

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 4 May 2006

The **SPEAKER (Hon. J.J. Snelling)** took the chair at 10.30 a.m. and read prayers.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption.
(Continued from 3 May. Page 109.)

The **SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Hartley, I remind the house that this is the honourable member's maiden speech and I invite members to show her the usual courtesies. The member for Hartley.

Ms PORTOLESI (Hartley): Mr Speaker, may I first offer my congratulations to you on your elevation to high office. You make the Labor Party proud. I come to this place with a commitment to the future and an investment in the future. I stand before you with a fair amount of nervousness, not because this is a place with which I am unfamiliar, but because it is indeed an enormous privilege and honour to be here. For this place grants those of us who are elected to serve the people of South Australia freedoms and opportunities which we must use to shape the future, not only for our local communities like Hartley, to which I am enormously grateful, but for all South Australians.

Like many of my colleagues, who, like me, are new MPs, I am relatively young. Although I will not be able to say that for too much longer—and certainly, a marginal seat campaign has aged me—my youth means that I do have a big investment in the future, but, for me, the future is now. That means acting now with a sense of urgency on the things that matter to us all, things to which I will refer shortly. I have not come to this place to stand still. I am here to work hard and to give the people of Hartley a strong voice in the ongoing dialogue about the sort of future we all want.

I also come to this place with a legacy from the past, and bring with me the values that make me who I am. These are the enduring values inherited from my family, my culture and the Labor Party, of which I have been a member for nearly 20 years—the party for which I am now proud to speak in this place. Values are what you learn first at the knee of your parents, and in my case, in the arms of my now 75 year-old mother. When I started at a little local Catholic school, my father said to me, with his pointed finger, 'Sit at the front of the class, and don't be afraid to ask questions.' I took the advice to heart then as I do now, and although the Premier and certain others have the front row of the class well and truly bagged, as it should be, and the Labor Party caucus table is rectangular, I will do my best to keep asking questions.

A few days after the election, my father, now 81, with the same pointed finger commanded me to the lounge and told me to sit down and listen. In Italian he said to me, 'Now, as you get ready to go into parliament there are three things. The first thing is this: only speak if you have something to say.' I thought that was pretty reasonable, and, in fact, I put it into practice immediately at a function of the very kind Druze community. I thought the community could speak for itself and I would listen for a change. The second thing my father said to me was, 'Always be humble and never get above yourself.' Again, very sage advice, but as I nodded reassuringly I thought, he need not worry, I am sure my caucus and

parliamentary colleagues will keep me in check, not to mention the fine members of the media whose job, of course, it is to do such things. Okay, I take it back; they are not fine members.

The third and final thing he said to me effectively translated into, 'Don't be rude to those opposite.' This seemed to be going a bit far, I thought, particularly sitting next to the member for West Torrens. Where is he? My family story is so similar to the thousands of migrants like those in my electorate who chose to call South Australia home so that their children would have a better life than they did. My father came first to Australia in 1960, followed by my mother in 1964, bringing with her five children, settling in the western suburbs in the fine electorate of West Torrens. I was born in 1968 and from then on was dubbed 'the kangaroo' because I was the only one born here.

While almost every inaugural speech refers to one's humble beginnings—and my family's were certainly no different from so many others—the point I wish to make about their values is about the migration experience, a story of sacrifice and struggle, a story experienced by the many thousands of migrants in Hartley. Let us remember briefly what it meant to be a migrant in the 1960s. For my parents it meant coming to a place they had never visited before, whose lands and language were completely unrecognisable. There was no internet to surf or glossy brochure and there was certainly no going back. These migrants were driven only by a chance to escape the poverty they could not break free from in South Italy. While it was probably too late for them, they knew it was still possible for their children to have the opportunities they lacked. For my parents then, the statement 'the future is now' had the same meaning and sense of urgency that it does for me today, to build a better future and create opportunities for our children.

I reiterate that there was no going back for such migrants. In my case my parents, Rosario and Caterina, have never been back to Italy—initially for financial reasons but later because it would be too painful an experience to bear. They left behind their mothers, fathers and siblings and, although a lot of them exchanged poverty for opportunity, many of them did not. While there is no doubt about the prosperity of the children of migrants—there are so many amazing examples in my area alone—I wonder how many of us would have the courage to do what they did. I doubt that many of us would. From this experience I learnt the value of hard work and the pride that goes with that.

So it was to be that when I was 15 my mother threw me to the wolves and made me work in the local supermarket, the Torrensville Foodland—where the fine Leon Bignell also worked, I understand—hoping that it would build my confidence and self-esteem as a young person. Although I dreaded presenting at work, having to memorise all the specials for that week in the days before scanners, it was the best thing she did. I will be doing the same thing to my daughter. Only 13 years to go, Allegra, and you will be out there. Wanting the best for our families and children are the aspirations we all share, but for those who come to a new country there is a special edge to these aspirations and a compelling drive to succeed. So, today is for my parents and all the migrants who left behind family, country and traditions.

The Australian Labor Party has been a big part of my life for the past 20 years. I was motivated to join the Labor Party for many reasons, but in particular because I was opposed to the then Labor government's introduction of the higher

education administration charge—the precursor to HECS. The member for Newland reminded me recently of our arguments about these matters at university, but I thought, ‘What’s the point complaining about it—join and try to make a difference’, and, boy, what a difference I made! Let us remember who made it possible for working class kids like me to contemplate a life different from the one predetermined for you by your family’s wealth or status or, in so many of our cases, lack of it: it was Gough Whitlam.

At its core Labor represents values that are important to me—fairness and decency, giving people a chance through access to education and employment and providing a safety net to those in need, giving a voice to people in the decisions governments make on their behalf. It has shaped me and now I hope with my colleagues and community to give something back to it. The Labor Party opened my eyes, as did university, to another world. I grew up in a very strict Italian family where I was encouraged to study and work, but that was just about it. However, in the ALP I found a loophole: as my parents thought that the ALP fell into the category of studying, they approved of these extracurricular activities. So, I attended many meetings of the ALP and met lots of wonderful people like Lois Boswell and Don Frater, whose place we used to meet at, and my friend in another place, the Hon. Ian Hunter and Vanessa Sutch. Ian, I will be thinking of you when I support the same sex couples legislation. I will never forget introducing Ian to my mother, who thought he was a potential marriage prospect for me. I did not have the heart to tell her he was gay, but I congratulate him on his recent election, and my love to his partner, Leith.

The Labor Party has been very good to me, giving me a chance when there were so many other worthy candidates—not that I can think of any of them right now. I have had so many good teachers and learned so much from them, particularly about the value of public policy and the obligation on us as parliamentarians to be rigorous and courageous. I would like to refer briefly to some of those teachers.

The Hon. Frank Blevins, who is here today, took pity on me many years ago and gave me my first political job. Although the mere sight of Frank simply frightened me, what I learned from him was that, while it is important to take the job seriously, it is important not to take yourself too seriously. He also advised me to always present well, as he always does. Frank, I am trying, but it is hard with Dorothy the Dinosaur screeching in the back. I turned to Frank before my first caucus meeting, and I thank him for that.

I also worked for the Hon. Terry Groom, who is a former member for Hartley. Most of us in this place know Terry. He is what I referred to as my hardship posting because, of course, at that time Terry had resigned from the government and become an Independent. Terry, it was no hardship working for you; it was an absolute pleasure. I will never forget Terry’s fastidious attention to detail, which always stood him in good stead as a minister. I also will never forget the bottle of \$3.50 Lambrusco he used to open up on a Friday afternoon. Can I also mentioned the first member for Hartley, former premier Des Corcoran. I was so pleased to receive recently a telephone call from his son Michael, who told me that his dad would have approved of my preselection. Thank you, Michael.

Following the 1993 result, I moved to Queensland where, amongst other things, I found myself working for Wayne Goss, whose drive, energy and intellectual rigour are things to which I can only aspire. The dignity with which he resigned from office is also a lesson to us all.

Anyone in this place who thinks they alone can get themselves elected without the leader is a fool. In my case, I worked out early on that I had an approval rating of about zero and that the Premier’s was significantly higher—and deservedly so. The good electors of Hartley appreciate the vision and hard work of both the Premier and his ministers. I remember a meeting where the Premier addressed candidates. He reminded us that no candidate ever died of shame, and I was thinking, ‘God, can it get any worse than this?’ So, it was with that in mind, dear Premier, that I erected a 25 square metre billboard of the two of us at the Glynde corner. I do not think anyone thought it was ever going to come down. To Anthony Cicocco, without whose genius and ingenuity there would have been no billboard and possibly no Labor victory in Hartley, I am forever grateful. Someone asked me whether I had got used to seeing my face on a corflute. I had the mother of all corflutes; I had the billboard!

For his support and attendance whenever I asked him, I thank the Premier and his fiancée, Sasha. In fact, we have a street corner meeting this weekend. His campaign skills and ability to read the mood of the community are second to none.

In all the years of my association with this party, I have worked with only one woman, that is, the Hon. Carolyn Pickles—and, boy, what a woman she is. What that experience taught me is that politics treats men and women very differently in just about every way. I commit to doing whatever I can to promote the interests of women, because they are the interests of a fair and just society. Although I do not literally wear my Emily’s List badge today, I do wear it proudly. I thank them for their support.

Finally, to Jay Weatherill, who taught me that you do not have to shout to be heard. He is such a low talker. I am eternally grateful to him for so many things.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms PORTOLESI: People in my office will understand it. We shared so many experiences together, including the birth of our children, Lucy and Allegra—we have different partners, of course. I will never forget coming back from maternity leave on the day Mel went into labour. Boy, was I lucky! He allowed me to find my own voice, which I grant can be annoying. Within all his portfolios, he always established a clarity of vision and purpose—something that is desperately lacking now that I no longer work for him. That was a joke.

In the last 18 months, I have learnt a great deal about the people of Hartley, which is a rich and diverse community. I am sure the electors of Kensington Park are surprised to find themselves in the same seat as the equally fair electors of Campbelltown. I thank each and every one of them, and I remind the government that, although Hartley sits in middle of the eastern suburbs, there are pockets of real poverty. Some public schools in the area have 60 per cent of their kids on the school card. I look forward to working with Monsignor Cappelletti in his new role to address this situation.

In other parts of Hartley, greening and sustainability issues, and the cutting of red tape are important. I congratulate the government, in particular Pat Conlon, on protecting Lochiel Park and the plan for a model green village. Representing Hartley well also means representing all South Australians well. The value of my relative youth means that I have a long view. The state of our community and world in the next 10 years is very real for me; it is not a nebulous aspiration for a better world, but pragmatic self-interest, too. For me the future is now, and this means tackling issues now.

On the night I was elected, I dedicated my victory to working mums. At the risk of alienating so many good fathers and men, particularly in this place, I felt compelled to make a point about what I think is one of the most serious issues facing our community. This is not about women versus men; it transcends that. It is about reclaiming our families in all their different shapes and sizes. We must address the issue of balancing work and private lives or, as I have dubbed it, 'the struggle to juggle'. Of course, you might suggest that this is driven by blatant self-interest—and it is. My daughter, who is gibbering in the background, was 10 months old when I started campaigning, and she was over two years when I was elected. But, in my humble view, this is the most pressing issue facing families and women in particular, upon whose shoulders the role of primary carer usually rests.

We are fortunate in South Australia to have Barbara Pocock, an expert in this very field, whose fine research paints an alarming picture about the nature of the lives we now lead. We all know through our own experience about how we are working harder and longer, but what does Barbara Pocock's research tell us? In her book *The Work/Life Collision* published in 2003, she reports the following:

In the area of paid work, between 1966 and 2002 the participation rate of women in the labour market has grown by 19 percentage points while for men it has fallen by 12 points. This represents approximately 1.5 m women who are not available to undertake unpaid work at home as they once were. The growth in the women's participation rate is pronounced for those aged between 20 and 54, when their responsibility for dependents is most intense.

The weekly hours of full-time employees increased from an average of 38.2 hours per week in 1982 to 41.3 in 2001. This is happening in Australia at a time when other countries are reducing the working week.

In the area of unpaid work—and, boy, would my mother be rich if she was paid for her labour at home—the research says that in 1997 women's on average unpaid work hours at home were about 33 hours compared to men's 17 hours a week. About one in four Australian women is likely to remain childless. Participation in market work is associated with high levels of childlessness, and it is much older women like me who are having the babies later and fewer of them. I hope to rectify that in the next year. But some, like my friend the member for West Torrens, whom I do adore despite himself, might argue, 'Isn't this what women wanted? Isn't this what feminists fought for? And what is the big deal anyway?' The answer to the first question is yes, as women we do want families, careers and a clean house. We want it all because it fulfils us even if it does stress us. My sister, Mary, who had four children in about five years, and who is not well known for her radical views, once warned me to never leave the labour market as she did. I will never forget that advice. It matters because our way of life is rapidly slipping away. As Dr Pocock says:

Care—of ourselves, each other, our households, families and communities, and our quality of life, care in childhood, old age, sickness and death and our efforts to live well and to reproduce—are the casualties of the collision between changing and unchanging spheres.

The 'fallout' from this collision is the loss of community and a shift of community from street to workplace; rising levels of guilt especially for mothers; erosion of relationships and pressure on those carers still at home.

We are all paying a high price for our modern lives without realising it, and I am just as responsible. We are all stuck on this treadmill and cannot get off. The solution lies not in turning the clock back—and I would be the first to rally against that—but in reconfiguring the way we work and play.

I will not go into detail now, but I urge members to read Dr Pocock's proposals for a new Australian work/care regime, which we must consider if we have any hope of retaining and restoring family life. John Howard, who claims to hold family values, is doing so much so quickly to destroy Australian families. In the words of the late John Kenneth Galbraith:

The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness.

I tried to find a different quote from that quoted in the media earlier this week, but this was the most appropriate. To me that sums up the *raison d'être* of the Liberal Party. I commit myself wholeheartedly to this issue and urge other members in this place to do the same. We are all obliged to act now. The future is now.

Secondly, I wish to comment briefly on the issues of citizenship and multiculturalism, which are also important to me and my community. When I was doorknocking in Hartley I met so many migrants who had a keen interest in their community and politics but who were unable to vote because they were not citizens. Why were these people, who had been here for 30 or 40 years, not citizens? I soon discovered a couple of factors at play. The first and most disturbing trend in the Italian community, at least, was that people were misinformed about their entitlements. Not maliciously, however: they just did not know. Did they have to give up their original citizenship? Did they lose their Italian pension? The list goes on.

The second thing I could not understand was why, in these days of race riots and terrorism, is the federal government charging people to become citizens? Surely, if the Liberal Party is serious about nation building—and they are not—they could consider my proposal to waive the fee for six months and educate and encourage people to take that next step. I am still waiting for a response to a letter I sent to the federal minister 18 months ago. As parliamentarians we have an obligation to encourage our constituents, particularly those for whom Australia is a relatively new home, to take an active interest in their community so that they can help shape it. This is not a party political gesture, although I believe it is always the conservative forces who encourage and benefit from a disfranchised community.

As a state we must also revisit and renew our commitment to multiculturalism. What does it mean in this modern, global, technical world to be multicultural? In Hartley it has meant the celebration of traditions and rituals such as religious processions, and boy, I have been in lots of them. These are important forms of expression in my area and I will continue to support them in whatever way I can. Lindsay, we will keep doing it together. Where do our young people fit into this? We must find a way, by using the things that young people love (like technology and music), to renew and build the multiculturalism of the future, for the future is now.

There is already so much good work being done by people like Teresa Crea, and I congratulate her. As a young person, when I dreamt of a career, this is not where I saw myself ending up. Strangely, like the member for Mawson, I too have a confession. I dreamt of a future in public administration. I have to say that the role I now find myself in is not so dissimilar to my early aspirations. Whether public servants or parliamentarians, our objective is the same, and that is the service of the public. As a government we cannot implement our policy agenda on behalf of the people of South Australia without the skills, hard work and commitment of our public servants.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting many fine officers, such as Anne Howe and Sue Vardon and others I will not mention for fear of giving them the kiss of death! I believe in government and in the capacity for government to make our lives better. I also believe in the private sector and know that our job as legislators is to create an environment that welcomes and grows business. Good policy-making must meet the aspirations of our constituents. For most, this means the opportunity to create wealth and leave a legacy to our children, and our policies need to recognise this reality. For me the future is now. This means not just responding to our communities but also helping to lead the debate on how government can best meet the needs of individuals, families and communities in our dramatically changing world.

It is a world in which recent projections suggest that, as early as 2019, for the first time in Australia's history the number of people over 65 will outnumber children under 15. This future picture means acting now to respond to the challenges and opportunities that such demographics present. Finally, my thanks: and I will try to keep it short. The campaign for Hartley was the hardest thing I have ever had to do: a very, very long job application. So many times I expected it to be me in Rosemary Clancy's shoes, not her. My heart goes out to her today.

To my campaign team, the Hon. Gail Gago, and her husband Peter—Gail, I thank you for that one-track mind, which is very useful in a campaign; Terry Groom, who was so good to me, and always strangely kept me grounded and laughing, usually at his own expense; Ian Hunter, Scott McFarlane, Georgie Matches, Kendra Clancy, Victoria Purman, Cameron Smith and Chayne Rich, and the volunteers who are too numerous to mention—I thank each and every one of them. The victory in Hartley is as much theirs as it is mine. I am just the one who collects the salary, and they are not getting their hands on that.

To my former office of the Hon. Jay Weatherill, the ever-professional Julie Vaughan, I cherish all the years we worked together. Victoria Purman, who taught me and forced me to wear lipstick—I was only 36 years of age; Gaby Hummel, who just supported me regardless; Danny Bertossa, who knew best to avoid me; Kathy Giamalis, who taught me about the real value of stilettos; Meli, Tania, Rory, Steve Tippins and all the public servants, you are a great team and I am so proud of our association.

To all the ministers who made an effort to support our election for Hartley, in particular Kevin Foley, for whom I have a strange and inexplicable admiration.

Members interjecting:

Ms PORTOLESI: No, Kevin has made a fantastic transition from the role of staffer to being an MP, and I hope I can do the same. To the member for Elder, who does well to disguise his huge well of compassion and kindness and who speaks better Italian than I do—Patrick, non mi dimentico mai quello che tu hai fatto per me. To Paul Holloway, a true gentleman, in another place; to the Attorney-General, who I am quite fond of, thank you for taking me to the numerous ethnic functions. I look forward to working with you as your parliamentary secretary. To the Hon. Carmel Zollo, and her husband Lou, the Italian community appreciates what you have achieved; you make us proud.

Can I also make mention of all the ministerial staff with whom I worked, and whom I terrorised, particularly as the madness of the campaign set in. I remind them that they have a legitimate role to play in the business of government, and

I am proud of where I have come from. Members opposite keep having a go at ministerial staff because they do not like workers getting above their station—well, not in the Labor Party; we encourage it.

To the other new MPs, I congratulate you and hope we can look out for each other a little. To Mark Butler, Andy Dennard, Don Farrell, Robyn, Andrew, Craig, Katrine, Ian and Charles, I thank you and all the fine people I have had the pleasure of meeting in the union movement. The Labor movement will always have a friend in me.

To my friends in the corporate sector—and there are significantly fewer of those, like Ross Makris, John Viscariello, Dino Vettese and Jim Kouts—you, too, will always have a friend in me. I would also like to thank the whip and her office and their attempts to accommodate me and my demands to spend as much time with my daughter as possible. They have been very patient. Robyn, I am still trying to come to terms with the fact that I am an MP.

To Liz Durward, thank you for your assistance in the last couple of weeks. To my family, in particular my parents, sisters and brother, they gave me the best start in life—unconditional love. They cared for our daughter for 18 months before a place in child care became available. To my husband Miles and our daughter Allegra: now, I may not be as effusive as the member for Newland was about the beauty of his partner, but to Miles, who was a rough diamond, who gave up his life in Queensland to be with me here today, I thank you.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Can I share your special name for him?

Ms PORTOLESI: No, don't share it; he is special. Our daughter is our reason for living, even if she did tell me to stop talking when she was about 15 months old. I did not have an answer. What can you expect from me in this place, and how do I expect the people of Hartley and others, and myself, to judge me—certainly not on how long I am here, but what I do while I am. To conclude, in the words, again, of John Galbraith:

The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.

Let's never stop thinking.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Before I call the honourable member for Finnis I remind the house that it is the honourable member's maiden speech, and I ask the house to extend to him the usual courtesies.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me again congratulate you on achieving your high office and let me congratulate all members in this house on their re-election, particularly the new members. As the member for Hartley informed us, those of us who are new members are a youthful team, so we look forward to the future. I support the motion and note the Governor's speech and the proposed direction of the government. Today I have the unique privilege of voicing my views in the House of Assembly of the South Australian parliament. I thank the community and, more particularly, record my grateful thanks to the electors of Finnis for giving me that privilege and opportunity. I will say more about the district in due course.

The driving force for me to enter the parliament of South Australia was to further contribute to the wellbeing of the community and, like others, to attempt to make a difference. Many years of community service have brought me to this

place; it is the culmination of a series of life experiences, learning processes and a desire to assist others. I am not driven by a supreme ego trip and long ago developed a thick skin to get me through the tough bits. I expect it will be put to the test in this place from time to time.

The Liberal Party gave me the opportunity to stand as a candidate, and the people of Finnis delivered me the chance to work in their best interests. I have been fortunate to have a terrific campaign team ably led by Mr Park Fogarty and including Mr Ian Gillies who (I am very pleased to say, as a former Kiwi fighter pilot) has become a considerable influence on South Australia, and Mr John Gardiner. I recognise their efforts and the efforts of many other members of my Liberal support team across Finnis. In addition, my staff have rapidly pointed me in the right direction and offered me much help in the transition to becoming a new member—something that is quite different and for which most people are unprepared, despite the life experiences you bring with you into this place. A strong and united party team in Finnis was a major catalyst in winning my seat against a number of challengers and unknowns in an extremely difficult electoral situation. I look forward to working with all of you to act in the best interests of all South Australians.

My grateful thanks are extended to the staff of the South Australian parliament for their combined efforts over the last few weeks in teaching me a multitude of tasks and in providing a constant stream of material and advice in an effort to make a humble farmer feel part of the organisation—not always an easy task. I am sure my fellow new colleagues feel the same way, although a number come from totally different backgrounds to myself. Equally, and most importantly, I thank my family. Jan, Tim, Sarah and Patrick have encouraged and supported me during a particularly hectic and, indeed, tumultuous few months since my predecessor Dean Brown made his intention to retire known to me. I will also speak more about him later.

Some comment was made during the process about my age. I put it to the house that in fact it is a most advantageous age to come into the house. Rather than have a house full of young children wondering who their father is—

Mrs Redmond interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY:—no offence, Mr Speaker—and a wife left home to cope with seemingly endless tasks relating to the children, mine are all adults.

Members interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Some of us are early learners. Whilst still imposing periods of financial pain on their parents, my children are educated, independent and productive members of society. Family is the most critical equation in the journey of life and I have been blessed with a background of strong guidance and support. Jan and I are Kangaroo Island born and bred and extremely proud of the fact. Being lifelong residents of Kangaroo Island breeds resilience to many of the difficulties of life and the imposition of isolation lends itself to adopting a can-do mentality and develops a tolerance of difficult situations.

Being the child of parents brought up in the Depression with their subsequent experience of World War II puts me in a class of people who had different values from those growing up today. My father—most likely along with the fathers of others in this place—had his youth sidelined as he fought in the campaigns in the Middle East, on the Kokoda Track and in Borneo during World War II. My father was essentially a pacifist. He did his duty for Australia and suffered long-term ramifications from the experience, which

ultimately led to an early death at only 60 attributed to war service—smoking. It was something which, at the age of 26, was difficult for me to come to grips with. He came from Cornish stock, was born and raised on Yorke Peninsula (the home of the member for Goyder) and never had anything given to him. He did it the hard way.

His parish priest became his mentor and lifelong friend to our family. It is a great privilege to be able to mention someone who has been gone for many years. That person was Donald Redding. He came out from England as a 12 year old to work on the land in Western Australia, enlisted in the 1st Light Horse for World War I and saw horrendous conflict which called him to join the ministry after the war. Not content with sitting home, in his 40s Donald re-enlisted for the 1939 to 1945 conflict and served also in the Middle East and New Guinea theatres, including Kokoda, as a padre. Donald was a remarkable man and his feats, particularly on the Kokoda campaign in looking after his men, are still spoken about with reverence and admiration by the survivors to this day. He had an empathy for humanity that was profound.

Nevertheless, his humour was legendary. Once as an officer and subject to privileges not accorded to the enlisted men, he secured a shipment of beer which was bound for the officers' mess and conspiratorially got it to the ordinary ranks—something that I am sure Martin Hamilton-Smith would appreciate. Also he discovered a toilet receptacle from a downed United States air force plane. He converted it into a means of brewing beer for his men. He certainly was not your average padre. Donald went on to become an Anglican bishop and the fifth member of our family. I carry his surname as my middle name with pride. He never married and never had children, so I am very proud of that fact.

Likewise, my mother's family have been instrumental in my make-up. The combination of two large families—14 children on either side, one of Welsh stock, one of Irish with a bit of Scottish thrown in—joined to create a formidable outfit. Widowed at 52, my mother to this day is highly independent and forthright in her views, something to which I am sure my brother-in-law sitting in this place could attest. At 82 she continues to influence the island community. Indeed, she was the first woman elected to local government on Kangaroo Island and is still very active in her interests, including providing a constant stream of advice to her son.

Having watched her own father, a member of the legendary 9th Light Horse in World War I, cope when widowed in his early 60s, she adopted the same resilience on the death of my father and just got on with it. She became the only living grandparent for my sister Angela's children; and she never failed to recount to Anna and Kate stories and memories of my father and also Angela's parents-in-law (Snow's parents) whom the girls never knew but whom mum did know. It has been a great legacy for them to be able to learn that from my mother. Likewise, my own children have learnt about my father, even though they were born well after his death. Mum is still coming to grips with the fact that I am in this place.

Before I move on to discuss my district, it is important to mention another islander—indeed, the first islander elected to the South Australian parliament. Of course, that person was the father of the second islander elected, the member for Bragg. Ted Chapman was the person who expanded and extended my interest in politics, notwithstanding the fact that, coming from a Cornish, Irish and Welsh background with a history of being working-class people, my family (to the

possible surprise of some opposite) were fiercely Liberal in their views and mostly viewed the socialist cause as a recipe for disaster. Ted, as I recall fondly, was a larger than life true-blue Australian. He could mix it with anyone and had a majestic gift for the English language. It gave me great pride to speak at his eulogy on Kangaroo Island.

Ted's entry into state parliament in 1973 was celebrated on election night at the Ozone Hotel in Kingscote at which he, as a non-drinker, was in his element. I can still recall his sticking it up a couple of Labor voters who ventured into the lounge area where he was holding celebrations, but that was done in a spirit of goodwill and with a certain amount of humility. Despite that, Ted had many mates on the other side, many of whom have congratulated me, offered advice and pointed out that the way to get things done in this place is to get on and recognise the attributes of all. Some of those opposite also believe that, as a successor of Ted's and as an islander, I will still be required to provide shooting trips for them on the island. One of those persons, the Hon. John Quirke, recently went on a trip organised by me, and we are now supplying identification for Mr Quirke, because he could not identify what was a wild pig and what was a heifer. Fortunately, his shot went astray and the heifer survived. The Minister for Transport is also part of that cadre.

Only 12 months ago I received a call at 4.30 a.m. from Ted who wanted to know what I was doing. As it turned out, a large school of mullet had washed up on high tide at Western River and, if I wanted some, I was to get out to his place before daylight and take a couple of wheat bags full home. Ted was very unwell and unable to help in the previous hours' activities but had, in his own unique way, organised everybody else to do it. Being the mayor at the time, I had some degree of apprehension but, nevertheless, went for a drive. I think that enough has been said about that. Ted's contribution as the member for Alexandra, and also as a minister of the Crown, was substantial. He was a self-made, determined and extremely capable man who had little schooling and went on to achieve much for his community and electorate. He was the son of a longstanding Kangaroo Island family.

The shearing dispute on Kangaroo Island, and the union bullying brought on by the AWU in the early 1970s, blooded me in the way of politics. As a young bloke earning very little money on the farm and making extra money working in the shearing sheds, I was appalled and angered by being forced to join something that seemed dictatorial and compulsory and having it taken out of my wages. A number of farms were black-banned for the use of non-union labour in shearing sheds, leaving the farmers with no way to sell their wool and no income. One farmer involved in the dispute, Mr Brian Woolley, went to court and won his case. The fact that the premier at the time (Don Dunstan) paid the fine imposed on the union did nothing for the popularity of the Labor Party on Kangaroo Island. The Liberal Party membership on Kangaroo Island increased to 400.

Likewise, I have a great deal of praise for my predecessor, Dean Brown. Dean has left an indelible imprint on Finnis, an electorate named after the first premier of our state. The people of the electorate hold him in the highest possible esteem on all sides of the political equation. His undoubted intellect and capacity to develop long-term plans, both for the state and within the electorate, in a multitude of situations should have been given the opportunity to reach their full potential and not cut off in an improper and stupid course of

action. Fortunately, that is well behind us and we are forging ahead.

The state of South Australia has home-grown product with immense potential in Dean. Despite the fact that he has left this place, I urge the government to use his considerable skills in business and agriculture, and his high levels of personal communication and talents, in the best interests of South Australia. Political differences need to be put to one side and our home-grown talent pool used to its full potential. The impression left on me by former governor Sir Eric Neale—his communication skills and interest in all facets of business and life around the state during his numerous trips around the state—is an indication of what former leaders in business and society can continue to contribute, given the opportunity.

My electorate of Finnis is, without doubt, the jewel of South Australian electorates and the provider of a good deal of South Australia's economic productivity. Situated to the south of Adelaide and comprising the bulk of the Fleurieu Peninsula and my home of Kangaroo Island, it boasts a productive primary production sector producing, among other things, beef, dairy products, lamb, wool, some vineyards and a range of crops which produce barley, wheat, canola, faba beans and oats, to name just a few. In addition, the fishing sector is renowned for its abalone, King George whiting, snapper, squid, garfish and rock lobster from around Kangaroo Island waters to the south of Fleurieu Peninsula and the Cape Jervis area. There is also a developing land-based abalone industry on the island—indeed, the largest abalone farm in the southern hemisphere is situated on Kangaroo Island. That is in addition to the marron and yabby industries on both Fleurieu and island properties. Indeed, my sister and brother-in-law are early pioneers of those industries.

These industries are all a tribute to hardworking farmers and fishermen. The fishing industry feels threatened by aspects of government policy. It is a critical, longstanding domestic and export industry and does not deserve to be treated with contempt or ignorance by the government or, to quote the member for Stuart, the Sir Humphreys of this state. I support the thrust of marine protected areas and I support the concept of marine parks that fall out of them, if done properly. I do not support, and will be vociferous in my opposition to, the targeting of some professional fishermen and the closure of certain areas to both professional and recreational fishermen in the disgraceful, cowardly and spiteful manner as some sort of payback and sick attempt to appease the 'environmental fascist' members of our community. The future of a hungry world demands a well-managed and productive fishing industry. We have well-managed and sustainable fishing grounds around South Australia, none more prominent than around the coastline of my electorate. We can continue to be a major source of seafood for a demanding Asian market, indeed, a world market. Blind prejudice and electoral popularity should not be at the cost of livelihoods.

Forestry plays a part in the economic activity within my electorate, with *Pinus radiata* plantations on both sides of Backstairs Passage and, more latterly, the blue gum industry which has been aggressively purchasing farmland in an effort to expand. This industry has created concerns and resentment for many in the farming community, and a balanced approach on its future from government is urgently required. Whilst providing a dignified exit for some farmers, it has prevented the further purchase of farmland by farming community members who are unable to match the funds in the hands of the blue gum industry.

The agricultural sector is balanced by the enormous influence of tourism on my region and electorate. The Goolwa, Middleton, Port Elliot, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla communities are growing at an incredible rate due to the impact of chiefly domestic visitors and, largely, the huge number of retirees moving to the district in search of the agreeable climate, the agreeable local member, the facilities provided and the closeness to their families in Adelaide. Young families are finding it a more affordable place to build, bring up their children and find employment in the host of light industries that are springing up and supporting many of the existing industries such as boat building, furniture manufacturing and others.

The lack of a reliable electricity supply in the South Coast, particularly the Goolwa area, is inhibiting growth. The lack of suitable TAFE facilities is limiting opportunities and sending young people to the over-stretched metropolitan facilities. This impacts on all facets of social and cultural life. There are fewer people to play sport, fewer people to be involved in communities and fewer people to do things. Community life is critical in the country. Sport is critical. It is a catalyst for communities. Saturday in the country is the day you see everybody. It is an all-day event. Young people having to go to the mainland inhibits that.

The arts community is vibrant and diverse in its capacity, and is strong throughout the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island. A performing arts centre for the region would be a major catalyst for the extension of arts in my electorate. Governments need to recognise the pressures on both the social and natural environments, and commit more financial allocation to the area by way of schools, TAFE facilities and health services, to name a few. My electorate comprises one of the fastest growing regions in Australia—even faster than the member for Goyder's. The demand, particularly for spending on a new TAFE centre, is paramount. This is in addition to an urgency to redevelop and further upgrade school facilities on both sides of Backstairs Passage.

The long-term health needs of my electorate in the South Coast region need ongoing forward planning. In my view it will be paramount to develop a plan for further expansion of the South Coast District Hospital and the health services. Local dialysis services are needed to avoid the necessity for those requiring treatment to have to travel to the metropolitan area on a regular basis. Also, in tandem with the commonwealth, there needs to be an increased effort to provide further aged-care facilities on Kangaroo Island. It is simply not appropriate for the Kangaroo Island community to be faced with future relocation of residents requiring that level of care away from their families. Aged care is a major concern for future governments across the nation, whether they be state or federal. The cost to be borne by our future generations in caring for our elderly is enormous, and it will seriously impact on future governments of all persuasions in all places across the nation.

Western Fleurieu throughout the Myponga and Yankalilla districts is also struggling to keep up with demands, due to an increase in population and, in particular, pressures put on its road networks, those roads being the main trunk route through to Cape Jervis, Kangaroo Island and around the southern dairy and farming areas of the Fleurieu. This brings me to the sea corridor to Kangaroo Island. It is a travesty of social and economic justice that this stretch of water carries a direct impost with huge costs on Kangaroo Island residents, producers and the tourism industry by way of substantial government charges. If I achieve only one thing in this place

to assist Kangaroo Island it would be to have the sea recognised as an extension of the national highway system (as is Bass Strait) and to give social and economic fairness and equity to those who rely on that sea corridor for their way of life, either as residents or when carrying on their businesses.

Forgive me for mentioning this—but I do come from that location—Kangaroo Island is an enormous drawcard for the tourism industry. In particular, international visitors are captivated by the scenery and the abundant wildlife set in an idyllic environment. It is part of the big triangle for overseas visitors: the Great Barrier Reef, Central Australia and Kangaroo Island. They are the big three, and they are top of the list for many visitors. Indeed, many international visitors who come through Adelaide do not wish to stay in Adelaide but, rather, wish to spend an additional night on Kangaroo Island. Projects, such as Southern Ocean Lodge which is being considered at present, are critical for the development of tourism at the high end of the market. The lower end of the market is being catered for, but I commend the Minister for Urban Development and Planning for the way in which he has approached the Southern Ocean Lodge project.

As a reliable high rainfall district, Kangaroo Island has an enormous future as a provider of food and agricultural products for an increasingly hungry world. It would be a wonderful and progressive investment in the future if the government could fix up the cost inhibitors in freight and people transport. I urge all parties to come to grips with the matter and correct and fix up for all time this disgraceful anomaly. Far too much populist time and money is spent on the feel-good approach to South Australia and the desire to attract the votes of the metropolitan area. I clearly recognise and understand the motives. However, it is at the expense of the minority of South Australians who reside and work outside Adelaide. In many cases they are treated as second-class citizens by the incumbent government. I am by nature a defender of justifiable minorities and a proud rural Australian. It is a disgrace that that sector of South Australians does not get the funding to which it is entitled and to which it more than contributes by a host of taxes and charges (increasing, seemingly, daily) and, more to the point, export income, whether that be mining or primary production.

In South Australia we risk having two levels of citizens: those who take all the trappings of city life for granted, and those who struggle to make ends meet outside the amorphous mass of Adelaide in our far-flung state. Even in some parts of the metropolitan area, as the member for Mawson indicated this morning, communities are struggling to cope with poor facilities and low incomes, which puts enormous stress on families.

I implore the government of South Australia, more particularly my colleagues in the parliament, to more adequately address equity issues in our broader community; not just to employ more public servants and create more committees, not to jump on convenient, publicly popular bandwagons, as they surface with regular monotony, not to puff and blow, but to find real solutions to real problems. The community of South Australia deserves better than it is getting. In this place, in my time here, I will have no hesitation in blowing the whistle on arrogance, bullying, or other unacceptable behaviour, by government members of any persuasion or, indeed, the public servants under their direction.

It has been made more than clear to me in my short time as a member that my electors are fed up with some of the dictatorial government employees and their attitude to the

public on the South Coast. It will be my mission to expose those misdemeanours and make them held to account by responsible ministers and departmental heads. Having said that, I also clearly enunciate that the vast majority of public employees are hard-working and thoroughly committed to their tasks.

I have had a long involvement in the health sector—indeed, I worked with the former minister for health for a number of years—and I cannot speak highly enough of many of my former colleagues, particularly Mr Kevin Eglington, Mr Rick Brandon, Mrs Genevieve Hebart, Mrs Jackie Sutherland, Aboriginal health representative, Mr Steve Sumner, and Mr Jim Birch. They, and many others are and have been outstanding contributors to public health in South Australia. They have my absolute respect and I hold them in the highest esteem.

Likewise, my former colleagues in local government continue to battle away at the grassroots level. Limited finances—and I am sure the member for Goyder would agree with me—and increasing demands on imposts are an attempt to provide more with less. In this place, we need to revisit and reinvest our commitment to that sector in an effort to make it stand on its own and to have more capacity to deliver services at local level. I challenge members to pick up and act on the matter. We live in a nation that is the envy of much of the world. Working with overseas visitors over the past few years has only enhanced that perception for me.

We take it for granted, mostly. We have wealth, freedom, democracy and wonderful resources in Australia. The governments of the day are the protectors of our Australian way of life and the architects of the future. We must not fail and cannot ever be complacent about what we have, nor about our future. Finally, I acknowledge the considerable challenges faced by us all, and I will work with all members of this and the other place in an effort to make South Australia paramount in the development of Australia. I thank members for their courtesy in listening to me on this occasion. Thank you.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Hammond, I remind members that it is the member's maiden speech and I ask members to extend to him the usual courtesies.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond): I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment. Before launching into my speech, I wish to add my compliments to those already given to Her Excellency the Governor for the speech with which she opened this 51st Parliament of South Australia and for the work she undertakes in this state, and for the manner in which she undertakes her role. I had the pleasure of attending a local function in Murray Bridge where Her Excellency officiated at the launch of an aged care facility. Her presence was warmly welcomed by all.

I also congratulate the new members to the chamber on both sides. I especially congratulate the new members on our side of the chamber—the members for Goyder, Unley and Finnis. I am sure we will all make valuable and productive contributions to this parliament and serve the people of our electorates to the best of our abilities.

In 1840 my great great grandfather, William Pederick, made a decision to leave the family farm in England to head to the new country of Australia. Hearing that a ship was about to leave Plymouth for Australia, he asked his wife whether she would be willing to go to Australia, to which she readily assented. William went to find his father to borrow a horse

to ride to Plymouth to arrange passage. His father was away at the time and his mother said to him, 'Don't think of anything so foolish. You won't get a horse from here if that is what you wish to do.' William was determined and walked the 30 miles to Plymouth and made arrangements for the voyage. In 1840 William and his family arrived at Glenelg and established a bootmakers shop and a small farm at Plympton.

In about 1850 William and his two eldest sons sought their fortune in the Victorian goldfields and were successful in finding gold. It was in 1853 that the Pederick family purchased their first farm in the Angle Vale area—an area where the family farmed until 1961. It was in this area also that the family of the Hon. John Dawkins established themselves, and the families have remained in contact through the generations.

Since settling in South Australia my family has been forced to relocate on two occasions due to land acquisitions as a result of the extension of defence activities in the Northern Adelaide Plains region. As a result of the latest land acquisition in 1960, my parents relocated from Angle Vale to Coomandook in the Upper South East, where my family has since farmed, specialising in prime lamb, beef, wool, premium grains, legumes and oil seeds. I am a fifth generation farmer in the Pederick line.

I was born at Calvary Hospital and have lived in the Coomandook area all my life. I completed year 10 at Coomandook Area School before boarding in Adelaide to attend Urrbrae Agricultural High School for one year. Indeed, it was as a student at Coomandook that I undertook a tour of this place in the 1970s, with the then member for Mallee, Bill Nankivell. It was also my good fortune to have Dorothy, the wife of the former member for Murray, Ivan Wardle, attempt to teach me the piano. I was thrilled to receive a letter of good wishes from Ivan Wardle in the week preceding the election. Ironically, the same defence force that caused my family to leave the Angle Vale area has lured one of my younger twin brothers from the farm to serve his country for the past 20-odd years.

My family has a strong history of serving its country in the defence forces: my great uncle served in the First World War, two uncles served in the Second World War and my younger brother served as a peacekeeper in Rawanda and, more recently, in Baghdad. I am very proud of what my brother Chris has achieved, both personally and as a member of the Australian Army. My other three siblings—Heather, Graeme and Nicolle—enjoy success in a range of occupations, generally related to primary production, as a result of a disciplined and Christian upbringing on the family farm. My father remains on our family farm—a stalwart of the Coomandook community and church.

In 1991 I took over the management of the family farm. My wife Sally joined me on the farm in 1999 and not long after we were blessed with the birth of our two sons, Mackenzie (Mack for short) and Angus. Our five year old son Mack started school at Coomandook Area School at the beginning of this week, which was a proud moment for me, as this is the school I attended for all but one of my school years. Before we know it, our little bloke Angus will be attending the Coomandook Kindergarten, followed by school at Coomandook Area School.

Although I have worked most of my adult life on the family farm, I have also worked in the state's remote northern gas field, and as a shearer for many years throughout the

Mallee and the South-East and as a hay contractor in Western Australia. I have seen many changes in farming in what may be considered by my father as my short time in farming. I cannot imagine the changes my father has seen in his 80-odd years. He often tells tales of his time ploughing paddocks behind a team of horses. But, on the other hand, he was the hardest to budge from behind the wheel of the 300 horse-power Case tractor we used to own.

I have seen production levels increase to huge levels, with no real financial benefit to the farmer due to high input costs and low commodity prices. I have seen families split up due to financial stress or leave the land out of sheer exasperation. Being a farmer today is no walk in the park. Gone are the days of the landed gentry and the new Statesman in the shed. Times are tough in the bush, and people are hurting. The tough will ride it out and prosper, as cyclical history tells us that farming will once again attract the financial returns it deserves. I have been involved in local community activities, such as football, tennis, CFS—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: —yes, Borders—the Bachelor and Spinster Ball Committee, the Hall Committee and, more recently, the School Governing Council.

Members interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Go, the Sandblasters! I was involved for many years in South Australian Rural Youth, as a member and on the executive committee, and I continue to enjoy the many long-term friendships through this once extensive network and the benefits that this training has brought me in my personal and professional life.

When I was in my twenties, I was fortunate enough to take part in a rural youth exchange study tour of America and Canada. This tour certainly opened my eyes to the opportunities available in primary production and the many experiences overseas travel offers.

My involvement with industry organisations has contributed to my interest in politics and community leadership. I have been a member of the Murraylands Regional Development Board, the South Australian Agricultural Bureau, the South Australian Triticale Growers and Marketers Association, the Kondinin Group, and the South Australian Farmers Federation. My membership with these organisations has allowed me to take a committed interest in local initiatives, including sustainable regional business development and education, as well as employment growth and economic development for the Murraylands region; landcare; best practice farming techniques and primary production technology.

While I have leased the family farm, my family roots are in farming, and I will always be supportive of those who work hard to make a living off the land. I am a proud community member, and I look forward to my sons having the same opportunity that I had growing up in the region—a quality education at the Coomandook Area School, lots of space to run wild, and a warm and protective community in which to live.

Being a member of the Liberal Party has been very important to my political career. I support the Liberal Party's beliefs, including the innate worth of the individual and the right to be independent, to achieve, and the need to encourage initiative and personal responsibility, as well as the equality of opportunity, with all Australians having the opportunity to reach their full potential in a tolerant community. I believe in freedom of choice and the encouragement of a robust

economy so that all may enjoy the highest possible standards of living, health, education and social justice.

Unlike the former member for Hammond who, in his maiden speech—

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: —you know him—promised to make improvements and not friends; to make decisions through consultation, not confrontation; to promote understanding and insight, not antagonism and acrimony; and to represent the people, not institutions or organisations; and who failed miserably during his last term in office to meet any of these promises—I promise to be honest, respectful, forthright, and to represent the wishes of the people of Hammond. I intend to do this in a manner that is acceptable, and supported by my constituents, that is, like the old BP advertisements used to say, as a quiet achiever, without the flowery and verbose dissertations often delivered in this chamber.

The electorate of Hammond is built upon a strong, proud, independent, conservative community, a community that would rather work hard and strive to survive than complain loudly and wait for handouts, and a community that has already been dealt any number of bad hands and still comes out a winner. That is the community in which I have grown, continue to live and intend raising my family, and where hard work and persistence rewards those who persevere. It is an absolute privilege to be able to represent these people of Hammond. Many people I know or have met have asked me why I wanted to enter parliament as the member for Hammond. The answer is easy: I did not believe that the people of Hammond were being represented appropriately. I chose to lead by example, that is, I was not happy with the representation Hammond had in parliament and decided to do something about it. Again, that is the Mallee way of doing things: work hard and fight for a positive future.

The electorate of Hammond was named after Ruby Florence Hammond, 1936-1993, who spent many years working for the advancement of the state's Aboriginal population. Ruby was the first Aboriginal person to stand for federal parliament in South Australia, and her premature death brought a close to a remarkable life, a life that had deeply touched many Aboriginal people on the path towards reconciliation.

The Hammond electorate has been extended and retracted on a number of occasions. As an example, the electorate of Albert from 1956 to 1977 included only about half of the current electorate of Hammond, taking in much more of the Upper South-East region, which my respected colleague, Mitch Williams, now represents.

Mr Williams: And very well.

Mr PEDERICK: And very well. A name change to Mallee and a boundary change in 1976, which took effect from 1977 to 1985, meant an extension to the north into what we call the Northern Mallee, and an extension to the south, which meant the townships of Kingston, Robe and Beachport were included. Further name changes have included Murray-Mallee, Ridley and, finally, Hammond. With these name changes came a number of boundary changes to the north, south and west. Luckily the South Australian-Victorian border is the eastern boundary of the electorate, or I expect that boundary would have been extended and retracted as many times as the others.

The current boundaries of Hammond are as follows: to the west, the River Murray, Bremer River, Finnis River and Lake Albert, whilst in the east, the district extends to the Victorian border. This large rural electorate, covering over

17 000 square kilometres, includes the expanding townships of Murray Bridge, Strathalbyn, Tailem Bend, Karoonda and Lameroo, and the local government councils of the Rural City of Murray Bridge, District Council of Karoonda East Murray, Southern Mallee District Council, and parts of Coorong District Council, Mid Murray Council and Alexandrina Council. With these boundary changes has come greater diversification of cultures. The Hammond electorate now encompasses a number of primary industries including dryland agriculture, irrigated horticulture, intensive animal production, viticulture and, of course, the dairy industry.

Statistics from the Murraylands Regional Development Board, which covers a slightly larger area than the Hammond electorate, show that while the Murraylands comprises only 2.7 per cent of the available land for primary production in the state, it produces: 30 per cent of the state's dairy, and 50 per cent of the total value of milk products; 35 per cent of the state's pig production; 22 per cent of the state's chicken meat production; 40 per cent of the state's onions; 40 per cent of the state's potatoes; 30 per cent of the state's carrots; 30 per cent of the state's glasshouse-greenhouse vegetables; 40 per cent of the state's olives; and boasts over 50 different horticultural crops.

In addition to primary industries, manufacturing and processing industries are expanding at a rapid rate in the region as opportunities to value-add are realised. Over \$900 million of primary product is produced or processed in the Murraylands region on an annual basis. The region boasts the state's largest export abattoir for the processing of red meat, including lamb and beef.

Furthermore, state-of-the-art technology has been employed in the recent establishment of pork abattoirs in the region. The lack of unskilled labour in the region may be the only obstruction to further expansion. However, importation of labour from other regions, interstate and overseas, has meant that delays to expansion have not occurred to any great extent. The Murray Bridge and Monarto areas are now highly sought after by city-based businesses looking for more space to operate within striking distance of Adelaide. The number of businesses focused on engineering and light industrial manufacturing has grown substantially within the region.

Tourism is a growing industry in the region. The River Murray is a huge lure to the region, with many visitors utilising our award-winning houseboats, cruising on historic paddle steamers or partaking in water sports such as water skiing or fishing. Monarto Zoo continues to be a major drawcard for the region, attracting nearly 100 000 visitors annually. The region's tourism marketing board has been highly successful, winning numerous state tourism awards and being inducted into the National Tourism Hall of Fame for winning three consecutive national awards for tourism marketing. Visitors to the Murraylands region spend an estimated \$71 million a year.

Our rurally based communities have continued to suffer from withdrawal or regionalisation of health services, and obstetric services are limited to large regional centre hospitals. If families are located some distance from these facilities, quite often the mother-to-be is forced to find accommodation close to the hospital to await the new arrival or take the risk of making a long drive when the time finally arrives. Limited aged care facilities have caused grief to many families as older family members are forced to take a placement in a town or rural city located some distance from the family and the family property.

Mental health support is under-resourced in Hammond. Suicide is on the rise, and Hammond is no different from anywhere else. Our communities have seen the loss of many members, including young people with what seemed to be the world at their feet. These very important services cannot be provided on a once-a-month or travel-to-Murray-Bridge basis. It is vital that our state continue to provide adequate aged care facilities, mental health and community health services within and accessible to our communities. The health and wellbeing of our communities also requires support with adequate primary health programs. Our state needs to find better ways to attract and retain health professionals in our regional areas, whether locally trained or from overseas. We need to be more proactive in attracting the right people so that communities receive a decent level of health care.

The electorate is lucky to have a range of both private and public education facilities, and I applaud the teaching staff who have made a commitment to work in our region. Our schools are the hub of our communities, often housing play group, kindergarten and the community library. It is important that we keep these high level facilities available to our community members and encourage their continued use. The huge maintenance backlog in our public education facilities is of concern. This must be addressed immediately to ensure the safety of our students and the quality of the services being provided. The majority of roads within the electorate of Hammond are in need of major upgrade, requiring a large injection of funds. There needs to be greater road funding provided by all levels of government.

Traversing Hammond are two of the main road transport routes in this state: the Mallee Highway, linking South Australia to the eastern seaboard, primarily Sydney and Brisbane; and the Dukes Highway, linking South Australia to south-eastern Australia, primarily Melbourne. It is imperative that major road upgrades in Hammond include a dual carriageway from Tailem Bend to the state border near Bordertown, and realignment and rebuilding of the Mallee Highway from Tailem Bend to the state border near Pinnaroo. The development of a north-south freight corridor that will bypass Adelaide and allow greater freight linkages between the south and South-East with the Mid North must be a high priority for this state. The region is perfectly situated to become a future logistics and transport distribution hub for South Australia, due to its easy access to road and rail infrastructure, linking the state to the eastern seaboard.

The impact of crime is an ongoing issue for all South Australians. It is time to get tough on perpetrators of crime. Petty crime, such as vandalism and break-ins, are clearly affecting our way of life and causing some older and less agile community members to be prisoners in their own homes out of fear for their personal wellbeing. Business owners and operators are sick of paying huge insurance premiums to cover the cost of crime, and our communities are left shaking their heads at the low penalties being handed down to perpetrators of serious criminal offences. It would be encouraging to see a greater presence of police in the Hammond area, with a proactive approach to crime instead of the current reactive trend. The River Murray is undoubtedly the lifeblood of the electorate of Hammond, as well as the whole of the state. Strategies that return environmental flows and reduce salt loads to the river system need to complement those that support sustainable production. Protection of the River Murray and the industries and communities it supports must be paramount to our state; and, as a state, we must

oppose the Victorian government's plans to establish a toxic waste dump proposed within 14 kilometres of the river.

Our irrigation-based industries contribute enormously to our state's budget and must be protected and complemented by legislation and through the implementation of strategies that focus on sustainable production. Utilisation of ground water resources for irrigated horticulture in Hammond has also caused concern to those seeking to use this resource for stock and domestic purposes. A balance needs to be struck to ensure that all users gain without depleting the resource too highly. Future strategies that are planned to minimise impacts on the River Murray, which have the potential to impact on reliant communities, need to include social impact studies prior to commencement. Too often the impacts on the communities are not considered, considered too late or not managed appropriately, causing huge and often lifelong impacts, such as suicide, family breakdown and the like. The impact to our regional dairying communities as a result of the rehabilitation of the Lower Murray swamps has been a primary example of how not to do things in the future. Shared responsibility is the way forward for the River Murray. All users—whether it be for economic gain, domestic use or recreational purposes—need to take responsibility for the way in which they use the water.

Lack of infrastructure is limiting development in Hammond, while primary and secondary production, as well as manufacturing, are moving ahead in leaps and bounds in Hammond. Some segments of these industries are being constrained due to the lack of appropriate power and water infrastructure. Mobile telephone and internet services in the region are patchy and unreliable to say the least. Hammond is under threat of lagging behind the rest of the state and nation when it comes to product marketing, business management, education and risk management due to the restrictions these poor services cause. Lengthy service failures, including electricity and telephone failures (sometimes lasting up to 24 hours), are common and cause major disruptions to business and families and are a huge safety concern. In Hammond we have two major mining enterprises about to commence, one at each end of the electorate and each having individual circumstances that need to be handled carefully to ensure the retained health and viability of the surrounding communities.

In the first instance, the proposed open cut Australian zircon mineral sands mine in the Mindarie region needs to be managed, and the land rehabilitated appropriately to ensure that farming soils are not degraded or made more susceptible to wind erosion. At the other end of the electorate is the below ground Terramin lead and zinc mine at Strathalbyn. This proposed mine is located 1.7 kilometres from Strathalbyn schools. I strongly believe that we need to undertake blood lead level testing in children to ensure that we understand baseline blood lead levels and have the greatest opportunity available to identify any potential changes. I have been assured that the likelihood of lead poisoning is negligible; however, the community has legitimate concerns that must be addressed to ensure peace of mind. Also, environmental concerns need to be addressed, such as dust, noise and waste management, to ensure that the surrounding natural resources are not negatively impacted. Both these proposed mining ventures have the potential to bring economic gain to nearby communities and the electorate through greater work force opportunities and increased spending ability.

Through the process of converting perpetual land leases to freehold for the purpose of retaining the ability to sell or

transfer the land, leaseholders are finding that they are now required to surrender significant portions of their leases to the government, often losing their best production land and valuable water frontage. Leaseholders are also expected to foot the bill for the survey costs, often running into thousands (and sometimes tens of thousands) of dollars. Many of these leaseholders have been managing these areas, spending considerable time and money undertaking works for both production and environmental restoration purposes. These areas when returned to the government would be retained by the Crown, with pest management processes being managed by natural resources management boards.

I take issue with the freeholding process now being implemented and the cost and personal impact it is having on Hammond community members. I also have concerns that the management of these tracts of land will diminish markedly once ownership is removed from the original leaseholders. This will cause more environmental degradation and more cost to the state.

The management of leases associated with the historic Milang shacks is also causing great angst for many Hammond constituents. The Milang shacks, for those not familiar with them, are a collection of small holiday shacks that were built in the mid-1900s. The shacks are very small and were built closely together, which encourages a community type effect during holiday periods. Originally there were no sewerage systems plumbed to the shacks, and the holidaymakers would head off to use the nearby caravan park ablution blocks. A septic tank effluent disposal system recently has been built to service the Milang shacks.

Many shack leaseholders have made major improvements to their shacks and second, third and fourth generations are now enjoying the benefits of holidaying in the Milang region. This idyllic setting is now under threat. Current arrangements do not allow the transfer or sale of shack leases, which means termination of the lease upon the death of the leaseholder. Once this occurs the shack is demolished, which results in the loss of tradition, culture and history for the family, Milang, the region and our state. A moratorium needs to be introduced immediately to review the freeholding processes that are being implemented and to ensure that the best outcome is gained for all.

Regional bus services are suffering the impacts of cost savings. Recently, the public bus service in Murray Bridge was scaled back considerably to 'dial-a-ride' like arrangements that do not suit the primary users of public transport in Murray Bridge, such as the aged and welfare dependent. I have committed to personally review this system over the next 12 months to ensure that the most appropriate and user friendly systems are in place for our communities. I will also be taking a keen interest in the progress of our transport systems in the wider Hammond region to ensure that our rural based communities do not suffer due to distance.

For any number of years now landowners with properties adjoining crown land (such as conservation parks) have had their properties, lives and livelihoods threatened by bushfires raging out of control and spreading onto their properties from those adjoining crown lands. Through the adoption of best practice methods and legislative enforcement, land-holders have undertaken practices such as the building of firebreaks to protect their properties and lives. The recent bushfires started by lightning in the Ngarkat Conservation Park raged out of control onto adjoining properties due to insufficient management of the fire fuel within the park boundaries. Furthermore, fire management practices undertaken by

national parks staff have caused long-term and sometimes irreparable damage to private property.

The state needs to take a better approach to managing bushfires and the risk of damage to property, life and livelihood as a result of bushfires originating on crown land. Management measures such as controlled burn-offs and development of effective firebreaks need to be implemented to minimise risk and protect adjoining property. I believe these measures need to be undertaken in consultation with adjoining landowners to ensure that regionally appropriate management practices are used.

My vision for Hammond is for vibrant and prosperous communities that retain and build on the strength and independence of their forebears; that our primary producers are rewarded for their hard work and perseverance; that all opportunities for industry development across the board are realised through business support and infrastructure expansion; that regional and rural based communities have access to high quality health, aged care, transport and educational services; that our youth are retained and that we attract others, such as health and education professionals; and that we work cooperatively to achieve a positive and proactive future.

In finalising this, my maiden speech in parliament, I wish to thank my father, Bob, for his understanding and his support. I am not sure that he was entirely convinced that leasing the farm and heading for parliament was such a good idea. With the utmost respect, I would like to thank my wife, Sally, for her ongoing assistance, friendship and belief in me. I know that she will always be my greatest supporter, and also my greatest critic. I thank my sons, Mack and Angus, for always having a smile for me, and I thank my friends for their steadfast support and camaraderie.

I also take this opportunity to thank my in-laws, Dorothy and Dick Abernethy, who, whilst having a different political viewpoint to me, always looked after our boys so that Sally and I could campaign effectively over the past 12 months.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: We might be battling; I think they voted for Leon.

Members interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: I will introduce you to them. I would also like to thank my campaign manager, Norm Paterson, and my committee, including Jeanette Eckert, who is here today; a group of dedicated people undertaking a sometimes thankless task. The commitment of this team of volunteers, from a variety of backgrounds and all with valuable experience, was extraordinary, highly admirable, and a true asset to the Hammond campaign.

I wish to thank my mentors, my colleagues and the Liberal Party of South Australia. In particular, I would like to thank David Ridgway, Terry Stephens, Michelle Lensink, Caroline Schaefer, John Dawkins, Mitch Williams and Martin Hamilton-Smith, as well as federal members Patrick Secker, Alexander Downer, Senator Jeannie Ferris, Senator Amanda Vanstone, Senator Alan Ferguson and Senator Nick Minchin for their help and guidance during my campaign. I would also like to acknowledge John Burston and the team at Liberal Party headquarters for all their efforts and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank my community and my constituents for having faith in me. I am greatly honoured that they elected me to represent them as their member of parliament in the House of Assembly. I look forward to building a positive future for Hammond and serving the electorate to the best of my ability. As my good friend David,

who is in the audience today, said on the steps the other day, 'It's a long way from picking rocks and shearing sheep.'

Honourable Members: Hear, hear!

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): While the member for Hammond is being congratulated, I note that it is probably quite fitting that I follow him because, as duty member for Hammond, myself and my 'Florey mobile' spent a great deal of time steaming up the freeway. In fact, I spent many a happy Sunday afternoon in Murray Bridge and Strathalbyn with the Labor Party members in that area, those courageous people.

In rising to support the motion, sir, I congratulate you and all those appointed to serve the parliament and the state and all members elected to this 51st parliament. I would also like to thank the people of the Florey electorate for their continued support and faith in me as their MP. My priorities will continue to be access to strong health, education and public transport systems, the right for everyone to participate in society by having employment choices in safe workplaces, and women's issues—particularly around birthing, child care and equity for women in both the workplace and sporting endeavours.

Working closely with the community is an honour I do not take for granted, and I am always grateful for the information and suggestions that I hear from my constituents. I have always acknowledged that there is much wisdom at fundraisers, sporting fixtures or barbecues, if only we would listen. The issues raised with me locally and at the state level will be pursued.

Listening has been the cornerstone of the swing that has seen the Rann government returned, and I acknowledge the performance of the Premier and his cabinet team in leading the state to a position where the wider electorate recognised their obvious ability, dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank Scott, Cathy, Joanne and the staff of the ALP office for their assistance under the real pressures of a campaign. Thanks also to Barry Oates and his staff for the smooth running of the Florey ballot and also to Kay Mousley and the SEO staff for a well-run election.

Elections are the most easily identified sign of a democracy. I often say to people that democracy happens every day, not just once every (now) fixed term of four years. The efficiency and integrity of the Australian electoral system is rightfully recognised world-wide—long may it live and long live the humble pencil. Hopefully we will never be the victim of a US-style vote with different voting systems in different states and all one day hinging on a Florida-style outcome.

Running for election in Australia still remains an option for most people. While campaign costs are beginning to creep up I hope we never see the day when having access to millions of dollars, an accident of birth or even allegiances are the only precursor to nomination. In this campaign we saw the emergence of real swings to Independents, something that adds a new dimension to parliament and sends a warning to the big parties who control the two party system. At its best the two party system is a real strength in delivering progressive change for society, and we see many good things with the two party system when it works efficiently. However, it can become a weakness when it does not function for the good of the electorate. Minor parties are continuing to emerge, making varying contributions and offering choices in policy.

I would like to pay tribute to the other candidates of all parties at the election. It is a big investment, both financially and emotionally, to offer yourself as a candidate. Many first

time candidates are never seen again whilst some continue and eventually become elected to this place. I hope one such candidate will be Mary-Lou Corcoran—a fine community campaigner and, as the daughter of the late Des Corcoran, part of the ALP tradition. She is a really hard worker and I congratulate her on her campaign.

Major parties offer some support to candidates and in Florey and a number of other local north-eastern electorates we saw an unprecedented amount of federal funding expended by incumbents on campaigning at the state level; however, I think it is obvious how important it remains to have local knowledge and ties to the community that you hope to serve. While there is no doubt that election cycles exist and that we are on the crest of a wave at the moment, it is hard work that has seen a trend established in many electorates, repaying effort and recognising that the best interests of the community are always placed first and foremost in all we do in this government. I congratulate all the new members whose hard work has delivered success and a majority government, and wish them well in their time in this place.

At the declaration of the poll in Florey, and absorbing the final result, I was reminded of the line once famously used by someone many in this house admire, the former prime minister Paul Keating, when he said, 'What a beautiful set of numbers.' The hard work I talked about that delivered such a fine result in Florey came through the dedication of my staff: Tabitha (who has been with me from the first day of my election in 1997), Steven, Scott, Paul and Gary and, whenever I needed them during the campaign, Matthew and my daughter Lenneke, who has become a secret weapon. I should have had more children, as she and her brother Oliver are now adults and, along with his wife Vania, they have been listening over the years and have become great campaign helpers—mostly, I hope, because they have decided, without too much pressure, that their mum stands for the sorts of issues that are important and often talks real sense. Baby Olivia has begun to help in her own small way now, as well, and we welcome her to our little campaign team.

I would also like to thank the formal campaign team of Florey—that lean, mean, small and efficient band for whom no job is too big. They are too many to name but they know who they are. This election night party was the best ever and I would like to especially thank all those involved in the preparation of the venue as well as the karaoke man, who managed to squeeze in songs between crosses to the ABC tally room and the inevitable speeches. To my sub-branch members, my union and party colleagues—all good and true, loyal to the light on the hill—I value those whom I can truly call comrade.

I would like to thank my friends. Even though MPs' working lives are notorious for late nights and ridiculous work schedules I have managed to maintain friendships with some really wonderful people and make a few new ones, particularly this year and the last couple of years—Coralie, Nancy and Adrian. Again, I should not start naming names but I would particularly like to mention Jim the Interstater, who is better than a lucky rabbit's foot, and my legal eagle David—both have always been a great source of support and good advice.

To my family, spread throughout Australia—I am very, very lucky and no superlatives will do. Finally, I would like to thank the constituents of Florey for again entrusting in me their voice and vote in parliament. Everyone I have mentioned in this contribution has worked very hard to earn this right and we will not let you down.

Mr RAU (Enfield): I congratulate the Governor on her address and the opening of the parliament. I congratulate Mr Speaker on his election, and I am sure that he will do an excellent job in that role. I am only disappointed that he has not chosen to wear the wig on all occasions. I congratulate, you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your election, and I am sure you will also distinguish yourself in that role. I thank the electors of Enfield for placing their trust in me for another term. I express my thanks to Paul Sykes and his family, Mel Cocking and her extended family, Edgar Agius AM (whom we refer to as Sir Edgar), councillor Tolley Wasylenko, Barbara Wasylenko, Jim and Wanda Tilley and all the others, without whose help I could not have done at this last election. I thank my family and, in particular, my wife Anna and our children for putting up with the consequences of my involvement in political life.

My family have made considerable sacrifices to enable me to pursue my hitherto rather unsuccessful attempts to improve our community. The alternative open to me of a life out of the public eye spent in a financially and intellectually rewarding professional activity is one that my family has forgone on my account. My congratulations go to the Premier on a great victory. Congratulations also should go to David Feeney, who organised one of the best campaigns I have ever seen. My congratulations to all the new MPs on both sides. I am sure you will find in this place many things you expected and many you did not. I am committed to working during this term on the same broad project as I began on my initial election in 2002. I am committed to representing my constituents to the best of my ability and to articulating policy initiatives which will impact in a positive way on their lives.

I will continue campaigning for changes in Housing Trust policies and the Residential Tenancies Tribunal in relation to what is known as 'disruptive tenants'. I acknowledge in particular the work of minister Weatherill in tightening up these policies so far, but a lot needs to be done before the overwhelmingly well behaved majority are adequately protected from a small minority of sociopaths. My constituency has far more than its appropriate share of individuals who are not participating in South Australia's current bout of prosperity. Many of these individuals are leading miserable, empty lives. They endure the consequences of welfare dependency, violence, substance abuse, mental illness and such like every day. Unfortunately, this misery has been contributed to by decades of misguided government policy at all levels.

The first policy failure is the sanctification of 'victimhood'. Governments dispense largesse in response to the attainment of victimhood. This has been highlighted in important papers by Noel Pearson. This is not a system that supports luckless individuals through hardship. No thinking person could possibly quibble with such a system. In some cases it has become an inter-generational lifestyle choice to the great cost of the individuals involved and at a great cost to our society. Nowhere is this appalling failure more evident than in the inexcusable squalor in which a significant proportion of Aboriginal people continue to live.

A second great policy failure which is associated is 'harm minimisation'. This sounds superficially warm and fuzzy. Indeed, the words themselves almost invite a nodding assent. However, the fact is that, more often than not, harm minimisation is code for: 'We have abandoned all hope of addressing this problem and we will focus our energies on the application of bandaids.' The degree to which bureaucracies are prepared to substitute harm minimisation for a comprehensive

policy solution is frightening. It is only limited by the accurate perception on the part of harm minimisation advocates that, if the consequences of their views were to become generally comprehended, there would be a public outcry of tremendous proportions.

Take for example the periodic discussion of heroin 'shooting galleries'. These policies, much cherished by the harm minimisation lobby, stick impossibly in the public craw. The practice of placing needle exchange programs in areas renowned for high public housing concentrations and drug use, such as the Parks in my electorate, are another example of this. In the context of substance abuse, 'harm minimisation' is being embraced as a substitute for zero-tolerance policing, broad bureaucratic intolerance of drug abuse and compulsory rehabilitation: it is not a substitute. It merely affords the promoters of drug use the opportunity of expanding their market to new users and suspends existing addicts in an endless twilight zone of institutional support. These policies contribute substantially to a depressing roundabout of substance abuse, violence, imprisonment and mental illness, all played out against a backdrop of public housing estates.

A third policy failure of governments over the past few decades can be seen in the benign sounding policy of 'deinstitutionalisation'. This policy failure has been driven by a potent cocktail of fuzzy Marxist sociology and grasping bean counters. Purpose-built institutions designed to care for the mentally ill have been emptied, closed off and sold. In theory, the mentally ill—many of them due to substance abuse, I might add—expelled from these institutions were to be cared for in the community. In fact (and my electorate is a great example of this), too many are now either within the prison population, or dumped in public housing without adequate support, or just simply living rough. In a civil society, it is an outrage that the mentally ill are imprisoned as criminals or dumped unsupported into isolated lives where they plumb the depths of their own despair. This is not going to change until there is a recognition that the underlying policy is wrong and needs to be rethought. Only the wilfully blind cannot see that these policies have failed. Unfortunately, these same people believe that these failures are due to the fact that the policies have not been implemented thoroughly enough. A lot of pain will be involved before reality dawns.

Some people have invested a great deal of time, effort and reputation in what has turned out to be a public policy cul-de-sac. I believe that this government has the courage to face and confront these uncomfortable truths. The laws relating to compulsory treatment of individuals with mental illness are also inadequate. They need to be strengthened to ensure that appropriate treatment for the protection both of the mentally ill and their neighbours are in place. Waffly arguments about human rights are little better than a cruel irony. The individuals concerned are locked into a miserable merry-go-round of treatment, spiralling down into misery, incarceration, social ostracism and then more treatment. All too often, this only ends with suicide or death through misadventure.

I will continue to campaign for decent reform of the real estate industry in South Australia. I hope that the new minister has this issue at the forefront of her thoughts as well. I have been campaigning for this for over four years, and I am very disappointed that no legislation has yet been enacted to protect the community—and honest real estate agents, I might add—from the ravages of cowboys. I will be taking special interest in any legislation brought forward to ensure that it adequately addresses the real problems. Reform of the laws

applying to strata and community titles is long overdue. Over the last four years I have had hundreds of complaints from individuals throughout South Australia concerning the administration of these land holdings. My report to government on this issue, delivered in the middle of the last term, will hopefully soon be acted upon. In the area of local government, much still has to be done. The current system is unbalanced and leaves council administrations holding all the cards. This imbalance is often used in the City of Charles Sturt, for example, to shamelessly bully and intimidate elected members. The State Records Act needs to be amended to prevent council administrations snooping on elected members. Administration continues to deny councillors access to vast stores of relevant information and treats many elected members like mushrooms.

But there is more ahead in this term than continuing with works in progress. I believe that we are at a fundamental crossroads in the constitutional relationship between the federal government and the governments of the various states. This is particularly apparent in a small state like South Australia, where federal financial muscle has such enormous impact. The Howard federal government has been very successful in its electoral terms, and this is in no small part due to the formidable political skills of the Prime Minister. The fact is, however, that the Prime Minister and the government he leads present a deep political irony. The man who did so much to discredit the claustrophobic, politically correct, elite opinion of the mid-1990s is himself the most doctrinaire of economic zealots. He is a man who believes in the economic equivalent of fairies at the bottom of the garden. The big lie that there is such a thing as a free market, or a level playing field, or free trade, has been swallowed by him hook, line and sinker. His abandonment of rural and regional Australians to this economic fantasy is only marginally less reprehensible than that of his coalition colleagues, the National Party.

The man who used to drive the debt truck around Canberra to highlight how much we owed overseas has presided over the biggest debt binge in our nation's history—all in the name of economic orthodoxy. The man who leads the Liberal Party, which has always defended the rights of states, has done more than any other Prime Minister to impose the will of Canberra. The man who claims to be a great admirer of our British Westminster traditions has done more than any other Prime Minister to fast-track the Americanisation of our society and culture, to our great cost. These are issues to which I believe all members of all state parliaments around this country should be directing their attention. I certainly will over the next four years. I would like to give a couple of specific examples.

The outstanding current example is the imposition by the Howard government of a federal industrial relations system, which is entirely alien to our industrial culture and history. There is no doubt that anyone reading the federal constitution will see that it contemplated the states running their own industrial systems, with the commonwealth only having a role in respect of the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one state. What the commonwealth has done may ultimately be constitutional but it is a radical destruction of the fabric and spirit of the federal constitution.

This new industrial system is a massive step in a process through which the egalitarian Australian ethos will be destroyed. It will be replaced by an Americanised system depending for its efficiency upon the exploitation of unskilled

workers by the payment of insulting wages, tipping and public begging. The United States has always depended upon having access to third world labour within its own borders. This continues to be the case. We have had a proud record of seeking to ensure that workers receive a decent wage sufficient to maintain them and their families in reasonable condition. This will increasingly become a thing of the past.

The other challenge that goes hand in hand with this industrial revolution is opening our borders to guest workers. At the present time, we are confronting bottlenecks in some parts of our economy created by a lack of skilled workers. I could spend some time addressing the historic reasons for these shortages, which would include short-sighted policies in relation to technical education and vocational training, but that would take a long time.

The filling of skilled labour shortages, either by suitable permanent immigrants or by small numbers of guest workers is probably unavoidable. However, this will not be the end of it if the Howard government has its way. There are already industry figures advocating large scale importation of guest workers, perhaps even on the scale of the German experience with Turkish workers during the 1970s. The Chinese, for example, are interested in becoming involved in major development projects in Australia and are quite prepared to do the whole of the project themselves, including the supplying of workers. These issues, which will present themselves increasingly in the next few years, have very confronting dimensions. The integrity of our immigration laws and system will be strained beyond our current comprehension. The opportunities available to our own young people, especially those who are unskilled, will also be challenged in a way that has not previously been the case. When combined with federal welfare reform proposals, this has the potential to create an extremely volatile mix in some suburbs of our major cities. I represent some of the suburbs in this city which will see the greatest impact from these changes. I fear that very little of it will be for the better.

Another example is that the federal government has bullied the states into changing the law of defamation. This was done by threatening yet another abuse of the corporations power by the commonwealth. Whilst the changes are not all bad, they have many faults, including a cap on damages and an exclusion of aggravated or exemplary damages. This means that a big media outlet can now punt on whether there is more money to be made by publishing lies than can be recovered in damages. This is a big step backwards.

I cite another example. Our public health system in South Australia is in crisis and promises only to become more stressed. A shortage of general practitioners is a reality that the federal government seeks to deny. Why is this? The causes go back some years, but they include the commodification of education in our tertiary sector to a point where we would rather sell places overseas than train enough of our graduates to work here. All over Adelaide, medical practices are grinding themselves into the dust. There are some in my electorate in particular of which I am thinking. Ageing general practitioners are working increasing hours to service enormous case loads. Their patients themselves are ageing and, correspondingly, require more expensive and complex medical intervention.

The health implications for this diminishing number of general practitioners are dire. Some give up in desperation, leaving our community with yet another gap. Some have breakdowns and some, tragically, even suicide. Every time one of these practices collapses, more pressure is applied to

the public hospital system, in particular emergency departments. People seek help later, are sicker when first seen and require more expensive treatment, as well as longer hospitalisation. Attempts by medical practices to obtain additional doctors are frustrated at every turn by absurdly bureaucratic federal government guidelines relating to the provision of provider numbers. This is another cruel example of federal stupidity on a grand scale or a cynical callous exercise in cost shifting.

I will give one last example—again, an example which is very relevant to my electorate. New arrivals to South Australia are starting to confront us with some serious issues. Australia's immigration program is a policy fully falling within the commonwealth's constitutional responsibilities, yet it has dramatic implications for state resources in the areas of housing, community services, health, and law and order.

Commonwealth policy seeks to achieve a number of different objectives. Some of these are essentially contradictory. There is no doubt that there is broad community support for a substantial ongoing immigration program. However, this does not mean that all aspects of the program enjoy equal support. The humanitarian element of the immigration program is the most controversial. There are a number of reasons for this, and the first is that the general filter of criteria applied to the normal pool of would-be immigrants does not apply. Aside from the obvious fact that this creates opportunities for admission which would not otherwise exist, it has the potential to challenge the win/win equation applying to general immigration admissions. Secondly, to the extent that there is a gulf between the general criteria for admission and the position of humanitarian entrants, the coupling of this class of entrants with the family reunion program serves to magnify the impact of any adverse consequences attaching to these admissions.

It has been repeatedly stated by ministers of immigration from both political persuasions that public support for immigration and the immigration program is essential. Adopting this attitude is both wise and necessary. To the extent that our immigration program becomes the focus of adverse public sentiment, we as a community have a problem. To the extent that the immigration program has an explicit primary purpose of bestowing benefits on migrants, rather than fulfilling any particular need in Australia, immigration may not be the best or, indeed, the only option available. Successive Australian governments have largely ignored other obvious alternatives of providing substantial and relevant aid in situ. There is a fair case for arguing that Australia being parsimonious in its aid budget is a false economy, having regard to the direct and indirect costs of the alternative of domestic settlement. This cost is borne by both the new entrant and our existing community.

The fact is that as an individual moves to points on the compass, which are culturally and linguistically more remote from life in Australia, the direct and indirect costs of resettlement escalate dramatically. These costs are measured not only in dollars across the whole range of state and federal government expenditures but also in the tragic human terms that we see in our suburbs. At any given time there are literally millions of refugees in the world. Many of these people have life experiences, a medical status, educational achievements and other cultural similarities with existing Australian populations. These factors make their opportunity for resettlement in this country relatively painless and, ultimately, successful. Some are not so well placed.

The successful resettlement in Australia of refugees from the most culturally and linguistically remote places on the globe is highly problematic. An examination of the countries of birth for humanitarian entrants in South Australia in 2001 compared with 2004-05 demonstrates a change in emphasis. In particular, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of individuals coming from Africa, in particular the Sudan. It is my understanding that DIMIA intends for South Australia to receive at least 1 320 humanitarian entrants in the current year. DIMIA has also informed Multicultural SA that the source countries for these entrants over the next two to three years is likely to be similar to that of the past couple of years; that is, mainly Africa and the Middle East.

The idea that South Australian population policy should simply specify a number or a percentage of humanitarian entrants in any given year I believe is too crude. It needs to be refined. It is self-evident that 1 500 humanitarian entrants from, say, Bosnia—assuming that there were so many individuals wishing to come here—will place entirely different burdens on government services than 1 500 would-be entrants from, say, the Sudan.

Up to September 2005, most African arrivals had settled in a relatively small number of suburbs in the inner north and inner west of Adelaide. Prominent amongst these are the suburbs of Kilburn, Blair Athol and Enfield, in my electorate. Humanitarian entrants have intense—and I emphasise this, intense—needs upon arrival, and continue to require specialist services. Even official opinion acknowledges that it takes two to three years to settle most of these arrivals, with five per cent or so needing support for up to five years. Given official tendencies to minimise expenditures where possible, and to overestimate their achievements, the true facts are quite possibly worse.

The health screening of these refugees at point of embarkation is inadequate. Many are carrying illnesses that should and could have been detected at point of embarkation. Some of these present potentially serious public health risks. Recent information suggests that as many as 77 per cent of cases of TB treated in South Australia recently came from Africa. There are other illnesses as well that I do not need to go into. Requirements within the first few months of arrival include, but are not limited to, housing, employment, education, healthcare (including mental health and counselling services), transport, interpreting, translation, and, importantly, training in our systems of law and government and the basics of existing in a society such as ours, which is light years away from where these people have grown up and come from.

The real question here—and this is the crux of my point—is as to how the services are to be delivered, by whom, at what cost and at whose cost. I have no issue—and I want to emphasise this—where a refugee comes from provided they are properly screened for disease and they are not a criminal. I do, however, have a big issue with the commonwealth selecting refugees for resettlement in South Australia who, in fact—whether the commonwealth wishes to acknowledge it or not—require very expensive, long-term, one-on-one—and I emphasise this—one-on-one personal case management, and yet are not given this support.

The fact is that the cost and effort required to properly resettle some of the most recent arrivals in this country is exponentially greater than that required for other arrivals. The commonwealth needs to offer—and I again underline this—open ended funding—open ended funding on a personal case management basis for as long as it takes to get these people where they need to be to survive properly in our society. A

‘one size fits all’ refugee support package is a joke in this context. The commonwealth’s conduct in this regard amounts to what is basically a grubby cost shift onto the states, and the states are not equipped to deal with the scale of the problem. It sets up people from the most tragic of backgrounds to fail. It is not fair, it is cruel and it is un-Australian. We do not have very long to get this right. The consequences of failure can be imagined. They are totally unacceptable for the individuals concerned and for the rest of our community. Well meant efforts by charities and community workers are not enough. The commonwealth must either adjust the source or the size of its intake to meet its current expenditure, or dramatically adjust its expenditure to properly support its current intake. The current arrangements are not an option.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel): I, too, have pleasure in making a contribution to the motion. First, I would like to congratulate Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson on her vice regal role in this state and the manner in which she continues to carry out her duties in a dignified and caring fashion.

I will open my remarks by talking about the results of the state election, particularly in my electorate of Kavel, where the Liberal Party and I achieved a fairly pleasing result. My primary vote increased from what it was back in 2002 by a few per cent. The ALP vote increased, but it did not come from me but from other candidates, which was somewhat of a reversal of the trend around the state, where that occurred in the seats we lost, that is, the Labor candidate gained additional votes from the sitting Liberal member and we saw a number of our seats go to the ALP. Having said that, the result in Kavel was extremely pleasing. We reversed the state trend and I saw my primary vote increase and the two-party preferred vote only came off a couple of per cent. It was an interesting outcome in 2002, when an Independent candidate came in second on primary votes and, after preferences were distributed, that person came in at No. 2 in the final result, so the way the Electoral Commission calculated the two-party preferred at the 2002 election was really only notional. So, my two-party preferred vote in reality went up about 6 or 7 per cent from the second running candidate, which was pleasing. That was due to a number of factors.

When I was elected in 2002 I was given some strong and sound advice to look to engage the local community, and I worked hard to build a reputation of being a good local, accessible member and I was rewarded at the polls in that regard. A significant contributing factor was the tremendous support I received leading up to the campaign and during the campaign. I am fortunate in that I have a great team of people within the Liberal Party structure and within my family who strongly support me. I had people taking annual leave within the campaign period to dedicate their time to assist me. I had business people in Mount Barker who made available their business premises that they were not using so that I could occupy that space to use as a campaign office. I could not have wished for a more prominent location in the Mount Barker township to locate the campaign office—on the corner of the main street and the Adelaide Road, the major intersection in the biggest town in my electorate, so I pass on my sincere thanks to all those people who contributed to my success. My family, my parents and my wife have given me strong ongoing support through the last four years, and particularly in the campaign period. My wife would come out and doorknock with me day in and day out during that period.

It is absolutely fantastic that I have a wife who is prepared to give that level of support to me.

I extend my congratulations to all the new members coming into this place. I congratulate all the newly elected ALP members on their victory. It is obviously disappointing that we lost some very good people from this side of the parliament, and I extend my very best wishes to them in their future working life. They are all very capable, competent and intelligent people, and I am sure they will avail themselves of any opportunity that comes their way and will have an ongoing fulfilling life. I extend my hearty congratulations to all the newly elected Liberal members, the four new members who have been elected to this side of the house, namely, the members for Finnis, Hammond, Goyder and Unley. As we have all heard in their maiden speech, they come from extremely diverse backgrounds, and the wealth of experience they have from that diversity will certainly serve our party and the parliament well.

I want to speak about some local issues, all of which I have spoken about before. However, these issues continue to be extremely important in my electorate, and I will continue to raise them until I see a satisfactory resolution to them. The first issue is in relation to roads, such as road safety and improvement in our road infrastructure system. I want to speak first about building an additional freeway access at Mount Barker and Hahndorf. We have one interchange at Mount Barker that allows traffic to exit and enter the freeway there. However, as residential development continues in that area—in the townships of Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne—there is an ever-increasing need and urgency for an additional freeway interchange to be built two or three kilometres along the freeway towards the township of Nairne.

A road called Bald Hills Road runs underneath the freeway, on the boundary of the Mount Barker township, and runs along onto the old Princess Highway into Nairne. Bald Hills Road presents an ideal location and opportunity for another interchange to be built there. It is not just a whim; there is a real need for this build to take place. Anyone who has driven along the freeway over the last three or four years and taken notice of what is happening around the place would have witnessed the significant residential development that is occurring in that district. A number of years ago, an area called Martindale Estate was developed, and a number of very nice homes were built there. However, two other small valleys either side of the Martindale Estate have been opened up recently, and literally hundreds of new homes have been built there over the past four years. I doorknocked Martindale Estate in 2002, and I doorknocked that area again leading up to and during the election campaign, and there would be four times as many homes there now as there were four years ago.

There is another area opposite the Mount Barker Golf Course, and there was not one home there four years ago. Some frames were going up for some display homes being built. I reckon there are about 250 homes in that whole area, and they have all been built in the last four years. There was not one home that we could doorknock in February 2002. There are about 250 homes there now, and we doorknocked each and every one of those, and they are set right on Bald Hills Road. I would imagine that another 400 or 500 homes have been built in that particular part of the town over the last four years, and that, obviously, places significant pressure on a whole range of service demands in the town, but none so much as the road network. If there was a freeway interchange built at the Bald Hills Road location of the freeway, it would relieve not only the traffic pressure within the Mount Barker

township but also for the residents in Nairne. That is a growing community, and there is continual residential development in the Nairne township. It would relieve the pressure of the traffic running on the old Princes Highway through the Littlehampton town and onto the only freeway interchange in that area at Mount Barker. It is not a whim; there is a significant need for this infrastructure on the freeway.

Going on from that, Madam Deputy Speaker, there is also a need for additional works at the freeway at Hahndorf. If you are in Hahndorf, and you want to get onto the freeway, you have to drive several kilometres—this is if you want to get onto the freeway and travel east towards Murray Bridge—on a local road, and enter the freeway at the Mount Barker interchange which, obviously, places more demand on that particular piece of road infrastructure as well. So, there is a need for an on-ramp at Hahndorf to travel east, and it is a similar situation if you are travelling west on the freeway and you want to get off the freeway and go to Hahndorf. The only way that you can do that is to exit the freeway at Mount Barker as well.

So, you have not only the pressure that is put on the interchange at Mount Barker from the residential development in Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne but also traffic wanting to enter and exit the freeway via the Hahndorf township. So, there is a need for an on-ramp at Hahndorf for traffic to travel east, and an off-ramp at Hahndorf for vehicles travelling west towards Adelaide. The exit and entry ramp from Hahndorf to Adelaide and, conversely from Adelaide to Hahndorf, is not an issue; that system works quite well. However, that is an area of real demand for the government to look at addressing.

The other issue I want to talk about is that of the Nairne school crossing, and the main Woodside road intersection. This is something that I have spoken about on many occasions in the house. I have asked questions of the ministers; I have written letters to the ministers; I have highlighted it in the media and the local press; I even contacted *The Advertiser* a few weeks ago and it ran an article in its Saturday paper a couple of weeks ago about it, and I certainly appreciate the support that they have shown the issue in the mainstream media. I asked a question of the minister just the other day, and he is obviously not tremendously concerned about it, because he has flicked it to the newly appointed Minister for Road Safety. All the correspondence that I previously received is from him, and all the advice that we receive is from the Department of Transport.

It is a road safety issue. However, it is an issue that has to be addressed by Transport SA. I think that the senior government minister, the Minister for Transport, should take responsibility for this and not be flippant and just flick it to the newly appointed minister in the other place. I was speaking previously about road-related issues in Hahndorf, and this goes to a question I asked at the beginning of the week about the Hahndorf main street. We certainly appreciate the government spending money in laying a new surface on the main street; it is really very nice. However, it does not do one thing to improve the traffic congestion that we all have to endure in the main street of that town.

We all know that Hahndorf is one of the tourism icons in South Australia. Literally tens of thousands of interstate and overseas tourists come up to that unique part of the Adelaide Hills to take in all the sites, the ambience and all the other very positive aspects that the town offers. But the congestion in the main street, particularly with heavy vehicles—semi-

trailers, buses and the like—is really quite bad. I have said in this place before that I was driving along following a semi-trailer one afternoon and half the truck was on the wrong side of the road because it physically did not have enough room to get down the main street, so any oncoming traffic had to pull over and let the truck and trailer through. It is the same with tourist buses and each and every heavy vehicle that passes along that road.

There is a real need for a heavy vehicle bypass to be planned. Consultation, obviously, has to take place with the local community, and a bypass constructed. The main street of Hahndorf really forms part of the main north-south corridor that runs from the southern vales and the Fleurieu through the central part of the Hills and up into the Barossa Valley. With the expansion of the wine industry, logging, the forests in the northern part of the Hills and the Kuitpo forestry industry there are numerous semi-trailer movements transporting logs and the like from different parts of the forestry industry. There are wine trucks and semi-trailers transporting grape harvesters and other machinery from different parts of the southern vales, from the Fleurieu up into the Adelaide Hills and on to the Barossa. That is just a very small example of the traffic that uses that major road corridor through the Hills.

The member for Heysen spoke about the government's action prescribing water resources in the western Mount Lofty Ranges and I do not need to expand on those comments, because I have spoken about the issue in this place before and I think that the honourable member covered the issues pretty well. There is still a high level of concern among the primary producers who are affected by these measures, and I really encourage the government's officers to address those issues and concerns and give some proper responses: not just to ignore these issues and concerns and hope that they will go away but to give some real consideration and deliver some proper responses to those who have some real concerns with that.

We see development continue—particularly residential development—in the Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne districts. The district council of Mount Barker is currently finalising a PAR document, which will see anything up to 1 200 new homes built on some land on the southern boundary of the town that is about to be rezoned. Obviously, there will be some pressures, and the government will have some responsibility in terms of providing the relevant infrastructure to assist with the demands which that development brings, even though it is not really agreeing to what the council is looking for at the moment.

However, with some strong representation at a number of levels, I think that we will be able to convince the government that it does need to come on board. Educational needs continue to be a real area of concern and need. One example is the ongoing requirement of what they call multi-purpose halls or gyms—however one likes to describe those buildings—so that the students and each and every one of the schools in the Adelaide Hills can carry on activities indoors. We know that wet, cold winters are not conducive for children undertaking recreational activities outdoors.

The Mount Barker Primary School has had to work along a very complicated and difficult process—long before I came into this place—to see a facility built at that school so that the children can enjoy recreational and physical activities indoors. I congratulate that school community on its endeavours, as well as the hard work of the principal, the governing council and the school community (the parents and the like)

for the long road they have travelled and the battles and obstacles that they have had to fight and overcome. I sincerely hope that, this year, we will see a facility built at that school, notwithstanding the other demands at all the other public school sites.

I want to talk about the confidence the Leader of the Opposition has shown in me by appointing me to the shadow ministry. I have the responsibilities of emergency services, local government and volunteers. I look forward to the responsibility of those roles and keeping the government accountable for its actions, and highlighting any areas of inefficiency and inadequacy over the ensuing months. Again, I thank all those who supported me through the election period that saw a successful result for the Liberal Party in Kavel. I look forward to honouring the trust and confidence my constituency has placed in me for the next four years. I believe that I achieved and honoured the commitment I made to them four years ago to be a good, hard-working and accessible local member.

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I thank Her Excellency the Governor, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, for her opening address and for opening the 51st parliament.

Debate adjourned.

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

SENATOR, ELECTION

The SPEAKER: I lay on the table the minutes of the joint sitting of members of the two houses held today for the choosing of a senator to hold the place rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator R.M. Hill, to which Mr Cory Bernardi was appointed.

SECURITY LICENSING

A petition signed by 81 residents of South Australia, requesting the house to urge the government to reconsider, before the expiry of this term of parliament, the increased cost of obtaining a security licence, was presented by Ms Redmond.

Petition received.

GOVERNOR

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Yesterday I met at Government House with Her Excellency the Governor, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson. At that meeting I formally asked her, on behalf of the government but also, I suspect, on behalf of all South Australians, to agree to my recommending to Her Majesty the Queen that Her Excellency continue in her position as Governor of South Australia beyond her current five-year term.

Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, AC CVO MBE, was appointed Governor on 3 November 2001. Her appointment was made by the previous government and was announced by former premier the Hon. John Olsen some months before. It was an excellent appointment. Her Excellency, of course, is revered in this state and across Australia not only as a multiple gold medal winning Olympic and Commonwealth Games athlete but also as one of our state's greatest volunteers, for so many good causes and, in particular, for raising millions of dollars

for leukaemia research for the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fund.

In the role of Governor, Her Excellency has been outstanding in building bridges between young and old, between rural and city communities and with Aboriginal and multicultural groups. She has been a healer in times of grief and disaster and our state's foremost cheerleader in times of triumph and celebration. All of us were proud of her recent participation in the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Between the time of her appointment in November 2001 until the end of last month, I am told that Her Excellency has attended or hosted 2 243 functions. She has also significantly opened up Government House to the public both in terms of her open days and the number of functions, such as those hosted on behalf of charities, diplomatic visits and in countless other ways. I am told that, until the end of April, a total of 112 961 people have visited Government House since she became Governor.

I am delighted that yesterday Her Excellency kindly agreed for me to recommend to Her Majesty an extension of Her Excellency's term and to continue in her role as Governor until 31 July 2007, after which she intends to spend more time with her grandchildren. I made it clear to Her Excellency that the government was prepared to recommend her appointment for a full second term, but I am pleased that her agreement to extend by nine months will enable her to attend as patron of the World Police and Fire Games being held in Adelaide next March. Tens of thousands of people will be coming to Adelaide, I am told, to attend those games. The extension will also enable her to accompany, following a major essay competition, five prize winning South Australian high school students to attend ceremonies at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, on Anzac Day next year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Her Excellency for her continued dedication and duty, and her great energy in serving the people of this state. Marjorie Jackson-Nelson graces the office of Governor, and the people of this state have responded to her dignity and humanity with both respect and great affection. She will leave big shoes to fill for her many successors in the important role of Governor, a non-partisan position that enjoys bipartisan support.

Yesterday, I also asked His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, Bruno Krumins, who was appointed by Premier Olsen to the position in May 2000, to continue in his role as Lieutenant-Governor until 31 July next year. I am pleased that Mr Krumins, a leading figure in multicultural affairs in this state, has also agreed to this request. All of us are grateful for Mr Krumins' diligence and dignity in acting as the Governor's deputy, and particularly during the Governor's absence due to a prolonged illness last year.

QUESTION TIME

COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition):

Can the Premier advise the house how many staff will be allocated to Commissioner Cappo and the total budget for the commissioner's office?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): It is a very small staff, but I will come back with the details of his office next week.

FILM CLASSIFICATION

The Hon. P.L. WHITE (Taylor): Can the Attorney-General provide to the house information about how the Rann Labor government is helping parents to make informed choices about the movies that they allow their children to see?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I can. Some films that have children as their target audience have the potential, because of their frightening or violent images, to damage young children. This damage manifests itself in children as nightmares, lasting fears and severe anxieties, and an acceptance by children of the use of violence to resolve conflict. The vast majority of parents and carers, if given reliable information about a film's content, will choose films that children will enjoy, and avoid films that are likely to frighten, cause anxieties or foster negative attitudes in children.

Parents, however, have few avenues of accessing reliable information about the age-appropriateness of films and DVDs that are marketed for children. Public controversy about censorship centres round the R rating plus and refused classification categories. It does not focus around G, PG and M so much. Some material about the classification of films for children is available on the web site of the commonwealth government's Office for Film and Literature Classification. This material, however, looks at the films from the point of view of the classification system which is not finely tuned to the needs of children at various ages and stages of development.

The Know Before You Go program developed by Young Media Australia, promotes an understanding of the Australian classification system, but supplements it with much more detailed information about children's likely reactions at different ages and maturity levels. If we are going to have a parental guidance recommended classification, then we need to provide guidance. I am glad the member for Heysen recognises that. I know with my own 10-year-old, that some of the scenes in *King Kong*—although it was for general exhibition—were very frightening, particularly of a plant sucking a man to death. Some of the scenes, particularly the graveyard scene in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, could cause nightmares in a child under the age of 15, and I think it was rightly classified M.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: The 1994 grand final.

Mr Hanna interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I just wish that the member for Mitchell would not talk about his religious beliefs in question time. The Know Before You Go program addresses the need for parents and carers of young children to be aware of the impact of screen media and provides guidance for parents in the form of aged-based reviews of movies, videos and DVDs.

Young Media Australia's reviewers are all trained in child development. Young Media Australia makes its child-centred reviews available to the public through its web site at www.youngmedia.org.au and a freecall service on 1800 700 357. *The Advertiser* has kindly printed about one Young Media Australia review each week since September 2004, with the 29 April edition featuring a Young Media Australia review of the movie *The Shaggy Dog* on page 23 of the review section. Sadly, the Howard federal Liberal government has abrogated its responsibilities to Australia's children and their parents by axing funding for Young Media Australia in 2003. I am sure that this had nothing to do with Young

Media Australia's strident and public criticism (also, coincidentally, during 2003) of the announcement that the ABC's *Behind the News* program would be axed because the Howard government refused to increase funding to the ABC.

I am pleased to advise the house that the Rann Labor government has stepped in since the axing of funding to Young Media Australia by the Howard Liberal government and allowed this splendid service to Australia's children and their parents to continue.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Premier. When did Monsignor Cappo first ask the Premier for extra powers to cope with the issues associated with mental health? Was it before or after the election?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): I will have to check on my notes, because it does not really make any difference. Let me just tell you—

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It is interesting to see—

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Leader of the Opposition!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Does he want me to answer or doesn't he? This is making a big show. Can I just say this: I know that the opposition—this arrogant opposition—has apparently outsourced its questions to *The Australian*, and we understand why. Of course, there is a bit of confusion about the separation of church and state based on the Westminster system. I do not want to go into a discourse on antidisestablishmentarianism, but the fact is that the Queen, who is the head of state of Britain, is also the head of the Anglican Church. She is the defender of the faith.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: And, of course—

The SPEAKER: Order! There is a point of order. I think I can guess what the point of order is.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: My point of order is relevance. The question is when Monsignor Cappo first asked the Premier for the extra powers.

The SPEAKER: Yes; the Leader of the Opposition does not need to repeat the question. I uphold the point of order. The Premier needs to return to the question.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I told the Monsignor, the Vicar-General of the Catholic Church in his role as Chair of the Social Inclusion Board, that I wanted to give him more powers and more references so that we could tackle issues such as mental health and also issues like juvenile justice, yet to be announced (we will announce that today), and other areas. So, I am more than happy to tell you that I have discussed this over time, and I am absolutely delighted that he has made the decision to accept when, after the election, I put to him what I wanted him to do.

Can I just say this, going back to antidisestablishmentarianism: of course, we did not see members opposite complaining when John Howard appointed a senior Salvation Army—

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I know what the point of order is, and we will progress. The member for Florey.

ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): My question is to the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education. What is

DFEEST doing to encourage Aboriginal Australians to reach their potential in study and employment?

The Hon. P. CAICA (Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education): I thank the member for Florey for her question and acknowledge her commitment in this area. The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology is encouraging Aboriginal students to enter into a scholarship arrangement to undertake study in a South Australian TAFE institute or university, and it is offering the opportunity for employment within the department. Six scholarships will be offered per year from 2006 to 2008, with applications for the 2006 intake closing on Friday 12 May. Each recipient will receive \$3 000 each year of study, typically for a three-year study period. These scholarships form part of the department's Aboriginal employment strategy Walking Together Towards Prosperity, which was launched in September 2005.

I acknowledge in particular the work undertaken by the member for Ashford and the former minister. The aim of the strategy and the scholarships is to increase the number of professionally qualified Aboriginal people working within the employment, training and further education portfolio. The scholarships will also assist DFEEST in meeting South Australia's Strategic Plan target of increasing the percentage of Aboriginal population in the South Australian public sector. In addition to assisting Aboriginal students to undertake study, the scholarships will include one month's paid employment within DFEEST during the semester academic year break during the period of the scholarship.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship, applicants must be Aboriginal and undertaking or enrolled in an appropriate full-time degree or higher TAFE award course. Applicants should enrol or already be enrolled in an approved course at the time of application. The selection process will give preference to students enrolled in an occupational field that historically has low employment levels for Aboriginal people and is in an identified skills shortage area within the department or the public sector generally. Information technology, marketing, business, information management, finance, commerce, Aboriginal policy and management are such areas.

COMMISSIONER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Leader of the Opposition): My question is again to the Premier. Did any minister responsible for mental health ever raise with the Premier the need for extra powers to cope with issues associated with mental health or the need for a commissioner as proposed?

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Premier): Can I say this, he is the Commissioner for Social Inclusion, and one of his references has been in the education area. He did not have any problems from the education minister; worked very well with the minister—

The Hon. I.F. Evans interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Do I get the protection of the chair from his continuous interjection?

The SPEAKER: You certainly do, sir.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Of course, he was a big fan of Archbishop Hollingworth, wasn't he? That was not about the separation of powers. There was the Salvation Army fellow advising the federal government—chief adviser on drugs—and Family First. Apparently the opposition has not noted the Catholic Emancipation Act 1828, but, never mind. The fact

is: yes, I discussed an enhanced role with Mr Cappo before the election and after the election. I am pleased that he has accepted it and I am pleased that the Governor in Executive Council has appointed him. He will be brilliant at the role and he will be a darn site better than Archbishop Hollingworth.

LOCHIEL PARK

Ms PORTOLESI (Hartley): Can the Minister for Infrastructure advise the house on the progress of the Lochiel Park green village?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Infrastructure): I am very pleased to be able to advise the house of the progress of the Lochiel Park green village. I know it is a subject of keen interest to many and for very good reasons, but in particular the new member for Hartley. It is simply one of—

Mr Williams: It was an interest of the former member.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: It was an interest of the former member. He had a smaller interest, as I recall, than this current—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: No, he did. I think 40 per cent; we decided on 100 per cent. I do not think members should be interjecting. Members should not interject at any time, sir. If they had my manners, they would not do that.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: It is a bit hard to go on after that. This is a world-class project in every sense of the word. Members would remember that, despite the interference of the Legislative Council, we were able to pass legislation late in the last government preserving for posterity 100 per cent of existing open space at Lochiel Park. To complement that, we have also announced the development of a world-class green village. We talk about things being world-class, but this is as good as it gets. The urban design guidelines have been prepared and are awaiting DAC approval. We are about to select three or four builders. We hope that by early next year the first of around 100 houses will be built and finished within a couple of years.

In order to indicate just how good this project is, we have identified by a world study about 46 indicators of sustainability for buildings. The current best development in the world in that regard is the BedZED green development in the United Kingdom. It is the current world leader with 26 of those sustainability initiatives. The Lochiel Park green village will have 40 of those sustainability initiatives—greater than anything achieved anywhere in the world. People will come from around the world to see the Lochiel Park green village.

It is a great initiative. Every home will have to install, amongst other things, a 1.5 kilowatt photovoltaic system, gas-boostered solar hot water, plumbed rainwater, electricity limiting devices and broadband connection (which is very important in the modern world). The wetland systems at the green village will take stormwater from two catchments amounting to 240 hectares. About 25 000 homes will not be putting stormwater into our river systems but, rather, within wetlands at Lochiel Park, which will also provide a tremendous habitat for our wildlife. The urban forest, also, will provide habitat for birds and animals. This is as good as it gets anywhere in the world.

South Australia already leads the world. In fact, we might just run second only to Denmark in proportion of renewable energy in our electricity systems. We have the states' highest

number of grid-connected solar panels, and we have the best greenhouse footprint for electricity generation of any mainland state. We have done all this coming from behind, I might say, and most of this has been achieved in the past four years. When everyone says that it does not make a difference: it does. It was achieved in the past four years. People will come from around the world to see the green village. It will be an everlasting monument to Margaret Sewell and those people who campaigned out there; and, of course, it is a matter of tremendous pride for the new member for Hartley who worked so hard to achieve this.

COURTS BACKLOG

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen): My question is to the Attorney-General. Is it true that 80 per cent of criminal cases will not be finalised within one year of the first arraignment; and, if so, what action is the Attorney-General taking? In the 2005 report of the Courts Administration Authority, the Chief Justice states:

During the year to 30 June 2006 the number of trials disposed of within one year will drop from the present 61 per cent to 20 per cent. The number will be even less the following year. . . In other words, 80 per cent of criminal cases will not be finalised within one year of the first arraignment.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): I have regular meetings with the Chief Justice, Chief Judge and Chief Magistrate—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON:—about these things. The administration of the court listings and the manner in which the Courts Administration Authority chooses to run its business is independent of government by dint of law. One matter that has been discussed is the backlog of criminal cases in our courts. I am concerned that last year only 4 per cent of cases committed for trial were disposed of or tried within 180 days of first arraignment, which is a drop from 17 per cent the previous year and 29 per cent in 2002-03. In order to expand on this, 61 per cent of cases committed for trial were disposed of or tried within 365 days of first arraignment in 2004-05, compared with 88 per cent in the previous year and 92 per cent in 2002-03.

I know that the Chief Justice and the Chief Judge share my concerns, and are taking measures to deal with the backlog so that the courts can better meet their standards. The problem has several contributing factors—and money is only one of them—including the fact that criminal trials are now lasting much longer than they did.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: Perhaps the member for Bragg has a solution to criminal trials lasting longer. If so, would she share it with the house?

Ms Chapman: More judges.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I'm sorry; more judges? Is that a promise from the Liberal Party?

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the deputy leader will come to order!

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: I am informed that the average length of trial is now nine days, which is 50 per cent longer than five years ago. Trials are also increasingly complicated owing to advances in forensic science, especially since the introduction of DNA evidence. We know that the member for Bragg is not too keen on DNA evidence. For

instance, she told the house she did not want Bevan Spencer von Einem DNA tested. But, anyway, we will move on because the government has a different view. The heads of jurisdiction are taking action. Meetings between representatives of the Supreme and District Courts, the Office of the DPP, and police prosecutions and the legal profession have occurred since late last year because of concerns about the backlog. This working group is chaired by Judge Paul Rice of the District Court, and that group is considering how to eliminate the backlog. They have already begun to make suggestions for change including reforms to the committal process, and I am very confident that the heads of jurisdiction, and Judge Rice's committee, will come up with solutions, and they do not all require money.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, LICENSING

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens): Can the Minister for Consumer Affairs provide details to the house about how the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs protects South Australians against tradespeople who put the public at risk due to bad work practices?

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Minister for Consumer Affairs): I thank the member for Torrens for her question. She has been a very strong advocate in this place for consumer protection. I think it is important that action is taken against tradespersons who show no regard for the safety and wellbeing of consumers. Consumers are entitled to feel confident about the quality and safety of work being carried out by tradespeople, and good tradespeople are entitled to have their reputations protected. I can inform the house that South Australia's Office of Consumer and Business Affairs is diligent in its efforts to protect South Australians. Yesterday in the District Court, Paul William Conaghty was permanently disqualified from being licensed as an electrical contractor. He was also permanently prohibited from being a director of a body corporate that is a contractor until he meets stipulated conditions under the Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians Act 1995.

The case of this particular electrician dates back some years. In 2002, he was prosecuted by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs for carrying on business as an electrician without holding the appropriate licence. In March 2003, the District Court disqualified him from being licensed as an electrician for a period of two years. In 2004, the Supreme Court ordered that he be restrained from contracting for and/or performing electrical work until March 2005. Further disciplinary action was taken when he continued to carry on business as an electrical contractor while not licensed to do so, and acted unlawfully, improperly and unfairly in the course of his business and as an electrical worker.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs gathered evidence that, despite repeated oral and written warnings, and the disciplinary and prosecution actions already taken, he was continuing to contract for and perform electrical work without holding the appropriate electrical contractors licence and electrical workers registration. The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs has no choice but to take disciplinary action against Mr Conaghty. He did not heed the warnings, and continued to contract and perform electrical work. Between November 2000 and June 2004, Conaghty was paid a total of more than \$39 000 for his unlicensed electrical work.

Electricity is inherently dangerous, and only appropriately qualified and registered people should perform electrical work. Mr Conaghty was a danger to consumers and it was

necessary to protect them. Mr Conaghty's disqualification follows similar successful legal actions by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs during the past few years, including:

- A case involving an electrician who was permanently disqualified from holding an electrical contractors licence and electrical workers registration. Examples of his poor work included exposed live wires in the ceiling and crawl space at Penneshaw Area School. The judge in that case said that the electrical work here was so defective that in many instances it was potentially lethal. The work at Penneshaw Area School was life threatening.
- A plumber and his company faced disciplinary action for contracting for and carrying out gasfitting work without the appropriate licence or registration. The company and the plumber have been prohibited until further order from being employed or otherwise engaged in the business of gasfitting contractor. The poor work included the installation of a gas space heater without ensuring the gas flow was at the correct pressure or that the room had sufficient ventilation, among other shoddy work.

There are, of course, other examples of where tradespeople have been fined for poor workmanship and convicted for not being appropriately licensed. As Minister for Consumer Affairs I want to warn anyone who might think that they can get away with this type of behaviour that the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs is on the lookout. I want it to continue to be vigilant in hunting down and exposing any tradespeople who put the safety of the public at risk. I also urge all consumers to check the licensing public register before they contract any tradesperson, particularly for electrical work, as it is simply too risky.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen): My question is for the Premier. During his Selway lecture on 20 March this year, Chief Justice John Doyle claimed:

In recent years we have reached the point at which our recurrent funding is barely sufficient to sustain existing operations. . .

Will the Premier now answer this call and undertake to increase funding to the South Australian justice system?

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Attorney-General): The Courts Administration Authority will take its place in the budget process along with health, education, roads and all the other portfolios crying out for money.

INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES

Ms BREUER (Giles): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. What are the latest measures taken by the government to support young indigenous people?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation): It is regular for us to hear disturbing stories about the state of indigenous wellbeing in our state and, indeed, our nation, but these initiatives serve as very useful reminders that there is some good news out there. Last month, together with the Chairman of the Economic Development Board, Robert Champion de Crespigny, I had the great pleasure of launching a program to help young indigenous South Australians start their own businesses, the first program of its type in South Australia. Aboriginal people in South Australia are engaged in a huge range of careers across the whole spectrum, including media,

printing, graphic design, native bush foods, pastoral, dairy farming and a whole range of industries.

The Young Indigenous Entrepreneur program is a hands-on way of allowing young indigenous people between 15 and 25 to learn about starting their own business. It is open to all young indigenous people who want to develop business skills and start their own business. Participants in the program work with a team of other young Aboriginal people for nine months and decide what sort of business they want to run and how to organise their business affairs. The program gives practical help with coaching, mentoring and advice, and it is absolutely critical.

Many people who have experienced the notion of setting up a business know that at times it is an incredibly lonely process and one that has many ups and downs. Having a mentor, someone who can assist them through those very early days and assist them to make their dream a reality, is very important. I urge all South Australian businesses to play a role in this program to see whether they can lend a hand to a young indigenous entrepreneur who wants to start their own business by being a mentor or a sponsor of this program. The program is part of a broader government Aboriginal economic strategy that will help to build Aboriginal communities and help individuals to develop living and business arrangements that are owned and managed by Aboriginal groups and organisations. This is about acknowledging that real talent and opportunity exists within the indigenous community.

TEACHERS, SELECTION

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): My question is to the Minister for Education and Children's Services (it took a while, Jane, but we got there). Does the minister stand by her statement to this house on 7 November 2005 when, in reply to a question from the member for Florey, she said:

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.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I am delighted that the member for Morphett has been selected as the shadow spokesperson for education and tourism, and I hope that he remains in that job for many years to come. The question he asked relates to an enterprise bargaining agreement, and those who have been through this process will know that there is a degree of argy-bargy about two positions and, eventually, a consensus is reached. Having agreed on the general principles, a lot of hard work then has to be done.

However, I am very pleased to say that the AEU agreed with us in principle that we would move towards the sort of local selection and processes that normal people throughout other walks of life expect, that is, that one would have, for instance, referee checks and interviews. This step forward is one that I am very grateful to have reached. It is a compromise. It is quite different from the process that was in place when the previous government was in office, and it is one that was reached by a series of compromises on both sides. We have worked diligently over the last many months, still with areas of contention and disagreement, but that is what negotiation is about: two sides of a debate coming together from different points of view and compromising.

CHRISTIES BEACH WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Mr BIGNELL (Mawson): Can the Minister for Administrative Services and Government Enterprises outline how the planned upgrade of the Christies Beach waste water treatment works is progressing?

The Hon. M.J. WRIGHT (Minister for Administrative Services and Government Enterprises): I congratulate the member for Mawson on his victory (he certainly polled a lot better than me when I was the candidate there), and also you, sir, on your elevation to the lofty office of Speaker. This is an important infrastructure project, which will be of significant benefit to residents in the southern suburbs. Last year, the government announced funding of approximately \$2 million to begin the project. Subsequently, in February this year, cabinet approved a further \$8 million to progress the project.

The community will be engaged in this process through a program of community consultation. Various options will be canvassed, namely, the reuse of treated waste water, greenhouse gas impacts and impacts on the marine environment. Once options have been identified, SA Water will proceed to a concept design and present the design to the government. SA Water will soon commence work on assessing the environmental condition of the existing sludge lagoons adjacent to the Onkaparinga River. Once the upgraded Christies Beach waste water treatment plant is operational, the sludge lagoons will be decommissioned and the site will be rehabilitated. I know that the member for Mawson doorknocked very strongly in the Noarlunga Downs area, in particular, and received strong feedback about this matter, and I look forward to his making sure that his constituents get this information.

These works are in keeping with the government's commitment to working towards a greener South Australia. In coming months, SA Water will undertake an environmental assessment of the site to determine future opportunities for the land. The community as a whole will be encouraged to participate in a comprehensive consultation process for the future use of rehabilitated land around the Onkaparinga River. It is expected that this will take place in the middle of this year.

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): Given the statement by the Minister for Education and Children's Services to the house on 7 November 2005 that agreement had been reached with the AEU, how does she explain the statement on the AEU web site on Monday, 12 April 2006? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will read that statement and explain the question.

The SPEAKER: Leave to explain; I am not sure an explanation is necessary. I will indulge the member on this occasion.

Dr McFETRIDGE: I thank the Speaker; he is a good Speaker. On the AEU web site on 12 April 2006, under 'Local recruitment and selection', there are a number of points of disagreement with the government. It states at the bottom:

Until these matters have been resolved no new policy for local recruitment and selection will be agreed to. Under clause 31 of the South Australian Education Staff (Government Preschools, Schools and TAFE) Enterprise Agreement 2006, the current arrangements

for placement and selection will continue to apply. Discussions with DECS will continue over the school vacation period and further information will be provided to members in week 1 of term 2.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I do not think the member for Morphett was listening to my previous answer. EBA stands for 'enterprise bargaining agreement'. We reached an agreement and the detail is being worked upon—normal process. It takes a long while to deal with the detail of these agreements and I have to say that I would commend—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister.

The Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith: I commend the AEU for their openness and willingness to move. I commend them for their negotiations, and we are compromising because we believe in fairness and negotiation to give a win-win for all sides of the agreement.

QUALITY SCHOOLING AWARDS

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford): My question is directed to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. What was the outcome for South Australia of the National Awards for Quality Schooling?

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I thank the member for Ashford for her question. She continues to show a keen interest in quality education and supports public education in our state very strongly. This year, I am pleased to inform the house, we received 13 awards in the National Awards for Quality Schooling program. These are annual awards and they go to schools, teachers, principals and support officers. They are annually held and run by Teaching Australia (the other name for which is the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leaderships). These awards recognise a range of categories for excellence, including leadership, teaching and achievement in specialist programs for students.

Those who work in our schools and preschools provide an invaluable service to our students, teaching being a vital role in our community. It is through the vision of the leadership of our teachers and those in our schools, working to provide opportunities for young people, that we can hope to attain the social inclusion and economic advantages that we hope to develop in our state.

One of the key individuals who will be well known to people in this room, particularly the member for Mount Gambier, is Garry Costello. He is an inspirational leader in Mount Gambier. He was awarded the Best National Achievement by a Principal. What he has done is extraordinary, in pulling together community, business, leadership and really empowering, encouraging and developing young people's opportunities in a way that one would not believe possible. He has turned around a school and made it one of the best in our country. Everybody in that community should be proud of the way they have worked with their teachers to develop such an amazing centre for education.

Our other award winners included Jill Walters of Para Hills West Primary School for Outstanding National Achievement by a School Support Staff Officer; Donald Mudge of Jamestown Community School; and Colin Russel of Cardijn College, who received a Highly Commended National Achievement by a School Support Staff Member award. In addition, Jay Bedford, from Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College received a Highly Commended National

Achievement for a Principal award. I have to say that school is one of the outstanding schools that I visited, with particularly good programs in a range of specialist areas. I am delighted at their winning that award.

Leigh Charlesworth, from Aberfoyle Park High School, Anne-Marie Meeks, from Monash Kindergarten and Malcolm McInerney of Findon High all received a Highly Commended National Achievement by a Teacher award. In addition, Aberfoyle Park High School, Barmera Primary School, Kangaroo Island Community Education, Maitland Area School and Snowtown Area School all received recognition for their specialist programs, with Highly Commended National Achievement in School Improvement awards.

I congratulate all the staff members and the schools and particularly the support they get from their local communities, because schools do not stand separate from their environment; they are part of and nurtured by the many people who volunteer and help in them as well. I recommend that any member who has one of those schools in their constituency adds their congratulations to those I have offered in this house.

TEACHERS, SELECTION

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): My question is again to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. What occurs if there is a difference of opinion on the new teachers' selection panel in regard to the selection of an applicant? Who has the final say on selecting the applicant—the principal, the union, or the director? In her press release on 1 May 2006, the minister stated:

If panel consensus is not achieved, the District Director will receive the panel report and provide direction to help them find a qualified person according to the selection criteria.

An honourable member interjecting:

Dr McFETRIDGE: No, it's not.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I think that these small areas of detail—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:—are part of the arrangements whereby we come to an agreement with the union. We have worked with them to find compromises, and we will continue, because the agreement that was reached before Christmas was on a framework—a broad agreement—and details about a whole range of issues are still being nussed out. The reality is that an agreement was made last year, and there is still some detail to be resolved.

SCHOOLS, ELIZABETH VALE PRIMARY

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett): My question is again to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Is the minister aware that the teaching program developed at the Elizabeth Vale Primary School was held in such high regard by national and international educators that it attracted thousands of visitors to the program? Why has DECS not supported the program? The program developed by staff at the Elizabeth Vale Primary School was viewed by over 3 000 visitors in recent years. Ten teacher groups from New Zealand were booked in to visit the school in term 1.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH (Minister for Education and Children's Services): The member for Morphett refers to an innovative program. I do not think that anybody

more than I would want our schools to be innovative and creative. It is the basis on which we expect our schools to be at the cutting edge of educational reform. In relation to this program, a student-initiated curriculum is an interesting idea whereby students have some involvement in the management not just of their school, their uniform and the rules but also in the sorts of courses they wish to be part of and how they are shaped. It is an unusual program but not entirely unique. I understand that many schools around the country have elements of this program that they use. I understand that the department has been supportive of various programs at the school. It has supported some extraordinary and unusual changes. In fact, it has also offered support for something the school particularly wanted, that is, to have secondary students in a primary school. That in itself is a fairly unusual occurrence and a brave step in terms of innovation and creativity. They have allowed that to occur because the community wanted them to be there.

In context, and for those who are not knowledgeable about educational reform, around the country the debate is not about letting senior secondary students stay at primary school; the debate is actually about changing the school leaving age for primary children and having them go to secondary school earlier—not just waiting until year 8 but year 7, or possibly even year 6. If you speak to primary school teachers, they want children to go to secondary school sooner rather than later because they are larger, more sexually developed and more mature in some ways, and they are better suited to secondary education.

Now, having said that, the program at Elizabeth Vale is absolutely in contradiction to that; and it is peculiar, one might say, that this school has one child I think in year 11 in a primary school. That is most unusual. My view about innovation and creativity is that it is a wonderful thing, but if we have children in schools and we are spending public money it has to be based on assessment and good outcomes. I will never support the Department of Education and Children's Services supporting programs which are damaging or which do not produce the best outcomes for children. Whatever innovation we have, I want it assessed, I want it to produce outcomes and I want it to be something that will give our children opportunities—and we would all want the same.

Dr McFETRIDGE: My question is again to the Minister for Education and Children's Services. Does the minister agree with the recent media comments made by educational psychologist Dr Darryl Cross when commenting about the situation at Elizabeth Vale Primary School? On Radio 5AA on 9 March, educational psychologist, Dr Darryl Cross, said:

The school is well regarded at an international standard of excellence. . . I want to know who in education or the Union has a gripe here. . . there are some personal agendas being played out here. . . this is adults with egos out of control. . . into power. . . into agendas.

Dr Cross continued:

. . . no wonder students aren't learning. . . no wonder teachers and principals are also leaving and getting across into the private sector.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: I have to say that I am disappointed that the member for Morphett is carrying on the line of the previous shadow minister. She used the seagull approach to assessing schools. She would fly in, drop all over them and fly out—just like in Ceduna. It is very easy for shadow spokespersons—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: How could one politician get it so wrong? The reality is that the member for Morphett was right. There are adults with agendas here. Too many politicians want to discount immediately the experience and knowledge of teachers and attack public education and undermine anything done by educational experts, because they believe that there is a secret agenda, a plot—everyone is playing foul. I think one has to sit down quietly and look at the issues involved, because I do not know that these public experts who drift into a situation without knowing any of the facts or the documentation can really put themselves in a position to know what is going on. Let me make this clear. I have been told—and it may not be the right number—that there are 255 students at that school—255 students—and out of that number there is a very small minority of disruptive children and children who have behaved in a difficult way. There are about 30 to 40—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH: Thank you. There are some 30 or so children who have had repeated brushes with the behaviour management programs in place, and those children have not behaved in a way that I find acceptable. I will just say this. For a child to have student directive curriculum is a right, and with that right to have that independence there come responsibilities, and you have to ask yourself—

Ms Chapman: Blame the children.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:—how you manage those sorts of programs. However, the reality is that the vast majority of children want to get on with their learning and it would be quite unfair to undermine and denigrate those children when we have put in extra resources, extra help and extra facilitation to support them. In fact, we continue to do that continually. To denigrate the professionals who work together to sought out what is otherwise a difficult situation in terms of children's disappointment is really to undermine the education process completely.

RAIL, OAKLANDS STATION

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): My question is to the Minister for Transport. How many trees will be cut down as a consequence of the proposal to move the Oaklands Railway Station? At a community meeting held in Oaklands Park on 16 October 2005 the minister said:

What I will give you is this—a guarantee. We are not going to cut down trees for this project. We are not going to allow any developer who purchases land to cut down trees.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON (Minister for Transport): It is good to see the honourable member is back to being green again; we are never certain with the member for Mitchell. I must say that the first time he went green it was more a matter of envy rather than ideology from my viewpoint.

Can I digress from the answer for a moment. Laura Anderson from *The Advertiser* is leaving us today to take up a career in Canberra. We all wish her the very best: she is one of the more pleasant members of the fourth estate.

Ms Chapman: How many trees?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: You really are the most arrogant loser I have ever met!

Mr HANNA: I have a point of order, sir. That is not an appropriate thing to say to the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the assistance of the member for Mitchell. The Minister for Transport has the call, but I warn the deputy leader, who has been persistently interjecting over the past 60 minutes. She is now warned. I ask her to spend the next 11 minutes in silence unless she has a question to ask.

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I do apologise, sir. I am a patient and courteous man who is tested beyond endurance. I remind the honourable member of the full comment I made at the public meeting. I said that we would not be taking down the trees for the purposes of it and that we would not allow developers to do it if we transferred land to them, but we added the proviso 'unless, of course, there was a risk associated with those trees and an arborist would assess that'. To my knowledge the trees have not been taken down, but I know that, quite recently, an arborist was looking at them.

I assure the member for Mitchell that—as always—we have kept our word on what we have been doing there. I do not think a great deal has been done to this date because we have been scrupulous about consulting with the local community. As a result of a lot of fearmongering on the part of the member for Mitchell, we took them to a position where they were much more relaxed and supportive. It is hard to please everyone, but I stand by everything I said at the meeting. We will continue to consult with the local community. We do not want to cut down trees for this project—certainly not significant trees. I am not sure of anything seeded in that period of time. I know that in my front yard seedlings come up all the time and I pull them out. I regret it if that offends the member for Mitchell and his green habits. What I said is true. I will check with the department about what work has gone on with the arborist but there is nothing for which I have to apologise.

Mr HANNA: Why does the minister not instruct the project team carrying out the Oaklands Railway Station redevelopment to work outside of their silo and take into account the traffic issues surrounding the Warradale shopping precinct and Westfield Shopping Town, Marion, as well as the local precinct around the railway station?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I assume the member for Mitchell is trying to score some points with someone. I am not sure they have a silo because they are different projects. We have been very open and honest—

Mr Hanna interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Be patient, Kris; I know it is frustrating being a party of one. I know it is frustrating that no-one, other than you, recognises your greatness.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Exactly; he is like that; you are right. The truth is that those subjects were discussed at the public meeting. The member for Morphett was representing the opposition at the public meeting, and the same answer was forthcoming. The projects would address the traffic issues to which the honourable member refers—the most likely and popular one being a grade separation. The reason I am frustrated with the member for Mitchell is that he has heard all this before. I do not know why he needs to decorate this place with it. He has heard from both me and the member for Morphett that there is no funding commitment from either the government or the opposition for a grade separation in the immediate future. That remains the case. They are separate

projects. I fail to understand what the honourable member does not understand about that.

HOUSING TRUST

Ms CHAPMAN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Housing. Why has the government failed to remove a Housing Trust tenant found in possession of \$30 000 of goods stolen from her neighbour's property in Brompton? Mrs C, as I will refer to her, is a Housing Trust tenant in Brompton. She has also been the subject of articles in *The Advertiser* in relation to a report that she was the victim of a shooting. I am sure that she is familiar to the minister.

Last November, the police recovered from her residence approximately \$30 000 worth of property stolen from her neighbour's property. The neighbour has repeatedly written to the minister requesting that Mrs C be relocated due to criminal behaviour directly affecting the immediate neighbours and, despite these requests, a representative of the Housing Trust has informed her neighbours that no action would be taken by the Housing Trust as the police had not pressed charges against the tenant. Not only were the stolen goods found at her premises, but there are also frequent arguments at the premises which are drug-related and disruptive to the neighbours, and there is rubbish up against the fence which was meant to be cleared long ago.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Housing): It is an unusual question, to come into this house about an individual matter. If the member wishes to correspond about particular cases of concern, I am more than happy to deal with them. The Housing Trust has this quaint notion of acting on the basis of the law, so when we evict somebody, we try and formulate a case that will stand up in the Residential Tenancies Tribunal. It is something that we thought we would continue with, that is, the notion of seeking to evict people on the basis of evidence rather than the say-so of certain people who are contestants in a particular dispute. That is one of the great difficulties that we have in terms of the whole question of managing disruptive tenancies.

Often you will find that there is an element of conflict. Neighbours do not always get along with each other. I happen to have very good relationships with my neighbours, thankfully, but neighbours do not always get along with one another and disputes can arise, and there are allegations and counter allegations. By saying that in this place I do not want to suggest that any of the things that the member for Bragg has said are factual because, from what I understand, there is serious contest about a number of the facts that she puts before this house.

The way in which we are trying to deal with these issues is to look at other ways in which we can manage behaviour. When we do not have the standard of proof that might be necessary for an eviction, we manage, I suppose, some of the tenancies where we anticipate that there might be some difficulties, with more use of probationary and short-term tenancies. That is a tactic that we are seeking to use, and we are also acting on a number of the recommendations that were made by the Statutory Authorities Review Committee into disruptive tenancies, from which we had the benefit of the wisdom of members in the other place who assisted us in that regard.

The basic principle is this: if we can prove that somebody has behaved in a way that has been suggested, we evict them, but we have to have a basis of evidence. Obviously the

evidence has not been sufficient for the police to be able to prosecute this person, so there is some inadequacy in the evidentiary base here. Now, whether it is sufficient for us to act upon is something that I am happy to explore but, before we fundamentally change somebody's rights, that is, kick them out of a house, we like to have a modicum of evidence to base that on.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Ms CHAPMAN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): My question is to the Minister for Families and Communities. Why did Children, Youth and Family Services fail to investigate the welfare of Mrs Bryant's grandchildren, despite being alerted to their possible abuse and their father's violent history? Mrs Bryant advises that she has tried several times to have Children, Youth and Family Services investigate the welfare of her two grandchildren, and has asked me to raise her concerns.

She has made reports to Crisis Care and a number of calls to and appearances at the Children, Youth and Family Services offices, reiterating her concerns. Mrs Bryant has been advised to keep reporting incidents so as to build up a case yet, despite continually reporting the abuse, no action has been taken by Children, Youth and Family Services. Her grandchildren have been hit and called names, including 'stupid morons' and the daughter 'slut', and were kept at home until their bruises disappeared. Children, Youth and Family Services were told all this and did not act. Finally, photos of their bruises were taken and the school counsellor sighted them. The counsellor reported the abuse to the police and Mrs Bryant's son was subsequently charged with assault.

At no time did Children, Youth and Family Services interview the children or attend the police interview with the son, even though they were told of the interview and said that they would attend. Mrs Bryant returned to Children, Youth and Family Services to speak with the case manager, who advised that she was too busy to talk. Children, Youth and Family Services have shown no inclination to follow up Mrs Bryant's concerns and still not even contacted her, and she has no idea where her grandchildren are living.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the minister, I will have more to say about explanations later, after giving it some reflection, but it would seem that the explanation the deputy leader just gave was more than was necessary for the minister to be able to answer the question. It was more in the shape of a grievance. I would ask members that, when giving an explanation, their explanation confine itself to the question and to what the minister needs to know in order to be able to render the question intelligible.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Minister for Families and Communities): I must say that the more egregious element of that question is the way in which the personal details of a family have now been traversed in the public sphere in a way that completely contradicts every principle that exists within the Child Protection Act. I would have thought that, as an officer of the Supreme Court, the deputy leader would have had some respect for the principles that are contained within that legislation. It is a disgrace that she has dragged this family through this situation in this place, and she knows it. This legislation is all about the welfare of the child, and this child's circumstances and family, in what I fully suspect is another dispute between grandparents and their children about the relationship between that child and

the grandparents, are now being laid bare in this place. And it is a disgrace.

I will address the question at the level of principle, because that is the only proper basis on which I should address it in this place. What we do when we receive information in relation to a child protection notification—and the honourable member should be aware of this because she participated in this very debate when we amended the legislation—is that we make an assessment based on all the information we have. It may be information not necessarily known to the notifier. It may also be information that we have about the history that the notifier may have in relation to the rest of this family, and it may also depend on our judgment about what other supports we are putting into this family to make sure children are safe. Let us just think through the natural consequence of this.

We are being asked to investigate a family, to send into a family what most people find is a very threatening thing, that is, someone to ask a whole lot of questions and run the ruler over this family to decide what has happened in this family. We know that when we do that and do not offer any help it makes that family much more resistant in the future to getting our assistance and to properly engage with that help. So, it has a cost. An investigation in a family that has failed or does not yield a proper outcome has a cost. That is the approach we always take in relation to child protection. We are always focused first and foremost on the interests of children, not necessarily on the adults in the relationship. That is what people should remember before they come in here trotting in their stories from adults who have decided to take into the public sphere a family's private circumstances.

One would have to wonder about adults who decide to bring into this place the circumstances of a particular family, and whether they truly do have the welfare of children at heart or whether there is some other secondary motive. They are the things that we think about. If one thinks it through, what do I have at my disposal at the end of this process? If I carry out an investigation and make a judgment about this family, that the parenting is not up to scratch, what do I do? Do I intervene? What are the ways in which I seek to intervene with this family?

Ms Chapman: Well, if you don't know that, resign.

The SPEAKER: Order! The deputy leader will come to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Do I take the children away and give them to the grandparents? Is that the suggestion here?

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: You know, your interjections are becoming more desperate because you're embarrassed.

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Dedicated professionals make conscientious judgments in this very difficult area of dealing with family disputes and the welfare of children every day, and they are not assisted by contributions such as the one made in the question of the member.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

RODEOS

The Hon. G.M. GUNN (Stuart): I am very pleased to have the opportunity to make one or two comments in relation to a matter near and dear to my heart.

An honourable member: Corellas.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: No, corellas are tomorrow morning.

The Hon. M.J. Wright interjecting:

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: While the minister is here, I do thank him for his help during the election. He bowled me a full toss. Thank you very much.

The Hon. M.J. Wright: Down the leg side.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: Yes, down the leg side. Let me say to Channel 7 and to Mr Archer and his small band of bigots that it is one thing to get stuck into members of parliament, they can respond, and nothing he can say about me will cause me to lose any sleep. However, I take very strong exception when he and his band of ill-informed critics set out to denigrate hardworking volunteers—people who are doing good for the community and who are raising money for worthy organisations such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and to support their small, hardworking communities. To refer to them as ‘rednecks’ and other such things is a reflection upon the weak case that they are putting up. These people have no understanding. They have created a situation where a decent, hardworking volunteer has been prosecuted and now has two criminal convictions, when he did nothing wrong. The people involved have been provocative and disruptive. Their aim is to completely shut down rodeos and other sporting organisations—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: We won’t stand for it, Gunny.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I hope that you will appeal the decision and get the conviction because there are certain officers within government departments who, shall we say, have their own agendas with respect to this matter.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: I am in favour of ethical rodeos.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: These people are ethical. My constituents and the others at Marrabel are ethical, good, hardworking, decent South Australian citizens.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: I have been to it once myself.

The Hon. G.M. GUNN: I have been to many, and I look forward to going again. I would look forward to the minister attending the Carrieton rodeo so that he could see for himself, because these people set out to disrupt. It would be an interesting exercise to ask: what did they do with the filming—the videoing—they did? Have they altered the videos? Have they set out to put a different emphasis on it? It is a very interesting question. These are the same people who want to stop live exports of sheep and cattle. I raise the question whether any of those people have been involved in interfering with the stock feed at Portland. Is that the same group?

What they are doing, by stealth, is trying to make it so difficult that people will not put themselves forward to run these organisations. There is a lot of work involved. There is a lot of organising, and it takes a lot of time. These people have acted responsibly, and it is a public disgrace that there is now an organised campaign—and Channel 7 should have a good look in the mirror because they are involved in misrepresentation, in creating a situation where they are

attempting to cast aspersions on these good South Australian citizens, particularly people who live in the isolated parts of the state.

You have rodeos, you have gymkhanas and you have picnic race meetings and other groups who are all concerned. So I am calling on the government to step in and prevent this sort of irresponsible behaviour taking place. I intend to pursue these people vigorously and relentlessly. I do not intend to be intimidated or threatened whether by Channel 7, Mr Archer or any of his cohorts, or like-minded people. I look forward to vigorously going after them.

Time expired.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAWS

Ms CICCARELLO (Norwood): Today I would again like to speak on a matter of public importance. Again, it is the insidious effects of the Howard government’s new industrial relations laws, effects which are already all too plain to see. Widespread confusion and deep uncertainty dominate workplaces and kitchen tables across the country. Certainly I have had hundreds of constituents contact me, who are deeply concerned about the effects that these divisive and extreme laws will have upon their professional and family lives.

Already we have seen the first casualty of these new laws: the dismissal of 29 abattoir workers in Cowra, with the intent of rehiring 20 of them at lower pay. The issue here was whether the Cowra abattoir, which employs more than 100 people and thus must adhere to the unfair dismissal provisions, can escape this by citing ‘operational reasons’ for any dismissal. The new legislation outlaws dismissals only if it can be shown that the employer’s sole or dominant intent was to lower the conditions. The Howard government has claimed that the mediation of the dispute by the Office of Workplace Services is sufficient evidence that workers have not forfeited their rights under the new legislation. What rubbish! The government, and not even the minister responsible for these changes, has been able to say whether the abattoir acted illegally in the first instance.

The government has not even been able to say whether the advice given to the Cowra abattoir by the Office of Workplace Services was that their conduct had been illegal, which means that there are only two conclusions which can be drawn from this debacle: that the original termination was legal and that the Cowra abattoir had every right to act as they did under the new laws, and that any subsequent act by Cowra abattoir was simply an attempt to avoid adverse publicity and not as a result of being told that they had acted outside the scope of these new laws.

What this all means is that more than 10 million Australian employees are now at risk of being sacked for whatever reason, and with no legal recourse whatsoever. If you were one of the four million Australians who worked for a company which employs less than 100 employees you are now able to be sacked with no rights whatsoever. If you are one of the six million Australians who work for a company which employ more than 100 employees, you are now able to be sacked for these so-called, legal operational reasons.

The Howard government consistently asserts that it is a friend of the Australian worker. The Howard government consistently asserts that it is an advocate of small business. The Howard government consistently asserts that it is the protector of family values. If the Howard government wants to lay claim to all these titles, it must speak up now. It must

categorically and unequivocally state to the 10 million Australians who are at risk of losing their jobs, with no legal rights whatsoever, that they will not be treated like the employees at the Cowra abattoir, that they will not be mere fodder for the whims of their employers. The Howard government must stand up for the rights of the workers, whom they claim to protect, and repeal the clauses of their new legislation which allows for this unprecedented attack upon the rights of employees. Today our government, along with four other state governments, has taken this case of industrial relations to the High Court, and we hope we can have a rectification of the disastrous effects of these laws on the workers of Australia.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

Ms CHAPMAN (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): I rise today to speak in relation to the proposed undertakings of the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission over the next 18 months or so. As the house is aware, the Constitution Act of 1934 was changed after the 1989 election in which there had been a clear miscarriage of representation in the opportunity for the party that had the greatest number of votes in South Australia being able to take government in this chamber. So, there were changes to the Constitution Act to ensure that after each election a commission would be established, a commission described as the Electoral Districts Boundaries Commission, constituted of a chairman, who will be a judge of the Supreme Court appointed by the Chief Justice, the Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General, with each having nominee powers of appointment as well.

Usually the commission is chaired by the most senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court. It is to undertake its duties, effectively, as soon as practicable after each election with a view to convening meetings, taking submissions and making a determination to identify boundaries that are to be effective for the following election, which we know, of course, in this case will be on 20 March 2010. The commission is to take into account a number of criteria as laid down by the act but, in particular, to summarise it as simply as possible, to ensure that whichever party or party in coalition that has the greatest number of votes in a state election has the opportunity to govern, therefore, of course, enjoying the greatest opportunity to have the greatest number of seats.

Like the other 46 members of this chamber, I was privileged at the last election to be elected by my constituency. We have new members on all sides of the house. We have the restoration of the member for Mitchell, who is now Independent. Each of us has had a declaration of poll confirming that we have a majority in our seat. We all have seats that have a similar number of people in them. That is also part of the task of the commission, namely, to ensure that, consistent with the equal value equal vote principle, that will be maintained and, as best as possible, take into account demographic predictors that that will occur in 2010. My understanding is that the next commission will be chaired by the Hon. Justice John Perry, who is the most senior in that position. He will undertake that area of responsibility.

The reason I particularly raise this issue is because we have a very unusual situation in South Australia, where we have representatives in three seats at least where they claim to be Independent or represent another political party but have demonstrated their support to the governing party,

namely, the ALP—that is, the member for Chaffey, who won her seat as a National Party representative and endorsed candidate; the member for Mount Gambier; and the member for Fisher, each of whom claims to be Independent. The first two (the member for Chaffey and the member for Mount Gambier), of course, have sat as members of the Australian Labor Party government in this state during the past term, and they have gone to their electors in the full knowledge of that. The member for Fisher was the Speaker appointed by a majority of this house. What I seek at the next election, and the next consideration of the boundaries commission, is that those factors clearly be taken into account.

The Hon. P. Caica: They were; they were re-elected. How else can they be taken into account?

Ms CHAPMAN: No, this is the first time. They have been re-elected by the constituency quite properly, but re-elected in the full knowledge that they have signed up with the Labor Party for the purposes of sitting in government. They are able to do that, but I want that matter to be taken into account at the next hearing.

Time expired.

POLICE TATTOO

Ms BEDFORD (Florey): This weekend SAPOL's Police Tattoo will be held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, highlighting many facets of our wonderful police force and perhaps its finest jewel and greatest drawcard, apart from the horses, the band of the South Australia Police. It should be acknowledged that the support of the Commissioner of Police has been imperative in keeping this event in South Australia. I understand other states have been eyeing it off as the nation's premier tattoo, in much the same way as they eyed off and eventually took our Grand Prix. It is also due to the minister's assistance that the event has remained part of the wonderful calendar of exciting entertainment in this state suitable for families and people of all ages.

Unfortunately, the inaugural tattoo was scheduled for the weekend after the Ansett collapse—of course without knowing that was coming—not to mention September 11. These disasters had a big effect on attendances, as people were not flying as much that weekend and, although it was a great success, I am pleased to say that the event has since gone from strength to strength. In years past, the tattoo has been host to some fabulous bands, most notably at the last event the band of the Irish Guards, which recently made worldwide news as the band at Windsor Castle which played *Happy Birthday* for the Queen's 80th. This year should be the best tattoo yet, with Galga's own Julie Anthony starring, along with bands from all over Australia and international bands featuring acts from countries such as the Netherlands and the United States of America.

We had a brief peek at the talent of the band of the US 7th Fleet when they marched through Glenelg last weekend. Thanks have to go to the many volunteers who support the event not only when it is being held at the Entertainment Centre but also on the weekend when they were handing out fliers to the crowd lining the streets. It was great to see Jetty Road lined with people for the parade, led by members of South Australia's state calisthenics teams who have leant so much talent and colour to all tattoos. A former team of calisthenics stars has appeared with the SAPOL band at Edinburgh, which is a rare honour; and I am pleased to say that the girls had a fantastic impact on the crowd.

The Calisthenics Nationals will be held in Darwin in July this year. Along with the member for Adelaide, it is my privilege to be the patron of the Calisthenics Association of South Australia. I mention all this because the 2007 Calisthenics Nationals will be held in Adelaide at the Festival Theatre. I urge all members to consider visiting their local calisthenics club, if they have not already done so, and become involved in what will be a fantastic event. I also encourage members to attend one of the tattoo's performances. I can assure all members that it is a spectacular event not to be missed.

While speaking about national events, it was my privilege to represent the Premier over the Easter weekend at the National Highland Dancing Competitions of Australia which were hosted in Adelaide. I congratulate Mr Stephen Burgess and his organising committee for a fantastic job. Over 500 competitors from all over Australia, as well as international dancers, vied for the trophies that were on offer. While almost overwhelmingly outnumbered, I witnessed the outstanding performances of the eventual winner, a young man from New South Wales, and another young man from Scotland, who, over the various forms of dance, competed at an extremely high standard, only knocking off each other by a fraction, I believe.

This form of dance, highland dancing, could well be called a dance sport, because the level of fitness required to compete at this level is extraordinary. Also the tartan costuming is spectacular, rivalling perhaps to a small degree the costumes that we see in callisthenics. The dance competitions are held over six areas, with 36 dancers working at any one time in front of a panel of judges. We have a number of world-credentialed judges in Australia, and the head judge was a gentleman who had won the national dancing competitions.

All the dancing is done to live bagpipe music. I especially like that, which is great, but I think some people found that, by the end of the day, it was too much. It is another female sport where participation is encouraged from girls of all ages. We have girls aged from five or six right up to the senior or masters events. As with most female sports, including netball, it is not as well supported as it could be. It is something that members would do well to find out about in their electorate. There is a large number of Scottish highland dancing schools in South Australia, not to mention Irish dancing, and that sort of culture is to be encouraged at all levels.

PORT RIVER OPENING BRIDGE

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I want to take a few moments to put this government on notice. The previous Liberal government has been accused of wasting taxpayers' money on two projects—the soccer stadium and the Australian wine centre. While I did not agree with some of the processes at the time, at least we have two good facilities that are used and appreciated. This government is about to inflict on the state two huge white elephants, which will have long-term ramifications for all South Australians. I refer to the \$100 million lifting bridges over the Port River and the extension of trams down King William Street to North Terrace.

The huge extra cost for the bridges cannot be justified; and members should check the Public Works Committee reference. Some 80 per cent of stakeholders were opposed to it but, for political reasons, we are stuck with it. Well, they will go the same way as the infamous Adelaide Oval light towers: they will be welded up and later removed. What

nonsense and what a huge waste of money! An employee of the company that is building these bridges said to me, 'Do you realise that these bridges will be the largest single span lifting bridges in the world? Do you realise they lift across the prevailing winds?' If these bridges blow back they will be ruined. When they are up in the air they will catch so much wind. These questions have not been addressed. I hope he is wrong for the state's sake. I commend the government, particularly the Minister for Transport, for progress to date on the new deep seaport at Outer Harbor. The dredging is finished and now the new loop rail is going in. Is it too late to modify these bridges so that we do not end up with another lifelong liability?

I was in favour of the trams and a member on the other side of the house did pick up on a contribution I made in this house in 1991. I have always been in favour of trams in relation to moving people, because they are the most successful way. But I believe we missed the boat—or the tram—right back in the 1960s when we pulled up the tram system. We should have put in a basic underground subway back in the 1930s. We had an excellent physical location—parklands and four city squares—in which to create a great mini tube. Now it is too late. I believe that bringing the trams down King William Street on a double track will be a disaster. We already have an acute traffic problem on King William Street. It is there this afternoon, if members want to have a look.

What will happen if we take out two traffic lanes in King William Street? At peak hour, often there is only one lane available as a result of the buses and congested traffic. If the buses are taken out, it will contribute further to consumer resistance to use our decaying public transport system. I am not opposed to using trams per se, but we cannot just plonk them in and create more traffic chaos. Can I suggest an alternative? I suggest a single loop line from Victoria Square to North Terrace. It would travel via Trades Hall Lane, Bentham Street, Leigh Street and Bank Street and return via Gawler Place or, if that is not suitable, Charles Street, Arcade Lane, Wyatt Street and Flinders Street. It would be a single lane doing a loop. This proposal leaves open the option to include North Adelaide via Kintore Avenue, Victoria Drive, Frome Road and Brougham Place at a later stage.

There is much to commend this alternative option. It goes to the same place but it has double the amount of pick-up opportunities for people, more space at passenger pick-up points on non-essential low-demand roads, a single track, less obstruction and less visual impairment of the overhead wires. We have the wrong tram to do the tight right turns from King William Street into North Terrace. The Bombardier trams, which the government purchased in political haste, do not have a good turning circle. The government should have bought the French Alston tram, which turns in one-third of the arc required by the tram we have. We will have a very wide obtrusive turn for this tram, or we will see regular derailments at the No. 1 intersection in Adelaide. With all the goodwill in the world, I hope it is not too late for the government to change its mind and leave us an asset, not a liability.

NUCLEAR POWER

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take this opportunity to congratulate you on this role that you now have, and I know that you will be brilliant in that role as you have acted in the past. Today I

would like to address my grievance to the nuclear power industry. For many years I have been an activist against uranium mining, and against nuclear power because I have always been concerned by the fact that there are a number of issues that do not, in my view, seem to have been adequately addressed. First of all, there has been an ongoing concern—and this has been voiced by many people in our community—about the leakage of toxic by-products into the environment, and there has been a number of accounts of that happening. Certainly our indigenous people have raised concerns about their traditional land, and problems that they have seen with waterways being made toxic through leakage. There is the ever concerning issue of the proliferation of nuclear weapons—although I do not want to address my grievance to weapons of mass destruction and where are they, and the whole debate in the peace movement which, again, I have very strong views about—and also the likelihood of plant meltdown.

As someone who more recently is not up to date with the debate in this area, I was very interested to read in the local *Sunday Mail* an article by John Bruni, who was described as an Adelaide-based international security analyst, and is also, I understand, a university lecturer. So, I thought, 'This is good. It is good that Adelaide has its own expert in this area.' What he was saying, in a nutshell, is that scientific evidence increasingly supports the notion that most Western civilian nuclear power plants are generally well-run, pose few environmental risks, and that civilian technology cannot be easily turned towards military purposes. I must say that those are certainly reassuring comments. So, in my quest to see whether I am, perhaps, overreacting to what I consider to be great concerns in this area, I did a literature search, and one of the more recent articles that I referred to was an article called 'Final Resting Place' in *New Scientist*, 4 March 2006, where the title says, 'Amid all the talk of a nuclear renaissance, we seem to have forgotten something, says Rolf Haugaard Nielsen.' This article talks about that problem which has been discussed in this place, which is, how safe is the storage of nuclear waste? I commend this article to members in this house because I think it does, with the appropriate scientific references, talk about the problems that we have had, and how we can learn from those problems.

I know that technology has advanced since my days of working as a campaigner for the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy (CANE)—that is some decades ago now—but this article does not make me feel any more satisfied that we are in a state of play where this is the way forward. I also refer members in this chamber to *New Scientist* article on 22 April 2006 which says, 'Is it all over for nuclear power?' I am pleased that the debate has moved to say that we need to look at a number of different alternatives, whether it be oil, nuclear renewables, gas, coal, or some of the new technology and new ideas that we are looking at with hot rocks, wind power and solar power. Again, I always think back to the disasters, and I do not think I am a pessimist by nature, but I remember the list of accidents: in 1957 we had Windscale in Britain; in 1979, Three Mile Island, and the associated Harrisburg; in 1986, we had the Chernobyl in the Ukraine disaster; in 1999, Tokaimura in Japan; and in 2004, Mihama in Japan. So, I think we best remember those as well.

Time expired.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Adjourned debate on motion for adoption (resumed on motion).

(Continued from page 128.)

Mr VENNING (Schubert): I thank Her Excellency the Governor, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, for her address in opening the 51st parliament. I wish to compliment her on the magnificent way in which she has enriched the position of governor here in South Australia and I was pleased with today's announcement that she had agreed to extend her term for another year. We are all very pleased. She has endeared herself to all South Australians and is much loved. I hope she has personal fulfilment for a job well done. I not only support her as our Governor but I support the role that she plays as our Queen's representative here in South Australia. Yes, I do support the Queen and her continuing as our monarch. May I wish her our best wishes on the occasion of her 80th birthday. I congratulate her and Prince Philip for a wonderful reign as Queen. Long may she reign over us.

I congratulate the Speaker on his attainment of the highest office this house can bestow. I am confident that he will do a good job and that his background and Christian ethic will stand him in good stead. God bless him and guide him. I did note that Labor won the election, and I congratulate it for that. I congratulate the new ministers, especially the Hon. Paul Caica. He just happens to be sitting here and it is written down! I appreciate competence and good nature in all members of parliament, and he was a very good Public Works Committee chair and now has been rewarded. Let it be an observation to new members that good committee chairs will usually be rewarded. I was not. I was ERD chair for seven years, but I was not rewarded.

To the Hon. Paul Caica, good on you, mate. I have appreciated the very good fraternity we have built up over the years. I also want to congratulate the members for Unley, Finnis, Hammond and Goyder as new members of this place. I congratulate them on their maiden speeches. They were all very entertaining. I sat here because I had to because I am the Whip, but I have to say that it was not an unpleasant task whatsoever. I must say that I was very disappointed that the Hon. Steph Key was rolled in a factional deal; and I am serious. I cannot understand why. There is not a more popular, hard working and diligent person in the government than Steph: a friend to us all. Irrespective of this, we think she is the best. To you and Kevin, my best wishes.

I say here again briefly how saddened I was at the passing of the Hon. Terry Roberts, a good MP and a good man, and a good mate of mine. Opposites in many ways, yes, but we hit it off. He gave me faith in the political system. Again, my condolences to Julie and the boys.

I was saddened to be parted from so many dear friends in the parliament at the election: two retired (Dean Brown and John Meier) and five lost their seats (Malcolm Buckley, Joan Hall, Joe Scalzi, Angus Redford and Rob Brokenshire). They will be missed, and I commend them on so many years of excellent service to this state. All of them assisted me in so many ways. I am delighted that another good friend has taken over as Liberal leader, and what a delight to have a lady as deputy. I cannot recall one in this house before. I wish Iain and Vickie all the best. They have my full support, and long may they reign.

I was delighted at the re-election, again, of the Hon. Graham Gunn. They threw everything at him and, after

36 years, he is back. I think we all thought that not even the Hon. Graham Gunn could sustain this. He did, and he is back, and I look forward to his input as a valued friend. The people of Stuart and the outflung areas have the greatest ambassador that one could wish for. If 36 years is not proof of that, I do not know what is. As politicians, because we all strive to keep our seats, we all need to ask: how does he do it? He continually swims against the electoral and political tide, and he survives. We should just consider and contemplate that.

On another tack, I was quite stunned to hear of the illness of another wonderful person and a friend of so many in here. Mr Hayden Lamshed is one of the nicest people I have ever met. He is so helpful, so considerate, so cheerful and so optimistic. The work that he did as a member of the *Hansard* staff will long be remembered by me. It was he, above all others, who put shine on so many of my rough speeches—the good, the bad and the ugly. I understand that he was suddenly struck down and has had to leave the parliament. To you, Hayden, godspeed for a full recovery. Our best wishes to you, and thanks so much for all your support and friendship. You are, indeed, one of nature's true gentlemen, and we will long remember your efforts on our behalf.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr VENNING: I am, indeed, privileged to be elected to this place for the fifth time, with a good majority, in the best electorate in Australia. I have heard other members claim that, but I will match them vote for vote, facility for facility and drop for drop, because I do have the most wonderful electorate and the most wonderful people. I thank the people of Schubert for again putting their trust and faith in me and to the many who rang and wrote, offering their best wishes and congratulations. I particularly thank my campaign team, headed by the wily Peter Frazer (many of you will know him), and my electorate chairperson, Mrs Stephanie Martin. One could not wish for a more loyal and hardworking team, even in the face of the probable defeat of our party. We raised more money than ever before: it is a pity that it was in vain. I thank my family, particularly my wife, Kay. I do agree with some, particularly the member for West Torrens—

Mr Koutsantonis: The brains of the outfit!

Mr VENNING: They do vote for her, not necessarily for me. I noted the comment of the member for West Torrens last night, and I agree with his comments in relation to the person who manages the rest of my life.

I have also been honoured by my colleagues to be elected as the Opposition Whip, a role which I never coveted. However, I accept the challenge. I pay tribute to the former whip, John Meier, who occupied the position for 12 years, and I never heard a complaint from anyone, particularly from those opposite. He had a very good relationship with the member for Torrens, and I hope to continue that relationship. He served the parliament well, and I wish him the best in his retirement—and I hope he will be on the end of the phone when I need him, because it has to be coming up!

I also congratulate the new Mayor of Gawler (and I note that the new member for Light is about to speak), who is a most capable lady. She served as deputy mayor when Tony Piccolo was mayor. I wish Her Worship Ms Helena Dawkins all the best. I am very pleased to be associated with her, her family and her council. She is a wonderful person: I know her very well.

History will show that this state changed course in February 2002, when one person tipped out the incumbent government—a government that had achieved 51.5 per cent of the total state vote—and installed the Rann Labor govern-

ment. I believe that if Mr Lewis, the member for Hammond, had put us back in, we would still be there today.

An honourable member: No, you wouldn't.

Mr VENNING: I firmly believe that. Anyway, the rest is history, and government members can gloat or smile or whatever; they are there. The rest is history, and I am sure that we will all look back and ask: why did it happen? Our state is now reverting back to being the worst performing state in Australia.

Something that was instilled in me by my father (a friend of Tom Playford's), which pertains to Labor just as much as to us, was to be loyal to the party that gives you the opportunity to serve and that to do anything else will lead to spending the rest of your life in misery. I know that certain people in this parliament would know what the misery is. To do otherwise will give you lifelong grief. If a person is true to their party and their beliefs they will gain friends and respect on both sides of this house.

I believe and have faith in the two-party system, and what happened in the other place is a disgrace. I have concerns about its current mode of operation. That is a long-held belief of mine; it has not just come out of the woodwork. When the council had members representing separate regions of South Australia back in the 1960s it worked the same as the Senate, and it worked well. The Senate's franchise protects small states such as South Australia, and I am very supportive of that. Why cannot the Legislative Council do the same here and protect minorities who live in the regions of our state? Now we have people elected on a state ticket, a rubber stamp of the successful party in power and, with eight-year terms, that means that at least half of them do not feel the heat at every election. I have many friends who serve in that chamber, and I bear no personal malice towards them. However, this is a belief that I have had for many years. South Australia is a small state and, like Queensland, I think the government would be more efficient as a one house system. However, I moderate my long-term beliefs: change it and keep it, or leave it and abolish it.

If I live to be 100 (that is 40 years' time, and I will not do so unless I change my ways), I believe that we will see the demise of state governments as we know them today, making way for wider federal powers and the establishment of larger regional local government—some would call them super councils. We see it in Queensland, in the greater Brisbane council. The cost of bureaucracy and the duplication across our country is enormous, and really cannot be justified in this modern age.

Talking of 100, I wish to congratulate the Ahrens company and the Ahrens family of Sheoak Log on celebrating 100 magnificent years last weekend. And what a celebration! When the Ahrens celebrate, they celebrate. They booked out the Entertainment Centre and entertained over 1 000 people, and they did it again on the Sunday. I was very pleased to be involved. To Bob and Marj and also the new brooms, the younger generation, Stef and Leanne, congratulations and well done, and good luck for the future. I often think: who should I ask to replace me in this place? One day I am going to retire—not yet. I could think of no better person than somebody like Stef Ahrens. This is the first time I have said anything like this. I would be insulted to ask Stef Ahrens if he would come into this place, because this person deals with \$30 million to \$40 million projects. He has taken the company from a position of probably \$7 million to \$10 million, to a company of \$80 million to \$100 million. He is a risk taker, he is a leader, he is a go-getter. Do you think

he would come to this house? Do you think he would want to come to this house? Do you think he would survive on the salary that we are paid here? Do you think the challenge would be enough to satisfy him? No, I do not think so. These are the sort of people the state needs. These are the sort of people who will lead our state in future.

Ms Ciccarello: How dare you offend all of us!

Mr VENNING: I hear the comment from the member for Norwood, but that is how it is. I see a lot of very gifted people in my representation, and you would not ask some of them because it would be an insult. They may feel it is their duty. I know several of my new colleagues—one in particular—sacrificed salary severely to come to this place and what will the media say about it? They will accuse him of being on the gravy train. One of my colleagues has just arrived, and we can consider what he was doing before and what he is doing now. Everything was provided, long-term contracts and great respect. What is he going to get in this job? All I can say to the four of them on this side of the house, is thank you for coming in here; I hope you get satisfaction and fulfilment and do not take what the media say to you to heart because, if you do, it will destroy you.

Also, I was pleased to attend Eli Hambour's 100th birthday late last year—a phenomenal feat. Some of you would know this gentleman. He is so fit, so well, so sharp and so alert. He has been a JP since 1932. Do you know what? He is still doing it. Wow! An Australian record and probably an international record. While we are celebrating, today is the 50th birthday of a great Australian and international icon. In May 1956 Penfolds Grange Hermitage first went on sale. It is now, indeed, a world benchmark for premium red wines. There is no argument, irrespective of where you live or what you drink. It is the world's premium wine. It put the Australian wine industry on the map in 1990, when it was the world's best wine. It knocked off all the Americans, the Robert Mondavias of the world—forget it. We were there and we have been there ever since.

Ms Ciccarello interjecting:

Mr VENNING: We do not need to recount that episode, member for Norwood, when we had a fine wine tasting of 50 Granges. That was fantastic. As the member for Schubert, I am indeed honoured to be associated with the late Max Schubert, who pioneered and made this wonderful wine, a wine that changed the industry in Australia forever, a wine that every aspiring winemaker tries to emulate—and even better—but very few do. Congratulations to Peter Gago and all at Penfolds, and also to Thelma and the Schubert family. I will invite them in again soon, to toast the occasion. Of course, what should we toast it with? You know what we would drink. I wish them well.

To represent the Barossa Valley, the Adelaide Hills and a wonderful part of the River Murray, Mannum, is an honour any MP would covet and be proud of. Having been here for almost 16 years, I now do not represent the area I did when I first arrived here after the by-election in 1990. In one way I am saddened to move away from where I started and where I lived, but what a consolation. I am not at home, but what an opportunity: such an economic powerhouse; such dynamism; such standards of excellence; such rich tradition; such loyalty. The Barossa and its regions have been so good to me. I will cherish this region and its people for the rest of my life.

My role as an MP has given me a wonderful opportunity to live a life I would not have appreciated otherwise. As most members know, I came from a very sheltered Methodist farming family at Crystal Brook, and there is not a grapevine

in sight. The ultimate honour for me was not to be the whip, or a shadow minister, or even a minister, for that matter. When I was contacted by the wine fraternity of the Barossa, now three years ago, and asked whether I would accept the honour of being a companion of the order—Baron of Barossa—I was blown away. What better recognition than this for a boy from the bush, being accepted by the locals. I will forever be proud of this achievement alone. MPs do not often get recognition, especially when they are still in the parliament, and often while they are still alive.

The only other MP ever to be a baron before me was the late Hon. Sir Condor Laucke, a past member of this place and then President of the Senate—a great South Australian by any account. What a pleasure it was to be present a few months ago when another MP was recognised in the same way. The Hon. Alexander Downer was so recognised late last year, an honour he accepted with pride. Again, a very prominent South Australian.

I feel I have let my electorate down over the last four years.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr VENNING: The last four years, only four years. The member will get his chance to have a go at me later on, because I cannot have a go back, but I can assure you that you will not wait very long. As an adjoining electorate I will give you plenty of advice, particularly about your main street. You had better fix it while you are here because it is a B disgrace. I hope you mention it in your speech. The Rann Labor government has all but totally ignored my electorate over the last four years. After eight years of tremendous economic and social activity and high achievement under the former Liberal government, now we have nothing; a total cut-off of any government investment at all. The only activity between 2002 and 18 March 2006 was the new Angaston Primary School, an initiative of the previous Liberal government and the federal government. I acknowledged the minister's input at the time, and I am thankful for that.

Labor came into power. What happened? What did they do? They instantly cancelled the new Barossa hospital, which was on the go; they cut the funding for the Barossa Music Festival, it instantly closed; the wine train ceased operation, with no government assistance or encouragement. No encouragement at all. Nor have they tried, or even attempted to establish a daily commuter rail service. I was incensed with the minister's response on ABC radio. She had a shot at me saying, 'Why should we put a commuter service to the Barossa when it wouldn't be viable; it wouldn't pay its way?' What commuter service pays its way in South Australia? What rail service in South Australia pays its way? So, why should this one? All I am saying is equity. Our people need an equal opportunity like everyone else. The problem I have is that people are losing enthusiasm. The Barossa offers world-class experiences, and I invite all the new members to come to Barossa and be my guest.

Mrs Geraghty: Ivan, we've been there.

Mr VENNING: The new members have not. We have the best wine, the best food, the best company and the best location. We have a region full of living legends: Peter Lehmann, Wolf Blass, Robert Hill Smith, Colin Gramp, Carl Seppelt, David Clark and Grant Burge; the list goes on and on. The Barossa is the most identifiable tourist destination in Australia, and it is better known than Adelaide in many areas of the world. When you tour other countries (and, no doubt, some members will before the end of their career), if you are in Europe they will ask you where you come from. If you say

that you come from South Australia, blank face; Adelaide, blank face; but if you say 'Barossa', their face lights up. It happens all the time. This unique position is now under threat. Many other Australian regions are doing all they can to knock us off our hard-earned pedestal. Western Australia's Margaret River, Victoria's Yarra Valley and Rutherglen, and the New South Wales Hunter Valley are all after us and trying to attack our premium position. That premium position is a fantastic marketing tool that we use very well.

The governments of all the states are really pushing their regions to become the prime wine region, but what is our government doing to help maintain our prized position? It does not even recognise that we are in a prized position. We do not see the ministers in the area. I have seen the Minister for Tourism in an official capacity once in four years, and there have been plenty of invitations. There has been absolutely nothing, and the people are very concerned. The grape and wine industry is under severe economic pressure, and the feeling of pessimism deepens daily. This fact ought to be sheeted home to us all. If there was any doubt, the dropping of the naming—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Have I got a surprise for you!

Mr VENNING: I know that you are surprised. You give me a whisper and I will be nice to you.

Members interjecting:

Mr VENNING: Be careful! There is one fact that really upsets me, and it sheets home the problem to all of us. I was floored and absolutely flattened when I heard that the naming sponsor of our world-class event, the Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under, was withdrawn. That is the biggest smack in the face you could give this state. Jacobs Creek, the most recognisable Australian wine brand in the world, saw fit—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Penfolds might have something to say about that.

Mr VENNING: It is more recognisable than Penfolds.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Well, they sell more.

Mr VENNING: Yes, they do. I congratulate Orlando Wyndham for its wonderful support of this great event, and I commend it in these straitened economic times. They have refocused on their loyal grape suppliers and their fantastic employees. That is why they cannot afford it: they have had to pull in their horns because they were not getting value from the sponsorship. It is not too late to turn this around. I invite the ministers for tourism, transport, infrastructure and agriculture—

The Hon. P. Caica: What about me?

Mr VENNING: —and the Hon. Paul Caica—in fact, all of them—to the electorate at any time. I welcomed a visit by the Minister for Health (Hon. John Hill) before the election. I hope that, by his principle of fairness and equity, we will see some activity in the provision of a new health service for the Barossa in the next couple of years.

Ever since arriving here, I have been a champion of rail and road. The state of our roads today grieves me greatly. We have gone from the best roads in Australia to the worst. No state or territory government spends less on its roads than this government has over the last four years. Labor's record on roads, both country and metro, over the last four years is atrocious. It was Labor who axed and sold the Liberal government's MATS plan for a metropolitan transport corridor, and look now: it is trying to recreate it at huge cost and disruption.

To top this off, the Governor's speech did not have one mention of roads—not a mention. Yes, it mentioned bicycle tracks, but what a disgrace—bicycle tracks but no roads. Was

that deliberate? There was not even a token mention of any roads. No wonder the RAA is mobilising against the decision makers in government. I totally reject the government's criticism of the RAA as a political body. To say that it is a lobby group for the Liberal Party is grossly insulting, unprofessional and childish. The RAA is purely acting on behalf of its members. What else would you expect?

Our community is most concerned at this time at the ever burgeoning price of petrol. It was \$1.44 last week for one litre—not a gallon but one litre. What are our alternatives? What are our options? What can bring relief from this huge impost on working families? There is an alternative: it is biofuel. We have an excellent opportunity here in South Australia to lead Australia in the provision of an alternative biofuel: ethanol generated from our cereal grains. Biofuel is available now here in South Australia, but there are no real incentives to ensure that it can be a long-term and viable economic alternative. Why do not governments, state and federal, remove the excise on biofuel and, in fact, subsidise its use by reducing the mean price by the amount of the excise on fossil fuels, especially the most refined, the most polluting and the less environmentally friendly petrol. It is a challenge I think we have to pick up.

I noted with interest the maiden speech of the new member for Newland, especially in relation to the nuclear option to generate power. I also noted a few moments ago the comments made by the member for Ashford. It has been a long-held belief of mine that we need to cut our reliance on fossil fuels. As a farmer, I am very aware of how vital our climate is to our primary industries here in South Australia. South Australia depends on its farmers and their crops. I fear very much for the effects of climate change. I have no doubt that our climate is changing, as extremes in our weather lately have proved to us all.

I am no greenie, but I do note, observe and listen to the scientists; and I stand out in the field and I ponder our future. Can we reduce our dependence on fossil fuel based power stations? Can we close down the dirtiest power station in Australia at Port Augusta, bearing the dirtiest and poorest quality brown coal? After all, coal supplies from Leigh Creek will be depleted in 15 years, anyway. We must close these fossil fuel generators eventually. So, can we meet the demand with more wind generators or more photovoltaic cells? Everyone knows we never will. The Kyoto agreement—and I remind the house that we are not a signatory to it—says that we must reduce our greenhouse emissions now. How? How can we when we are more power hungry every year.

We have the world's biggest supply of uranium. We have so much open space for a nuclear facility—not that it is now a requirement to have the space. The tragedy is that we have never had a nuclear debate in this house—not ever. How refreshing it was to hear a member opposite—not a member of the socialist-left though, which is more the pity—agree that there is an alternative. Now surely can we at least have this debate? Are we allowed to touch the subject? Can we give it some good, thoughtful discussion? If you even raise it in the party room, you are called a redneck or whatever. It is too politically damaging. I think now is the time to say, 'Hang on, there is not any alternative.' There is not; there is no alternative.

In deference to the member for Ashford, the person whom I just praised a few moments ago, I would like to read the article to which she referred. I cannot see our way out. We do need a baseline. I think South Australia can lead the nation, its being in the middle of the country, having the ideal site at

Port Augusta at the top of the gulf, having the uranium and having huge underground chasms to store the small amount of waste. I do not understand. If anyone asks, 'What is the alternative?'—you tell me. Do members think that we can survive relying on wind generation and photovoltaic cells? What happens on a windless, dark night? You had better get two sticks out because that is the only power you will get. It does not happen, does it? Technology will solve the problem but for now we do not have any choice.

I also commend the member for Stuart on his campaign in relation to the Marrabel rodeo. I think it is a disgrace that a public person (who was purely the signatory on the form as the public person of a company) gets a criminal record purely because someone took umbrage to the horse being in the pen with two steers and also for someone ill-advisedly using the cattle prod. I support the member for Stuart. I also support the Address in Reply.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Light, I draw the house's attention to the fact that this is the member's first speech and ask that he be accorded the normal courtesy on this important occasion.

Mr PICCOLO (Light): I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the parliament is built. I take this opportunity to recognise the traditional owners of the land on which this house stands, the Kurna people. I also acknowledge Her Excellency as the Crown's representative to this parliament. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your election to high office, and I express my confidence that this tenure will be fair and judicious. Madam Deputy Speaker, I also congratulate you on your appointment. It is a great honour to stand in this place as the member for Light. I look around this chamber and see many colleagues who are also representing their districts for the first time, particularly on my side of the house. I congratulate them and join with them in pledging to advance the lives of all South Australians and, in particular, the people of Light.

The fact that so many of my colleagues in this place hail from my side of the political spectrum is a testament to the leadership and vision of the Premier, and for this I congratulate him. The clear majority that was returned at this state election represents an overwhelming endorsement of the Rann government. Additionally, this decisive vote of confidence reflects a mandate for further reform and presents a challenge to the government to act boldly and decisively, as befitting this rare opportunity in the state's history. It will not suffice to accept the politics of yesterday. It will not suffice to act moderately in the hope of maintaining a new status quo. The electors have made their decision, and they have voted to reward decisive, imaginative leadership. The challenge now becomes one of continuing and extending this leadership, and it is up to all of us in this chamber to accept that challenge.

I extend my sympathies to my party colleagues Justin Jarvis and Rosemary Clancy who ran hard-fought campaigns. I congratulate them on undertaking substantive campaigns based on issues and policies, and hope to work with them in this chamber in four years' time. I also congratulate the new Leader of the Opposition and express my hope for a strong opposition, as it is an important aspect of a healthy parliament and democracy. No-one carries the burden of campaigning more than your own family. I am a proud product of multicultural Australia. My parents, Raffaele and Maria came to this country from Naples, Italy, in 1963. In fact, I celebrated my

third birthday on the ship *Roma* as it travelled across the world to Melbourne.

I do not recall the events surrounding my arrival in my new country, but I am determined to protect the nature of this great country that my parents found so inviting all those years ago. I will never be able to fully comprehend the hardships my parents endured to ensure a better life in this wonderful country. They came to Australia not knowing the language or having any understanding of the culture in order to give their children a better life. I thank them for their support and unconditional love that has been the basis for all I have achieved in my life. It was my parents, in particular my father, who unwittingly through his stories, guided my early social and political thinking.

I will digress a moment to share a personal story so members can gain an understanding of why I am a proud member of the Labor movement. My paternal grandfather died when my father was only a few months old, so my grandmother had to raise five children on her own during a time when there was no welfare and no income support and Italy was gearing up for the war effort. They were tough times. In addition to working on the family land, my dad also worked for other landowners to support the family. The landowners were less than enlightened in those days. My father at times would be beaten by the landowner if the landowner felt that my father was not working hard enough. My father was only 12 years old at the time.

Mr Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr PICCOLO: You are quite right. The war effort meant that most of the crops were confiscated by the authorities to feed the soldiers overseas. My father and his family suffered from immense poverty. Never again should such times be allowed to return; never again should working people be subject to such injustices. While not educated in a formal sense, my parents were determined that their children would receive a good education. My parents worked very hard, at times working at more than one job, to provide their children with the opportunity to gain a good education in this country. It is of great sadness to me that my father is not alive today to hear and see me deliver my first speech. My family and friends tell me that he would, indeed, be very proud.

My journey to this place has been a long one. I had a few detours. At the age of four, I started schooling at Evanston Primary School. There is nothing unusual in that—except that I could not speak a word of English at that stage of my life. I was one of the few children who was not of Anglo-Saxon background. It was a very working-class school and I hold fond memories of my time there. Ironically, when I was in grade 6 I committed a minor infringement and was banned from attending the school excursion to Parliament House. If only my teacher could see me now! A few years ago I caught up with her at a polling booth where she was handing out how-to-vote cards for the Democrats. Need I say more? I have forgiven her.

I completed my secondary education at Gawler High School. I am a proud public schoolboy. It was at high school that my interest in politics started to grow. I can recall, quite vividly, as if it were today, where I was and what I was doing when the Governor-General announced the sacking of the Whitlam government. In 1980 I completed a Bachelor of Economics degree at Adelaide University, and, subsequently, a Graduate Certificate in Education and a Masters Degree in Educational Management at Flinders University. These were proud moments for my family.

My parents instilled in me a strong sense of community that encouraged me to embark on my public life; first, as a councillor in 1981 at age 21 with the then district council of Munno Para. In 1985, as a result of boundary changes, I was elected an alderman for the Town of Gawler; and I notice in the gallery that one of my colleagues from those times is here today. Subsequently, I held the position of deputy mayor for 10 years, and in 2000 I was honoured to be elected mayor of Gawler—a position to which I was re-elected in 2003.

At this point I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support I received from my colleagues and staff at the Town of Gawler and Munno Para council over the 24 years I spent in local government. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to learn so much. I particularly wish the members and staff of the Town of Gawler the very best for the future, and take this opportunity to congratulate my replacement, Councillor Helena Dawkins, on her election as the first woman mayor of Gawler.

My greatest support of all, and the greatest achievement of my life, undoubtedly, has been my two boys, Raffaele and Stefan, who are in the gallery today. I am a proud single parent who has raised two sons from the ages of five and three into two compassionate, intelligent and, I think, handsome young men. While I have been a single parent for over 12 years, I have never been alone, and I have received great support from my parents and two sisters, Antonietta and Lisa, in raising my children. I am very blessed as a result of having a special bond with my two boys. I thank them for their sacrifices, the joy, the successes and the failures we have shared together. I am humbled and inspired by them both, and all my efforts are aimed at creating a better life for them and their peers.

I stand before you a proud member of the Labor movement. I have been an ALP member since 1979. I have been associated with the union movement since 1983, when I joined the former ACOA (later to become the CPSU) and held various workplace delegate positions. These two movements have shaped my life and provided a framework for me to understand and interact with the world. I want to pay tribute to the Australian Labor Party as a natural home for my beliefs, a place that nurtures and challenges (contrary to the views of others), a place where those striving for the advancement of all Australians find common cause. I thank the party and its members for providing me with such a strong foundation to ground my beliefs.

Nobody gets elected to this place without the tireless support of a dedicated and passionate campaign team. I wish to recognise the efforts of the many people who helped me throughout the campaign. My fundraising and campaign committees deserve special mention. Their dedication and passion was a continuous source of inspiration to me on this long journey. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support of Judy Gillett Ferguson, Carmel Rosier, Patricia Dent and Patricia Fabian, who worked tirelessly in fundraising locally. I would like to thank Stephen Rosier for all the sausages he cooked during my long campaign.

My campaign committee, comprising Justin Hanson, Narrah Luks, Matt Deane and Lee Odenwalder, was ably led by Matt Pinnegar and Kyam Maher, and I owe a lot to those people. My campaign team was well supported in our doorknocking efforts by the addition of Marcus Hanson and Andrew Leader. The effort was further expanded by Heather Blake and Andrew Scott, who travelled from Victoria to support me. I would also like to make mention of two young men who worked towards my election: Callan Taylor, a whiz-

bang graphic designer—if you need work I can advise you to use his services—and young Peter Zurcher who worked tirelessly towards my campaign.

One month out of my election, my campaign team was joined by Paul Martin, Marie Craig and Boyd MacRae. For that month, they ran my campaign office, at times my life, and became friends for life. I would also like to thank the hundreds of volunteers and sub-branch members who epitomise everything that is of value in our system. They gave up their time voluntarily because they believed in me, and I express my profound gratitude to them. There are too many to mention individually. I would also like to acknowledge the great support I received from the party office, in particular the efforts of Nick Champion and Scott McFarlane, who were a tremendous help enabling me to campaign effectively. I would like to mention the guidance and support I received from the Minister for Transport (Hon. Pat Conlon), the Minister for Families and Communities (Hon. Jay Weatherill), and the Minister for Urban Development and Planning (Hon. Paul Holloway).

In the other place, I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Bob Sneath as being very valuable to my campaign. I congratulate him on his election to the position of President of the Legislative Council. I would also like to acknowledge the support I have received over the many years from a long-time friend in the party, the Hon. Ian Hunter. I have no doubt that he will bring a fresh perspective to many issues that the council will have to address. I ran a very high profile campaign that would not have been possible had not the Premier, the Minister for Education and Children's Services, and the Attorney-General, made many visits to my electorate to support me.

Special mention must be made of my friends from the unions, in particular Wayne Hanson from the Australian Workers Union, and Mark Butler from the Hospitality, Liquor and Miscellaneous Workers Union. I am a proud advocate for the role of unions in political and industrial processes. Unions have long been the rallying point for those committed to advancing the lives of the marginalised and underprivileged in our society. This role is taking on ever more importance in the new world economy and, accordingly, unions such as the AWU and the LHMWU remain committed to the cause. They remain committed to the equitable and just industrial arrangements that protect our society's values in the face of corporate and political greed.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to the electors of Light and, particularly those who voted Labor for the first time, and there is a few of them in the gallery. After 62 years of Liberal representation—13 of which by the former member, Malcolm Buckby, who, I wish to acknowledge, served the community diligently—the constituents of Light decided that it was time for a change. I am to bring that change, to re-energise the electorate with new ideas and a fresh approach. I would also like to thank my previous employer, Trinity College, which was very patient with me during the year leading up to the election.

The previous Labor member for Light, Mr Sid McHugh, who was elected in 1941, described a member's responsibilities in the following terms:

Good men and women will strive for power, not for its own sake, but for the purpose of doing good and sharing their great love for mankind.

I hope to reignite that sentiment of Light's only previous Labor member, and to express my own love for my community in the work that I do. I understand the huge responsi-

bility that has been placed before me and gratefully accept the challenges that lie ahead. I am truly humbled and honoured by the opportunity to serve the community that has given me so much. The community has made me the person that I am today. The Light electorate is enriched by the activities and efforts of many volunteers and volunteer groups. I am proud to have been associated with the establishment of a volunteer resource centre in the town of Gawler, and I acknowledge the new Minister for Volunteers for her support for that centre. I will continue to support the volunteers in my community.

Light is a very expansive electorate. It ranges from the northern suburbs of Munno Para, Smithfield Plains and parts of Davoren Park in the south, to the country townships of Greenock, Wasleys, Freeling and Roseworthy to the north. The electorate incorporates all of the town of Gawler and Angle Vale to the west. Light is a vibrant, creative and proud electorate. Diverse socioeconomic make-up and the blend of town and country lifestyles within the region makes for a dynamic yet relaxed way of life.

This diversity also generates significant issues not faced by either the more urban or more rural electorates. These issues include tackling urban encroachment and integrating low density agricultural townships into the wider community through improving the provision of public services like health and public transport. I am committed to working with the government to deliver on the Peachey belt promise. The Peachey belt community is the heart and soul of Labor territory and I look forward to working with the community to make it once again a proud place for all to live in. This billion dollar development is a transformation and not a makeover. I now wish to spend a few minutes speaking about the health of our society.

The state of any community can be measured by a number of factors, such as employment levels, home ownership or average income. Such dispassionate, market-driven assessments of the human experience mask the sometimes unpleasant reality of our social progress. Instead of focusing on mere numbers, I believe that a much simpler test provides us with more valuable insights. Accordingly, I agree with Jimmy Carter's sentiment when he stated:

The measure of a society is found in how they treat their weakest and most helpless citizens.

We have to address the significant correlation that exists between substance abuse, mental illness, poor education and family breakdown, unemployment and social marginalisation. It is no longer acceptable to define ourselves in terms of material wellbeing when access to that wellbeing is denied to those who struggle most to connect to society. There is nothing wrong with aspiring to have better things, own more assets or earn more money; quite the contrary. It is one of the foundations of our society. However, the measure of the true value of any society cannot be solely judged on those factors. While the conservative federal government advocates personal independence where the disadvantaged and marginalised members of our society are expected to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, I favour an inclusive approach to assisting those in need.

I believe that failure to attain material success is not directly linked to either lack of character or the absence of effort. The current over-emphasis on individualism and rationalist economic policy unnecessarily pits people against one another, generating an industrial and social environment that habitually disfranchises the most disadvantaged in our society. A balance can and must be found between the

interests of the market and the needs of the community. A purely free-market approach to governance has produced an environment where consumption reigns at the expense of community. The conservative dogma espoused by the devotees of economic rationalism is diametrically opposed to the true wealth derived from sound relationships and fulfilling lives.

What is needed to counter the invasive threat of market-oriented policy is clear. We need industrial arrangements that provide equity for the employee and value for the employer, and workplaces that are flexible and responsive to the needs of consumer and labour alike. What we do not need is the WorkChoices legislation. We need governments that embrace change and pursue the needs of all constituents, not just the top end of town, and we need communities that are supported to the degree befitting the value to relationships and society that they represent. The debate must change. Social inclusion must become the catchword of this parliament. The time of economic fundamentalism has passed: the time for inclusive governance is upon us.

During my doorknocking I met many men who felt that they had been alienated by society and increasingly have found negative ways to express their frustrations and anger. I am keen to establish and/or support, as the case may be, forums for men in my electorate, to focus on the unique afflictions and social issues confronting men in today's society. Some may deride the need for a men's group in a world that still maintains genuine advantages for men. However, I believe that such arguments should not be an impediment to addressing the significant difficulties confronting men in our communities. Issues including youth suicide, depression, prostate cancer and violence require a forum, a place to generate ideas and action and a place where men can seek advice from others who have experienced and triumphed over these issues.

The alternative is inaction and continued alienation. As many in this chamber would be aware, I have spent my whole adult life serving my community through local government, so I think it appropriate that I make some comments about its future. I think the time is ripe for further major reforms of local government. The community is seeking changes to the governance structures in local government and I look forward to participating in discussions that will enable local government to lead the reforms and provide more effective governance to their communities. As mayor I conducted hundreds of citizenship ceremonies and had many discussions with those people who have taken the leap to become formal members of the Australian community. Through that, I have gained a valuable insight as to why they have chosen to take the oath of allegiance.

Accordingly, I find the changes to the citizenship process proposed by the federal government insulting and counter-productive. The decision to become an Australian citizen is one of the heart, not of grammar. I know, as I took the step to become an Australian citizen in 1979. In conclusion, I would like to quote the late Robert F. Kennedy, who sums up my approach as member for Light, as follows:

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small proportion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr HANNA (Mitchell): 'Hanna, a double rat'. That was the headline on the front page of *The Australian* that greeted my announcement five weeks out from the election that I was

running as an Independent. That headline reveals much about the misty spectacles through which the media and political party chiefs view political affairs. It reflects a view of the most superficial kind of loyalty—loyalty to the party machine. There is something more important than that kind of loyalty. There are values of compassion and commitment to community service and being true to oneself, values which I have hoped to demonstrate in my local area. The election result tends to suggest that many in my local community agree with me that these values—essentially, putting the people first—are more important than the values of unblinking adherence to party ideology.

It may be worth mentioning that there is a personal cost to leaving the ALP on issues of principle. That move certainly put my political career in jeopardy; in other words, I was willing to put my job on the line. Thanks be to God, I have been re-elected, but the Labor machine has seen to it that I was not appointed to any of the parliamentary committees. Because MPs are paid extra for serving on these committees (a controversial point in itself), I have effectively had my pay cut by over \$20 000 per year. So be it. I am glad to feel the liberation of being an Independent MP, free of debt to factions and power merchants.

Like the subeditors at *The Australian*, most political commentators had already written off my chances of retaining Mitchell when, in 2003, I resigned from the ALP to join the Greens, and there were many members on both sides of the house who thought likewise. It was seen as political suicide when I resigned from the Greens and declared myself an Independent in February, just five weeks out from the election. I decided to run as an Independent only after speaking to literally thousands of my constituents as I went around knocking on their front doors. Their message was loud and clear: they wanted to see more Independent MPs in parliament. They appreciate my commitment to justice and my commitment to caring for them, but in parliament they wanted me to decide issues without the filter of a party machine.

Traditional political wisdom has been that the personal following of an incumbent MP is worth up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the vote. Today, however, more and more people are willing to vote for the person, not the party. We just have to look at the remarkable success of my friend, Nick Xenophon, in the upper house. I have to admit that it did my campaign no harm to have No Pokies MLC Nick Xenophon standing beside me when I announced my final political metamorphosis into an Independent MP. I will always be grateful for his support and encouragement in making my decision. Nick and I have always worked together to rail against the scourge of poker machines in this state. What is the difference in principle between those who profit from pokies addiction and those who profit from addictive drugs? Perhaps the only difference is that one group is honoured at public events by the government and opposition leaders, who benefit from their donations, while the other group is on top of Mr Rann's list of those who should rot in gaol.

This rise of the Independent MPs must be a worrying development for the factional bosses. Their grip on power relies on their convincing the party faithful that there is no future for a backbencher without their factional support. They have obviously convinced the media and political commentators of this fact without the slightest evidence or awareness of what my local voters might be thinking. Almost every one of these experts assumed that I was a political has-been. I think Dr Clem McIntyre of Adelaide University and Leon

Byner of 5AA were the only ones to give me an outside chance.

The result has meant that I hold the rare distinction of twice being the MP with the most marginal state seat. This time the margin was a mere 228 votes. Members will recall that I won the 1997 election by a narrow margin and then had that margin further eroded with an unfavourable boundary redistribution. The other exceptional aspect of the result is that an Independent has won in a marginal seat. In every other case I can think of where an Independent has won, it has been by carving out a disenfranchised vote from a clear majority of either Liberal or Labor voters. My support was drawn from right cross the political spectrum, as demonstrated by the second preference votes that came from, literally, all directions. This was so despite parties such as the Greens and Family First recommending that their adherents direct their preferences away from me.

I now turn to values. One of the criticisms cast bitterly in my direction has been: 'He doesn't belong to a party any more, so how do we know what he stands for?' I can honestly declare in this place that I stand for Australian values, but I had better explain what I mean by that, because the term has been the subject of a hijack attempt by some of our more unscrupulous leaders, including Prime Minister John Howard.

Today the term 'Australian values' is tainted with phoney patriotism. Critics of Australia's involvement in the invasion of Iraq are labelled 'un-Australian'. Any reservation about glorifying the sad death of Private Kovco in Iraq is labelled 'un-Australian'. This is the language of fascism. It has, however, provoked some public debate about what, if any, are truly Australian values. Of course, there are universal values that are common to just about every human society. Peace and respect for the rights of others immediately spring to mind. These are rights—liberty, freedom of speech and the right of assembly—that western democracies still manifest better than most other political systems. Incidentally, I say that with some reservations, because there is an alarming trend both here and in other democracies for these values to be slowly and steadily eroded by legislators. Without going into a lengthy argument, I think the reason is the rise of the corporation—the power of capital, one might say.

Back in the 1970s, many were concerned about the power of the multinationals, but few imagined that corporate power, including the influence of the mass media chiefs, would assume such power over our lives and our governments. We now have political leaders who will sacrifice the rights of the people they were elected to govern to curry favour with these corporations.

I return to this question of Australian values. The question is: what are the uniquely Australian values? I humbly suggest that the essence of truly Australian values encapsulates egalitarianism and multiculturalism. There are some attractive and some less attractive aspects to Australian egalitarianism. One attractive aspect is the lack of rigidity in our class system. Although it is getting harder, it is still possible for a person from a working-class background to get to university, make a lot of money and build the biggest house in the street. Material success like that can even get them entry into prestigious clubs—even parliament. This social mobility remains a positive feature of Australian egalitarianism.

We Australians also have irreverence for authority—although that also is under threat. We have always been willing to satirise our political and business leaders. All power to the cartoonists, I say! Mateship is another aspect of this egalitarianism. It is this much celebrated male bonding

experience where the finer and baser qualities of Australian values become evident. Mateship can be about caring for others in the group, whether it be a regiment, a footy team or a workplace, but it can also be about tribalism and exclusivity. For a start, it is a concept that does not seem to include women at all.

Secondly, if mateship means you are my mate, but they are not, we run the risk of condemning others, harming others out of ignorance. We have seen this baser side of mateship with our treatment of refugees, recent immigrants from non-English-speaking backgrounds and Aborigines. Indeed, some of my constituents have said to me, 'You look after your own first, right, mate?' My view is that there is sufficient wealth in this country to allow opportunity for all to truly give everyone a fair go. Yet we are seeing this ideal of the fair go become more and more removed from reality. We do not have to look far for examples.

The housing market is such that many young people are being denied the chance to get a toehold in the housing market. The casualisation of the workforce has meant that many workers cannot get a home loan because of their uncertain employment. When I tried to give legislative protection to casual workers in the last parliament, it was rejected by the Labor government. Howard's IR legislation means that, for millions of workers, life has become harder and more uncertain. When we think about the working class we still think of factory workers; we must also think of the hundreds of thousands of young people working in shops, cafes and stores who now have fewer rights at work.

Multiculturalism: the other unique Australian value that I mention is multiculturalism. This is special to Australia. Australia has been extraordinarily successful in the way our ethnically and religiously diverse population has lived peacefully together. A key to this success has been the bipartisan support for the public policy of multiculturalism for more than 30 years. It is only in the last 10 years that the federal government has sought to revert to the divisive and damaging policy of cultural assimilation. We all know the heartache of such a policy. The Stolen Generation is the starkest example.

Multiculturalism is not just about tolerating each other, it is about befriending and understanding; understanding which brings acceptance. I know there are millions of Australians who are willing to extend the hand of friendship to other Australians who may look or pray differently. This work of peace and building social fabric will go on, but it is made so much harder when political leaders use the media to appeal to fear for their own political ends. If I am right about egalitarianism and multiculturalism being the core Australian values, then I am very proud to call myself Australian. These are the Australian values that I will stand up for in this place.

I continue to see advocacy as an essential part of my work. Throughout history there have always been a majority who acquiesce in governments which allow the rich to get richer and the poor to get poorer. Throughout history there have also

been the minority who speak up for those who are less able to speak up for themselves. There I include the natural environment as well as human beings. I am willing to commit myself to being one of these unpopular advocates, not because poor people or minority groups are better than anybody else, but because they warrant equal respect to that enjoyed by those who are well off. So I will persist in speaking up for my Housing Trust tenants and their neighbours, my local pensioners, workers whose rights have been eroded, the rights of genuine refugees who come to our shores, and the wellbeing of Aboriginal and migrant communities; nor can I forget those oppressed in other countries—Palestinians, Kurds, Hazara, and the Uighur people, and so on.

My community campaign team: one of the inspirational aspects of the campaign was that many of my large campaign team were politically active for the first time in their lives. Many before this had taken no interest in politics. There was no party machinery, no factions, no arguing—simply ordinary people doing what was in their hearts and what they felt was right. Some wrote letters of endorsement and delivered them to neighbours; others walked countless kilometres delivering fliers and letters for the campaign. Every one of them has been hugely encouraged by seeing their efforts rewarded.

I want to thank everyone among my family, staff, friends and community who gave their support. I will not go through all of the many who volunteered their help, but I especially thank my wife, Minerva, and my parents, Barry and Fay, for their support. This election my daughters, Antigone and Hermione, helped out at a polling booth for the first time. Perhaps next time they will be managing the campaign.

I also make special mention of two young Afghani men who gave so much of their time to help in the campaign. One of those two men had the benefit of my advocacy in court when he was faced with return to a tragic fate in his war-torn country. The successful outcome of his court case means that this intelligent and industrious man, who has so much to offer Australia, will be able to stay here and be reunited with his children in this great country of ours.

I concentrated on issues such as a local community health centre, safety at the Oaklands crossing and saving open space from development. These are issues which I will pursue in this parliament. I pledge to continue to serve my local community to the best of my ability. I congratulate the Rann Labor government on their resounding election victory. I will do my bit to ensure that the power entrusted to them will be used wisely and compassionately over the next four years. It will be our job on the opposition benches to ensure that all of their election promises are kept.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.51 p.m. the house adjourned until Monday 8 May at 2 p.m.