher for the job. These sweeping reforms are the most substantial to occur in the last decade. The state government has been working on this project for some time in order to achieve this historic change.

For the first time next year, local selection and recruitment will be introduced into South Australia's public schooling system. The new process will allow these teachers to be employed from 2007 onwards, and we are moving from a method of centrally controlled placement of teachers to one where local school communities will be able to have the power to actually interview candidates and choose those best for the job with the skills that match the vacancy and aspirations of the school community for the sort of school teachers they require. This is particularly good news for staff, but especially good news for all our children in all the schools. The teachers, of course, will be handpicked from a field of applicants for their ability, skill and appropriate match. Teachers will be able to scan the job vacancies and apply for the jobs they want, rather than having an officer in Adelaide select them and send them to a place where there is a particular vacancy.

Under the new process, a panel comprising the school principal (or delegate) and an Australian Education Union member, nominated by the local staff, will consider the applications. The group will conduct interviews, check referees and choose the person they think is best for the job. The state government understands that the needs of one school are very different from the needs of another and that the school community and school council know best what is appropriate for each school. Initially, the program will roll out in country schools and those schools in metropolitan areas with a high level of disadvantage. In addition, it will include those hard-to-staff curriculum positions throughout the system. I look forward to the first advertisements, as this is a new era in staffing our schools, and it will allow principals to take responsibility for their choice and will enable them to choose the best candidates for jobs.

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg):** I have a supplementary question. Under the new two-member panel (which is the principal and a union representative), in the event of a disagreement on selection, whose decision will take precedence, and why is there not a parent representative on this group?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand the member for Bragg does not approve of this change and that she would prefer to go back to the scheme that was in place when the opposition was in government. She would prefer the centralised system, because that is the one with which they worked. However, I have to say that we have listened to parents, teachers and principals, and we have introduced a system, following negotiation with all people concerned. The reality is that school councils will have an intense say in what is going on but, more appropriately, principals will take responsibility.

#### ASHBOURNE, CLARKE AND ATKINSON INQUIRY

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** Did the Attorney-General offer his resignation to the Premier in late 2002?

**The Hon. J.D. Hill:** Many times!

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** Touché.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Mr Speaker, I am sorry; there is a great deal of levity on the government side, thanks to the member for West Torrens.

**Mr Koutsantonis:** It wasn't me.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Apparently, it was the Minister for Health, not the member for West Torrens. Mr Karzis has been in touch with me, and he said he has never seen such a note, if it exists.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** If it ever existed.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** If it ever existed. I make the point that, if such a note were now miraculously to appear, what would it show? It is in Mr Clarke's handwriting; it could reveal that Mr Clarke sought out board appointments. This is already supported by testimony before the court in the Ashbourne trial. I did not offer to resign as a minister on 20 November, and the reason I did not offer to resign is because I had done nothing wrong. I answered this question in parliament more than two years ago. The answer is not going to change, and I suggest that the opposition let me get on with some pretty important stuff, such as the terrorism bill and the Kapunda Road Royal Commission recommendations being carried out.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** I have a supplementary question. Did the Deputy Premier ask the Attorney-General to resign back in 2002?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** It is already on the record that he said that, in his opinion, I should stand down pending an inquiry into the matter.

**An honourable member:** Why?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** That is because ministers like to express frank opinions to one another. So little was I hurt by his frank opinion that I shook his hand as the meeting broke up. He is allowed to express his frank opinion. As it turned out, when the matter was investigated in 2003, I did stand down, unlike ministers in the previous government. I stood down for two months. I was investigated—I was never a suspect—and I was cleared.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** My question is to the Minister for Housing. How is the government working with the private sector to increase the supply of affordable housing in our state?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Housing):** I know the member for Wright is very proud that this affordable housing initiative is occurring in her electorate. I think she is equally proud that the old University of South Australia site is being used for some important public purpose of this sort. As all members would know, the State Housing Plan is the first ever comprehensive plan for the housing sector in this state.

One of the cornerstones of the plan is an attempt to ensure that there is a component of affordable housing in all new significant developments. This will be greatly assisted when those opposite cease opposing our important planning reforms, because that will allow us to incorporate this as a mandatory target in all such developments. In the meantime we are still getting on with it, and on Sunday I announced a model for affordable housing which involves the private

sector as well as our state government home financing arm, HomeStart Finance. It also involves an important partnership with Salisbury Council which is a most flexible and, I must say, innovative council—and it is no surprise that this is happening in their council area.

We are piloting a package of 10 homes in the Salisbury East area all priced around \$200 000, which is an extraordinary result in the current environment. These homes will be available for purchase by low income earners, and to be eligible for these particular homes prospective purchasers must qualify for a Home Start loan—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Yes, it includes the land. I know those opposite are shaking their heads because they find it hard to believe, but it does include the land. It is for first home-buyers who intend to live in the home after it has been purchased, so it is not available for investors. It is also a partnership with the largest home builder in this state, Fairmont Homes, so there are good prospects that this will spread into their other developments—in fact, they already have plans on the drawing board for this to be used at the Seaford Meadows site.

We believe that this is a template that can be used not only by this builder but by all builders. There is no intellectual property in this; it is something that this builder, and indeed the government, is prepared to share with all other builders. It involves a number of important considerations, including careful design and utilising good urban design and the sensible use of open space to actually create smaller allotments as well as using the wholesaling capacity of a builder like Fairmont Homes, which has the capacity to go from the developer through to the retail stage all in one go. Critical in this is the role of HomeStart Finance as a preferred lender for purchasers under this model.

I would like to give credit to a range of people who have collaborated in this enterprise, including Fairmont Homes which has actually decided to pick up the challenge that this government has made to builders in this state to do something innovative. We always believed that this could be a commercial proposition and Fairmont Homes has shown that it is prepared to put its money where its mouth is. We would also like to give credit to Salisbury Council, an incredible leader in innovation in this state, and finally to HomeStart Finance, which has always behaved in the most impeccable manner. It is a prudentially sound organisation that is meeting the needs of South Australians looking to get the foothold into home ownership that the private sector lenders have turned their backs on. This is a fantastic early win for the housing plan and is the first of many such developments all around South Australia.

#### MENTAL HEALTH, ILLICIT DRUGS

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister explain how a mental health patient in the secure ward of Glenside Hospital was last week able to obtain and use enough alcohol and cannabis to become heavily intoxicated? Last Tuesday police were called to Glenside to arrest Mr Ben Harvey because he was under the heavy influence of cannabis and alcohol. Ben Harvey was in a secure ward at Glenside, and is the same person who escaped twice in the past 18 months. On 20 July last year, when I had to notify the former minister for health in this place of his escape, I explained to parliament that Mr Ben Harvey was a paranoid

schizophrenic with a history of violence. After his arrest last Tuesday Mr Harvey was taken to the City Watchhouse and charged with breach of parole. He is now being held in Yatala Prison.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health):** I will refer the issue the member raises to my colleague the Minister for Mental Health, but can I say—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The deputy leader has asked his question.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** —that I find it appalling that the member for Finnis comes in here on a regular basis to raise these issues and undermines these people who are patients within our health system. In my view, it is improper that their names and circumstances should be described in such a way. They have a right to privacy, too. We have in this state—

*Ms Breuer interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Giles.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** —a great health system, and we are making it better. Mental health is an issue for the state to address, and nobody is saying that that is not the case, but since we on this side of the house have been in government we have put extra resources into the mental health system and improved it. These are not new problems or issues.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the question is specific: how did the cannabis and the alcohol get into the Glenside hospital, which is a secure area?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** That is the question that I want answered.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The deputy leader will not speak over the chair. The minister has indicated that he will refer it to his colleague. He is not responsible for mental health. The Minister for Health.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** As I was saying, Mr Speaker, since we have been in government we have put a lot of extra money and resources into mental health but still more needs to be done. However, there has been a vast improvement on the circumstances that applied when the member opposite was the minister for health. These systems cannot be fixed quickly; there needs to be a long-term solution.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, under standing order 98 this is clearly debate and not relevant to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is debating.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I ask a supplementary question. Was the then acting minister for health notified of this serious incident that occurred at the mental health facility at the Glenside hospital last Tuesday?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** As I say, I will refer this matter to the Minister for Mental Health. However—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** That's right, is it? Can I just tell the house, Mr Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I don't think members want to hear the answer. I call the member for Norwood.

#### WATERFRONT INDUSTRY

**Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood):** My question is to the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education.

*The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:*



**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Transport is out of order.

*The Hon. W.A. Matthew interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Bright is also out of order.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** What steps are being taken to improve training in the waterfront industry?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY (Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education):** I thank the member for Norwood for her question because this is an exciting initiative for South Australia. It is also a national first. Having had some experience in the transport and maritime industries, I never thought I would be announcing a training package for stevedores, or wharfies as they are affectionately known.

The waterfront industry is forecast to experience significant growth, and we believe there needs to be particular attention given to the security and skill needs of our maritime work force. Port Adelaide currently manages 170,000 containers per year on the waterfront, and we expect at least 250 000 containers to be moved in that port by 2010.

At the moment, the industry employs between 600 and 700 people, many of whom are employed casually, their workload depending heavily on the ebb and flow of the shipping movements in the port. Many employees are interhired and move between various stevedoring companies as required. The challenge is not only to retain that work force but also to meet new security requirements and to achieve substantial improvements in productivity and growth.

There is also the important aim of retaining skilled stevedores in South Australia. We believe this can now be achieved by training these people in skills required on the waterfront, thus boosting their employability and flexibility and significantly improving opportunities to gain continuous employment and careers in the industry. With the onset of this new induction package, which has been developed by the industry together with the unions and training and education providers, new recruits will be able to gain a full set of skills.

For the first time in Australia information for the stevedoring industry has been pulled together and distilled into a single set of specialised training resources. At the start we have an interactive DVD trainer resources checklist for monitoring new skills in the workplace. We believe, sir, that the training resources will be invaluable in helping workers become fully familiar with the recently upgraded safety and security measures at the waterfront, information about the port area, health and safety procedures and the logistical details specific to each of the stevedoring companies. This initiative comes out of a state government workforce development strategy that involves the government and industry working with our new skills industry boards to make sure that we plan for and train the state's future workplace. The strategy is backed by \$1 million a year. The Workforce Development Fund has provided \$151 200 for this maritime security project. The state government also provided \$75 200 in funding towards the package, with \$76 000 contributed by the industry. I take this opportunity to compliment the industry for actually working together and coming up with such a fantastic project that I am sure will benefit maritime services and security in South Australia.

#### MENTAL HEALTH, ILLICIT DRUGS

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** My question is again to the Minister for Health. Why have the state's mental health facilities become centres

for the ready purchase of illicit drugs by mental health patients—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

*Ms Rankine interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, member for Wright!

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Why have the state's mental health facilities become centres for the ready purchase of illicit drugs by mental health patients, many of whom are suffering mental health problems as a direct result of the use of drugs in the first instance? Two years ago a mental health patient in Palm Lodge, Thomas Keogh, died after an overdose of methadone. Families, carers and staff of mental health patients at Glenside Hospital and Modbury Hospital's Woodleigh House have complained to me about the ready availability and sale of illicit drugs at these mental health facilities.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Health.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health):** Mr Speaker, the member for Finnis, the deputy leader, is without shame, as my colleague said. To make this slur on our hospital system, on the doctors and nurses and people who work in that system is an absolute outrage. There is no doubt that the member for Finnis will stoop to any level to try and score a point. To say that the mental health system is a source of the sale of drugs and other illegal substances in South Australia is just an absolute outrage and an outrageous criticism of the doctors and nurses who work in that system. If there are incidents where illegal drugs are sold or provided in those institutions it certainly is not with the authority or permission of those running them. It would be like saying that the gaols have drugs in them. Sometimes these kinds of incidents—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Well, they do. Sometimes people smuggle drugs into the gaol system; sometimes no doubt they smuggle them into the health system, but if there are particular instances that the member knows of I suggest he raises them with the police, and I will certainly raise the general point with the Minister for Mental Health.

#### ASHBOURNE, CLARKE AND ATKINSON INQUIRY

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg):** My question is to the Premier. Who advised the Premier that it would be inappropriate to refer the Ashbourne allegations to the Crown Solicitor in November 2002, and when was that advice given?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier):** Mr Speaker, can I just talk about this. I saw at the weekend—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** We heard someone talking about—what is their personal slogan? 'Who dares wins.' But when, of course, they came to mounting a challenge against Rob Kerin it was: 'Who wins loses.'

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** It will be very interesting to see with his—

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: we have a standing order 98, and clearly the Premier is breaching that. I think you ought to draw him to that—

**The SPEAKER:** I have not heard a word he has said yet, so I do not know what he is saying.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** It is interesting to see that the honourable member is still red-faced more than 24 hours later.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier will answer the question.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** In political terms, they sent a boy out on a fool's errand.

**The SPEAKER:** The Premier will answer the question.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I think it was a case of the second time around he was going to crash through or crash again.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I will obtain an answer for the honourable member.

### FIREBREAKS

**Mr BRINDAL (Unley):** Will the Minister for Environment and Conservation assure the house that the state government has prepared all necessary firebreaks and has undertaken the measures required under the old country fires act (now part of the Natural Resource Management Act) to protect the community from the spread of fires on the land for which it is responsible? Sections 41 and 42 of the old country fires act, which are now incorporated in the Natural Resource Management Act word for word, stipulate that councils and state governments are duty-bound to protect the community from the spread of fires by preparing firebreaks on all land for which they are responsible. In recognition of these laws, the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula has appointed Chris Wellington QC of Wallmans Lawyers to examine its liabilities in the event that any fires are not contained on council-owned land.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation):** I thank the member for that question: it is a serious one. When we first came to government we were most concerned about the lack of preparation for fire management, particularly in national parks. For that reason, the government provided—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** The first funding for a decade.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** As the then minister for emergency services said, we provided the first funding for a decade. There had been 10 years of no action in terms of managing fire in national parks. We put in a \$10 million (from memory) program of activities to better prepare ourselves. As a result, we now have a summer fire team, which is in place each summer. We also have quite an extensive program of trail clearance and getting rid of undergrowth and preventative fire burning, particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges but also in other parts of the state. There is obviously a lot that needs to be done, because we have to go through that backlog of 10 years. However, I can assure the member that we are taking this very seriously, and if he would like me to arrange a briefing I can go through in some detail exactly what is going on.

**Mr BRINDAL:** I have a supplementary question, sir. Will the minister assure the house that, according to statute, all the necessary firebreaks required by law have been erected and are in good working order as we enter this bushfire season?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I will certainly take that part of the member's question on notice. I can assure him that we are taking this matter very seriously. We have invested \$10 million over four years, and we are doing something that the

former government neglected to do for all of its eight years in office.

### PORT AUGUSTA, LAND TRANSFER

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** I direct my question to the minister representing the Minister for Urban Development and Planning. The question concerns the land commonly known as the yacht club land at Port Augusta. Why did the current government fail to carry out an undertaking of the previous Liberal government to transfer this land to the City of Port Augusta for aged accommodation? The land on the foreshore at Port Augusta was previously owned by the commonwealth government, through AN, and was to be gifted to the Port Augusta council. However, the railway land first had to be surveyed so that the commonwealth government could transfer the title to the South Australian government, on the undertaking of then minister for transport Laidlaw that it would then be passed on to the City of Port Augusta so that it could be used for residential purposes. I quote from a letter written on 20 October 2000 from the City of Port Augusta to Mr Hernen, the Project Manager of the Rail Reform Transition Program. On the second page of that letter it is stated:

In relation to your query concerning the future ownership of land, I confirm my verbal advice that this matter has been the subject of a number of lengthy discussions with the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, the Hon. Diana Laidlaw MLC. The issue has also been the subject of numerous items of correspondence, with an agreement being reached between the Council and the Minister. . .

I therefore ask the minister: will he assure the house that all those undertakings will be carried out?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Deputy Premier):** I am not sure which of us should be answering that question. I thought initially that may have been the matter that was raised at a recent cabinet meeting in Port Augusta in relation to the zoning of a particular piece of land. I am happy, on behalf of the government, to come back to the honourable member with an answer. I thought it was that piece of land in respect of which the council said that the state government should intervene and somehow change planning, because the person who purchased the land wants to use it for a mixed use retail development. However, it is my understanding that the council was offered the land initially and did not wish to purchase it (I think that is the case, but I will have that checked). However, on all the information we have available to us, the council, in fact, had not made representations to the government at its most senior levels requesting that we rezone that land or that we somehow ensure that it is a residential development.

What I said in Port Augusta was: 'Fair crack of the whip.' We cop a lot of criticism in government from time to time—you always do—but it is a bit rough to be criticised for something that was beyond our control. In that instance, the council should have foreseen the consequences of not rezoning that land and made representations to the government. We would have listened very carefully, and I can say with some degree of certainty that we would have been prepared to look at making those changes. The council did not make that representation, to the best of my knowledge (and I will check that). It is just a bit of local politicking to accuse the cabinet, or the government, of not ensuring that it is a residential development.

In essence, as we said on the night, it was an own goal by the council; it was its error. In fact, the Mayor of Port

Augusta and the CEO, in my opinion, admitted as much when we were discussing the matter with them—that perhaps they should have been in touch with us a lot earlier. I will obtain a more detailed answer for the member.

### DRUG COURT

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens):** My question is directed to the Attorney-General. What is the status of the Drug Court program in South Australia?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General):** The Drug Court program is now in its fifth year at the Adelaide Magistrates Court. The program tries to minimise or stop the use of illicit drugs by offenders with a drug addiction with the aim of preventing or decreasing drug-related offending. Offenders must be prepared to plead guilty to their offences and be willing to adhere to an intensive 12 months rehabilitation program combining court-ordered supervision and treatment.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The member for Bragg interjects to display her leadership credentials. I am afraid that disputes about the Liberal Party leadership now resemble an argument between drunks for the right to drink from an empty bottle. The program's supervision regime includes home detention, frequent urine testing for drug use, fortnightly court reviews of progress and regular contact with correctional service officers. Participants are referred to rehabilitation and treatment services provided by Drug and Alcohol Services SA and are required to attend regularly.

Many participants commence the Drug Court program homeless and unemployed owing to their drug habits and are reliant on crime to survive. Participants are encouraged and supported to establish a functional drug and crime-free lifestyle. Assistance is provided with housing, employment and family relationships where it is relevant. I give full credit to the previous attorney-general but one, the Hon. K.T. Griffin, for setting up this program.

**Mr Venning:** That is the first time you ever did that.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** That is not true. I have praised the Hon. Trevor Griffin fulsomely at public meetings, at gatherings, on Radio 5AA and in this parliament. I have, at the request of the Hon. Angus Redford, ceased to refer to him as 'of blessed memory', and I will be as good as my word. The Hon. Trevor Griffin set up this program, and full credit to him. The only problem is that, after he was sacked as attorney-general, no provision was made for it in the budget. We had to reach into the budget and pull out fresh money to keep it going.

**The Hon. W.A. Matthew:** He retired: you will be sacked.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** No, actually, Trevor Griffin was sacked: he refused to resign. A milestone—

*The Hon. D.C. Kotz interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Well, no.

*The Hon. D.C. Kotz interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newland will come to order!

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** He refused to resign his commission, for the information of the member for Newland.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Attorney will ignore the member for Newland.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** A milestone has been reached with the 100 participants successfully completing the rigours of their 12 months Drug Court program. The 100th graduate is an achievement for the program and it is an

achievement for the public. The Office of Crime Statistics and Research Evaluation (released in December 2004) found that offending was reduced amongst people who completed the Drug Court program. Not only does the program reduce offending but also it reduces the seriousness of offending by those who do reoffend.

The most common offences after completing the Drug Court program were traffic offences, whereas pre-program the most common offences were serious offences against property, especially break and enter, which is too often an offence related to drug addiction. Given that the people who enter the Drug Court program are typically long-term recidivist offenders who have previously spent time in prison and who have high levels of drug dependency, the evaluation results demonstrate that the Drug Court program is effective in reducing crime and creating a positive future for people who are otherwise destined to be in and out of gaol for the rest of their life.

Many states operate Drug Court programs now. The South Australian model achieves a higher than average completion rate. Over the past 12 months, the South Australian Drug Court has had a completion rate of 36 per cent. The national average is around 25 per cent. The government has pledged to get tough on the causes of crime. One of the key causes of crime—I am sure we will all agree—is drug use. One illustration of the government's commitment to reducing drug use is the Drug Court.

It was this government and the Premier personally who placed the Drug Court on recurrent funding in 2002 when it became clear—

*The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Yes; as the Premier said, he found this idea when he was in Bob Carr's New South Wales—that the previous government had not guaranteed the Drug Court's future with recurrent funding. After the June 2004 Drugs Summit, we increased funding to the program. The evaluation evidence vindicates our support for the Drug Court and illustrates the government's commitment to reducing crime in our community. When I go to 'Labor Listens' meetings, to community cabinets and to street corner meetings (and I go to dozens of them) sometimes people with a left-liberal outlook say to me, 'Mr Atkinson, why do you always talk about crime and punishment, why do you never talk about the rehabilitation programs the government has got?' Well, we have got lots of them, but when one talks about rehabilitation of prisoners on talkback radio or in the parliament you can hear the snoring through the microphones.

### PORT STANVAC

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is to the Premier. At the time it was signed, was the Premier aware of the details of the Treasurer's agreement with Mobil that gives the oil company until 2019 to clean up the Port Stanvac site?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Treasurer):** I am glad that the leader raises the issue of—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** A police matter. I always wondered whether leaking cabinet documents was a matter for police. Never mind.

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** I think that it might be an offence, Kevin.

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** Yes. I can inform the house that we have been working very hard to secure and sort through a—

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** On a point of order, sir, on relevance. It was a very simple question, as to whether or not the Premier was aware of the detail before the Treasurer signed the agreement—yes or no?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** I will bear that in mind. In recent times, I should advise the house, I have also been having discussions with Ian Macfarlane, the federal minister for industry—

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** On a point of order, sir: the Deputy Premier has lots of opportunities with ministerial statements to inform the house of other matters. The question here was simply, did the Premier know what the Deputy Premier was signing?

**The Hon. K.O. FOLEY:** The whole issue was a matter for government. My recollection was that the cabinet was informed of it, but we are more than happy to give you a response as to the process. From memory, and it was a couple of years ago, it was a matter that was taken through cabinet, but we will get that checked. The point that I wanted to make—which I thought might have been of interest—is that Ian Macfarlane, the federal Liberal minister, has joined this government in putting pressure on Mobil. In fact, Ian Macfarlane has written and demanded of Mobil, as we have, to provide an answer as to whether or not that facility will be reopened which, I understand, puts him at odds with one of the shadow ministers, Hon. Angus Redford, who I think is saying that it should simply be closed and not reopened. As I have done in the past, I work very well with Ian Macfarlane, and we are expecting a response very soon from Mobil as to its exact intentions.

#### WINEMAKING INDUSTRY, SENATE REPORT

**Mr VENNING (Schubert):** My question is to the Minister for Agriculture. Have you read the Senate report entitled 'The operation of the wine-making industry'? What is your opinion of the four recommendations? Have you made contact with the South Australian Farmers Federation or anybody else in relation to the recommendations? Many South Australians gave evidence to the Senate inquiry which sat in Adelaide and provided input for this report, which was delivered almost a month ago, due to concern in the industry about ongoing conflict between wine makers and grape growers, who are pushing for the establishment of a wine-grape industry advisory committee to provide regular consultation with a broader range of stakeholders.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker: the question uses the second person 'you' when in fact that might imply the question being asked of you, sir, the Speaker. The honourable member may have meant that he was asking the minister through you. For him to have used the second person is for us to go down the same slippery slope as the House of Representatives, which ultimately ends up with invective and abuse.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is correct. My answer on agriculture would be rather short.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN (Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries):** I indicate that to date I have not received a full and thorough briefing on the Senate report, but, as soon as I receive that, I will be happy to make it

available to the house and to the honourable member asking the question.

#### HOSPITALS, MOUNT GAMBIER AND DISTRICT

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** In answer to a question from the member for Giles this afternoon, the new Minister for Health tried to attack me, claiming that I had wrong figures.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I am giving a personal explanation to the house, and even the member for Mount Gambier might like to listen. In fact, the new Minister for Health quoted what the figures were, that in 2001-02 under the previous Liberal government there were 3 961 operations carried out; in 2003-04, there were 2 931 operations carried out; and in 2004-05, in the latest annual report which I have a copy of—I might add, all three annual reports—the figure was 3 367. The minister took a statement out of *The Advertiser* which did not accurately reflect what was put out in the press release. Let me read what my press release says, because it shows how badly wrong the Minister for Health got it today. This was issued on Friday, 4 November 2005:

#### 15 PER CENT FEWER OPERATIONS AT MT GAMBIER UNDER RANN GOVERNMENT

The number of operations performed at the Mt Gambier Hospital in the past year is 15 per cent less than the number undertaken in the final year of the former Liberal government, according to the 2004-05 annual hospital report just released.

So, in fact, I got the right figures and it was the minister who got the facts wrong—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member is debating.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** —so, I am correcting. Mr Speaker, the minister stood there for five minutes this afternoon making claims about what I said, and those claims are clearly wrong. The statement that I have made shows that, in fact, I got it right, the minister got it wrong and I seek his apology.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The deputy leader is clearly debating now.

#### BUSHFIRE PREVENTION

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

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** On 20 October 2005, I advised the house that I had asked the Chief Executive of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation to meet with the Chief Executive of the Country Fire Service to discuss bushfire prevention management plans and Native Vegetation Council approval processes. That meeting has taken place and the two agencies are working together to ensure that these matters are dealt with expeditiously, and that assessment processes are streamlined. In addition, it has been agreed that a joint subcommittee of the Native Vegetation Council that includes CFS representatives will be established. The subcommittee will operate under delegation from the Native Vegetation Council to consider and approve applications relating to fire prevention.

I am also able to confirm that the Port Lincoln bushfire prevention management plan was considered by the Native

Vegetation Council on 24 October. The Native Vegetation Council has approved the immediate trimming of some strategic roadside vegetation and has endorsed a full plan subject to the provision of some additional information.

I am advised that DWLBC and the CFS agree that there is considerable flexibility within the Native Vegetation Act and regulations to assist in bushfire prevention. I detailed many of these provisions to the house on 20 October. For instance, the Native Vegetation Council has developed guidelines for the management of roadside vegetation that provide a tiered process for clearance on roadsides. This means that in many cases roadside clearance can be approved without reference to the Native Vegetation Council. The Native Vegetation Council, DWLBC and CFS will work together to improve the information available to landholders, local groups and district councils about these provisions and the approval processes. Most importantly, delays in finalising a decision can often be avoided where the plan or application contains all the relevant information. The joint subcommittee will develop guidelines to assist the development of these plans and applications. In addition, DWLBC assists individuals and councils to develop their plans.

In summary, there has been a series of changes in the regulations and approval processes over the past three years to provide greater flexibility in bushfire prevention planning and to ensure an appropriate balance between biodiversity conservation and fire safety.

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

### ROAD SAFETY

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Yesterday afternoon, for the second time in eight days, there was another tragic road death at the corner of Myponga Beach Road and Main South Road just south of Mount Compass. On Sunday of this week and on Sunday of last week, respectively 30 October and 5 November, there have been two virtually identical accidents at the same corner involving motorbikes where the car has been going in exactly the same direction, while making a righthand turn from Myponga Beach Road south onto the Main South Road heading towards Yankalilla. On both occasions, the motorbike rider, in full daylight, came around the corner with the motorist just starting to move out to do a righthand turn across the traffic line and, subsequently, the motorbike T-barred into the car which killed the motorbike rider. Both of these are quite tragic. On Saturday morning, as a result of the first accident, and following a number of complaints—and I am quite happy if the minister comes to listen to this because at this intersection—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** I am quite happy to come in and say that this is an intersection that you upgraded in government, that you created.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Mr Speaker, I am somewhat surprised that you did not call him to order. These are two tragic accidents, and I believe that this house needs to understand what has occurred and what I believe to be a significant contributing factor to both of those accidents. I was at a function at Yankalilla on Friday night and the local residents raised concerns with me about this corner and, so, on Saturday morning I drove to have a look at the intersection in some considerable detail—I spent about half an hour there. Tragically, an identical repeat occurred on the following day.

When you sit in your car and took down the Main South Road towards Yankalilla, which is where the traffic is coming from, you have sight or vision of only 56 metres. The reason for that is that there is native vegetation on the edge of the road, which has grown I would imagine in the last year or so, and which is now clearly blocking the ability of motorists to look further down the road. That vegetation, some of which is weed as well as a number of yaccas, and I suspect the yaccas are the main source of the problem, means that the car turning out has only two seconds if there is a motorbike or a car coming up from Yankalilla to get clear of that land from a standing start, and that is clearly impossible.

I understand that several weeks ago the Yankalilla District Council requested that the vegetation be cleared for visibility along this road. That request went to the Department of Transport, and while it was only done verbally, I understand that the Yankalilla District Council was told that there was no chance of the native vegetation being cleared. I do not want to point fingers: I want to make sure that action is taken to clear the vegetation—native or otherwise—which is clearly causing a very dangerous situation at this intersection. As I stood there on Saturday morning I could see the difficulty, and a number of people have told me the difficulty they have, in making either a righthand turn or a lefthand turn, particularly a righthand turn.

There are other cases on the Fleurieu Peninsula where vegetation on the roadside is a clear risk to the lives of people and it is time that action was taken. Henderson Road at Victor Harbor is another classic example where someone will be seriously injured or killed before long, unless action is taken to remove some of the roadside vegetation. I ask the minister to immediately investigate these matters to ensure that action is taken as a top priority after two deaths in eight days.

### WAKAKIRRI

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** On Friday 21 October, it was my pleasure to represent the Premier and the member for Kurna in his capacity as the Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts at the South Australian grand final of the 2005 Wakakirri held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre before an enthusiastic crowd of parents, family, friends and supporters of the hundreds of participants both on stage and backstage in this fantastic event. Wakakirri is an Aboriginal word meaning 'to dance'. To indigenous Australians, dancing is an important way to share and tell stories and culture from generation to generation.

I was particularly pleased to go along to the event because of a long association with the performances of schools in Florey in both the Rock'n'Roll Eisteddfod and the Wakakirri. I am happy to report to the house that The Heights School students performed their item so well that they received a bronze award in their category. Congratulations must go to all those involved—from the concept and design of the item to building the sets, preparing the costumes and make-up styles, and practising the item to ensure the best possible presentation to the judging panel.

This year is the 14th annual competition of the Wakakirri. There were 657 entries, with an average of 66 students per item from all over Australia—500 schools altogether from both cities and regions. After starting modestly in 1992, with fewer than 20 schools involved, things have certainly grown and changed for Wakakirri. It is now the most popular national arts event, with high schools now participating for the second year. High schools were invited to join the

primary schools already involved in Wakakirri. Wakakirri is a story festival, and there are many ways in which to tell a story. Stories have evolved to embrace not only story-dance, which was the original concept, but also story-telling, story-singing, story-writing, story-boarding and stories with film.

People often ask, 'Why have a story?' Stories are the foundation of our society, and I quote from the very extensive program, which states:

... [stories] tell us who we were, who we are and who we want to be. From stories we can learn [a lot] about other people, cultures and ideas. Stories help us express ourselves, provide metaphors for real life and give a voice to our fears, beliefs, hopes and concerns about the world—whether that world be our bedroom, our playground, our local community or the whole planet.

The students involved certainly get to see a range of stories, not only their own stories but also stories from all the other schools involved in the competition.

Wakakirri has grown enormously over the years, nowhere more so than here in South Australia, where this year's entries were second only to those from New South Wales, which has double the population of South Australia. South Australian schools were enthusiastic advocates of the values at the core of the Wakakirri in their teamwork, shared learning, building self-esteem, telling great stories and creating opportunities for young people to become involved. There were two weeks of performances at Her Majesty's Theatre, with the grand final to be held interstate. The grand final will be televised nationally in a TV special to go to air on 10 December.

Story-dance, which is the core of Wakakirri, is a story performed on stage using a blend of creative movement and acting to a prerecorded soundtrack, with live singing. Primary school groups can use between 20 and 130 students, which would give members an idea of the number of people involved on the stage at any one time, whereas secondary schools can only use between 20 and 60 students. A story-dance item can be between three and seven minutes in length, with each school allowed two minutes to set up and clear the stage. Members can imagine the frantic preparations before and after each number. The evening, while very long, flies fairly quickly because of this important teamwork behind the stage. Detailed judging guidelines and criteria are followed, and I do not envy the judging panel its task. During performances, marks are awarded through several categories.

Students learn many skills from participating in Wakakirri. Over the years, I have seen many students from The Heights School become involved in almost every level of production of the items, and they go on to make a contribution to items years later. This community involvement began with the outstanding contribution made by Mr Haydn Maher, who is still involved with Wakakirri—this year through the Redwood Park Primary School, which won a silver award and which I think only just missed out on winning its section. Wakakirri is a huge organisation, and I was made welcome on the night by the National Director, Adam Loxley.

#### MEMBER'S INVITATION

**The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart):** In this grievance debate, I want to raise the issue of the treatment I received during a recent cabinet meeting which took place at Port Augusta. During my time as a member of parliament, I have always respected all ministers and premiers who visit my electorate, and I have always acted in what I believe to be an appropriate and responsible manner. On this occasion, on the

Monday morning, there was an opening of the science laboratory at the high school. I was excluded from the invitation list. In my time as a member of parliament, it is the most miserable, nasty and hurtful action I have had taken against me.

When my wife and I arrived at the school, the process was well under way. They had a freelance photographer; I do not know who was paying for it, but that is something we will find out about. The Premier was outside the science laboratory, together with the Minister for Education and Children's Services and the Labor Party candidate. They were there all smiles for the photo session. When they came out, I confronted the Minister for Education and Children's Services and pointed out that I had not received an invitation. During my time as a member of parliament, it is the first occasion on which I have been excluded from this sort of function, and I think that is a pretty poor state of affairs.

The minister clearly indicated to me that she was not responsible and, later that afternoon, she invited me to have morning tea at the regional office, and I appreciate that. However, lots of senior bureaucrats were there, and one person in the know said to me, 'Don't think this was a deliberate oversight or a mistake, or that someone has messed up: it was a deliberately orchestrated process.' I indicated to that person, 'You had better keep away from me and keep your head down. You'll hear more about this.' All I want to say is that, if this is the way in which the government wants to treat people, it will certainly lower the esteem with which people hold the parliamentary process. It is not conducive to people having confidence in the parliamentary system. It was clearly a process purely designed to exclude me and to make sure that they could use it as a photo opportunity.

In my time as a member of parliament, I have always adhered to the process and to what people expect from a member of parliament. It is like the time I was excluded when the first passenger train came through. When the freight train came through, the federal member and I received a lot of publicity, whereas I was deliberately excluded from the platform when the passenger train came through. However, the ALP candidate was there, and either his ticket was 51 and mine 50 or vice versa.

So I was excluded there and I know exactly what happened, because I am told that this was orchestrated out of the Premier's office and was obviously designed with a political motive. That is fine, because this is a government that has a motion dealing with a code of conduct for members of parliament on the *Notice Paper*—and I wonder where these actions are in relation to that code of conduct. It is bad enough to have an office deliberately set up and have the Labor Party candidate installed in this office under the guise of being a public official. I wonder what this office does; it has only ever contacted my office once, I think, and that was to get a telephone call. They have never rung us since.

We will let the people of this state know exactly what the criteria are and what has taken place because I think these are school-boyish, miserable, nasty tricks. In the last two elections there have been personal vilification campaigns against me. Talk about dirty tricks; all sorts of untruths and personal character assassinations were levelled at me, but I did not respond at that level. This is just a carry on of that. So I say to Mr Hunt and those others, if you orchestrate it and carry it out expect a bit to come back—because we have plenty. Neither we nor the leader are going to forget who was responsible, and I say to the government that if it goes down this track it will do so at its own peril. I have always played

the game by the rules and I think this was the most hurtful and nasty course of action, and was not in the interests of the people of this state.

Time expired.

### DICEY DEALINGS

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell):** On Thursday I learnt a couple of interesting facts. In South Australia a person is three times more likely to die from choking on food than to win \$25 000 on a scratchie, and a person is four times more likely to die from falling out of bed than to win a jackpot on Keno. I learnt these things thanks to Woodville High School's contribution to the Dickey Dealings exhibition that was held at AAMI Stadium function rooms on Thursday. This was a showcase of the work done—very successfully, I must say—by eight state schools that were involved in a pilot program of the Dickey Dealings project initiated by the former minister for education and children's services, and during the presentation there was a great deal of tribute paid to her energy and commitment to the project.

The eight schools bid for up to \$10 000 each to develop anti-gambling programs using creative and innovative methods. The presentations showed that they used the curriculum materials provided very well, and developed quite different approaches to presenting the message that gambling simply does not pay. I was particularly interested in the work of Kate Sincock, a year 12 Wirreanda student, who investigated the matter of gambling as part of her year 12 studies on societies. She conducted a survey of 30 young people between the ages of 14 and 21, and based the survey on the work done by Professor Del Fabbro (I think he is at Flinders University) who has conducted extensive research into the gambling behaviour of adolescents.

Kate Sincock identified some very disturbing facts. In her survey group, all females 16 to 18 said that they had gambled with cards at home and 75 per cent of males had used this form of gambling. All females 16 to 18 had purchased scratchie tickets whereas only 35.7 per cent of males had. Bingo was not a popular form of gambling with anyone, but race betting was popular with the over 18s, with 90 per cent of people betting on some form of racing. In addition, 35.7 per cent of females 16 to 18 had bet on racing whereas no males in that age group had. Sports betting was very popular with males under 18, with 75 per cent admitting that they had placed bets on sports, and only 30 per cent of females admitting to this form of betting. Surprisingly, she found that only two people had gambled on the internet and this was consistent with Professor Del Fabbro's findings. This is leading her to believe that gambling among young people is a very social activity, and she found that respondents to her survey indicated that peer pressure and company were two of the important reasons for gambling.

Unfortunately, she also found that among the 14 to 18 years olds 37.5 per cent of the females and 28.5 per cent of the males had gambled on poker machines, despite the efforts of hoteliers to keep that group out of the gaming rooms because it is totally unlawful. I know this is vigilantly policed in some areas in my electorate, where I got into trouble for walking through the gaming area with my young nephew. This certainly indicates a problem, and Kate Sincock said that she was particularly concerned to identify the situation among her peers because her research showed that a large proportion of those who become problem gamblers started in the 15 to 16 age group.

Her recommendations from her findings is that there should be mass-scale advertising campaigns on TV and radio, the way there are about drinking, safe driving and tobacco smoking, to show young people that it is important that if they gamble they must do so responsibly.

Time expired.

### HOON DRIVERS

**Mr SCALZI (Hartley):** Today, I wish to draw to the attention of the house a serious matter concerning the way in which the government is dealing with hoon driving. I have no problem with the government or any member of parliament informing the public of changes to the recent legislation, but I refer to a mailout (which was also distributed in the electorate of Hartley) in October which states: 'Let me know about hoon hotspots in your area on the notice I've included with this letter and I will pass on your information to police. Your details will be kept confidential. Only information relating to the hoon activity will be forwarded to the police.' That is, other information not intended for the police—name, address, telephone (both home and mobile) and email—will be collected by the candidate—presumably for political purposes.

Breaking the law, whether it relates to driving offences or other areas of the law, is a matter for the police and should be reported to the police directly and without delay. According to one constituent: older community residents are not police officers; it is not the residents' job to fill in forms and report hoon driving to the candidate or member; this is what we have police patrols for.

The Rann government is again seeking to claim credit for anti-hoon legislation. The Statutes Amendment (Misuse of Motor Vehicles) Bill was drafted by the Liberal Party before the last state election and passed under this government at the end of 2004. It is to be hoped that, instead of the usual spin and rhetoric, the Rann government will lift resourcing levels for our police so that we can see more patrols available, especially in the early hours of the morning, in order to make the new legislation truly effective.

We have reasons to be concerned. An independent federal government report earlier this year revealed that under the Rann government South Australia spends the lowest per head on policing in Australia: South Australia, \$230; the Australian average, \$259. The Productivity Commission in its Report on Government Services 2005 has discovered that South Australia is the only state or territory to reduce expenditure in 2003-04 as against the national trend of increasing expenditure. Figures from the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council indicate that there are 6.2 car thefts per 1 000 people in South Australia compared with 4.3 per 1 000 on the national average and double that experienced in Queensland.

Clearly, we have the highest rate of vehicle theft in the nation and, as the number of vehicle thefts has increased, so, too, has the number of assaults. According to a national Productivity Commission report, South Australia spends less per person on road safety than any other state or territory, and road safety expenditure per head of population is down to 3.7 per cent compared with 11 per cent nationally. On top of this we have increasing pressure on police resources brought about by the failure of our mental health system.

In my electorate, there have been ongoing problems with the former Hectorville primary school site (now under the ownership of the South Australian Housing Trust), which is

situated adjacent to a football club. Problems of vandalism, dumping of rubbish and hoon behaviour have been reported regularly to both the government and the local police. Despite the government saying that it is tough on crime and hoon drivers, obviously there are still not sufficient police resources available to address these problems, especially in the early hours of the morning. I have spoken with the police, and I commend the police for doing their best with the limited resources available. What I am concerned about is that we have these reports of hoon activity with tread marks and so on, but this information gathering, where does it go? It goes to: the Australian Labor Party, Reply Paid 35, Adelaide, South Australia 5001—no postage required.

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** You beauty!

**Mr SCALZI:** Do you think you can fool the public by saying that the government will pay 50¢ postage just for reporting this to the police? Why don't you be honest about it?

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** That will form a database.

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr SCALZI:** Mr Speaker, the Attorney just said that it would be collected for the Labor Party database. I rest my case.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member can rest his voice, because his time has expired.

Time expired.

#### SALISBURY EAST HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE CENTRE

**Ms RANKINE (Wright):** It was my great pleasure on Saturday to attend the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Salisbury East High School, and what a great celebration it was. I could not think of a better way to celebrate 40 years of a school that has given so much to its community than to have the opening of its new \$1.7 million conference facilities. I thank the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. Jane Lomax-Smith) for taking the time to celebrate this great event with the school community.

This is the first major redevelopment of this high school in its history, and the announcement that this project would take place is one of those moments that will remain etched in my memory forever. At that time, the then minister for education (Hon. Trish White) advised me and the school that she had an announcement to make relating to the school.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, why does Ms Rankine insist on using personal names when she knows that it is against standing orders?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Members should refer to members by title or electorate.

**Ms RANKINE:** Thank you, sir, I did use the titles, but I thank the member for Hammond for his guidance once again. In her very own special style, the then minister talked about the important of education that we as a government place on ensuring the best possible education in our public schools, and then she very calmly announced to the entire school assembly the proposal to build these magnificent new facilities.

As I told the gathering on Saturday, the current Principal, Peter Mader, grabbed my arm and he was shaking like a leaf; Peter Putsy, the Chair of the Governing Council, was making tiny gasping sounds and I thought he was about to have a stroke; the students screamed; the home economic teachers at the back of the assembly hall were hysterical; and I could not stop the tears streaming down my cheeks. That moment

encapsulated for me what being in government and being an MP is all about. It is about delivering important areas of priority, and one of those is public education.

The 40th anniversary committee, which consisted of past students, did a magnificent job in organising the celebrations on Saturday. When I thought about it, in fact I have been associated with the high school for over 20 years, in more recent times as the local member but, prior to that, working for the then member for Briggs, now Premier, in whose electorate the school used to be located. Then I thought about the age of the original students and thought they must be getting pretty long in the tooth but realised that, in fact, I had started high school the same year that the doors of Salisbury East High School were opened. No doubt those original students, like me, could see a stark difference in the school life and opportunities for the students of today, compared to what it was like 40 years ago.

There is a new home economics centre as part of this facility. When I was going to high school we learnt how to make tuna mornay and wash pantihose. On Saturday the home economics students and the hospitality students of the school prepared a magnificent afternoon tea for all in attendance and excelled in their food servicing. But these new facilities provide a new digital photography suite including 20 computers, enabling photography classes to be taught exclusively in the digital medium, extra facilities for computer-aided design, space for conference and links—as I said—the home economics and tech studies facilities. I also want to pay tribute to the music students who entertained all at the proceedings throughout the afternoon. All of these students volunteered their time.

As the minister has said, the new centre delivers a fantastic new focus to help young people build their skills for the future. Students can now harness technologies including the digital photography and computer-aided design, while there is a conference and training area that benefits both the staff and the students. When Salisbury East opened its doors in 1966 with Dr Tony Shinkfield as its headmaster, it welcomed three classes of year 8 students. Originally planned to cater for 500 students, Salisbury East High School now has an enrolment of almost double that, and in 1987 had some 1 360 students. Like any school, the teachers, principals and students have come and gone but what has remained constant over its 40-year history is the dedication and commitment of the teaching and support staff and the involvement of parents in the life of this school. Much of the credit for the success of the school must go to the leadership by former principals and headmasters. We were joined on the day by former headmaster, Dr Tony Shinkfield, Fred Martin and Keith Maynard. I also want to acknowledge the current dynamic leadership of the school principal, Peter Mader, who has really taken up the challenge to provide the best possible education in the tradition of those set by his predecessors.

#### STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

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

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion for a rescission of the vote of this house on amendments of the other place on the Justices of the Peace Bill 2004.



**The SPEAKER:** I need to count the house. There not being an absolute majority present, ring the bells.

*An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:*

**The SPEAKER:** There being an absolute majority present, I accept the motion.

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

That the vote of the house in committee of the whole taken on 20 October on the amendments of the other place in the Justices of the Peace Bill 2004 be rescinded.

**The SPEAKER:** This matter has to be dealt with by an absolute majority. What happened was that in the Justices of the Peace Bill a consequential amendment was not addressed. Therefore, the matter is being rescinded so that the additional point of 'eligible for reappointment' under amendment No. 3 of the amendments from the Legislative Council can be considered. I put that motion, and it needs an absolute majority.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** Mr Speaker, I seek clarification of this. I am not sure what it is that the Attorney seeks to do by suspending standing orders. Is it the case that he is covering up a bungle he has made himself?

**The SPEAKER:** My understanding is that there was a miscommunication in regard to amendment No. 3, which talks about appointments of justices. It should have had the wording added at the end of it, 'is eligible for reappointment'. That was left out, and all this is doing is adding that, at the expiration of a term of appointment, the person or persons are eligible for reappointment. It was an error in communication, as I understand it, and it does not alter the substance other than that it allows that a justice of the peace is eligible for reappointment. It does not say that they will be; it says they are eligible to be reappointed.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** I seek further reassurance from you, Mr Speaker. This is not a mistake between the houses. It is not the case that the legislation as it passed one chamber did not arrive here in fair print. It is not a case of that; it is a case of the Attorney having bungled it. Is that correct or not?

**The SPEAKER:** My understanding is that parliamentary counsel believe that this additional wording is necessary to give meaning to the amendment made by the Legislative Council to make it effective.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My understanding is that in the other place, the Liberal Party, together with the minor parties and Independents, made an amendment that the terms of justices of the peace, which the government proposed to be five years, with a right of renewal, be 10 years. However, we all agreed that the terms of special justices, that is, those justices of the peace who, having been trained, could serve on the bench as honorary magistrates—what used to be called justices of the quorum—should be five years only. So, when the amendments from the other place came back here, in an outpouring of bipartisanship (and I think the member for Bragg was a witness to this) I immediately accepted the amendments of the other place. The only problem was that parliamentary counsel had not had time to draft the full terms of the compromise, so it was my swiftness to appease the opposition that led to this need for the suspension of standing orders. If I have offended, I beg that the member for Hammond forgive me.

**The SPEAKER:** I will put the question, and it needs an absolute majority. I put the question that the vote of the house in committee of the whole taken on 20 October on the amendments of the Legislative Council in the Justices of the

Peace Bill 2004 be rescinded. Those of that opinion say aye; those against say no.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** No.

**The SPEAKER:** It will require a division; we need a division to establish an absolute majority. Ring the bells.

*While the division was being held:*

**The SPEAKER:** I point out that members are voting on the rescission of the earlier decision of the vote of the house. This division is not on the merits or otherwise of the amendments, which will be dealt with in committee if members vote to rescind this motion. I put the motion that the vote of the committee of the whole house taken on 20 October on the amendments of the Legislative Council—

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** Mr Speaker, I crave your indulgence. I thought that this motion was to suspend standing orders, or not.

**The SPEAKER:** We have done the suspension. Now, having—

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** I do not recall anyone—yourself included, sir—asking the house to agree to a suspension. As I understood it, this was the motion to agree to suspend standing orders.

**The SPEAKER:** We have done the suspension. This is consequential on that.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** Sir, can you show me the minuted record of that?

**The SPEAKER:** I will in due course, but we have—

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** I bet that you can't.

**The SPEAKER:** I must put the question that is before the house, that is, that the vote of the committee of the whole house taken on 20 October on the amendments of the Legislative Council in the Justices of the Peace Bill 2004 be rescinded. I appoint the Attorney teller for the ayes and the member for Hammond teller for the noes.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Mr Speaker, to my recollection, when you asked for the vote on the suspension of standing orders, you asked whether there was any negative voice, and the member for Hammond indicated a voice to the negative. At that stage, and correct me if I am wrong, you then called for a division of the house. I took it, as the member for Hammond has, that that was then a division on whether standing orders should be suspended.

**The SPEAKER:** No. The rescinding requires an absolute majority, as it did for the suspension. The question is not determined simply by the presence of an absolute majority.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Correct me if I am wrong, but normally if one voice is against the suspension of standing orders a division must be taken. Does that not apply when it is a rescission?

**The SPEAKER:** That is what we are doing now. We are dealing with the rescission motion now, which is to refer the amendments back to the committee.

*The Hon. I.P. Lewis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** We cannot discuss it now; we must look at the record.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker. The honourable member is trying to determine whether or not there needs to be a division for a suspension of standing orders if there is a dissenting voice. My understanding is that the answer is yes.

**The SPEAKER:** We have been through the suspension stage, we are now in the rescission stage. We cannot debate it now; we are past way through—

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Mr Speaker, there was a dissenting voice, apparently, during the division for suspen-

sion of standing orders. My understanding is that, once there is a dissenting voice, that requires a division of this house.

**The SPEAKER:** There was no dissenting voice.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The member for Light has indicated that there was.

**The SPEAKER:** The chair did not hear any dissenting voice. We will deal with the division now.

**The Hon. I.P. Lewis:** A division for which the house has no authority.

**The SPEAKER:** It has because it is—

**The Hon. I.P. Lewis:** Just because you say so does not make it so.

**The SPEAKER:** It has because a division was called. There being only one member for the noes, I declare that the rescission motion is agreed to. The rescission motion was agreed to by an absolute majority. I do not know whether anyone disputes that.

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE BILL

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

That Mr Speaker now leave the chair for consideration of amendments of the other place in the Justices of the Peace Bill.

Motion carried.

Consideration in committee.

*Amendments Nos 1 and 2:*

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

That amendments Nos 1 and 2 be agreed to.

On 20 October the other place agreed to this bill with amendments and requested the concurrence of the house. I immediately moved that the house accept the amendment. Alas, one of the opposition amendments was put forward on the run during committee, and it was passed on the understanding that the drafting would be finalised between the houses. While I was moving concurrence, parliamentary counsel was still making a drafting change.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I briefly place on the record that the opposition had moved amendments in the upper house. It had moved the same amendments in this house, which had been rejected by the government. The amendments, however, received positive support in the other place. In relation to the Attorney coming in with the excuse today that the amendment had been put forward on the run, I suggest that the house properly record the position on this matter, and that is that the government had rejected this position and was then faced with amendment from the other place, a sensible resolution to the matter. For the Attorney-General to now blame the parliamentary counsel, who were left with having to deal with this matter on the run, is rather trite, and the Attorney-General ought to be acknowledging full responsibility. This is a bill which is entirely under his responsibility, and to suggest that he was in haste to welcome this amendment is not the position at all. The position was that the Attorney-General had failed to properly consider this matter and properly instruct parliamentary counsel, and the Attorney-General should place that clearly on the record.

The position of the opposition is clear. We accept a position that we had promoted at all times that justices of the peace ought not be put through the onerous process every five years of having to reapply, and that ten years, at the very least, was a reasonable imposition on their part. To simply impose a shorter period to keep the bureaucracy in order, which was essentially the argument—that is, the government needed to have a trigger to ensure that it acted on its responsibility and properly reviewed the terms of those justices of the

peace. In respect of special justices, who have been given extra responsibility—they have to undertake further training and the like—we accept that the five-year period should prevail. The other place, having considered these matters, put forward that position quite clearly. So, the opposition thanks the government for at least agreeing to the position as outlined in the other place, even though it had initially rejected this situation. In the circumstances, therefore, the opposition has supported the government in rescinding the motion so that this matter can be properly remedied. But, it is not acceptable that the Attorney-General comes into the house and tries to cover his mistakes and his ineptitude in relation to the management of this matter, and to essentially blame the haste of wanting to incorporate a bipartisan position, which is a complete nonsense.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I apologise to the house for expediting the dispatch of business and for surprising everyone. I notice in that debate in which the member for Bragg criticises me, she says:

I indicate that the amendments are also agreed to by the opposition, and we welcome the consideration of the upper house of these matters, and are pleased that the government has seen the good sense in accepting them.

Motion carried.

*Amendment No. 3:*

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

That amendment No. 3 be agreed to, with a consequential amendment—After ‘appointment’ insert:

and, at the expiration of the term of appointment, is eligible for reappointment.

Amendment No. 3 deleted subclause (2) of clause 7 of the bill and substituted a different subclause. It would read:

A special justice will be appointed on conditions determined by the Governor for a term not exceeding five years, specified in the instrument of appointment and, at the expiration of the term of appointment, is eligible for reappointment.

Amendment to amendment No. 3 carried; motion carried.

*Amendment No. 4:*

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

That amendment No. 4 be agreed to.

Motion carried.

### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Transport):** I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable the report of the Auditor-General to be referred to a committee of the whole house and for ministers to be examined on matters contained in the papers in accordance with the timetable as distributed to the house.

**The SPEAKER:** I have counted the house and, as an absolute majority is not present, ring the bells.

*An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:*

Motion carried.

In committee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The committee will now deal with the Minister for Transport.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I refer to the parts of the Auditor-General's Report which deal with financing and recording which begin at page 1392 under the headings (amongst others) of Land, Buildings and Facilities, and Payroll. They have identified significant weaknesses in control arrangements and transactions which were not appropriately

accounted for in those areas. I ask the minister what he and his department are doing to address these issues which run right through the Auditor-General's Report regarding transport, infrastructure and energy which, together with TransAdelaide's separate Auditor-General's Report, highlight enormous discrepancies and concerns about accounting and procedural management processes within the department. I would like an overview on what the minister is doing to address the Auditor-General's concerns.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** As to the matters that the shadow minister has raised on those pages, I am the first to admit that there is a lot of comment on a lot of small matters of fairly low value in real terms. I think that I would struggle to answer each and every one of them in a group. Suffice to say, there is an ongoing exchange of viewpoints between the Auditor-General and the Department of Transport. Views of the Auditor-General about controls are taken on board. That conversation is one that has gone on longer than this year; in fact, it has lasted for many years, as the shadow minister would know. On occasions, the Auditor-General, in the proper performance of his duties, identifies areas where he believes controls should be made tighter, and we respond appropriately. Unless there is any specific matter that the shadow minister wants to identify, I will provide him a written answer on each of the matters raised by the Auditor-General and what the response has been. In general, we take on board what is said by the Auditor-General. If we believe that the Auditor-General may not have fully understood all that occurred, we will give that explanation and, if we believe that there is a need for action, we take that. On most occasions, we manage to satisfy the Auditor. I am pretty sure that there is such a document; if not, we will create one that refers to each matter raised in the audit and the response that has been taken since that has been raised with the department.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I will accept that as an answer and I will await the response. To confirm what the minister just said, on page 1392 it states that at the time that this report was finalised, the department had not responded to the audit findings. I ask the minister whether I can have a full response as per the response from the department to the Auditor. I would take that as being satisfactory.

With respect to TransAdelaide, the Auditor-General's Report talks about the increase in government funding being due to funding of \$9.9 million provided by the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure to reimburse TransAdelaide for the expenditure incurred in upgrading the Glenelg tramline. Can the minister provide specific details as to what the \$9.9 million was providing?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** What page are you referring to?

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** The TransAdelaide section of the Auditor-General's Report. In my document, it is page 6 of 11. I am referring to the bar graph on the seventh page, which shows operating revenues.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I am struggling to find the reference the member is making.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I am referring to 'Statement of Financial Performance, Operating Revenues' in relation to TransAdelaide, which is the interpretation and analysis of financial statements and which highlights the financial statements, net cash flows, through to the operating revenues, government funding, the sale of services and other revenues. The paragraph below the bar graph refers to \$9.9 million funding from your department to TransAdelaide.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I cannot find the reference, but I understand the member is referring to the payment of \$9-odd million from the DTEI to TransAdelaide. That is because the line upgrade goes against TransAdelaide, whereas the remaining purchase—that is, the purchase of the new trams, which is the most expensive part—goes against the departmental budget. I am sure there is an explanation for why things are divided that way; I am sure the accountants could tell me. However, that goes to the upgrade of the line from Glenelg to Victoria Square.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** On a number of pages, the Auditor-General refers to the capital investment for the trams and the Glenelg tramline. The former minister acknowledged that the total cost of the project for the upgrade from Glenelg to Victoria Square was approximately \$76 million. She also said that it was an increase on the original budget of approximately \$13 million, based on the additional cost of the trams. I gather that more than \$9.9 million was spent on the actual upgrade, or is that all that was spent on the upgrade and the balance is for the trams themselves?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** As I have said, the \$9 million refers to the upgrade of the track for the financial year examined by the Auditor.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** It is this particular matter, among other matters, I have an interest in. The particular extracts to which I am referring astonish me in the way in which the government has set about making the decision and applying the funds. In the first instance, there is no appraisal of the project made on a cost benefit analysis; that has been the subject of my remarks previously. No attempt was made to find out what were the capital costs, the recurrent costs and the passenger per kilometre costs. The Auditor-General does not make any explicit examination of that, as a comparison with alternative technologies.

In this instance, I refer to a page out of Volume 5, in relation to the net cost of services from ordinary activities. It states:

The Net Cost of Services from Ordinary Activities for the year was a deficit from ordinary activities of \$238.3 million as compared to a deficit of \$177.7 million the previous year.

The Auditor-General gives us a chart in which he shows that in 2001, under the previous government, there was a surplus of \$26 million. In 2002, that fell to a deficit of \$98 million, then \$104 million in 2003, followed by \$178 million in 2004, and \$238 million in 2005. How much of that is to be attributed to the capital works undertaken on the light rail because, immediately after that, it states:

Revenue from SA Government increased by \$142.3 million to [a total amount of] \$296.6 million.

The Auditor-General goes on to say:

This is attributable mainly to:

- an increase in appropriation to Transport Services of \$42.6 million. This increase is attributable mainly to additional capital funding received in 2004-05 of \$40.5 million for the Adelaide Light Rail (Trams) project.

The Auditor-General goes on to say that recognition of a full year's appropriation for the Office of Public Transport is \$179.8 million compared to \$82.9 million for the six month period for 2004.

Whilst the Auditor-General says that there is \$40.5 million for the Adelaide Light Rail, we do not know which parts of that project are covered by it and whether there are any parts that fall through the gaps. On another page immediately thereafter, as I recall it, in searching for it on the intranet,

through his report, he deals with it under a statement of cash flows and sets out the cash flows. It states:

The following table summarises the net cash flows for the four years to 2005\*, for Operations, Investing, Finance, Change in Cash and Cash as at 30 June.

The Auditor-General points out in his report:

The inflow from operating activity increase in 2005 by \$7.6 million was due to government funding . . . of \$5.1 million for the upgrade of the Glenelg tramline and a reduction in outflows.

But he does not say, nor has the minister said, and nowhere in the accounts is it possible for us to discover, what amount of money was spent on that project and for what parts, and what attempt was made to use rigour in determining whether that particular technology was the most cost efficient for South Australia.

It strikes me that it has all been done on hyperbole and rhetoric, and that the Auditor has overlooked his responsibilities to this parliament by not having done a detailed analysis, established an internal rate of return after meeting interest costs as part of the costs of the project, and determined what the net present value of the project would have been in consequence. To my mind that is a gross deficiency all around. The department has failed, and the Auditor has not reported to the parliament what should have been reported for our capacity to judge the good sense or otherwise of the decisions made. Certainly, the Public Works Committee never bothered to make those inquiries.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I cannot discern a question that I should be answering in that. If I understand it correctly—

**The Hon. I.P. Lewis:** You are the minister.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I know that; it is one thing I do know, and I enjoy it. As I understand it, the point the member for Hammond makes is that the Auditor-General has not made this report as he should. I actually support the Auditor-General; I think he is pretty tough on the Department of Transport and I think you can see throughout the material in there that he has made very lengthy statements about matters of control and audit. That is what this is about.

The member for Hammond believes that the Auditor-General should do the job a different way, and all I can do is communicate that to the Auditor-General and ask him if he would care to respond. However, if the member for Hammond wants to refer to a matter or ask a question that I can answer within the report of the Auditor-General I would be happy to respond, but I cannot take that as other than a comment on the way that the Auditor-General does his job.

**The Hon. I.P. LEWIS:** Mr Chairman, through you I ask with due humility whether the minister would be able to give this house a response, in fairly short order (if not tonight then take it on notice), as to what the costs of the capital works and the estimated recurrent costs of the tramline refurbishment and extensions in separate are, and why that option was chosen in a cost comparison of the same order over using buses on that dedicated transport corridor?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** I will examine that question and provide information relevant to the Auditor-General's Report, but some of the matters the member for Hammond raises are policy decisions of government on the form of transport investment.

*The Hon. I.P. Lewis interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** The member for Hammond so often lectures people on their behaviour in this place, but he always interrupts if he does not like the answer. We will answer, in pure honesty and openness, everything relevant to

the Auditor-General's Report. If there are other matters about government policy not relevant to the Auditor-General's Report—and I firmly believe that the member for Hammond is touching on those matters—then he also has the capacity to put that question on notice or use some other vehicle in this place. However, we will attempt to answer all the matters relevant to the Auditor-General's Report, but why a government makes a policy decision about a form of public transport is not relevant to the report here before the house.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Can the minister confirm the actual break-up of the tramline project, as in the capital costs for the trams and the upgrade costs, and reconfirm the fact that the blow-out was \$13 million to the \$76 million as a result of the trams costing more than initially forecast?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Again, the shadow minister wants to play politics with the report of the Auditor-General about how the finances of the state are managed. He has got up and alleged some blow-out and asked questions about the cost. I have to say that none of these are matters of comment by the Auditor-General; however, because I am an abundantly generous person I will attempt to provide him with such information as is appropriate, although I do not think it is relevant to this report.

At the end of the day we have a whole lot of specific matters where the Auditor-General talks about audit and control and I would have thought that those really should be the matters for questioning. However, although it is something that I think is probably more appropriate for budget estimates, we will provide what relevant information we can.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I can remember, when we had a swap of roles, that the now minister was very happy to use the broadness and play politics much more than I am today. In my position, and on behalf of the broader South Australian community, I simply want to get some answers for once, because I think even some of the minister's senior people in the department have used a bit of poetic licence on the costings in the media. When the minister does get that information for me, I would also like to know whether, as a result of the overall cost increases in the project, a decision was made to reduce the amount of money that would be put into the upgrade of the track.

To come back to the graph that the member for Hammond spoke about, can the minister explain why we have a situation, when we look at revenue and expenses on the bar graph above 'Revenues from the South Australian Government', where it shows revenue and expenses and then the net cost of service going from a slight surplus in 2001 of \$26 million to a deficit of \$238 million for this actual Auditor-General's financial year 2005?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** This chart is not prepared by the department for the Auditor-General; it is an Auditor-General's chart. The major difference is that passenger transport reporting has gone into the column of expenses under the department when it was not there before. This happened when they ceased operating as a statutory authority a couple of years ago. This chart has not been drawn up by us, but we will get our people to give you full advice on it.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Again, being a very generous person, I will settle for that, providing I see that advice in the near future. There is also a chart which is a structural analysis of the main operating revenue items for the department. It shows commonwealth grants for each year, registration and licensing fees, and other revenue. The commonwealth grants for 2004 were \$69 million, and that figure has increased to \$106 million. Will the minister explain what that increase of

nearly \$40 million is for, given that prior to that it was a fairly flat figure for commonwealth grants?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** Some of it is because we have worked very hard with the commonwealth to get some revenue for some very exciting road projects over the coming years. I am referring to the Sturt Highway extension and the Northern Expressway, but another one, which has come at some pain to our budget, is something that we did for the people of the Eyre Peninsula. The member will remember that we worked very hard to convince the commonwealth to put \$50 million into the Eyre Peninsula grain rail. The only way we could get that out of the commonwealth was by agreeing to take it ahead of time for expenditure in future years. If you understand the budget, this causes us some pain but we believe that, having set out to achieve that, it was a worthwhile thing to do. So, about \$15 million of it will be for that and the rest of it will be payments for, I think, the Sturt Highway extension and overtaking lanes. We will get it broken down for you, but some of it is money in advance and some of it is money for roads.

I point out that my strong view of these questions is that they should be about matters contained in the report. The honourable member is talking about the underlying substrata of facts into which the Auditor-General inquires, but I would have thought the relevant considerations would be the findings of the Auditor-General, not the underlying facts. However, I am happy to supply this; it is your time. There was something else that you said that annoyed me and I would like to answer. What was that?

**Mr Brokenshire:** Lots of things annoy you, Patrick.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** You can be very naughty sometimes, but can I say that it is completely untrue that we took any money out of spending on the track.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** I have already highlighted the underlying deficiencies in the Auditor-General's Report. The minister has given me an undertaking that he will give me a full detailed response similar to or the same as his report to the Auditor-General with respect to the Auditor-General's findings. So, that clearly covers most of my questioning, given that I have highlighted that there are gross inequities.

Under 'Further commentary and operations', the report refers to the community road safety fund. It says that the fund received \$39.7 million from moneys collected from speeding fines and additional appropriation from the Consolidated Account of \$18.8 million. It said during the year the department spent \$60.9 million on road safety related initiatives, of which \$58 million was met from the fund and the remaining \$2.4 million was funded from the Highways Fund. Was that money actually money that was spent on road safety construction and maintenance improvements? Can I have some background as to what that bucket of money was actually spent on?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** We are talking about a lot of different programs, projects and infrastructure. You are talking about the full gamut of things like black spot funding, overtaking lanes, other works. There can be all sorts of works in there ranging from very big to very small. For your benefit we will see if we can find that information. I do not think you will find anything earth shaking, except that we are doing a good job, and that might disappoint you.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** In the Auditor-General's Report, the scope of the audit, he looked at revenue including such things as Metro ticket sales, bus and rail contract payments and the Rail Transport Facilitation Fund. I am interested in knowing whether the Auditor-General actually had a look at

the Rail Transport Facilitation Fund from the point of view that there was a commitment by us in government, which I understand—until you became minister at least—was happening with the Rail Facilitation Fund, and that is that any proceeds of the sale of any rail reserves or old, unused rail line went into the Rail Transport Facilitation Fund. Did the Auditor-General highlight anything, or has the department expressed any concern to you, either through or via the Auditor-General with respect to the transfer of some land in recent times whereby there has been no remuneration going into the Rail Transport Facilitation Fund?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** No. You can see from the report I think it says that the specific attention of the audit was the Rail Facilitation Fund. There was no comment from the Auditor-General expressing those concerns; certainly no comment from transport. I would be surprised if they did. What we did was, we think, a worthwhile thing. Oddly enough, some of your colleagues want us to do it again. I understand you have asked this question previously but certainly there has been absolutely no comment by the Auditor-General on it. I am sure if the Auditor-General did have a comment he would set it out in this report, having given specific audit attention to the Rail Facilitation Fund.

**Mr BROKENSHIRE:** Minister, if I was in a department where the budget was inadequate anyway and it had a backlog of road requirements and a backlog everywhere in the department that was struggling to get anywhere near coping, I would have actually expected the department to raise the issue with me, if I was minister, as to the fact that they were losing asset without remuneration and yet expected to deliver on other rail projects. What the Auditor-General does say is, and I will quote the sentence:

This year the department recorded a net loss from disposal of assets.

So you disposed of assets and I gather you either sold them or, in some cases, gave them away, and you recorded a net loss of \$22.6 million, compared to the year before where there was a net gain of \$2.4 million in 2003-04. That is a significant and serious amount of money. How did they write off that asset for that land that was given away? There is one example in Mount Gambier. Can you explain to me why there is a disposal of assets with a recorded net loss of \$22.6 million, as against a gain the year before?

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** We are talking about how things are described for the purposes of accounting and I will get some sort of primer on that for you, but I will go through it. Let me answer a couple of things you said; firstly, the gratuitous comment about the inadequacy of the budget. It must be a lot better now, because they have more money than they ever had under the previous government. There is more money for maintenance, more money—

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** 'The roads are a mess' is the interjection. It is a funny thing: they all wore out in March 2002. All of a sudden, all the roads in South Australia started wearing out in March 2002. There is now far more money in road maintenance than the previous government ever put in. With respect to investment in new roads, opposition members should be apologising for what they did not do, and they should be congratulating this government for what is being done—for example, \$300 million on a northern expressway. We added the bypasses—

**Mr Brokenshire:** It's not your money.

**The Hon. P.F. CONLON:** No, it is not our money, but does the member know how we got it? It was by committing \$200 million to upgrade South Road, all our money, which was how we received a better contribution from the commonwealth with respect to the northern expressway. We added bypasses to the Port River Expressway that were not there under the previous government. It was a bad design. We are finishing the bridges; we are dredging the port to 14 metres. We have done more in transport in four years than the previous did in its 8½ years of neglect. We are happy to compare our record and bring back more discouraging information to the opposition.

*[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]*

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to the Auditor-General's Report, Volume 2, page 386. The minister may wish to take this matter on notice, but will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors for 2004-05 for all departments and agents reporting to her, listing the names of the contractors, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have many pages of contractors who are used for different purposes. The consultancies in 2004-05 was with one, and that was \$37 700. Many contractors were engaged to perform particular functions.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I appreciate that, minister, but what I have asked you to identify in relation to contractors is the cost, work undertaken and method of appointment. If there are many pages, I am happy for those to be copied and provided if the question is taken on notice.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will provide all those for the honourable member because there are too many to read out. I am happy to do that, but it will take up the whole half an hour.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I will indicate the page number rather than repeating the volume. All my references are to Volume 2. I refer to page 341. Again, the Auditor-General reports about the development and implementation of the Valeo system, which is a human resource management system. As at 30 June 2005, how much was spent on the introduction of this system and how much of that was paid to the Work Force Planning Unit?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As I understand it, Valeo, which is a four-year project, was approved with cabinet sign-off prior this government's coming into office. The overall value is approximately \$22 million.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** How much of that has been paid to the Work Force Planning Unit?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** My advice is that the Work Force Planning Unit is not part of the Valeo project.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I understand that, but my question is: how much of this money was paid to the Work Force Planning Unit? Our information is that funds were allocated from this \$22 million project; and, if that is not the case, I ask the minister to assure the committee that no moneys that were allocated, budgeted for or paid to the Valeo human resource management system have been paid to the Work Force Planning Unit.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not think that we can get to the bottom of that question because we do not believe that it is part of the Valeo system currently, but I will take advice and respond later.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Still in relation to the Valeo system, how many staff required payroll officers to prepare manual payments, and how many staff were overpaid as a result of the implementation of the new system?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As I understand it, payroll errors and overpayments are corrected at the earliest opportunity. It is a standard process within the department and has not varied recently. I believe that it is probably the same system that applied when the last government was in office. It is usually done as quickly as possible to support the individual who has been affected by the error.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I have no doubt that from time to time there are errors and that they need to be corrected, but the assertion that has been given to the opposition is that payroll officers, during the course of the implementation of the Valeo system, have had to manually carry out payments for staff where errors in the system have been identified, and that a significant number of persons have had to be paid manually since the implementation of this program. The subject matter for the purpose of discussion here is 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and so, obviously, I will confine my question to that period. If it is necessary for the minister to obtain this information then I would be happy for her to do so. I would like the minister to identify how many staff had to be paid by manual payment and, furthermore, how many were overpaid directly relating to the implementation of this new system?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** My understanding is that there are two payroll systems in place, and in the process of implementing the new system called Valeo, there has clearly been some technical errors, as in all new computer processes. Where advice has been received from the Auditor-General, it has been acted upon, and all the matters raised by the Auditor-General have been worked upon and improved. So, I think that the processes are honourable and proper and, whilst there have been some problems, we have taken action in all ways possible to make sure that, for instance, in the PSM act, the staff, the commissioning, design and controls in the Valeo system were independently reviewed by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and the review was completed in June this year. There was a change management action plan by the PSM act employees implemented in March 2005, so the experience gained from that could be used also in the Education Act employees. Clearly, we are still working to take advantage of all the new computer systems in place.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I appreciate the indication of the minister, but this is a system which has been implemented, according to these reports, two years later than expected. It is a system that has cost twice as much as what it was originally budgeted to do. It is a system which, we are told, requires the paying of manual payments and overpayments to be remedied. All of those may relate to teething problems of a system, but this is a system that has been implemented over a four-year period, and which has been the subject of comment by the Auditor-General not only this year but also in some detail last year. So, I appreciate the minister's indication that all is being done to ensure that the implementation is carried out properly, but let me put it to you this way, minister: if you are satisfied that all is in order, can you assure the committee that, since the tabling of this report in October this year, no staff have been paid manually and no staff have been overpaid?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think it is quite clear that the original scope of this project was undervalued, and that the previous government, in putting aside \$16 million for it, had no clear indication of the actual cost. Therefore, we

were compelled to put in an additional \$6 million to correct that original underestimate. I think it would be extremely foolhardy for any person in this place to guarantee that there had never been an error in any department using any computer system in any location: human error, computer error, computer failure, computer breakdown and system errors are not uncommon, and to pretend that they are not is naive.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I thank the minister for her indication in that regard, and I appreciate that in the implementation of programs there are occasions where there can be some error, and some extra training is needed to be done and the like. Is the minister saying that she will not provide that information or that she will not give that assurance or that she will look into it to see if there has been an ongoing problem so that we can make sure that in the 2005-06 year we do not have yet another report from the Auditor-General? I would like some clarification about what the minister is prepared to do in that regard.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** My understanding of the Auditor-General's Report is that it is better than it ever was previously in terms of comments and areas for improvement. I still stand by my statement that it would be absolutely naive for anyone in this place to guarantee that there were never an error in any system or computer program or in any area where humans or machines were involved.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I will take that as a no, that the minister will not provide that information as to whether there have been any staff since the tabling of this report who have had to receive their pay by manual payment or who have been overpaid. I continue in relation to bank account nomination. Can the minister indicate if the new Valeo system requires all employees, including casual employees, to nominate a bank account for payment and, in particular, if it is now DECS policy that, unless a bank account is nominated, payment will be refused; that is, there are no further cheques available even for casual employees?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Interestingly enough, the member may have found an interesting anomaly. I understand that there is one individual who has not given us a bank account number or detail.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I take it then, minister, that if any employee (casual or otherwise) refuses to give a bank account, that they will not be paid.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand that this dates back to the bicentenary year of 1988. The enterprise agreement signed off on in that year required the provision of bank account details and, to date, the individual who has refused to give us the bank account details has been paid somewhat retrospectively over irregular periods of time.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In future, if employees decline to give a bank account, is it the policy of the government that they will not be paid?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is not the policy to sack someone under these terms, but I believe that we should continue to try to get a more regular payment schedule because it is clearly deeply irritating for all those involved.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I take it then that cheques will be issued regularly in that situation?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand that the payments are irregular at this stage because it is not routine for us not to have people's bank accounts. It is not a situation that we would encourage.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Have all the payments made to staff, where there are overpayments, been recovered for this subject year? If not, why not?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is my view that, as with all overpayments by employers, one should take into account hardship and difficulty in repaying the overpaid sums. I understand that there are some schemes in place, but there does not appear to be any long-term expectation that the full sums will not be returned to the government.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In relation to the new Valeo system, I am advised that—and I would be obliged if the minister could indicate if this is the case or not—it now takes two to three days to complete a pay run during which no transactions can be entered into—that is, to have access to the new program—whereas, under the previous system, it took an average of five to six hours overnight. Is that the position?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand that the single system integrates several systems as were used before and, whilst it may be slower, the payments are made on time, and the integrity of the data collection is better.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** At pages 348 and 376, the employee benefits have dropped from \$422 million to \$396 million and, notwithstanding that salary and wage increases pursuant to the enterprise bargaining agreement and the government's claim of increased number of teachers, why has the total employee benefit and related on-cost liability, which is the description of these amounts, dropped from \$422 million as at 30 June 2004 to \$396 million as at 30 June 2005?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I shall begin by pointing out that the assertion that we have not employed more teachers is untrue. Part of our initiative on coming into government was to reduce junior primary class sizes, and 160 extra teachers were employed for that reason. On top of that, there were some 120 for improved staff (both teaching and non-teaching) who were employed for literacy programs. We have extra counsellors and staff to deal with learning difficulties and disabilities. We are about to employ another 120—again, to reduce class sizes. So, the assertion that we have not increased teacher numbers is clearly inaccurate.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** All the more reason, minister, why you might want to explain why total employee benefits has plummeted from \$422 million down to \$396 million in a year.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think it might be appropriate if the member looked at page 369, under 'Employee Expenses', which accounts for salaries, wages, superannuation, payroll tax, long service leave, workers' compensation and other employee-related costs. The consolidated costs over 2004 compared with 2005 has gone from \$1 301 081 up to \$1 332 414. My reading of that is that there has been an increase.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I agree with that, minister, but that was not my question. The \$1.3 million and the \$1.332 million relates to employee expenses. I refer the minister to pages 348 and 376. On page 348, for example, under 'A structural analysis of assets and liabilities' it then goes on to state:

At 30 June 2005 the employee benefit and related on-cost liability of \$396 million (\$422 million) comprised 70 per cent (76 per cent) of total liabilities. . .

It goes on to say that that relates to full-time equivalent employees. This paragraph explains what is the total percentages of those expenses out of the total liabilities. My question is: why has there been a drop, when you have more people working for you and they are being paid higher wages and benefits?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think the member is confused. As I understand it, the liabilities relate to long service leave, which employees may have taken.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I take it, then, that that is the only explanation, that is, that a huge amount of long service was taken in that year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** My understanding is that this fluctuates up and down every year. It does not take a linear course, and one should never expect it to.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** It does fluctuate, minister; that is true. I think the previous Auditor-General's Report makes that very clear. This is a very significant reduction but, if the minister's answer is that that \$26 million relates to a taking of long service leave, therefore leaving a net liability, I will take that as the position.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This is a liability balance sheet issue and, as I understand it, it will vary according to how leave is taken.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 351. Will the minister provide a full list of major capital works projects carried forward to 2005-06 and the cost of same, and what is the total debt owed by schools to the department for loans for capital works as at 30 June 2005?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will take that question on notice and give the member that information at a later date.

**Mrs HALL:** Minister, I refer you to page 1222, under 'Operating Expenditure', specifically to the area where it states that industry assistance decreased by \$5.2 million in 2005, representing a drop of 34 per cent. Then, on page 1223, it explains the reduction is related to tourism infrastructure grants and sponsorship of events in off years. However, on page 1231, it then goes on to give a more detailed breakdown in the decrease in industry assistance, which includes event sponsorship of \$732 000 decrease; tourism infrastructure grants, a \$2.8 million decrease; tourism marketing boards/information centre grants, down \$302 000; marketing/industry support, down \$1.2 million; membership of tourism industry bodies, a \$30 000 decrease; and trade show subsidies, a \$20 000 decrease. Will the minister explain the substantial decreases in areas of expenditure for marketing and event sponsorship, trade show subsidies and membership of tourism industry bodies?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** One of the significant falls was due to the completion of the Outback Infrastructure Fund, which the member would recall was structured around the Year of the Outback. Many of the projects, which were quite complex, took several years to either reach agreement on or consensus with the other funding bodies. Some of projects were quite complex in that they involved not just local government but local community groups, and it was particularly difficult where there were Outback areas that were out of council. That accounted for a \$2.772 million decrease, in that the fund was completed.

The Outback fund was originally a \$6.7 million three-year fund. The decrease was also due to the additional expenditure in 2003-04 for committed infrastructure funds being unable to be spent in the 2004-05 year. One of the significant falls was due to the biennial nature of some of our funding activities, and decisions were made that some of the sponsorship should be paid in some years ahead of schedule. So, the \$732 000 decrease was due to additional events sponsorship being paid in 2003-04, with additional sponsorship paid to biennial events such as the Adelaide Festival, the Fringe and the World Cup rugby event, which was a once-off event—although, of course, we would hope to get rugby again in the future. In addition, there was a \$1.522 million decrease due to payments of grants totalling about \$1.5 million to attract

increased air services to South Australia. The remaining variance was due to a decrease in the number of subsidies to tourism industry bodies to attend functions and trade shows.

**Mrs HALL:** Would the minister explain a specific reference on page 1226, where it says that there has been a prepayment of \$645 000 for 2005 compared with \$45 000 in 2004? Also, in the notes on No. 11 on page 1232 it just says 'Prepayments Other'.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I believe it was ATE and we needed to pay for some activity ahead of schedule. So, although the event was last year there were several areas we had to put funds into earlier. We believe it is ATE, but I will get back to you if it is not.

**Mrs HALL:** On page 1231 note No. 6 talks about the breakdown of participation fees and shows that there is a decrease of \$100 000 in cooperative marketing, a decrease of \$278 000 in sponsorship revenue, a \$145 000 decrease in trade and consumer show participation, and a \$465 000 decrease in contra transactions. Will the minister advise the reasons for these particular reductions in each of the revenue segments, how contra transactions are defined and why there has been such a substantial decrease?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I would have to analyse them more particularly, but I believe it is do with the biennial events again. Tasting Australia was not held last year so there were no famils coming for that event; of course, we also had the loss of the Festival and Fringe-type events. We will analyse them particularly, but I think it relates to those sorts of issues.

**Mrs HALL:** Contra transactions, and the \$465 000 decrease?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will get a precise definition but I understand it is to do with the cash and in-kind support. So, we sometimes have a book entry that talks about a sponsorship when, in fact, that sponsorship is in kind, not money.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That ends the examination for that section of the Auditor-General's Report. I call on the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I seek some clarification through the chair. There are a number of portfolios involved; however, I only have staff here for the DFEEST part of the portfolio for which I have responsibility. I also have responsibility for youth and women, albeit only one line for each in the Auditor-General's Report so I have not brought any staff with me, but I am happy to answer questions on those two portfolios as well.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The chair's practice has been to allow opposition members to use the half hour they have allocated to them however they wish, but the member for Bragg may be able to give some indication of whether the opposition has questions in those other two smaller areas.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am happy to do so, sir. The member for Morialta has briefly left the chamber but she may have a question or so in relation to women's matters. In relation to youth, I was expecting the member for Hartley to be present in the committee (and he may appear during its course) but I do not recollect him having any specific question in relation to youth. I will largely be directing my questions to the minister in relation to the area of employment, training and further education.

I refer first to a number of questions that I asked the minister on 25 October last year in relation to the Auditor-General's Report for 2003-04, four of which (according to my records) remain outstanding. I have made copies of these



and, although they have my numbering on them, it may assist if I request the minister or members of her department to attend to giving us some answers to those questions, which are 12½ months out of date. I should place on the record that I was very pleased today to receive a couple of answers to estimates questions asked in June this year, but it seems that these may have been overlooked or perhaps there may be a cross-referencing. There was a question regarding the summary of programs that were held over in relation to capital works, a question on reviews and contracts, a question in relation to a revenue increase of \$11.8 million (being recovery of costs for targeted voluntary separation payments) that was taken on notice, and a fourth question that was asked by Mr Scalzi regarding the employment and skills formation program. I have copies of those and would be happy to provide them to the minister's adviser for follow up.

My first question relates to volume 2, page 582. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors for 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, listing the name of the contractor, the cost, the work undertaken, and the method of appointment? I should indicate that I do not expect this to be done today, but I would like this question to be taken on notice.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am more than happy to provide that information on the DFEEST consultancy expenditure. McLachlan Hodge Mitchell, ARPOS review, \$64 460.69; KPA Consulting Pty Limited, review of the Construction Industry Training Fund Act at 1993, \$33 709.50; Taylor Management Consulting Pty Limited, review of DFEEST support services provided to ministerial offices, \$13 738.04; Phillips KPA, review of the systems model for South Australian universities, \$63 974.65; Ray Dundon, review of the fishing industry, \$13 500; Adelaide Research and Innovation Pty Limited, Centre for Labour Research, examining trends in women's employment, \$28 000; education.au limited, feasibility study on the establishment of a national career development centre in South Australia, \$10 000; Ernst & Young, evaluation of optimal business model for advancing commercialisation in South Australia, \$113 804.86; Coutts Communications, ICT cluster research, \$31 400; University of South Australia, synchrotron demand study, \$15 600; Intellesys, broadband modelling, \$41 280; Swinburne University, community innovation awareness survey, \$9 090.91; Eckerman Associates, establish policy and market developments for the provision of broadband infrastructure services in the context of land management and development, \$10 454.55. The last six all come under the science and technology part of the portfolio. The total estimated as at June 2005 is \$448 913.19.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I appreciate the minister's answer, but my question was about contractors, not consultants. Are there any other contractors?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am advised that there are some contractors working in the department, but we do not have those details here. What sort of contractors in particular is the member looking for?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Any one that has been employed as a contractor by the department. For example, the previous minister indicated that in education they had quite a long list of contractors. The information we seek is the name of the contractor, the cost, the work undertaken, and the method of appointment, which is similar to the information sought in relation to consultants. I thank the minister for indicating that she will get hold of that information.

Regarding the figures that the minister just read out, the answer to a question asked in estimates in June that I received today listed almost exactly those same consultants for 2004-05 but the amounts were different. I am not sure whether that was an estimate, but it says in the answer that the details of expenditure on consultants for 2004-05 are as follows. The minister read out that Adelaide Research and Innovation was paid about \$28 000 for examining the trends in employment; this answer that I received today says that the figure is \$30 800. I think the minister said \$10 000 for Education AV; this document discloses \$11 000. I am happy for a copy of this document to be handed to the minister, but this is what I was provided with today in response to my question in June. This is of concern. There may be some perfectly valid explanation: one might be an estimate and one might be an actual. From the information you have given and the information that I received today, both purport to be details of expenditure. So I seek some clarification.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** We can certainly spell this out for the honourable member, but I understand that in some cases the consultancy started before the financial year, maybe a few days earlier. There is also a difference in some cases between, as the member said, the actual amount and the estimated amount. I will clarify that so that we can support the information that we have presented to you today.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** On page 582, the Auditor-General reports in relation to the number of employees who received remuneration of over \$100 000, but they are in a different category. On page 581 the salary packages listed are for normal \$100 000-plus people. There are 37 of those. Over the page is a little subtitle 'Remuneration of Employees (continued)—Other Employees.' There is no reference to any previous year, but this year there were 79 of them who, for some reason—and I will seek some explanation why—are not in the other list. These are also people who earned more than \$100 000. The explanatory note provides that nine of those 79 were employees who retired or resigned, but the other 70 are inexplicable, and these people received \$8.7 million during the last financial year, according to this report. My question is: why are they classified into this category and, in future, will they be in the normal salary packages list and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** The advice I have received is that the remuneration of employees on page 581 are for normal employees who are in those classifications. But, as you would remember, the education managers' positions were reviewed and, as a result of that, there was some restructuring of classifications and there was also some back pay received by some of those education managers and employees. That explains the variance in the amounts. I think probably it does get a little bit difficult to understand because of the total reorganisation as well as the repositioning of TAFE, if the honourable member remembers, that took place over the last year to 18 months.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Can I clarify it then: having restructured, are these people now going to go into the normal list—56, 16, two—and each of them are all over \$100 000, so next year do they go into this next list, the 70 of the 79?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am advised that only where their salary actually does go over \$100 000 will they be in that category. We are not expecting that would be an enormous number of people.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That is why I seek some clarification, because nine are explained and they are out of the picture, by

the look of it. Of the remaining 70, how many are going to remain in the \$100 000 plus category?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Taking into consideration the back pay issue I mentioned earlier, which did boost people's salaries for that particular financial year, it is not expected that we would have that second list in the future, that they would be covered under what I called the normal list.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** So none of them is expected to continue in that category? Is that the position?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I did not say none of them, but we are not expecting the same numbers, because people will not be eligible for back pay again.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I understand that, and it may not be immediately available to you, but of the 70 there—because we have excluded nine—some of those have received an extra payment which may have taken them over a certain threshold, but some have not. Really what I am asking for is the breakdown, so we know how many are going to be there in next year's list.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** Certainly we would be happy to provide that.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to the Auditor-General's Report, Volume 5, page 1479, the University of Adelaide, regarding the Wine Centre. How much of the revenue for 2004 was received from the Wine Centre under the long-term lease to the university?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I will endeavour to obtain an answer to that question, but the Wine Centre comes under the auspices of the Treasurer, with regard to the leasing and the arrangements that were made. The University of Adelaide is obviously one of the higher education institutions, so it is my responsibility. However, I will endeavour to obtain that information from the Treasurer and the university.

**Mr SCALZI:** I again refer to the Auditor-General's Report Volume 5, page 1479, the University of Adelaide, Volume 5, page 1522, the University of South Australia, and Volume 2, page 527, Flinders University, regarding student union fees. How much of the revenue for 2004 was for student union fees paid by students for each university?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am unable to provide that information; I would have to ask the universities concerned. I am happy to do so.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to Volume 5, pages 1504 and 1542. This section relates to the remuneration for the University of Adelaide senior management personnel. On that page it identifies remuneration from \$130 000 up to a range between \$560 000 and \$569 999. I am pleased to see that there is only one of those in the latter category, who I assume to be the Vice-Chancellor of the university, as is indicated in the financial accounts of each of the universities. Although it is a very significant increase, it is commensurate with the remuneration benefits received for such personnel. However, I note that the executive remuneration thresholds for the University of Adelaide do not start at \$100 000; they start at \$130 000. I also note, at page 1542, which relates to the University of South Australia, that it starts its executive thresholds at \$110 000.

From my observation of both the Auditor-General's Report and statements made by the Treasurer, in his infamous description of people who earn more than \$100 000 as 'fat cats', and that being disclosed in all the accounts for each of the departments or instrumentalities for which a minister is responsible, I note that they all start at \$100 000. I know that there are some personnel at these university levels who enjoy high salary packages, some of which are double what we pay

our Prime Minister. I would like some explanation as to why there is not a disclosure in these records, as presented to the Auditor-General, of remuneration for executive and senior management personnel starting at \$100 000. Why do they enjoy the privilege of not disclosing between \$100 000 to \$130 000 at the University of Adelaide as a threshold and \$100 000 to \$110 000 at the University of South Australia? Furthermore, are there any executives or personnel employed by each of these universities with a salary package between the \$100 000 and \$110 000 and the \$100 000 and \$130 000 respectively? If so, how many, and how much do they earn?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** First, I do not really think I can be held responsible for the views of the Treasurer. So, I will count myself out of that right from the start—particularly his views of higher education. I am not entirely sure why there is this difference. I have the reference to pages 1504 and 1542. What was the other reference?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** It is only those two, because it is only those two universities that do not start at \$100 000. I should say, for the record, for the benefit of making Flinders University look good, perhaps, that it has full disclosure from \$100 000. It uses the threshold that is commensurate across all the portfolios. But it seems that the other two universities enjoy some privilege where they have not had to disclose that, or do not, or the Auditor-General has not picked it up, or there is some direction from the minister or the Treasurer, or someone, that they do not have to, or whatever. I would like some clarification as to why (and I am happy for the minister to take it on notice), and where are the missing numbers and how much do they receive?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I am happy to do so. I do not know about missing numbers: I think that is probably a little over dramatic. However, I am certainly happy to find out the answer to the mystery.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to Volume 2, page 571, which covers the Department of Further Education, Science and Technology. In relation to the operating result, the explanatory note suggests that additional expenditure was partly offset by increases in student and other fees and charges of \$4.9 million. Could the minister explain what they are, other than TAFE fees, if anything else?

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** My advice is that they are TAFE fees as set out in note 12 of the advice.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** They are all the questions that I have. I do not see any of my colleagues present who would otherwise have an interest in this matter. I thank the minister for her answers, and look forward to receiving those responses from last year, as well as this year, as indicated.

**The Hon. S.W. KEY:** I take this opportunity to thank the opposition for their questions. Also, I acknowledge the assistance from my department in the preparation of the Auditor-General's Report, particularly Elaine Bensted, Deputy Chief Executive, as well as Trevor Beeching who is in charge of all things financial.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I move:

That the examination of the report in relation to the Minister for Families and Communities be postponed until after the examination in relation to the Minister for the River Murray.

Motion carried.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Mr Chairman, I draw your attention to the state of the committee.

*A quorum having been formed:*

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I refer to page 937 and 'grants and subsidies'. Program 3 under 'Agriculture, Food and Fisheries' indicates that total expenses from ordinary activities has

increased from \$15.4 million to \$25.7 million. What is the reason for the substantial increase?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I thank the member for MacKillop, representing the shadow minister. As a matter of courtesy, I introduce Steve Archer and Mark Williams. I think that the honourable member knows Steve and Mark. For the honourable member's benefit and that of the committee, that simply reflects the buy-out of 54 per cent by number and 45 per cent by volume of the haul nets in the marine scale fishery. That is a one-off item. I think that, off the top of my head, the total expenditure was about \$10.9 million to buy back all those nets on a voluntary basis.

I might add for the record that, after persistent lobbying from the member for MacKillop, as part of the package I did extend to the limit the definition, and I purchased one of the two nets in his Lake George fishery. I offered the same to both of them, and we were hoping to buy them both out. One chose on a voluntary basis not to accept the offer, and the other did, so that would be included in that money as well. Although it was aimed mainly at the gulfs, your own constituent has benefited and, I might add, so has the fishery. It is good to get that net out of Lake George.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Yes, and as the local member I was appreciative of that particular offer to those net licensees. Minister, your answer leads me backwards to page 926, Fishery Strategic Plans, and it concerns me somewhat that the Auditor-General has identified that, even though the regulations require that the department prepares a five-year strategic plan for each management committee and requires regular reporting achieved against the plan, it appears that there is currently no strategic plan. The latest strategic plan for state fisheries expired in 2002. The question is: how did the government manage the marine scale net fishery buy-back when it did not have a plan? In fact, its plan expired some three years ago, so it does not have a strategic plan into the future of the marine scale fishery, yet it spent \$10 million of taxpayers' funds buying out approximately 60 per cent of the fishery.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** There are two separate matters there. The industry plan, which the honourable member is alluding to, is not, obviously, the departmental plan. Technically the honourable member is right. On an annual basis we sign off on a business plan. Obviously the business plan is a consequence of the strategic plan and, yes, I have been signing off on the business plans, but you could well argue—because the Auditor-General actually argues—that technically I am not dealing with the strategic plan, which is the industry part. The FMCs meet regularly and I use their advice to sign off on the business plans.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** How did the government make what I see as a long-term strategic decision to buy out a substantial part of that fishery—the marine scale net licences, which could not be seen in any way other than in a long-term strategic plan—without having developed a strategic plan? It appears from the Auditor-General's Report that the department is virtually working on a day-to-day basis in its management of the fisheries. It raises a plan on an annual basis but, all of a sudden, we are making decisions which will have implications to the fishery, and to the industry, well into the future without having bedded down a strategic plan into the future.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** That is what I tried to explain in my first answer. The honourable member is actually mixing up the industry's plan, which is using their licence fees, etc., and, obviously, I sign off on the budget, but

technically he is right, I am not signing off, assuming that that mirrors their plan. Quite separate from that, the government has a broad plan in relation to managing fisheries, and it is under that plan, under the key component of sustainability. In our plan, all the fisheries have to be managed in a sustainable manner and, whenever I get data that states, based on a number of measures—spawn biomass, or a range of measures—that a particular fishery is under stress, then I must immediately respond in terms of managing that. I would, as part of that, take advice from the appropriate FMC, but I may choose to go beyond their advice, or modify their advice, or take advice from other quarters.

The two most recent examples in terms of making a management decision—other than the normal ones setting, for example, the TACC rock lobster fisheries and that sort of thing—would be in the King George whiting fishery, where I chose to introduce a number of management tools to respond to the decreasing biomass; and in the net fishery in relation to the science on garfish, choosing to see if we could actually remove efforts rather than manage efforts. That is separate from the way in which each of the fisheries actually manages its money and its licence fees. So, they are two quite separate plans. However, the honourable member is right. I am responding in that regard to the independent advice we get from SARDI as part of the database we have to manage to make sustainable decisions in each of those fisheries.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Again, further up on page 926, with regard to legal compliance, the Auditor-General states:

The department advised that during 2005-06 it will review aspects of its practices in relation to legal compliance risk and develop a framework that will support compliance driven requirements and ensure divisions respond effectively to legal compliance.

The dot point prior to that states that legal compliance is yet to be incorporated into the department's risk management practices, and the audit sought clarification of the department. What has the department done to date with regard to legal compliance? That leads into a question that I will pose in a moment regarding contingent liabilities.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** In relation to that second dot point of the top of page 296, which the honourable member is alluding to, the Auditor-General is saying that we do not have a framework within which we would ask the question, 'Are we satisfying those requirements?' So, he is not suggesting that we are not. You will move onto that question in a second, but in terms of this one, he is making the point that we ought to firm that up in terms of having a framework to measure that. I think that that is a valid point, and we will obviously respond to that.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** That leads me to the question that I foreshadowed concerning contingent liabilities (page 954). Under that heading, it states:

The nature of activities that the Department is involved in can create exposure to environmental, fisheries and petroleum matters, which the Department may be required to remedy in the future. The Department has some potential outstanding litigation in a number of these areas, specifically resulting from interpretation of past mining practices and petroleum exploration.

I know that this is outside the minister's immediate area, but he might like to comment on that and what contingent liabilities the government has been able to identify and what contingencies it has made to meet those.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Obviously, that is dealt with separately from within the agency on behalf of the agency. We do not try to predict those liabilities. There are a couple of issues at the moment which are being contested. If the

honourable member would like me to take this on notice, I could give him a list of where they are and where they are up to in terms of the contestability in the process.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** On page 930, royalties this year have gone from \$75.2 million in the preceding year to \$101 million in 2005. Can the minister expand on that? I know that there is an explanation, but it did not fulfil my requirements. Can the minister give the committee an explanation of exactly where those increased royalties have come from? Is it the expectation that those royalties will remain at that level and continue to grow, bearing in mind that the house has recently debated a bill to increase the rate of royalties on minerals in South Australia?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I will take the second part first in terms of the forward estimates. The assumption is just to maintain that level through that four-year forward estimates period. Back to the specific question, though: the biggest single contribution to the variance between 2003-04 and 2004-05 is Roxby from \$20.871 million to \$39.459 million, so there is \$18.588 million. There are a few within the petroleum area. Stuart Petroleum is up by \$3 million; Beach Petroleum is up by just over \$1 million; and Cooper Basin is up by \$11.935 million. So, the total in petroleum is about \$6.552 million and the total in minerals is about \$19.273 million, of which \$18.588 million is just that one issue of Roxby.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** On the statement of financial performance for the year ended 30 June on page 934, the sale of goods is listed as \$3.633 million, which is down slightly from just over \$4 million. Looking at the notes on page 939 with regard to the sale of goods, it states:

The sale of goods is reported as gross sales revenue. The cost of sales is not separately disclosed due to the nature of these operations (sales are mainly for information purposes or occur as a result of by-products of research farms)—

Can the minister explain that to the committee?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I refer the shadow minister to page 948. Rather than just quoting, I suggest that the honourable member goes to the top of page 948 where there is a more detailed explanation of exactly what those sales of goods are. Is that any assistance?

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Yes; certainly, it is. The turn of phrase that 'sales are mainly for information purposes' is quite confusing.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Neither you nor I could ever in this place explain the terminology used by accountants.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** On page 940, in the explanation at the top of the page under the heading of Receivables, it states:

Trade debtors greater than 120 days in arrears at balance date are assessed each year and provision is made for any doubtful accounts.

Can the minister tell the committee what percentage provision is made? What percentage of doubtful accounts does he expect?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I have referred that to the brains trust with very little help. I think that the brains trust will have to take that one on notice.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** The next paragraph states:

In addition, the general doubtful debt provision amounting to five per cent of the balance of the outstanding loan portfolio is provided for each year.

I note in other places in the report that the loan portfolio has been wound down as the loans are no longer being made. I guess it is a fairly general question. Is the five per cent a realistic figure today? Are we expecting that to be a figure which will go on until those loans reach their use by date?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Our experience is that provision at that level has been more than adequate over the last number of years. In fact, off the top of my head, I can recall only one occasion on which I have had to exercise an authority in relation to that. Yes, it probably seems conservative but, obviously, the whole strategy is particularly conservative. It is our view that, over the life of this book, that 5 per cent has proved more than adequate. We do not see that there is any immediate risk above that level.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** In relation to employee benefits, on page 941, at 2.21, it states:

Provisions

A liability has been reported to reflect unsettled workers compensation claims. The workers compensation provision is based on an actuarial assessment performed by the Public Sector Occupational Health and Injury Management Branch of. . . DAIS.

Can the minister inform the committee what is the actual liability? Is it part of the current liability or non-current liability?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Current and non-current liability.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** So, it is in both?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I can indicate that our risk management policy has been working particularly well, and we have actually been exceeding the benchmarks. In fact, we are used as a model in that regard. However, the member is right; it is captured in two places.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Can the minister identify what is that liability and break it down into how much is current and how much is non-current?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** Yes. If the honourable member turns to page 951, at point 29, he will see the amplification of that in terms of the current and non-current bit. It explains that it existed in two components. I believe that is adequate for the member's purposes. If not, the member can let us know and we will get that information for him.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I must admit that I missed that. I would like to think that you have studied this more closely than I have, minister. Again in relation to employee expenses, the table on the bottom of page 943 indicates that the salaries and wages have increased from \$70.361 million to \$72.695 million, but then, in the explanations of annual leave, it shows that the annual leave figure has gone up from \$0.998 million to \$4.67 million. The explanation shows that the increase in annual leave is because of a different way of accounting for it. In the previous year, the annual leave was accounted for in the wages. By my rough calculations, when you add that extra annual leave, actual wages increase to about \$77.36 million, which is an increase of about 10 per cent when comparing apples with apples. That is my rough bush arithmetic, but I think I am within the ballpark. Can the minister explain that, because my understanding of the increase in employees is that it is about 5 per cent? Over the page, in relation to the average number of employees during the reporting period, it indicates that there has been about a 5 per cent growth in full-time equivalents. I am again working on a roughly 3 per cent wage increase over the period, and there is a gap in the middle.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** On the surface of it, the honourable member suggests that this is a 10 per cent increase in the base budget of the agency. I would be delighted if I could stand here and indicate that that was a correct assumption. Of course, a number of these are in and outs. Yes, there is some growth because of the EB, and there

are some one-offs because of the Eyre Peninsula bushfires. So, that would be reflected in there. The quantum we are talking about here is about \$5 million. The member makes the observation that you have to subtract from or add to the other if you want to compare apples with apples. Again, some money was brought in for some extra work in SARDI and in Rural Solutions. To show the difference, we would have to show the extra sources of activity and the sources of the revenue. You could not just extrapolate from this that the base budget of the department has grown by 10 per cent. Yes, we are winning business and providing services elsewhere but, obviously, that is then reflected in our activities, although they could be for another agency.

If the member wants, I can further expand in relation to SARDI agriculture science research and rural solutions, but that is where you would see something like 62 extra FTEs in terms of that level of activity, which is work we have brought in and are providing within aquatic science and rural solutions.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I was hoping, minister, that you might say that we have revived the old extension services, which the department used to provide. The minister and I have had some private conversations in that regard, and I still think that the department is missing a great opportunity to get out there and provide what we used to call extension services to the farming community. Minister, can you offer any explanation to the committee about the increase in the amount of money being spent on 'fat cats', which is the term used by your government? My understanding is that the total remuneration received by employees earning over \$100 000 has increased by 14 per cent in the last 12 months—that is, it has gone to \$5.6 million from \$4.7 million. That includes a total number of seven employees, and while I have not worked it out yet it is much less than 14 per cent.

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** This is more complicated than what is presented in the table on the bottom of page 943, because you can actually have someone for part of the year earning more but they will not be captured in that. So you cannot extrapolate just between the seven FTEs, if you like, that are the increases in that table—most of them coming in, of course, at the bottom end and others moving up the scale. You cannot extrapolate directly from that to the total expenditure, because if you do you will end up with what you are suggesting—an increase within that 43 of 14 per cent. So, again, you are actually looking at two different things. I could give you a more detailed table that would set out where for part of the year someone was earning above that level—where, for example, you might have acted up for part of the year. Now, you would not be captured in that table but the on-costs, etc., as part of your salary for that time you were acting at a higher level would still be captured in that other figure.

I do not make myself at all clear, by the look on your face. The honourable member has picked up the significant growth in terms of the ones that have now moved onto the table while the others have been bumped up the table, but beyond that you can actually have the cost of someone who was over \$100 000 for part of the year.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I picked that up, minister. When you leave this place I am sure you will get a job alongside Sir Humphrey with an answer like that. If I may I will read into the *Hansard* a couple of omnibus questions and then, if I have time, I will come back to my questions. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors in 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, listing the names of the contractors,

cost, work undertaken and method of appointment? During 2004-05 have any issues of concern about possible breaches of Treasurer's Instructions been raised with the minister? If so, could the minister provide details to the committee?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I will take the first part on notice, because we will be happy to provide those. Regarding the second part, we do not have any known breaches, but we will check to make sure that Treasury is not dealing with something. Certainly, no known breaches have been brought to my attention.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Page 944 again, under the heading 'Supplies and Services', I will ask two questions. Under the heading 'Professional Services', it says in the notes that it 'Includes consultancies costs which are further broken down below.' When I look at that, the consultancy costs make up only a very small portion of the total of \$13.2 million—in fact, my reading of it suggests that the consultancy costs only make up about \$0.4 million of that. Can the minister give the committee an understanding of what the other \$12.8 million of professional services includes?

Also under 'Supplies and Services', there is an item for Travel of some \$4.5 million. Can the minister indicate to the committee what sort of travel for his department to the tune of \$4.5 million is included there (bearing in mind that it does not include the next item, which is Vehicle and Equipment Operating Costs)?

**The Hon. R.J. McEWEN:** I will get back to you with a detailed list of those types of contractor costs which are the major part of that \$13.221 million and, equally, how we break up that \$4.556 million.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That ends the time allocated to the department. I call on the Minister for Health.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** First, I ask the minister for an absolute assurance that the questions I ask here today will be answered, and that they will be answered in a timely fashion. Answers were promised to questions that I asked during estimates on 17 June, but I am still waiting for more than half of them. I have received virtually no answers at all to questions I asked during estimates, but five which arrived today were signed by the minister on 29 July. It has taken more than three months to get those answers from the minister's desk to this parliament—shabby treatment indeed. I have raised this matter with the Speaker in terms of contempt of this parliament. When it comes to health, it would appear that you cannot get any answers at all. I see the CEO smiling as if they are proud of that fact. We may still cut off tonight unless the minister is willing to give an absolute assurance that the questions asked will be answered in a timely fashion while this house is still sitting.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** And welcome to you to tonight's proceedings, too. I would have thought the honourable member would show a little bit of good humour, given this is my first time in this situation. I am not aware of the problems the minister is having in receiving answers to questions he has asked on other occasions. However, I am happy to check to ensure that the answers are in train. It may well have been that the questions required an inordinate amount of work, but I will have a look. I can say to the parliament that I am still waiting for a couple of questions that I asked when the honourable member was the premier of the state. The questions were not asked of him but of some of his ministers, and they were about alleged assaults of heads of departments by staffers. I remember putting them on the *Notice Paper* on at least two occasions but never getting an answer.

**Mr Caica:** Fancy that.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Fancy that. Presumably that was because the premier and the minister of the day did not want the embarrassing truth to come out about the violence exercised by a particular staffer against a leading public servant. I think is a bit rich for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to complain about the tardiness of answers to questions when under his watch when he was a minister the standard of question answering was not all that good. I am happy to have a look to see whether there is any blockage in the system that has prevented any of the questions that he asked being replied to.

**The Hon. Dean Brown:** Most of them.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I will have a look and see what I can do to accommodate the honourable member.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I point out that when I spoke to the Speaker today he said that there used to be a rule—and I can confirm this—or an expectation that answers to questions asked during estimates had to be back before the house within 14 days, and ministers were asked to comply with that. I have been in this place longer than some; these are the worst delays that I have ever experienced, and they hold this parliament in contempt.

My question relates to the three regional superboards that were set up by the Rann government: the Central Northern and Adelaide Health Service Board, the Southern Adelaide Health Service Board and regional structure, and the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service Board and structure. What is the total number of staff for each of these three structures? I am excluding staff who work for any of the hospitals; I am talking about the total administrative structure.

For instance, the Central Northern and Adelaide Health Service Board I think earlier this year—and I have a copy of the advertisement which was in *The Australian*—advertised for 64 new positions. The advertisement was also put on their web site. That advertisement did not include the actual positions that already exist, as occurs with, say, the Dental Service. I would like to know the total number of staff in each of those three superboards and administrative structures. It will be not so much to do with the board but the administrative structures, and I am excluding those people who work just for the hospital but, if they work for the hospital and for the region, I would like them to be included in the figures.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** The honourable member has repeatedly made claims about the expansion of the bureaucracy, and I will get him a thorough answer. Some of the elements of the questions we will need to take on notice, but I can give him a reply to part of the question now. The member should understand that this rationalisation followed on from the Generational Health Review. The idea was to try to get better integration between various services. As the member probably understands, in order to abolish existing boards one has to get the agreement of those boards unless one changes the Health Act.

I understand that the former minister was able to negotiate an agreement that the 15 boards which operated in the metropolitan area would be reduced to three. So this reform has brought about a reduction in bureaucracy, not an increase, so that we can get a more focused, integrated and efficient system—and that is happening. For example, the Central Northern board is moving to have one human resource manager and one finance manager to replace the previous six managers. There was one at the Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Adelaide, the Lyell McEwin, Modbury, the ACCH and the NCH. Similar approaches are happening in the south and also

in the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service. At the inception of the CNAHS in July 2004 there were 25 executive posts in total across the health units. So, in the Central Northern area, at the beginning when the original health units and the interim regional team were established there were 25 executive posts.

Now as a result of the regional structure being implemented there are 20 executive posts, so there has been a reduction in five. The savings that have been made have been put into health care delivery. A note here tells me that it should be emphasised that, contrary to recent media speculation, CNAHS has not—repeat, has not—created 64 executive positions. I think that demonstrates there has actually been a reduction in the number of executive positions. However, there are extra workers. For example, the money that is saved by these processes in central northern have been put into front line services, so reducing waiting times, expanding palliative care service, increasing cardiac service, supporting the ophthalmology network, placing practice nurses and allied health staff in general practitioner surgeries, increasing access to services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, creating peer support services for people with mental health difficulties and increasing access to dentists and oral health services. I think the member would agree that that is a good outcome. It is less bureaucracy, not more.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** But I come back and repeat what I would like to see are the actual numbers for each of them and, in fact, I think it is probably appropriate for me to have a listing of all of the positions as well within those structures. The Central and Northern Adelaide Health Service put out a publication which listed 64 new positions and therefore I would like indications of all of those positions and I would like that for each of the three regions. My next question is: what is the cost of each of the new administrative structures? I am not talking here about the money passed on to the actual hospitals for treatment of patients; I am asking what is the actual cost of the structures, the new boards and administrations in terms of dollars? I would like that for each of those three boards as well.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Yes, I am happy to provide as much of that information, and promptly, to the honourable member as I can. I understand that each of the boards has—  
*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I said I can. I will take it on notice.

**The Hon. Dean Brown:** You said as much, but I would have thought it was quite reasonable to supply it all.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Well, as much as is available. I am not sure of the point the honourable member is making. I will be more explicit. I am saying to the member I will take on notice and provide for him information we have in relation to each of those boards in terms of the administrative and other centralised services that are run through those boards. Some will be administrative; I guess other professions will be involved there. What he is looking for, I guess, is the expenditure outside the hospital delivery. But to be fair I will also have to tell the member about the savings that we made compared to the previous model. So that may take a little bit of time to do. We will do it as rapidly and as honestly as we can so we give him the breakdown of the positions of each of the boards and the budget for each of those boards. I understand that each of the boards has its own budget.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I refer to page 633 of the Auditor-General's Report. He lists there the administrative and clerical staff involved in the department. I notice that once again there has been an increase in the number of staff.

Since this government has been in office there are 161 extra administrative and clerical staff. What I would appreciate is knowing where those extra administrative staff are specifically located in the health area. To clarify the point, I am talking about the difference between the figure of 4 185 from the figure of 4 024, which was the figure in June of 2002.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** This answer requires a little bit of explanation. I point out to the member that it talks about administrative staff and suggests that they are somehow remote from the health system. However, a lot of the clerical and administrative staff are also part of the delivery system. They are not professionals but they help with a range of jobs, including ward clerks, outpatient receptionists and so on. So, there is a whole range of services.

The facts are that, when we increase the number of doctors and nurses we have in our hospitals, we need to increase the number of people who assist and support those doctors and nurses. For example, we have recruited an extra 1 349 nurses, or 874 full-time equivalent, in the last three financial years, and an extra 349 doctors, or 144.9 full-time equivalent. Those doctors and nurses require support, so it is just logical that one does it. It would be like employing extra school teachers and not putting in school assistants or people to do those kinds of jobs—cleaning classrooms and so on. The advice I have had is that there has been an increase of 161 in administrative and clerical staff between 2002 and 2005, and the increase in the last two years, 2004 to 2005, was 15. So, most of those came on at the earlier stage.

**The Hon. Dean Brown:** In the last year?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Between 2004 and 2005 it was 15; between 2002 and 2005 it was 161. As I said, the increase in staff is commensurate with the increased funding provided to health services over the past three years, which has resulted in a growth of nursing and medical staff, and the increase is as a result of a variety of causes, including the need to increase clerical staff in line with activity increases, such as communication clerks in the emergency department at Flinders Medical Centre, and ward clerks; bringing services in-house that were previously outsourced, such as when Benson ceased providing radiology services at the Lyell McEwin Hospital; increases in surplus staff associated with work; injured staff being unable to return to their substantive position; increased scrutiny of governance issues; and changes in the structure of hospital operations such as the deamalgamation of the Queen Elizabeth and Lyell McEwin hospitals.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I thank the minister for that, but I would still appreciate the details of the question that I asked.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I will have a look at the question, and if we can provide more information for the member we will do so. I am not trying to be difficult, but it may not be as simple as he suggests. These positions become integrated in the whole system. However, we will certainly have a look for him.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I again refer to the three boards which I mentioned earlier (page 618 of the Auditor-General's Report). I would appreciate knowing, for each of the three administrative structures under the superboards that I talked about earlier, how many of the staff are on a salary of over \$100 000 a year? For those over \$100 000 I would like to know the number and the range, so it is presented in the same way as the Auditor-General presents it for the whole of the department in terms of the salary range. Obviously, I do not want to know it person by person, but I would

appreciate knowing it by the number for each range and the total number for each region.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** This is not part of the Auditor-General's Report. Is the member is talking about the staff levels in hospitals? He said boards.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Let me clarify it. I was talking earlier about the structures for each of the three regions. What I would like to know is, within those three regions, but excluding the hospitals, how many people earn over \$100 000 and what is the range in numbers that they sit in, as is traditionally presented by the Auditor-General? One would expect that this might be in the annual reports. The figures have been there in the past, and I can find where they are. I refer the minister to page 616, for instance, where it states that there are 54 employees in the department. They are administrative staff—they are non-medical staff—on a salary of over \$100 000. It gives the numbers for each area.

Incidentally, because you have split DHS into two departments, the number has dropped from 80 to 54. However, if one brings the Department for Families and Communities back in, one will see that there has been an increase of 16, which is a 20 per cent increase in the number of administrative people in the department over \$100 000 in the year. I would like to know the breakdown in each of the regions.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I am sorry, I misunderstood the nature of the question. I thought the member was including all the health units within each region in the original question. We will happily find that answer. As I said, in relation to the central northern area, the number of executives has declined from 25 to 20. So, that is an example. That is the biggest of the three, I guess, and there will be relevant numbers in the others. I will find the information that the member requested.

In relation to head office, if you like, there were 51 DH staff with a salary of \$100 000 or more as at 1 July 2004, at the beginning of the restructure, and a year later there were 54. There were three additional staff, and I understand that two of those at least were a matter of flow-on from bracket creep as a result of those kinds of adjustments. The document I have here states that eight of the staff are in the administrative services officer classification, 12 are medical related staff and 34 are executives. The eight administrative staff falling into this bracket resulted from some staff preferring to be untenured under the PSM act. Some staff received higher duty allowances whilst acting for an executive who may have been on leave (so, that means they will not always necessarily be in that bracket), and there was some bracket creep. The increase in staff earning greater than \$100 000 is mainly due to the three staff in the administrative officers range now earning over \$100 000.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The minister need not respond now but, in getting that information, were those figures for 30 June 2004 for the Department of Human Services?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** A year ago—I think that it says 20 June, but it was more properly—

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** The Auditor-General's Report says a year ago, which was the Department of Human Services.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** That is right. That is why I am giving you the breakdown so that you can compare apples with apples. A year ago it was 51, now it is 54. The majority of that is not because of new positions but because of bracket creep and similar kinds of issues—non-tenured staff, and so on.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I appreciate that information. It is in the general recurrent expenditure, but I would like to know the total cost of settling legal claims, and I ask for that in two areas: first, what was the cost in settling claims of a medical nature or negligence, etc., within the hospitals; and, secondly, what was the cost of settling legal claims against doctors who may have taken legal action? I particularly highlighted the fact during estimates that I understood that a particular doctor in the South-East had now settled his claim against the department. That has now been paid. I would like to know the total of those costs.

Incidentally, that doctor has said that he had no demand for confidentiality of that claim, and the minister said that there was a confidentiality clause. The doctor has indicated publicly that he no longer wants any confidentiality clause linked to that, and he is therefore only too willing to reveal the nature—

**The Hon. J.D. Hill:** Well, what is stopping him? Let him reveal it if he wants to.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** No, I am saying that the confidentiality clause was imposed by the government because it was scared of the figure getting out. The former minister said that she would check. She has not bothered to check. I have checked with the doctor. I ask again whether the government will reveal the size of the settlement with that doctor who is the anaesthetist in the South-East, because the doctor is only too willing to have that figure revealed.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** It is always a mixture of a kind of over-statement, mock outrage and offensive kind of suggestions made by the member for Finnis and deputy leader. We are not scared of anything. There is an arrangement in relation to the South-East claim, I assume. An arrangement has been made, the matter has been settled. We would have acted on Crown advice, and we will continue to act on Crown advice. I can put to the Crown what the deputy leader is suggesting, but I do not know that the doctor is prepared to waive his confidentiality.

If I came in here and said something on the basis of something that the deputy leader said and he had a go at me, it would be a little unfair. In any event, there might well be good public policy reasons why we do not tell the general world how we settle a claim because we then set precedents—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** It is not a matter of being embarrassing. You then set a precedent for any future claim, because people then have a benchmark about what they can get. There are probably very good public policy reasons for not doing it. As I say, I will look at the issue again. In relation to the total—I think that was the question—amount of legal fees, claims, or whatever, that have been spent over the last 12 months, we I will take that on notice, too.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I would like to ask two omnibus questions: first, will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors in 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister and list the name of the contractor's work, the cost, the work undertaken and the method of appointment; secondly, during 2004-05, have any issues of concern about possible breaches of the Treasurer's Instruction been raised with the minister?

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** So, how is this relevant to the Auditor-General's Report?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** It is very relevant, indeed, and you are not the minister answering the questions. If you

are confused as to whether you are the Minister for Transport—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** You have been in the house a long time, tell us which page?

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** Madam Acting Chair, will you ask who the Minister for Health is? I am a little confused. We have had a minister, an acting minister, an acting acting minister and an acting acting acting minister—

**The ACTING CHAIRPERSON (Ms Thompson):** Order! There is no need for that.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** And we now seem to have a fourth one.

**The ACTING CHAIRPERSON:** Order! I remind the deputy leader that there is a requirement in relation to the examination of the Auditor-General's Report that the page be quoted.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** I am referring to recurrent expenditure at 8.1 on page 618—recurrent expenditure for the various health regions, and it would be covered specifically under the one for the South-East. It is called the South-East Regional Health Service and it indicates an expenditure of \$57 449 00, if the Minister for Transport wants to know. My next question relates to the—

**The ACTING CHAIRPERSON:** Order! The deputy leader has asked a question. I must give the minister the opportunity to respond.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I became a little confused in the asking of that question as to exactly what it is the honourable member is seeking. The Auditor-General describes and discusses contracts and consultants in his report. No doubt he makes some claims about them, and I am happy to address any of the concerns that the Auditor-General has made. Perhaps I can give some advice to the house in relation to that. Of course, there is a difference between a consultant and a contractor. A consultant is a person engaged by an entity for a limited period to carry out a defined task free from direction, whereas a contractor is a person who is in the same kind of category but who is subject to directions. That is the difference.

DH follows the Treasury guidelines when recording consultancy expenditure. The major consultancies were Des Semple and Associates, Review of the Structure, Functions and Role of the Mental Health Service and Program Unit; Ian Bidmead, 2004 Mental Health Legislation Review; Helen Chalmers, Strategic Review, Repatriation General Hospital; Checklist Partnership, Acute Care and Clinical Services; SAM, bed modelling; Ernst and Young, Review of Financial Management—you would remember that one, it had a fair bit to say about your term, and the waste of money, and your poor management, member for Finnis; Cogent Business Solutions—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** You might like to talk about the \$50 million black hole that you left, and the big, big mess that you left the health budget in when you parted from government. Cogent Business Solutions, Hotel Service—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** If the member would like me to quote from some of the juicier bits of the report about the failures of his term in government, for example, the shifting of commonwealth funds between health and housing—that was a good one that you got up to when you were minister for health—use of capital funding to meet day-to-day expenses; the creation of virtual budgets to hide shortfalls in the family youth services budget; making repayments for capital items



at the end of financial year to deliberately run down cash reserves.

**The Hon. DEAN BROWN:** On a point of order: I know that the minister is trying to filibuster, but we are on the Auditor-General's Report. I would like to ask my final question.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I have not finished with his earlier question. He interrupted me and I got carried away. I will finish this one even though the bell has gone. In terms of the Treasury guidelines, Cogent Business Solutions, Hotel Services Audit in Hospitals; and PKF Accounting, PBT Review of Hospital Services. In terms of consultants expenditure, I can inform the house that in 2004-05, the Department of Health spent \$1.311 million. In relation to contractors—

*The Hon. Dean Brown interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** It was 2.5 or something. DFC had major expenditure in 2003-04 on HACC projects, including appraisals; this is really for DFC and I will not get into that. In 2004-05, DH spent \$215 000 on the Ernst and Young Financial Management Review, and \$220 000 on the PBT Review of Hospital Care Services. So, the total contractor expenditure for both DH and DFC in 2004-05 was \$28.801 million.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That concludes the 30 minutes allocated to the Department of Health.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Health):** I move:

That the time for moving the adjournment of the house be extended beyond 10 p.m.

Motion carried.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the amendment made by the House of Assembly to the Legislative Council's amendment No. 3.

## AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Debate in committee resumed.

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

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. On page 892 of the Auditor-General's Report, it is pointed out in the fourth dot point that the leave reports provided to check that leave taken was updated to the CHRIS payroll system did not reflect all leave taken. I remember that this was also an issue with the Auditor-General's report last year. I understand that work has been done to try and correct this, so we would support that. How much leave had been taken by staff of Premier and Cabinet which had not been updated on the payroll system?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I have been advised that he did a bit of a snapshot, and did not really find much, but, basically, there still needs to be some tightening up and there is currently a project under way to tighten up the procedures.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Certainly we would welcome that because it was a problem last year and, hopefully, it can be tidied up.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** It says here that, with the exception of a few minor issues, the results of the substantive audit test were generally satisfactory. Consequently, nothing has arisen from the audit of payroll to date which would require a qualification to the financial statement audit opinion

for DPC and the arts agencies. So, it is like there needs to be some further tightening up, but I think we are getting there, and there is a project on to make sure that we do get there.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Can the Premier explain how the Department of the Premier and Cabinet defines the difference between contractors and consultants?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Payments to consultants are reported in accordance with the Department of Treasury and Finance Accounting Policy Statement No. 13—Form and Content of General Purpose Financial Reports: specific disclosure and expenses incurred as a result of engaging consultants. Under the definition that I understand is used across the government—it is the one that Treasury has mandated—a consultant is as follows:

... a person who is engaged by an entity for a specified period to carry out a task that requires specialist skills and knowledge not available in the entity. The objectives of the task will be achieved by the consultant free from direction by the entity as to the way it is performed and in circumstances in which the engagement of a person under normal conditions is not a feasible alternative.

I am quite happy to come back—and I think I did this last year—with the definitional difference. It is the same as it has been in the past and that which is mandated across government by Treasury, as I am reliably advised.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Can the Premier outline in which areas were the major increases and huge rise in the costs of contactors and consultants by the department which rose from \$1.952 million in the previous year to \$5.815 million in 2005—an increase of 200 per cent or triple the amount?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I think that the work done on the air warfare destroyers and other defence projects probably comes out of DTED, but I would imagine—and I can certainly get the Leader of the Opposition the information—that we have employed consultants to ensure that we achieved the best possible result in securing Australia's first foreign university in Carnegie Mellon, so I think that is probably likely to be why, although I am happy to check. The Carnegie Mellon deal is strongly supported by the Prime Minister; in fact, I received a letter from him which was shown to me today. It really is the brainchild of Alexander Downer and me. This is a huge coup for our state and our nation to have a university of the calibre and quality of Carnegie Mellon opening up for business in South Australia, and we have obviously required a number of consultants to help us—

**Ms Chapman:** They have already been here for years.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Not as a university. Go and argue with John Howard, Brendan Nelson and Alexander Downer because they are changing federal law to achieve it. We did not have to do that before. To be established as a university offering US degrees with all of the fee relief and other things that are in place has not been done in Australia before, so go and check with Alexander Downer, Brendan Nelson or John Howard, whose letter I saw today.

**Ms BREUER:** I refer to Volume 3, Page 913, regarding the division known as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation with reference to administered revenues. There is a reference to grants and subsidies to the APY lands. Can the Premier advise how this amount was disbursed?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** The grants referred to in the Auditor-General's Report primarily cover \$1.7 million in essential services grants to Aboriginal communities for purchase of generator fuel, salaries for essential services officers employed by the communities, and water rates and the running of essential service officers' vehicles. There is \$1.185 million for Aboriginal land rights administration

funding to Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Maralinga Tjarutja and the Aboriginal Lands Trust. There is \$515 000 to Anangu Pitjantjatjara for services to maintain the roads network on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands. There is \$200 000 to service providers of the statewide Aboriginal Visitors Scheme and \$100 000 to Reconciliation SA.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** The Premier can take this on notice. Will the Premier provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors in 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the Premier, listing the name of the contractors, the cost, the work undertaken and the method of appointment?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I would like to be able to answer that off the cuff, but we might get a report back for the leader.

**Ms BEDFORD:** My question is from Volume 3, page 905. I refer to item 8 entitled 'Other Expenses' with reference to the International Youth Leadership event. Can the Premier elaborate on the nature of this event?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** The Social Inclusion Unit, in partnership with United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), held an international youth leadership event in Adelaide in March 2005. Everyone who had anything to do with it thought that it was outstanding. The event brought together a diverse mix of over 280 young people from UNESCO-member countries and over 30 presenters from around the world. Participants focused on the economic, social and political life of society. Funding for the event was provided from within the existing DPC budget. The 2005 International Youth Leadership event was a one-off event. Individual action plans were developed by delegates for implementation in the respective countries and communities. I was delighted to speak to and with some of the participants, and I think that this was a life-changing event for many of those involved.

**Mr CAICA:** I refer to Volume 3, Page 913, under the heading of Administered Revenues where other payments list the State Emergency Relief Fund. The report shows that the item increased from \$5 000 at 30 June 2004 to \$1 266 000 at 30 June 2005. Can the Premier explain this increase and advise how it is intended to disburse the cash held in the account?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Section 37 of the Emergency Management Act 2004 provides for the establishment of the State Emergency Relief Fund, the successor to the State Disaster Fund. The fund is an administered item under the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. No money in the fund can be used for administration of the fund itself.

Following the declaration of a major emergency for the Eyre Peninsula bushfire, the Australian Red Cross launched an appeal and began on behalf of the government to collect public donations which were deposited into the fund. As of 30 June 2005, revenue received into the State Emergency Relief Fund totalled \$1.266 million. This comprised money which South Australians generously donated through the Australian Red Cross Eyre Peninsula Bushfire Appeal. Some smaller amounts made it directly into the fund, and the interest earned was approximately \$15 000. An amount of \$100 000 cash remained in the former State Disaster Relief Fund following the Ash Wednesday bushfires, and this was transferred into the State Emergency Relief Fund when the new act was proclaimed in 2004.

The State Emergency Relief Fund Committee was appointed on 7 April 2005 and met for the first time on 8 April 2005. The committee was appointed for 12 months under section 37 of the State Emergency Management Act

2004, and it is required to operate under directions provided by the Governor. The chair of the committee is Barry Greer AO, and the committee includes members from the Eyre Peninsula community. Governor's directions were set by the Governor and executive council on 7 April 2005. There have been many opportunities for the community to donate money to support people affected by the fire, and a number of different funds are managed by a variety of agencies and groups. One of the main community groups allocating donated moneys is the Eyre Peninsula Fire Donated Goods Allocation Committee, which is made up of representatives from the local Eyre Peninsula community and local community organisations.

The Eyre Peninsula Fire Donated Goods Allocation Committee operates independently of government and separately from the government-appointed State Emergency Relief Fund Committee. As of 30 June 2005, the committee allocated the major portion (\$561 000) of the money then available as a first run distribution. The State Emergency Relief Fund Committee held regular meetings in Port Lincoln and sought the advice of the local Eyre Peninsula community in making allocations. The chair, through his chairman's reports, has provided information back to the Eyre Peninsula community on the committee's activities over the past seven months. The committee has now allocated all money remaining in the fund. Over 1 400 people have received gifts of money from the fund.

The first distribution (May to June 2005) went to people identified by the Eyre Peninsula Recovery Centre as having been affected by the fire. A second distribution (July to September 2005) included \$6 000 each to families whose homes were totally destroyed in the bushfire and gifts to burns victims who were hospitalised in Adelaide as a result of the fire. Smaller gifts were also provided to shearers and roustabouts who were on properties on the day of the fire, businesses, partnerships and trusts, local community groups which currently provide (or wish to provide) an activity, a series of activities, or an event within their local community which supports community rebuilding, as well as for encouragement of individual resilience to do with the consequences of the bushfire.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** The structure chart on page 890 of the Auditor-General's Report includes a Public Sector Reform Unit. Can the Premier inform the committee how many people are employed in this unit and what progress the unit has made in the last year?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** As the leader would be well aware, we have been pursuing, with some vigour and rigour, public sector reform. These include a number of major activities, including the top tier of the Public Service, which involves senior public servants—some hundreds of people—no longer being employed on a permanent basis from now on. We thought this was a very important signal to send. We also changed the law to require dual accountability of the heads of government departments. Obviously, for years the Westminster system has required CEOs to report to individual ministers on a portfolio basis.

What we have done is to have, basically, dual accountability for their requirements under the State Strategic Plan to report also to me as Premier. This was not some naked grab for power, because that is not my way. As far as I am aware, this has not occurred anywhere else in the Westminster system. It is basically to try to get across the whole-of-government nature of much of what we want to do as a community and as a state in reaching targets within the State

Strategic Plan. Some of those targets have been achieved already, some will be achieved, and others will fall short.

However, the key thing is that we believe in a whole-of-government approach and making CEOs accountable to the Premier for the sorts of things we are doing on recommendations from the Economic Development Board and the Social Inclusion Board. A whole range of other things are happening with the Public Sector Reform Unit, and I am happy to get a report for the leader.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** The structure chart also shows the Strategic Projects Unit as being a separate unit within the department. Can the Premier tell the committee how many people are employed in this unit and what progress this unit has made in the last year?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** Again, I am happy to get a report for the leader. However, I can tell the leader that that committee includes a number of areas, some of which appear disparate. The former premier would be aware of the Capital City Committee, which includes the Premier, the Lord Mayor, and a number of councillors and ministers. This committee is working on a whole range of projects that are joint operations between the city council and, indeed, the state government. There is, for instance, our Solar City Campaign to solar power the parliament, the Art Gallery, the Museum and soon the State Library, and there is also the North Terrace precinct redevelopment, which was started and conceived by the former government and which we have carried out. I think it has massively enhanced the central boulevard of North Terrace.

We also have a range of other projects within the city. Obviously there is the trams extension and also, apart from Capital City, there is the Thinkers in Residence unit which has brought in outstanding people like Baroness Susan Greenfield, head of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and a professor of neuropharmacology at Oxford, who has about 28 honorary doctorates. She has been advising us with the Premier's Science and Research Council. So there are a number of different areas. The Thinkers in Residence unit plus the Capital City unit and a number of other different projects are in that area.

**The Hon. R.G. KERIN:** Another question which the Premier may prefer to take on notice relates to the audit overview. Under 'Financial Transactions and Internal Controls' the report states that the senior management of each public authority has a specific and important responsibility to establish and maintain appropriate and adequate internal controls over the financial operations and resultant financial transactions processed by a particular public authority. My question is whether, during 2004-05, any issues of concern about possible breaches of Treasurer's Instructions have been raised with the Premier? If so, would the Premier please provide details.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I am not aware of any, but I will certainly take that on board and make inquiries.

**Mrs HALL:** Mr Chairman, I want to open my question specifically with regard to how Arts SA and the arts department in a general sense are reported in the Auditor-General's Reports. As the Premier knows, this is a new responsibility for me, and when I was going through the Auditor-General's Report I was somewhat astonished to discover that Arts SA, which has a budget of nearly \$95 million, is not specifically catered for in that report but is listed as programs 5, 6 and 7 on page 903 under 'Premier and Cabinet Programs'.

I thought that was unusual for an agency that has nearly \$95 million in expenditure and I am interested to hear why

that is. I do acknowledge that there are specific references to the Museum Board, the Libraries Board and the Art Gallery, etc. throughout the other sections of the Auditor-General's Report, but when you read his letter to the Speaker and the President it is very clear that he is meant to be looking after and reporting on the expenditure of public moneys.

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I think it is a very valid question. As an efficiency, we incorporated the arts department into part of DPC so, in fact, the CEO covering arts is actually Warren McCann—although Greg Mackie is the state's arts tsar and everyone knows that. In a sense it is a functional unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Aboriginal affairs was incorporated in it as well. However, I should say that much of the finances of the department are actually run out of a unit that is in the arts department, and we recognise their specific expertise. Because they had to deal with myriad different agencies it was, in fact, a real tribute to the expertise within the arts department and that is why it has actually been incorporated as an entity within DPC, although it reports to the Minister for the Arts and the Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts.

I should explain that, because I do not think it has been explained properly before. In most cases the delegations are with the minister, and the minister assisting is essentially there to assist. With the arts department, because it has so many different divisions and authorities, we have essentially split it into two whilst we are ad idem on issues. I did give you an idea that the Adelaide Festival of Arts reports directly to me, but the Adelaide Festival Centre reports directly to the minister assisting. To give another example, the Art Gallery of South Australia and the Museum of South Australia report directly to me ministerially, but the State Library and the History Trust report directly to the minister assisting. It has actually worked very well but we also have the fact that Arts SA is incorporated into DPC as an entity.

**Mrs HALL:** Will the Premier, then, be able to provide some information with reference to page 905 under the heading 'Grants and Subsidies'? Why has the Libraries Board of South Australia's expenditure gone down from \$31 000 to \$27 000, why have grants been reduced to the South Australian Youth Arts Board, the State Theatre Company of South Australia, the Jam Factory of Contemporary Art and Design, the Carrick Hill Trust, the Adelaide Fringe, and the Arts Industry Development Grants project assistance? Why, after that entire section of grants and subsidies, is the Womad event not listed in that section but under point 8?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** There are a number of rhythms and cycles to do with organisations. I should point out that there has been a substantial increase in financial commitment to, for instance, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

*Mrs Hall interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** No, I will get you a report on that. There has also been a lot more money for the Fringe. I think there's \$200 000 extra committed to the Fringe, but I will get you a report, because I think there are different cycles when things are biennial and otherwise.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to page 905. Why is Womadelaide listed under 'other expenses from ordinary activities paid to entities within the SA government'?

**The Hon. M.D. RANN:** I think that results from the fact that there was a transfer. At one stage, Womadelaide was directly under the Adelaide Festival Centre in the arts portfolio and before that it was under Australian Major Events. I will get a report on that as well. One of the things

that has changed with Womad is that it has got increased funding and it has also gone to a yearly event.

**Mrs HALL:** I would also like some information concerning the History Trust of South Australia. I refer to page 636. Over a number of years the Auditor-General has made recommendations regarding site auditing. He would like to see it done on an annual timetable. I understand that the History Trust of South Australia has been making some progress. I would like to know the estimates for the resources that would be involved in doing an annual site audit over a number of years, as referred to in the Auditor-General's recommendations.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** We can have a look at that to see whether that is easily achievable. I know through the environment agency for which I am responsible that the Auditor-General regularly criticises the fact that we do not know everything there is to know about Crown land. It would cost millions of dollars, and it would still be Crown land. I guess the auditor thinks it would be good to have a review of every car, bottle top, book, jar and everything that we have and have it inspected and crossed off and ticked every year, but it would take up all the budget. I think they are working on a protocol where, on a regular basis—I think every five or six years or maybe three or four—there is an inspection. That seems to be a more logical way of doing it, otherwise it would be overly expensive. If there are figures available on the cost of doing that on an annual basis, I am happy to provide them to the honourable member.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to page 638. Will the minister provide some information about operating expenses of the History Trust. There is a list, but it says that operating expenses rose by \$300 000 to \$6.1 million. It goes on to give a breakdown of that figure, but will the minister give us a specific breakdown?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** I will get a report on exactly why that is so. I assume that \$300 000 over \$6.1 million is probably 5 per cent, which would be roughly in line with inflation and wages movement. I would just like to say that I am pleased that the government has agreed to fund the last stage of the Migration Museum upgrade. This is an extraordinarily good facility which probably too few people have been to see. The most recent upgrade (stage 2) is fantastic, and I think stage 3 will be as well.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That ends the time allocated to the Premier. I call upon the Attorney-General.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Mr Chairman, I welcome the scrutiny of the Attorney-General's Department. Last year you may recall the Liberal Party called upon me to resign because I was unaware of the existence of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account. I have an opening question for the member for Bragg. There are 29 administered items in the Attorney-General's Department.

**Mr MEIER:** Point of order, Mr Chairman—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Name all of them or resign as opposition spokesman.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Mr MEIER:** The point of order is that I do not believe the minister is here to ask questions. I think it is for members to ask the minister questions. He seems to have things mixed up again.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, I agree entirely. I call upon the member for Bragg.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Thank you, Mr Chairman. I refer to Attorney-General's Division, page 143 of Volume 1. The Auditor-General has raised a concern in relation to the

recording of the revenue transactions wherein, for this last financial year, the department conducted a review and identified \$1.97 million worth of revenue transactions which had been incorrectly recorded. I am pleased to note there was some improvement from the year before, but the department's promise to the Attorney-General in relation to this matter was to implement a new financial policy which was supposed to have started on 1 July 2005, according to this report, and requires that any request to raise an invoice through the ACCPAC system is to include a revenue account code. My question to the Attorney is: has that been implemented and have there been any incorrectly recorded revenue transactions since that date?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I will be able to answer the member for Bragg's question—although she was unable to answer mine. The short answer is yes, it has been carried out. The audit of the 2004-05 financial statement for the Attorney-General's Department is almost completed. Although the department will receive an unqualified opinion on the financial statements themselves, staff of the Auditor-General's Department have advised that a qualified control opinion will be issued about classification of revenue recoveries. This issue will be mentioned in the audit report text for the department for 2004-05. Specifically this qualification relates to how some revenue items were classified during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years.

Since around the time of the introduction of the GST, Attorney-General's Department business units have been required to submit requests to raise invoices to the central finance function. Invoices are then sent out and the associated revenue is recognised against the revenue account line requested by the division. However, in the past there have been some divisions that have recognised this revenue against expense account lines instead. This is normally when a division incurs an expense that is, in turn, recovered from another source such as another government agency or entities external to government. For instance, in the past, the Crown Solicitor's Office has used these expense account lines when recovering the cost of disbursements that it has incurred on behalf of clients.

It seems that this practice has occurred in the department for years. It does not seem to have been raised as an issue by audit before now. The value of these transactions amounts to about \$2 million in both 2003-04 and 2004-05. The department supports audit's view on this matter and believes that the transactions should be recorded in accordance with Australian accounting standards. In response to this matter, the department has done three things. It has made the necessary corrections to record appropriately revenue and expenses in the financial statements; it has issued a new financial policy from the beginning of this financial year that requires all divisions to use revenue account lines when submitting invoice requests; and the department will use systems controls to restrict the account lines that can be used to recognise invoice revenue. I am just wondering whether any of the administered items have occurred to the member for Bragg yet: there are 29 of them.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I thank the Attorney for his repetition of what I have just told him and a bit of historical context. My question was: having implemented this, is it working, has the Attorney even checked on it, and have there been any breaches since 1 July 2005?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** As I said succinctly during the opening, it has been carried out, and there are no breaches of which we are aware.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I now refer to the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account, page 143.

**The Hon. M.J. Atkinson:** So, you know the other 28 items? Just rattle them off.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The Auditor-General, not surprisingly, has given some attention to this matter and has made it clear what process should occur. He tells us that, in November 2004, the Acting Crown Solicitor developed and documented the policy and procedure for use and operation of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account, just to make it absolutely clear about what has to happen. He reports that, following the implementation, the department conducted an internal audit review of the controls over the receipting, maintenance and disbursement of the relevant trust account's funds. He made a number of notations, in relation to which I have some questions.

First, he suggests that there has to be someone appointed for supervision of the fund administration function and to ensure that the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account is used strictly for its intended purpose. He reports that the Crown Solicitor's Office has formally assigned responsibility to the Director of Business Services. My first question is: when did that occur?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The policy was issued in November last year, and that is when a person was assigned to do the job.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Has the Attorney-General made any inquiry of this person as to whether he is satisfied that the proper administration of the fund has been carried out?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** In fact, the person is a woman, and the answer is no.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The statement of purpose and operating principles and procedure did not specify the interest that was accrued in the funds and how that should be treated. The Auditor-General makes a comment that, at the time of the review, interest held in the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account was \$795 000. This is, of course, the interest held on this fund, a large portion of which, we now know, was required to be repaid. He says in the findings with respect to the Crown Solicitor's Office that it had 'sought clarification from the Department of Treasury and Finance for the treatment of interest earned by the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account'. My question to the Attorney is: has that been received and, if so, has the interest been repaid? If not, why not?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The Attorney-General's Department sought to repay the money to Treasury. It gave us the wrong account, so it came back. We are now in the process of getting authority from the Under Treasurer, Jim Wright, to pay it into the correct account.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** When does the Attorney propose that that will be?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** As soon as we receive the all-clear from the Under Treasurer.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Can the Attorney-General explain on whose instruction it was to pay the funds into what appears to be the wrong account?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** On the instructions of Treasury.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Has Treasury confirmed that the money to be refunded is an amount of \$795 000; or, in view of this delay, has it called upon any greater payment to be made and, if so, how much?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** It is agreed that we will pay \$800 000.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** There is a third matter in relation to the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account which has been recorded by the Auditor-General and about which, obviously, he has expressed some concern, that is, what he describes as 'the absence of proper approval for the retention of approximately \$92 000 of unallocated funds'. The response from the Crown Solicitor's Office states:

... undertaken activity to identify and allocate approximately \$86 000 worth of unallocated funds. The remaining unidentified funds will be transferred to the Unclaimed Moneys Account in the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Will the Attorney explain what the \$86 000 was subsequently allocated for and why it had not been allocated? Also, I assume that the remaining \$6 000 that went back to unclaimed moneys has been returned to the Department of Treasury and Finance. Is that correct?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The \$86 000 consists of seven small left-overs from legal matters for government agencies. The department has tracked those left-over funds back to the agencies. So, in total, \$80 000 will be going back to the agencies and \$6 000 will go back to Treasury. Before we leave the question of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account, I was hoping that the member for Bragg might have at least one answer to my question—

**Ms CHAPMAN:** My further question—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:**—and, secondly, I want to say something about the account.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I think that the member for Bragg has a point of order, is that right?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Yes. The minister is clearly debating this matter.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Debate applies only to question time, not to the committee stage.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** And, lastly, these fraudulent transfers of millions of dollars of funds that occurred at the height of the misuse of the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account were perpetrated and authorised by people working hand in glove with the Liberal Party.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I think that comment is most uncalled for. I will ignore it because it is completely irrelevant to the Auditor-General's Report. I will not have the Attorney interrupting all the time. I want to clarify the Attorney's answer. The Attorney said that \$80 000 had been allocated and that a further \$6 000 had been returned.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** \$86 000.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Correct. You have corrected it to \$86 000?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** No, it was \$86 000; \$86 000 is what I said.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** You might want to get some further advice on this.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I am sorry, thank you. The member for Bragg is correct on this occasion. I apologise: \$86 000 to agencies and \$6 000 to Treasury.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Thank you. I refer to page 150 and the gaming machine administration. The table summarising the gaming machine activities for four years—

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** That is before another minister.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** It says 'Attorney-General's Department' (page 150). The Gaming Machines Act, in case the Attorney-General has forgotten, provides that the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner is responsible to the Independent Gaming Authority for scrutiny of operations of all licences

under the act. It is in this department. Is the Attorney saying that it has nothing to do with him?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The minister is the Hon. Michael Wright. Sorry.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That's fine. The Community Emergency Services Fund (page 152) is also under the Attorney-General's Department. Does the Attorney also deny any responsibility for this fund?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** We do administer the fund on behalf of the Minister for Emergency Services. So, tally ho.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Thank you. Point 5 on that page indicates that payments totalling \$168 million were made from the fund. A schedule lists the amounts paid from that fund. Of the \$168 million disbursed, \$6.1 million went to Revenue SA and \$1.9 million went to what is defined as 'other'. Why is \$6.1 million being paid to Revenue SA and what is 'other'?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Revenue SA are the tax collectors, and the \$6.1 million is the cost of collection. Tax collectors have to put bread on the table too. 'Other' is a good question and I will take it on notice and get the details for the member for Bragg, as she knows we do always and faithfully.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Thank you, Attorney. I refer to page 152. Can the Attorney-General advise the total amount that has now been allocated for the 'bodies in the barrel' case?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** It is a good question from the member for Bragg, and I do not have the precise answer here, but I will get it for her. Under the system whereby the bodies in the barrel trials were funded, each month I had to sign a report from Mr John Carr. He gave me a report of how the money was being spent and how much we had left. My recollection is that at the end of the financial year we still had some money left, and we were expecting to have to make a new allocation in the next financial year because of Haydon's appeals. But, as the member for Bragg will recall, the matter was settled and Haydon did not appeal, and the DPP did not seek a retrial on those charges about which the jury could not reach agreement. So, the likelihood in this financial year is that we will be returning a substantial sum to the budget. I will get the precise figure.

**Ms Chapman:** The total amount.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The total amount at what point? At this month?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The total amount of all funds spent on the bodies in the barrel case, which is now over some four or five years.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** To the end of October.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** To the end of October.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** I will undertake for the member for Bragg to get the figure until the end of October. I want to make one comment about the bodies in the barrel trial. I think my cabinet colleagues and many members of the public are astonished by the cost of the bodies in the barrel trials. My explanation for that will be, I think, the same as that of my predecessor's as attorney-general; that is, that the bodies in the barrel trials started off as something like 32 murder charges and many other charges and, per charge, the costs look more reasonable than they might when we just look at the total. It is also fair to say that, in years gone by, the crown prosecutor may well have taken the view that obtaining two or three murder convictions against the accused and sentencing them to life imprisonment, which is the mandatory penalty, would be quite sufficient by way of a prosecution handling the bodies in the barrel killings. But, in

the times in which we live, that is not regarded as satisfactory, and the Crown is expected to prosecute for each victim and each offender. To prosecute only some of the charges would not be regarded as the proper policy and would be regarded as disrespectful to the victims and their families. So, I think it is fair to say that all charges that could be prosecuted were prosecuted. That is regarded as justice being done, but it comes at a price.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I return to the Community Services Fund, which you administer. The annual revenue and expenditure fluctuates, and it appears—at least as a record of this Auditor-General's reporting period—that there was a deficit last year and a surplus this year. Is any balance of funds held in this fund and, if so, how much?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** My advice is that the balance is about \$8 million to \$9 million. The balance is reported each year to the parliament, because the fund manager goes to the Economic and Finance Committee. We are happy to obtain for the member for Bragg the precise balance held in the fund at any date the member for Bragg cares to nominate.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am happy to receive that as at the end of October 2005 and thank the Attorney for his indication that he will do that. Attorney, why has this money not been distributed? Why is it simply held in this fund when clearly these moneys were required to be paid into this fund for distribution?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** The balance in the fund is decided by the Minister for Emergency Services, who is the delegate of the Treasurer. This Labor government is a prudent government that holds money in reserve for contingencies and emergencies. That is how we differ in our financial management from members opposite. I notice that the member for MacKillop has arrived. No doubt he will be able to tell us the 29 administered items in the Attorney-General's Department of which the Crown Solicitor's Trust Account is only one.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The Courts Administration Authority has also come under some scrutiny from the Auditor-General. I see that he provided some significant comment in his report in relation to the e-lodgement facility which seems to have had a baptism of fire and which seems to still be burning. On page 309, he confirms that a review was undertaken by audit to identify a number of management control issues, so there is not just one, but it seems to be plagued with a whole lot of problems. I am not certain what some of the responses are that have been indicated by the authority in relation to action it has taken with respect to these audit findings. Apart from the Auditor-General indicating that there needed to be an improvement of the authority's governance, which is described in its remedy as 'certain arrangements relating to governance will be actioned including amending future support arrangements', it goes on to say that in relation to the system access controls not being maintained by an external service provider, 'a direction will be given to the external service provider to rectify certain security control deficiencies'—whatever that means. I ask the Attorney if that direction has been given. Is he satisfied, or has he even made inquiries, as to whether those security control deficiencies have been rectified?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** We do not know the answer to the member for Bragg's question, but we know that the Courts Administration Authority administrator will know. We will ask him and get the answer for the member for Bragg.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** While the Attorney is there, it is also recorded that there would be the implementation of a change of management process that would ensure agreement between the authority and the external service provider. I ask the Attorney to clarify whether that has actually been done. Finally, the Auditor-General raises another area of concern, and that is the need to establish a business continuity plan. This authority's response to the Auditor-General is simply that a business continuity plan will be developed. Has the Attorney made any inquiries about whether that has occurred? If not, why not? If it has been developed, when was it done?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Again, I am unable to give the member for Bragg an answer to that question. I have assumed that it is being done but, again, I will check with the administrator of the Courts Administration Authority. I am sure that he will have the answer, and I will get it promptly for the member for Bragg.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** On page 170 there are some explanatory notes in relation to the statements of account, which detail the number and expenditure for consultancies paid. I seek that the minister provide a breakdown of the name of those consultants, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment. Given that the Premier has not yet given a definition of what contractors are, but apparently has indicated, as best we understand his answer, that Treasury has issued some definition of contractors, similarly will the Attorney-General provide a breakdown of expenditure on contractors for the 2004-05 year, listing the name of contractors, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment of all departments and agencies reporting to him?

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** It is easier to provide the member for Bragg with a list of consultants than it is to provide her with a list of contractors because the number of contractors could be vast for perhaps quite small quantities of goods, such as catering. We will endeavour to do our best. I can tell the member for Bragg that when the Liberal Party went out of office the boom time for consultants was over.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I thank you, Mr Chairman, for the indulgence of the committee.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** Although the member for Bragg does not want to listen to it—

**Ms Chapman:** I object to any further statement made by the Attorney-General in relation to the matter.

**The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:** —on the question of consultants versus contractors I can tell her that consultants were reclassified to contractors under the previous government as well as under this government.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! That ends the time allocated to the Attorney-General.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** This is a large portfolio area. Hopefully, I will not have to chop and change too much. I refer to Part A, 'Audit Overview', page 22. Minister, given that the Auditor-General raises concerns about WorkCover being similar to the State Bank and that the unfunded liability is over \$631 million, is WorkCover in crisis?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I appreciate that the member is not the shadow minister in this area, but he would have a general understanding of the portfolio. The simple answer to his question is no, but I think I need to point out some important information in regard to the Auditor-General's Report. The Auditor-General has made it clear that what he has said is not a reflection on the current private sector audit or WorkCover management. In his report to parliament, under

the heading 'A matter for emphasis', the Auditor-General states:

It is important to emphasise that the commentary in this part of the memorandum is not a reflection on either the private sector audit professionalism and/or competence regarding the audit of WorkCover at the present time, nor WorkCover management.

The core point made by the Auditor-General is that he has powers to compel the provision of information, something which private sector auditors do not have. However, those powers are needed only if you are not getting the information you need voluntarily. As some members may be aware, section 19 of the WorkCover Corporation Act 1994 deals with the requirements for the auditing of WorkCover. Section 19(1) requires that the accounts be audited at least once a year. Section 19(2) requires WorkCover to appoint, within the first three months of each financial year, two or more auditors for the financial year.

Under section 19(5) of the WorkCover Corporation Act, WorkCover's auditors have a right of access at all reasonable times to the accounting and other records of the corporation, and it is entitled to require from any other officer of the corporation such information and explanations it thinks necessary for the purposes of the audit.

Clearly, WorkCover's auditors do have formal legal rights to obtain information. Quite obviously, that is set out in the act, as I highlighted earlier. WorkCover's private sector auditors, that is, Ernst & Young, KPMG, and Price Waterhouse, have all said—and I think this is a very important point—that, under the current board, which was appointed by this government, they have never had any difficulties accessing the information they wanted to audit at WorkCover. For the sake of clarity, I point out that Price Waterhouse has been appointed to perform the internal audit function.

We are committed to continuing to work with the Auditor-General to deliver good government for South Australia. It is very important that I highlight the fact that the Auditor-General has said that the nature and immediacy of the liabilities of the State Bank and WorkCover are different. Of course, the Auditor-General is right about that: they are totally different. WorkCover, for example, has a very significant asset base—that is, close to \$1.2 billion as at 30 June 2005. It also had strong investment growth in the 2004-05 financial year, and it has seen its assets grow at a faster rate than its liabilities. Unlike the State Bank, WorkCover also has a positive cash flow and continues to earn more than it spends. So, the simple answer to the shadow minister's question is no, but I think it is important to highlight some of those other areas.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** That was an incredibly fulsome answer to a question that only required a yes or no, minister.

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

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Well, obviously the Auditor-General got it wrong. You did not say that. I refer to Part B, volume 1, page 114: 'Government Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Fund'. The fund has been closed to new claims, with the responsibility of those claims now being met by individual agencies. Is there a central monitoring of those claims across government? If so, which agency is responsible for that monitoring and what is the current estimate at 30 June of the claim cost per agency?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** The shadow minister has asked three specific questions—about whether the monitoring is done centrally, where that is and, also, the claims costs per agency. I have to get the detail of the last question for the honourable member, as he would appreciate, but we can

undertake some work and get some of that detail for him. In relation to the first two questions, it is monitored centrally. It is monitored by DAIS but, more specifically, by the public sector work force relations group. It reports to me on a regular basis, probably about every quarter, and I take forward on a regular basis information about that area to cabinet.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** The rest of my questions refer to Part B, Volume 1. On page 86, under Workers Compensation, the report states:

The department is responsible for all workers compensation with an actuarial estimate of the outstanding liability as at 30 June 2005 provided by a consulting actuary through the Public Sector Injury Prevention and Management Unit. These figures reflect an apportionment of the whole-of-government estimate of workers compensation liability of \$319 million. . .

Does that ongoing liability of \$319 million include the liability which is still held in the aforementioned government Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Fund?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Yes, that is the case. It does include the one to which you are referring and which has been closed off. It is the total liability.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** From the government Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Fund, how many lump sum payments were paid out during the year 2004-05, and what is the value of each payout?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I do not have that information with me, but I would be able to get it for you quickly; and I undertake to do so. I hope I can get the information for you tomorrow.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Does WorkCover offer lump sum payments?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** Yes, it does. This is something that is also part of the WorkCover scheme.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** I now turn to SA Water Corporation (Part B, Volume 4). Last year's Auditor-General's Report of 30 June 2004 in Part B, Volume 1 on page 69, under the heading, 'Revenue', among other things, states:

Issues arising from the audit primarily related to the systems aspects of rating and billing. The issues were concerned mainly with the potential for incorrect billing to customers as a result of incorrect rating codes within the system and the need to monitor new connections to ensure they are finalised in a timely manner. In response, the corporation indicated that action would be taken to resolve the matters identified.

I now turn to page 1240 of this year's Auditor-General's Report under the same heading of 'Revenue', which states:

Issues arising from the audit primarily related to the systems aspects of rating and billing. The issues were concerned mainly with the potential for incorrect billing to customers as a result of incorrect rating codes within the system.

The Auditor goes on to say:

In response the Corporation indicated that action would be taken to resolve the matters identified.

The Auditor's comments and the department's response is almost identical, word for word, with what occurred 12 months' ago. Can the minister explain what SA Water has been doing in the intervening 12 months?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** The advice I have received is that SA Water recognises its reliance on its customer service information system and is obviously working hard to address these issues. It is a large system, as the shadow minister would be aware, with approximately 630 000 customers.

In regard to the specifics, all matters raised by the Auditor-General are being addressed. In particular, SA Water will perform rating reviews of a greater percentage of the

billing population to ensure that properties are rated properly. To improve training, a structured training system has been introduced into the billing and collection business unit and an additional role to retain experienced and trained staff has been approved. We agree that it is an issue that has now been identified consecutively, and it is something that SA Water is working hard at. We appreciate that it can be done better and are in the process of doing all we can to ensure that what has been identified with us is improved and worked on.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** If I go back to last year's Auditor-General's Report, Part B, Volume 1, at page 69 under the heading of 'Payroll' (and, again, we are talking about SA Water), I read:

The audit of the payroll function revealed that there was room for improvement in relation to bona fide reports. This issue has been raised with the Corporation in previous years and in 2003-04 Audit noted that although bona fides were now produced more frequently there is still a need to ensure that they are returned on a timely basis.

The corporation's response indicated that action would be taken to address all the issues identified.

If I read from this year's Auditor-General's Report, again from page 1240:

The audit of the payroll function revealed that there was room for improvement in relation to bona fide reports. This issue has been raised with the Corporation over a number of years and although there has been some improvement there remains a need to ensure there is adequate follow up of outstanding bona fide reports.

Again, the corporation's response indicated that action would be taken to address all the issues identified.

If I go on to the next heading, 'Purchasing Cards', it is exactly the same scenario. The Auditor's comments from last year are virtually repeated verbatim this year, and the corporation's response is repeated verbatim from last year. Moving to the next heading, 'Expenditure', we have exactly the same thing. Minister, what has been happening at SA Water in the last 12 months?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I thank the shadow minister for his question. I can advise that actions have been taken to improve the follow-up of bona fide reports, including an escalation process to address issues of noncompliance. Also, follow-up of outstanding bona fide reports is being actively monitored by payroll. I have been further advised that each manager in charge of a business unit is asked to sign off on these transactions and, by the end of November 2005, a review of utilising time sheets as a secondary review mechanism will occur. So, quite a bit has happened in the past 12 months.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Over the page at page 1241, in relation to acquisition of land at Victor Harbor—

**The Hon. M.J. Wright:** This is a good one.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** This is a good one. The Auditor-General points out that SA Water compulsorily acquired a property at Victor Harbor back in 1996. I recall this, because I remember going there as a member of the Public Works Committee and, in fact, the chairman was away that day and made an apology; we sat at Victor Harbor and I was the acting chairman of the committee on that visit. One of the persons giving evidence to the committee at that time was the landowner who had his farm compulsorily acquired for the purpose of building a waste water treatment plant at Victor Harbor. As you are aware, minister, the project did not proceed and eventually has proceeded on another site. What has subsequently happened to the land that was compulsorily acquired in the first place?



**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I thank the shadow minister for his question. I am pleased that he is a supporter of this project, because he knows full well, as do I, that this is an important project for Victor Harbor and the surrounding areas. In regard to his specific question, in the course of the year a review was conducted regarding a number of matters associated with the compulsory acquisition of land at Victor Harbor for the purposes of building a waste water treatment plant. Audit sought advice from the corporation in relation to major capital works as to what processes were currently in place to ensure that appropriate public consultation occurs before embarking on a course of compulsory acquisition of property. In response, the corporation advised that its procedures for the acquisition of land had been revised and improved as part of a formal review of processes in 2002. For relevant projects, the initial public consultation had been brought forward and would be included in the selection criteria for determining the preferred project option. The corporation has in place communications and consultation plans for major projects. These plans aim to identify key stakeholders, analyse their information needs and develop suitable strategies throughout the project life.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** That is all very well, minister, but what has the government done with the land which it originally compulsorily acquired to build the waste water treatment plant that subsequently has not been used? What has happened to that parcel of land?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I will get that detail for the member. I do not have it with me but I can get that quickly.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Whilst you are getting the detail, minister, you might be able to confirm or otherwise whether the land has actually been rezoned and subdivided, because some allegations have been made to me over that particular issue and the possibility that that has occurred. I will turn now to page 1246 and I will read the Auditor-General's Report. He has been talking about the dividends paid to the government:

For four of the last five years the net cash generated from operating activities has been sufficient to cover the net cash used in investing activities (ie, essentially the purchase of property, plant and equipment and latterly the purchase of water allocations) but not sufficient to enable the payment of the level of dividend and return of capital required by the department of Treasury and Finance. As a result, the net borrowings of the corporation have increased by \$131.9 million over the last five years. Essentially the corporation is borrowing to fund part of its dividend payments to the government and to fund its capital works.

A table is included there to illustrate what is happening. Minister, do you agree that the amount of funds that have been extracted from SA Water by the Treasury of this government is unsustainable?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** If I can just go back to the earlier question that I said I would get some advice on, I have now been advised in regard to the question about the land. I have been advised that the land has not been declared surplus. The site is still used for old waste water plant and needs to be closed down first. In regard to the rezoning I will need to check that for you, so I will get back to you tomorrow on that one.

In regard to the most recent question, the advice I have received is that SA Water and the government have agreed a financial ownership framework which includes a capital structure policy aimed at ensuring SA Water's borrowings are maintained at prudent levels. The policy is based on benchmarks of water industry peers across Australia and determined a gearing target ratio of 15 per cent to 25 per cent. This

prudent range provides SA Water with the flexibility to meet future commitments and likely demand for infrastructure, such as capital works.

The Auditor-General's Report, Part B, Volume 4, page 1246, shows SA Water's new borrowings for 2004-05 were \$2.5 million despite capital expenditure of \$114 million. This represents a gearing ratio of two per cent against the year's capital works. The report also shows that SA Water's borrowing levels for the last five years have been maintained within the target range of 15 to 25 per cent. As can be seen from the Auditor-General's Report the gearing ratio has actually reduced over the last five years. Overall the corporation is well positioned at the lower end of the prudent borrowing range.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** In short, minister, you believe it is sustainable for SA Water to continue to pay dividends to the Treasury at that rate?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** As I said, SA Water is in a sound financial position.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Sounds like the auditor is wrong again. Now I turn to the report Part B, Volume 1, page 73, at the top of the page, Land Services Group. I am reliably told that at the moment those processes are taking about 55 working days or 11 weeks. I have questioned the minister previously on this issue—most recently, I think, in the estimates committee this year. Is the minister happy that 11 weeks is a reasonable turnaround time for the Land Services Group to process land title transfers?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** I can confirm that the shadow minister asked me a question about this before, but I am not sure when. In fairness to him, he may have asked more than one question, so I think it needs to be put on the record that he certainly has shown an active interest in this area. I can also say that the number to which he refers—that is, 55 working days—is approximately correct. He asked whether I was happy with this number: no, I am not, and I am sure he is not either. I do not think that it is an acceptable number, and it is certainly something I have discussed with the Chief Executive Officer. A total review of the process is currently under way.

Obviously, the intention is to significantly reduce the number of working days. I think it is a fair point, and it has been raised previously by the shadow minister. This number of working days is not acceptable, and that is why we are undertaking a total review of the processes to make sure we do not miss anything. It is important that we significantly reduce those days. I appreciate the question. It is a legitimate question.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** If I can read into the *Hansard* two omnibus questions the minister might take on notice, I might have time to ask another question:

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on contractors in 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, listing the name of the contractor, the cost, the work undertaken, and the method of appointment?

2. During 2004-05, have any issues of concern about possible breaches of Treasurer's Instructions been raised with the minister? If so, will the minister provide details?

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Where are the Treasurer's Instructions in the Auditor-General's Report? Where does the Auditor-General's Report deal with Treasurer's Instructions?

**Mr WILLIAMS:** He talks about Treasurer's Instructions on a number of occasions, and he talks about illegality.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Let us talk about that. Have you mistaken this for estimates?

**The CHAIRMAN:** Does the minister wish to respond?

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** In fairness, we have had a good session until now. However, these are not questions of the Auditor-General's Report. They are within the parameters of estimates, so I am not—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** If the minister does not want to answer the question—

**The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT:** It is not that I do not want to answer. I think we have been very generous to the shadow minister with our time—very generous indeed.  
Progress reported; committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 11.15 p.m. the house adjourned until Tuesday 8 November at 2 p.m.