

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 23 June 2011

The **SPEAKER (Hon. L.R. Breuer)** took the chair at 10:30 and read prayers.

SUMMARY OFFENCES (PRESCRIBED MOTOR VEHICLES) AMENDMENT BILL

The **Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN (Napier—Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Energy, Minister for the Northern Suburbs) (10:32)**: I move:

That the sitting of the house be continued during the conference with the Legislative Council on the bill.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

The **SPEAKER**: Honourable members, can I just draw attention to the presence in the gallery today of students from Nazareth Catholic College, who are guests of the Minister for Mineral Resources Development and the Deputy Speaker.

WORKERS REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION (SCHEME REVIEW) AMENDMENT ACT REVIEW

The **Hon. P.F. CONLON (Elder—Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for State/Local Government Relations) (10:32)**: I seek the indulgence of the house to make an extremely brief ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The **Hon. P.F. CONLON**: I table a review to assess the impact of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation (Scheme Review) Amendment Act 2008. The report has been carried out by Mr Bill Cossey AM as the principal reviewer, with Mr Chris Latham undertaking the actuarial review. The government looks forward to providing an initial response to the report in the next sitting week.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ANTI-BULLYING) BILL

The **Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (10:33)**: Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 and the Intervention Orders (Prevention of Abuse) Act 2009. Read a first time.

The **Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (10:33)**: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill is also referred to as the anti-bullying bill. Members may ask why we need something like this—what I call a 'lighthouse bill'—which is specifically targeted against bullying. Why do we need it, when some people would say, 'Well, if you look in some legislation, it could possibly be dealt with under the umbrella, for example, of workplace safety'? My view is that this issue is so significant that it needs the lighthouse type approach, where it is quite clear to everyone in the community—and my bill applies anywhere: schools, workplace, anywhere—that you need to send a clear message that bullying is not acceptable and will be dealt with.

From my own experience, and I am not going to name the specific locations, for obvious reasons, but I can say that at a private school within the metropolitan area, a lad hanged himself as a result of bullying, following references to him being gay, and not having a girlfriend, and this lad who was the son of a police officer, hanged himself, took his life.

I have had another case more recently, where a woman working at a public hospital was a whistleblower. When she went to the management to allege that people were stealing from the public hospital, she was subjected to horrendous bullying. It got to the point where she almost took her life. It was only through the intervention of some specialist people—psychologists and so on—that was prevented from happening.

I have had many other people come to me—people in community groups right across the board—and I am aware of situations in schools as well. I believe that bullying is in the nature of humans—sadly, a bit like racism. I do not think we will ever eradicate bullying because there will always be some person (or persons) who wants to assert authority over others.

What are the definitions of bullying? The simple definition is 'some deliberate act that is designed to cause mental or physical harm'. I point out to members (I am sure they all received a copy yesterday, which was fortuitous) a report entitled 'School bullying: A survey of federal, state and territory policies', authored by Dr Robert G. Richardson, Research Officer, and produced by our Parliament Research Library.

Whilst it is focusing on only a part of what my bill deals with, I think this sort of report is an example of the excellent work that comes out of our Parliament Research Library, and I commend that report to members. As I have said, it is specifically focused on the educational setting. In that report, in the glossary, it states:

Bullying is defined...as:

Repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons...

Bullying can involve humiliation, domination, intimidation, victimisation and all forms of harassment including that based on sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender.

Furthermore, Dr Richardson goes on to define cyber bullying, which is often referred to these days, and he cites the definition of cyber bullying as encompassing a variety of behaviours, including:

Pranking, (i.e. hang-up calls), sending insulting text messages, publishing someone's private information, creating hate sites or implementing social exclusion campaigns in social networking sites.

As I said earlier, some members would say, 'Why do we need a specialised bill?' I do not believe that the current system is working in the way it should. I acknowledge that a lot of government agencies, private agencies and occupational health arrangements do make reference to some behaviours that could be classified as bullying, but I do not believe the system is working in the way it should.

I think there needs to be appropriate penalties for the worst type of bullying, and I refer members to the situation that occurred in Victoria involving the tragic death of 19-year-old Brodie Panlock, who took her own life after she was relentlessly bullied. The Victorian government has moved to introduce legislation, and I think we should be following suit here.

The bill that is introduced here amends the Criminal Law Consolidation Act relating to things such as unlawful stalking, and it also covers a range of related behaviours. It is quite a simple bill. It is a very short bill, but I think it will help. If the government or any member feels that it can be improved, as we all know, it can be amended.

In the report of Dr Richardson, he refers to the fact that, back in April this year I think, the Attorney-General, the Hon. John Rau, proposed that new laws be introduced to deal with cyber bullies who engineer, film and post online violent and humiliating images of other people without their consent. He says here, referring to a statement of the Attorney, that the Attorney:

...envisages that potentially 'severe' penalties could apply in cases where an image was originally taken with the person's consent, but was then later broadcast (after a relationship break-up, for instance) with the intent of demeaning or damaging them.

We have heard a lot of references to bullying in schools, particularly on talkback radio. In the same report, page 17, he states:

...the Minister for Education [the Hon] Jay Weatherill has acknowledged that reports of students being threatened with violence or being subjected to violent assaults have increased. Indeed, recent bullying incidents have prompted Minister Weatherill to initiate an independent review of existing policies and practices. Former Education Department head Mr Bill Cossey has been appointed to undertake the review and, in light of a particularly violent Northern suburbs bullying incident, will pay close attention to 'the reporting relationships between schools and education authorities and between schools and police.'

This is a particular focus on bullying as it relates to schools. My bill applies across the community, it is not limited to schools, and I do not think it should be limited to schools. It needs to apply in all areas of society because bullying is obviously not confined to the school environment.

I do not think I need to go into anymore detail. I have plenty of examples of people who have been subjected to bullying. We have been contacted by a transgender person, someone who was a practice manager in a medical centre, who was bullied. We have been contacted by someone who worked, probably as a volunteer, in a senior citizens club, Mrs G, who had been allegedly bullied.

Another person was bullied at her workplace at a supermarket. There was Mrs S who was a manager at a nursing home. Mrs N, who was involved in a victim support group, had to step down because of bullying. There is another recent victim of bullying, allegedly, in the Public Service. It goes on and on.

I had a constituent who used to speak to me nearly every weekend when I was walking around the local shopping centre where my office is who said that he was continually bullied at work and nothing was done about it. He reported it to the human resources people and he reported it to the manager. He was constantly called a 'poofter' and things like that.

I was about to take the matter further but, fortunately for him, the big boss of the company came down from Sydney and did a walk around of the factory, and warehouse, and asked the staff how they were going. This chap said, 'I love my job, except I don't like the bullying'. He asked what he had done about it, and within a week the alleged bully had gone. So, that was remedied.

What I would like to see is penalties ranging from the lowest element of dealing with this, which would be counselling, then a more serious fine and the ultimate would be that, where a person's deliberate behaviour results in someone taking their life, as happened in that case in Melbourne or here at a school, that there should be an even heavier sanction.

I think the very fact that for the worst cases, resulting in a loss of life, there could be a gaol penalty, would send a very clear message that the community does not want to tolerate this sort of behaviour and that we should not tolerate it.

So, I commend the bill to members. As I say, if members do not believe that it is quite the right formula, then please, as you have the absolute right to do, seek to amend it and improve it. However, I think that we need to deal with a situation which is all too frequently common in our society and which has devastating consequences for people. Having a lighthouse bill, or act, that makes it clear that bullying will not be tolerated, I think, will send a very clear message to the community. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC SPEED ANALYSERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 9 June 2011.)

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (10:46): I would like to make a contribution to the Road Traffic (Traffic Speed Analysers) Amendment Bill, particularly with respect to regions of this state. It seems to be that blitzes happen in some of the country areas. I guess that they are random blitzes. It seems to be metropolitan police coming up into the country, and, without being cynical, it would appear that it is a revenue-raising exercise.

Over time we see almost squads of police coming up. Particularly in Chaffey it seems that they stay at the same motel, and they seem to almost book the place out. There are many cars and motorbikes. They come up in force, and suddenly we have speeding devices put right at the beginning of coming out of a 110 km/h zone into 80 km/h zones, or into the 60 km/h zones, coming into these towns. It is not intimidation, but I would say that it is harassment that, right at the change of those speed zones, we have police officers there with guns and with cameras.

My view is that they are revenue raising, and, in doing that, they also have their vehicles out there heavily taxing, usually, local vehicles that are coming into the towns. Over time I have had many calls to my office from people talking about vehicles that have been pulled over for some of the most ridiculous reasons. Along the way we have seen vehicles being defected for paint peeling off the bonnet. We are seeing vehicles that are defected because they have got mud on their numberplates.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Or locusts.

Mr WHETSTONE: Locusts; there is another one. Thank you, member for Fisher. In terms of dealing with some of the real issues out on those country roads, whether it be locusts or insects, it does happen that, travelling over a period of time, they build up on the front of vehicles, and it does make it hard for the police to read those numberplates, but locusts do not hit the back of the car, locusts do not splat into the back of the car.

I guess that there should be some understanding that, when those vehicles are pulled over and if they do have a dirty numberplate, give the driver a caution and tell them to pull into the next service station and tidy up the numberplate or the front of the car.

The Hon. R.B. Such: They could, but they have to have a quota. It puts the police in a bad environment.

Mr WHETSTONE: That is right and, again, that quota system seems to come to the front of these exercises when they come to the regions. What it is doing is straining the relationship—and I think it is a good relationship—between the local communities and the local police. I have met with our senior police officials in the regions and asked, 'What is going on? Why are these exercises being undertaken, straining relationships between local community people and local police?' They do understand, and they have acknowledged that it is something that is happening and something that they would like, in essence, to change.

Those local police are being put under pressure and that relationship is being strained because we have these outsiders—the metropolitan police or the highway police coming from other jurisdictions—coming in and strategically looking at quotas, looking at revenue raising, and it is taking a huge amount of money and funds out of the local economies. It really should be about liaising through media and through their public relations that they are going to be in the region, and people need to be aware.

If it is dealing with dirty numberplates or paint coming off the bonnet, I think that is ridiculous. It is something that does happen, particularly on dirt roads. There has to be some leniency there. We see—

Mr Venning: Common sense.

Mr WHETSTONE: I think the member for Schubert is pretty much on the mark there: there has to be a common-sense approach. There is also the road safety issue. We see these police programs coming up, and they are targeting cars with, as I said, miniscule problems—dirty numberplates, dirty cars, dirty lights, and paint coming off bonnets. They should be out there focusing on road safety, particularly in the regions.

Again, I have stood here in the chamber and talked about how it is the road safety programs that they need to be focusing on and putting a lot of funding towards. It is about the young getting out on those federal highways. In Chaffey, we have the federal highway, the main drag from Adelaide to Sydney. It is a main arterial road, and the young L-platers, the young P-platers, the P1s and the P2s, have to experience the highways, coming from a 50 km/h or 60 km/h zone, coming out of the towns, and into 110 km/h.

At 110 km/h, these young drivers are being asked to deal with what I think is a high-pressure exercise, driving from towns. They are travelling at 100 or 110, as some of the Ls and P-platers have to, and they are dealing with B-double trucks, they are dealing with a multitude of traffic coming at them, and they are dealing with these lanes, with people in the passing lanes moving over to let the traffic pass. In essence, these overtaking lanes are a safety measure, but they are also quite an intimidating exercise.

As I am sure many people here would understand sitting behind a slow vehicle on a single lane of the highway, hitting the passing lanes and, all of a sudden, those vehicles speeding up. They think, 'Oh, we have to get moving on here.' They speed up on the passing lanes and they are doing the speed limit or, if not, sometimes more. Then we get back onto the single lane and they slow back down again. That is something that perhaps the police minister or the Minister for Road Safety need to address. It is about education; it is about educating the young.

I have stood here advocating that we need more road safety programs, and we do see some good initiatives from the minister, but we need more. We need not just these driver training or driver safety programs but we also need some practical experience. We need to have the unannounced situation where, particularly young drivers, appear to be running off roads, running off the shoulders, and it is the correction, coming back onto the roads that is the problem. It is the unannounced problem or situation that these less skilled or new drivers on our highways are experiencing. When that happens, there is an overcorrection and the trees and poles get in the way. There are these new safety barriers, the cable barriers that so many motorcyclists absolutely frown upon. Imagine coming off a motorbike and hitting one of those cables. It would just cut you in half.

Again, I say that we need to focus on road safety more than just getting out there with a revenue-raising exercise and slapping people with on-the-spot fines. I do not condone people who are speeding or breaking the law, but I think there needs to be a common-sense approach to it. The relationship between regional police and their communities is being overshadowed by a poor relations exercise with city police coming up, taking a huge chunk out of the local economy.

I am not addressing the on-the-spot fines for speeding but it is the on-the-spot fines for these minor offences that could be given some leniency and a common-sense approach taken. There are complaints to my office regularly that these people are being unreasonably dealt with and being given an on-the-spot fine. Again, it is breaking down the good relationships that regional police have with the regional communities.

Mr BROCK (Frome) (10:56): I also would like to speak on this bill. As the member for Chaffey has already indicated, I am very concerned about road safety and the loss of lives across all of South Australia. However, regional South Australia seems to be identified once or twice a year when the South Australia Police come from Adelaide and do a blitz in the regional areas.

I will use my location as an example. Some months ago there was a large contingent coming in. Like the member for Chaffey and the member for Fisher, I am concerned about safety and the loss of lives, but these police come in large droves and then set up speed cameras and so forth in locations that are just inside the 110 zone where it drops to 80 or 60 or as the member for Chaffey has indicated going from 60 to 110. The locations where they set up are not dangerous locations, but if they are speeding they need to pay the fine.

The issue is presence. You see this large number of police come in once or twice a year and it is not building good relations for the local communities, as the member for Chaffey has already indicated. Our local police in our regions have a good relationship out there and people respect those local constables, but the issue is that suddenly we have five or 10 police cars come in for a great blitz and people know that they are going to get fined, but then they do not come back again for a long period of time.

I think a better idea would be to have police present all the time. Police just driving around is a deterrent. This is an idea for saving lives and reducing the opportunity for people to speed, not for what appears to be a revenue-raising trip each time. In locations such as schools, a police car there will be a deterrent. It is deterring people from speeding and it is creating public awareness.

The other issue is that the Minister for Road Safety has put out a discussion paper about moving towards zero fatalities. I congratulate the Minister for Road Safety for doing that but that is one idea. The issue of police just coming in droves does not reduce the danger on the roads because those places are set up within the city centres. The fatalities, the damage and the accidents are basically on the open roads.

The police should be out there patrolling those roads even, as I said earlier, if they are just there as a presence. It acts as a reminder because if suddenly I am doing 115 or 120, I will slow down, but if I am speeding and I get picked up by a police car, that is fine.

Safety programs are very, very important. I also believe that our education system, through the schools and especially the secondary schools, should be more open and get them back into the schools. In my role currently as President of the Rotary Club of Port Pirie, we have what we call a Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) program.

Mr Whetstone: It is a good program.

Mr BROCK: It is an excellent program. We go out to the high schools. We have a whole day out there. We get the students and we have a trained driver showing the difference in the speeds and the stopping spaces. That does more good than all of a sudden a large contingent of police coming in and giving the fear tactic.

The RYDA program is one of those things that is making those young kids more aware of the dangers of the speed of the high-powered vehicle. I have already indicated to the minister that we have a speed limit of 100 km/h on the roads, but we have vehicles that anybody can get hold of that have the capacity to do over 200 km/h. Just recently, a person was booked for doing in excess of 200 km/h.

Mr Whetstone: 203.

Mr BROCK: The member for Chaffey has just indicated 203. If our road speed limit is 110 km/h, I see no reason why people have to have a car that can do 200 km/h. I certainly have

concerns with this and I think that the South Australia Police, no matter where they are, should be there for prevention, not for collecting money.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge that we have three students from Pulteney Grammar, who are guests of the member for Adelaide, who are sitting and observing today. Perhaps we have prospective members of parliament one day there; I am not sure, but it is good to see you here.

ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC SPEED ANALYSERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second reading debate resumed.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:01): I rise too to support the member for Fisher's Road Traffic (Traffic Speed Analysers) Amendment Bill 2011, and I concur with the comments made by the members for Chaffey and Frome. As fellow regional members, we certainly see what happens on our highways and our local roads as far as traffic management is concerned, and the operation of speed cameras and laser devices in our areas. Sadly, it seems that there is only a blitz after there is a terrible accident, as happens all too often on the Dukes Highway down through my area. I also note some of the tragedies of the last few weeks that we have had on our roads, and it is far too many people who are succumbing to our road toll.

I also argue that, with laser devices or speed cameras, people only realise after the event that they have committed an offence. We do not have the signs by the road anymore to say they have been through. I think there should be a bigger effort put on education of drivers. I do not condone speeding; speeding is dangerous, but we do need to make sure that people are aware of what can happen.

I know that some of the local schools in my electorate have mock accidents, and they bring in all the services. They bring in the Ambulance Service, the Country Fire Service and the local police, and that really brings it to the students' attention as to what can happen. When they see the simulated display of a grieving parent, with the simulation of a dead student on the road with mock blood splattered all over them, I think it really does bring the message home that speeding does kill, and also issues with regard to drink-driving or drug driving. You can certainly be killed, or kill someone else.

Too many times we hear stories of accidents where, sadly, people have been killed. Sometimes the driver is the only person who survives, and they have to suffer the guilt; it is a big enough tragedy in itself, but they have to wear that for the rest of their lives. I certainly have sympathy for the victims, but it must be a terrible toll on the people who are caught up in these kinds of accidents. We need better education for drivers in all matters of drug driving, drink-driving, speeding and just general safety on our roads.

As I indicated earlier, it seems that well after the event people get a notice in the mail, 'You've been picked up on a laser device here,' or, 'You've been picked up on a speed camera device there.' It did not slow down the person at that point in time, although certainly it might in the future with the increase in penalties. The government has budgeted around \$48 million in this budget on speeding fine revenue, and that is going up, it seems, with every budget.

We also need some protection for people so that they can question the veracity of the instruments being used, and they should be made to be regulated against an Australian standard. I understand at the moment they are tested by the internal police operations, and I cannot see why there should be a problem with some independent testing on these devices to make sure that they operate effectively.

The member for Fisher indicated that significant amendments are being drafted to come forward in line with this motion. I urge the parliament to consider these amendments and see that we get this bill through the house in the appropriate manner.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (MEDICAL DEFENCES—END OF LIFE ARRANGEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 19 May 2011.)

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (11:08): In response to insupportable suffering, when further treatment is clearly futile and death is near, it is a fact that many compassionate doctors currently do administer lethal doses of drugs in our hospitals and hospices. To quote former AMA president, Dr Brendan Nelson, 'Doctors who deny helping patients to die are either inexperienced or dishonest.'

The law today requires doctors to shroud their actions and intentions in secrecy. There are no second opinions, nor is psychiatric examination required. There is no requirement for witnesses or open and frank discussion between patient and doctor about ending life, as it is not now within the law; therefore, many of these deaths are without specific patient consent.

The shocking rate at which elderly Australians take their own lives, violently and alone, is testament to the need for law reform. The proposal before the house will bring honesty and openness to the end of life doctor-patient relationship. It does not legalise the actions of the treating doctor or assistant if they deliberately take someone's life. It simply provides a defence for the treating doctor who, through the same compassionate act now and at the request of a patient and in controlled circumstances, assists to end that person's life or assists them to do so themselves.

I have received numerous submissions from people from all walks of life who mistakenly view this bill as the legalising of voluntary euthanasia and therefore oppose it on religious grounds. However, there have been many others who do understand what the amendment is planning to do and have expressed their unqualified support. Among them is one of my constituents, a Modbury North resident, Mr Lionel Fiegehen.

Mr Fiegehen wrote to me about the circumstances around his late wife's recent passing and the difficulties facing her own medical practitioners who, despite her intolerable pain and suffering, were unwilling and unable, at her request, to put an end to that situation for fear of legal ramifications. He stated that his wife, a Catholic, felt the need to abandon her religious beliefs and even refused to see a priest at the end. He is deeply saddened that she should have passed away in this distressed state due to an outdated legal position.

It is important to note that the defence will only be available if the doctor is the patient's treating doctor. The patient must be an adult of sound mind and suffering from an illness, injury or medical condition which is terminal and has made life intolerable. The patient must make a lucid request to the doctor to end their suffering and, hence, their life. Few may wish to exercise this right; however, I would rather this right exist so that a patient can discuss their feelings and participate in this treatment option decision. That is why I am giving the Criminal Law Consolidation (Medical Defences—End of Life Arrangements) Amendment Bill my support.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

ELECTORAL (CONTENTS OF WRIT) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 July 2010.)

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell) (11:14): On behalf of the government I oppose the second reading of this bill. Section 48 of the Electoral Act 1985 sets out the content of the writ. Section 48(2) provides that a writ must fix the date and time for the close of rolls and the date for the nomination, the polling and the return of the writ. Section 48(3) provides that the date fixed for the close of rolls must be, if not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, the date falling 10 days after the date on the issue of the writ; or, if a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, the date falling on the day next following the Saturday, Sunday or public holiday. Section 48(4) provides that the date fixed for the nomination must be a date falling not less than three days nor more than 14 days after the date fixed for the close of the rolls.

According to the member for Fisher, the purpose of this bill is to bring forward the closing date for the nomination of candidates. The bill does this by indirectly reducing the earliest date for the nomination. It amends section 48(3)(a) to fix the date on which the rolls close at seven days (rather than 10 days) after the issue of the writ.

The government's policy, which is consistent with State Strategic Plan target T5.4 (increase the proportion of eligible young South Australians (18 to 19 years) enrolled to vote to better the Australian average by 2014), is to maximise the time available to people to enrol to vote at a state election after the election is called. The government believes that potential voters, particularly

young adults, should have as long as possible to enrol to vote after an election is called, as this will encourage participation in the democratic process.

Consistent with this, the government's Electoral (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2009 amended section 48(3) to fix the date for the close of rolls at 10 days from the issue of the writ. Prior to this amendment, the close of rolls could be fixed at between seven and 10 days from the issue of the writ. This is to provide the maximum workable time frame within which a person can enrol to vote.

The member for Fisher's bill is contrary to this objective. It reduces the time that potential voters have to enrol to vote once an election is called. This can only have the effect of denying some people their democratic right to vote.

In between all those sections and minimum and maximum days the message is that, while the government respects the good intention of the member for Fisher in bringing this bill forward, it considers that likely candidates deserve slightly less consideration in this event than the unfortunate number of people who do not bother to enrol or change their address until an election is called.

We know that those of us present in this chamber are always conscious of our obligations under the Electoral Act, but sadly not all the rest of the community is, and for many people the calling of an election is the wake-up call for them to get their affairs in order so that they can participate in the important process of voting in our democracy.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (11:17): I want to speak on this very strongly. I strongly support the member for Fisher on this issue. As this house knows, I have only participated in one election, but it was very clear to me from that one—

The Hon. R.B. Such: You won it!

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Thank you. I was fortunate to participate successfully, which was terrific. This is very important in more remote regions. In the electorate of Stuart—and Madam Speaker, I am sure this is very true in the electorate of Giles as well—there are a lot of people who do everything properly with regard to registering for postal votes, get their applications in on time, do everything that is requested of them, and yet it is impossible for them to get their vote in on time.

That happens for many reasons, often because they just do not get their postal vote back to them in time. It is not really the Electoral Commission's fault; in fact it is not the government's fault. It is not anybody's fault, because the system is set up at the moment so that it is just not possible, but if we do not change this rule then it will be the government's fault. We have to change this for many reasons.

There are people who live in parts of the state where they might only get the mail once a week. They receive their mail, they put their postal vote application in on time—and in fact, in many cases I have been told of they are on the regular recurring postal vote system—they receive their postal vote in the mail, but they cannot put it back into the mail for another week because they only have a weekly delivery, and by then they have missed their chance. The timeline is just too tight.

There are people who go away for holidays. I am sure that is not just a country issue; it would be happening all over the place. People who register in advance actually say to the Electoral Commission, 'Look, we are going to be away. We are going to be overseas for two weeks.' I know there is a system where you can go to the embassy or some other designated point and place your vote, even overseas, but some holidays are not worked that way.

One of the most important issues for me in the electorate of Stuart—and I know, Madam Speaker, this would be true in Giles as well—is people who are working away. They are working in remote locations, and there are people from all over country South Australia (and, I am sure, in the city as well, but it is more a country issue) who work, very often in new mines, building powerlines or putting in generators or watering systems, and doing all sorts of remote work that is going on all over the place, and they just cannot get their mail. They put in an application for a postal vote in time, they plan ahead, they are responsible, they know that they are going to be away, but they are not near a post office, they are not in phone range, and there is absolutely nothing they can do.

This situation could be fixed if there was more time in the process. Certainly, last time around the government waited to the very last minute to visit the Governor to get the writ issued. I

am not an overly suspicious person, but I have no doubt that that was quite a deliberate ploy so that some of these people would miss out and not be able to vote. One of the differences in our position is that, typically—and, certainly, I do not take anyone's vote for granted—people in the country and in the more remote areas are more likely to be voting Liberal and less likely to be voting Labor.

That might make me more passionate about this issue than you, Madam Speaker. However, I think the reality is that every single one of us here in the South Australian Parliament, whether we are Liberal, Labor, Green or Independent, regardless of our political preference should defend vehemently the right of every South Australian who is eligible to place their vote.

Becoming ineligible because the system and the timing that we have in place do not allow them to vote, even if they put an application in on time, is unconscionable. It is unconscionable that this parliament would deliberately allow that to happen. We should change the rules in whatever way we need to so that those we know are going to run into trouble, through no fault of their own, still get to vote. So, I very, very strongly support the member for Fisher in this motion.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:22): I thank the member for Stuart for his contribution. We know that with postal ballots people have a bit of extra time to get them in, but what happened at the last election was that because candidates have up to 14 days to register that put tremendous pressure on the Electoral Commission and also affected when the ballot papers could be printed and posted.

A lot of electors do not understand that the Electoral Commission cannot print ballot papers, obviously, until the list of candidates has been finalised. My argument is that, at the moment, candidates have up to 14 days to register as a candidate. If you do not know that you are going to be a candidate well in advance—and we know when the election is as it is set now by law—if you do not know when the election is and cannot get organised to register within a week, then I think there is something sadly astray with your political ambitions.

A lot of people think that once the election campaign has started all candidates are known or would have nominated. I think that is a logical assumption by people, given that they know that the election date is set. They know four years in advance when the election will be. At the last state election, I think there were approximately 100,000 postal voters. I believe that some people are opting for that for convenience, rather than through necessity, but that is their democratic right. The current election timetable allows between three and 14 days before the close of nominations, and the maximum is simply too long. This amendment brings it forward to seven days.

I think the points made by the member for Stuart are valid. All I am trying to do is ensure that people are able to cast a valid vote by postal ballot. In terms of the argument that the member for Reynell put forward about disenfranchising young people (she typically focused on them), the government could easily address that issue by allowing 16 and 17 year olds to enrol to vote on a voluntary basis, if they wish. Those people can already join the parties at that age, but they cannot vote.

I do not know why it is that South Australia, which has led the world in many voting reforms, including for women and Aboriginal people (I will be talking about that later), cannot extend the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds on a voluntary basis, if they wish to. I do not think the argument that young people would be disenfranchised under my proposal really stacks up.

I am not sure—the member did not indicate it—whether the Electoral Commissioner had been asked to comment on this or whether the government's opposition to my measure comes purely from within the Labor Party itself. If the date I am suggesting (or the days) is seen as too limiting, then presumably the commissioner would have a view on that and could have put forward a view. However, I am none the wiser, because the member did not refer to any consideration offered by the Electoral Commissioner.

All I am trying to do is make a system which improves democratic participation. I am certainly not in favour of anything that removes or reduces that. All I am trying to do is make the system more efficient and effective in terms of democratic participation and allowing the Electoral Commission to get the names of candidates printed on the ballot paper so that people can exercise their right to vote in the state election.

My understanding is that many people did not get their ballot papers in time and were unable to cast an effective vote. I understand that the government is going to oppose this. I do not intend to divide on it, but I would urge the government and the opposition to have a look at this

measure or something similar—it can always be improved, of course—at a subsequent time. I still believe that this bill has merit, but I understand that the government is going to oppose it, so it will not get up.

Second reading negatived.

ELECTORAL (OPTIONAL PREFERENTIAL VOTING) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 24 June 2010.)

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (11:28): I rise to oppose the Electoral (Optional Preferential Voting) Amendment Bill 2010. This bill would replace the current preferential voting system—effectively, full and compulsory differential voting—with a form of optional preferential voting. The bill would replace sections 76(1)(a) and (2) of the Electoral Act with new provisions.

The existing provisions require that an elector, when voting below the line in an election for the other place, or when voting in a House of Assembly election, to indicate on the ballot paper his or her order of preference for all candidates. The proposed new provisions provide that an elector need not indicate his or her order of preference for all candidates. Rather, the elector must indicate his or her first preference by (as now) placing the number 1 next to that candidate's name in the relevant square on the ballot paper.

The elector may, in elections for the House of Assembly, then indicate his or her preference for all or some of the other candidates by placing the number 2 and consecutive numbers in the squares opposite their names, but need not do so. It would be optional for the voter to indicate his or her preferences for some or all of the other candidates. In elections for another place, the voter need only vote for the number of candidates required to be elected.

The government supports the retention of the present compulsory preferential voting system for both the House of Assembly and the other place, as it has advantages over the optional preferential model that is proposed. First, the introduction of optional preferential voting would apply only to state elections. Compulsory preferential voting would continue to apply to federal polls. Electors would have to vote under two different systems in federal and state elections. This would only add to voter confusion and increase the informal vote. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE RIGHTS

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Chapman:

That the charter made under the Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004, entitled Health and Community Service Rights, and laid on the table on 8 March 2011, be disallowed.

(Continued from 19 May 2011.)

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (11:30): Recent government amendments to the Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004 required the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner to develop a charter of health and community services rights, which was laid before the House of Assembly on 27 October 2010 and the Legislative Council on 22 February 2011. The charter must be laid before both houses of parliament and comes into operation 14 days after it is tabled.

If a motion of disallowance or amendment is moved, the charter does not become operational until the motion is withdrawn, defeated or lapsed. On 19 May 2011, the last sitting day of the charter being before both houses of parliament, the member for Bragg moved a motion of disallowance. It is the government's position that the arguments used to justify this disallowance motion lacked substance and, in some instances, are based on incorrect information. The member for Bragg has argued that:

- the charter contradicts a submission that the Health Consumers Alliance made during the consultation process, because the final version of the charter diminishes the rights of consumers from the standards of the Australian charter;
- the charter breaches the health agreement between the states and the commonwealth governments; and

- the Ombudsman investigated a number of procedural and other aspects of the development of the charter, which were dismissed, but declined to make a determination as to whether or not the charter reduces the rights of consumers. The Ombudsman made it clear in his determination that this is a policy matter—a matter for the minister and, therefore, the parliament.

Members will recall receiving a letter from the Health Consumers Alliance stating that the organisation, the peak body for health consumers in South Australia, is completely supportive of the charter. It should be pointed out that the project reference group, which oversaw the development of the charter, comprised Ms Leena Sudano, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner; Ms Stephanie Miller, Executive Director, Health Consumers Alliance SA; Ms Michele McKinnon, Director, Safety and Quality, SA Health; and Mr Ross Womersley, Executive Director, South Australian Council of Social Service.

This group comprised the peak bodies for both health consumers and community services, expertise in safety and quality issues, and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner. It is a group with substantial credibility and gives the charter a high degree of legitimacy.

I am told the charter in no way diminishes the rights that health consumers have in South Australia, compared with those enshrined in the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. A recent letter from the Acting Chief Executive of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner stated:

The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights and the Health and Community Services Complaints Charter has a different purpose and a different scope, the HCSCC applying to both health and community services. Nonetheless, the alignment between these instruments is strong, with the HCSCC Charter based on the seven rights included in the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights. These rights have been adapted and added to in a way that meets the needs of the Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004. The commission commends the HCSCC for its work in developing the new Charter of Health and Community Services Rights.

We can conclude from this letter that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is supportive of the charter and does not believe it diminishes the rights in the Australian Charter.

The argument that the charter does not conform to the requirements of the National Healthcare Agreement and may result in financial consequences for South Australia is incorrect. The National Healthcare Agreement contains no provisions that enable the commonwealth government to financially penalise the states and territories for non-compliance.

The member for Bragg's concerns that the Ombudsman did not make a determination as to whether or not the charter reduces the rights of consumers on the grounds that it is a policy matter for the minister is answered by the letter from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The commission is not concerned that rights of South Australian consumers have been diminished. In fact, the Acting Chief Executive of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare commended the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner for her work in developing the charter.

The Charter of Health and Community Services Rights, which is before this house of parliament, has been carefully developed. A comprehensive and inclusive consultation process was used and all major stakeholder groups are happy with the result. The government urges members to defeat the motion to disallow the charter so that the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner can proceed to implement it.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (11:37): I rise to conclude the debate on this matter as I am the mover of this motion of disallowance. I indicate to the house that, since the introduction of this matter, the opposition has met with both the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner, Ms Sudano, and representatives from the Health Consumers Alliance, which has been a principal stakeholder in this matter and an advocate for the consumer population.

I indicate that the opposition has received that information and, although there are still some residual aspects as to how effective this charter is going to be—largely in relation to drafting an addition of words, which may prove to be unduly restrictive and may result in a diminution of access to this charter and what it is designed to protect for consumers and may involve a considerable expense to exercise their rights—we have, on balance, decided that we will support the charter. In doing so—I understand procedurally I cannot simply withdraw this motion—we

would present it to a vote. I indicate to the government that we will consent to the disallowance vote being rejected, that is, being negated.

I place on the record one aspect which remains of concern, and that is what has happened. We are here because the law requires us—not under the regulation power but under the principal act—to, within 14 days, raise any objection in this parliament of the charter that is tabled. The minister had duly tabled this charter, which would have come into effect if there was no objection from the parliament. Preceding that, an act was passed six years ago which required that a charter be presented for approval, if I recollect correctly, within 12 months. One of the concerns in this matter that I raised with Ms Sudano was why it took until October last year before a draft charter had been prepared and went out for consultation.

She explained—certainly to my satisfaction, and I think to the satisfaction of the member for Morphett as well—that, although she was aware of the responsibility to undertake the preparation of a charter as part of her duties some years ago, first, she had been without funds and there had not been provision for an officer in her funding to prepare the draft. I am not talking about a huge document here—I think it is one page—but, nevertheless, it is a very important document and considerable research needed to be done. The second reason there was a significant delay was that at the federal level they were preparing the health charter at the national level and she did not want any confusion, to use her word, amongst the stakeholders about the development of this one.

Firstly, given that this is under a different power and it relates to consumer complaints as well, frankly, I do not think the latter is really a good explanation. I accept it and I do not cast any reflection on Ms Sudano for that. This is a matter that is driven by the minister and I say that the minister should have made funds available for this charter to be developed and ensured that it went through its proper process, because this parliament had directed that within a year, by law, this charter should have come into operation and been presented for approval by this parliament; and that simply has not happened.

I do not blame the people who have the job of doing that, unless the minister came to me and said they had given instructions for it to be done and it has not happened. In this case they had not given the money and the process has stalled because there is a national inquiry going on on a much narrower issue.

I think it was incumbent upon the minister to do two things in this process. One thing was to come into the parliament and explain when the 12 months anniversary was up why it had not happened and advise us all of that and give some explanation, if there was a legitimate explanation; and, secondly, if there was any further delay, when he tabled it, that he make a ministerial statement, to do just that.

With those few words, I thank the house for its indulgence. It is an unusual process but we are going to conclude it.

Motion negated.

ABORIGINAL EQUALITY

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:43): I move:

That this house, whilst acknowledging the challenges involved in bridging the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, nonetheless celebrates the many positive developments and achievements of recent years.

This is a subject about which I am very passionate. Slightly digressing for a moment, I visited the State Library during a lunchbreak this week and came across a volunteer. I will not use her name because I do not think that is fair or appropriate. This person migrated here from Scotland and we started talking about that and she said, 'I'm not an Australian citizen.' In my usual way, I tried to encourage her to become one. She said, 'I'm not becoming one until Aboriginal people are treated equally and fairly.' I thought that was a fairly sobering reminder.

According to this lady, she still sees plenty of examples of racism and discrimination against Aboriginal people. I said to her, 'Why not become an Australian citizen and help change things for the better?' Anyway, I pass that on as an interesting reflection from someone who will not become an Australian citizen until such time as Aboriginal people, in her view, are treated with respect and as genuine equals.

I have mentioned before in this house my association with many Aboriginal people over time. I went to Goodwood tech with an Aboriginal lad, Graham McKenzie. I believe he is still alive. I have not seen him since those days at school. I believe he may live around the Murray Bridge area. We had a lot to do with Aboriginal people who were at Colebrook Home on Shepherds Hill Road. Matron Lovey Bond was in charge and we knew the people there and used to mix with them. We thought nothing about it, and the fact that they were Aboriginal made no difference to us.

Fortunately, I grew up in a home where, despite some faults, my father—a Barwell boy who came out from England when he was 16—and my mother readily accepted Aboriginal people into our home. These included Lowitja O'Donoghue and Faith Coulthard—both of whom were nursing at the Royal Adelaide Hospital at the time, and were often subjected to inappropriate behaviour—but as a kid with Lowitja and Faith, mixing with my older sister, Pat, we did not think anything of it. They were a couple of people coming to our place to spend time there. Looking back, in some ways it indicates that my parents were certainly progressive.

Over time, I have had dealings with a lot of other Aboriginal people. I have mentioned in here that my niece fosters two Aboriginal boys. She has had them since birth. She is not allowed to adopt them under the rules of Families SA, but apparently in Victoria you can. She has put a lot of time and effort into these boys—both of whom call her mum, and both of whom suffer from foetal alcohol disabilities. Nevertheless, my niece has done a fantastic job in helping raise those lads.

More recently, the son of a very close friend of mine, who is a very senior police officer, married an Aboriginal person and they now have, I think, three children. To show how things are changing—because in Aboriginal culture there is a view that a baby and a child belongs to everyone, which I think is a great concept—when the first baby was born, it was taken to its mother's Aboriginal community, where it was passed around and everyone was able to acknowledge that the baby was part of the Aboriginal community. It highlights the fact that things are changing. There is still a long way to go but things are changing.

I will bring members back to something that happened before any of us were around. On 28 December 1836, the proclamation of South Australia was signed by John Hindmarsh. The proclamation relates to Aboriginal people, and I will not quote it all, but it states:

It is also, at this time, especially my duty to apprise the Colonists of my resolution, to take every lawful means for extending the same protection to the Native Population as to the rest of His Majesty's Subjects, and of my firm determination to punish with exemplary severity, all acts of violence or injustice which may in any manner be practised or attempted against the Natives, who are to be considered as much under the safeguard of the law as the Colonists themselves, and equally entitled to the privileges of British subjects. I trust therefore, with confidence to the exercise of moderation and forbearance by all classes, in their intercourse with the Native Inhabitants, and that they will omit no opportunity of assisting me to fulfil His Majesty's most gracious and benevolent intentions towards them, by promoting their advancement...

And so it goes on. We know in South Australia that, traditionally we have not always lived up to the expectations and the exhortations in that proclamation but from the earliest days, South Australia has done, and has tried to do many positive things in relation to Aboriginal people. In 1858, Aboriginal men were given the vote in South Australia, and in 1894 Aboriginal women were given the vote, at the same time as European women. Sadly, when it came to Federation, those voting rights were taken away from Aboriginal people because the other states would not agree.

In the lead-up to the formation of the Federation, a South Australian delegate to the Constitution Convention, Robert Caldwell, was arguing for Aboriginal people to be counted and also for their right to vote. I do not think he was trying to be funny with his pun, but he said:

...one of the black spots of the Bill. There were many aborigines on the electoral roll who were intelligent men and to exclude them from the census was an insult.

As I said, I do not think he was trying to engage in a pun there. The point is that South Australia has a record of being not perfect but better, I think, than the other states in terms of recognising Aboriginal people. It was not until 1962 that Aboriginal people throughout Australia were given the vote and, in 1967, they were recognised as full citizens and treated as full citizens.

This motion is about the positives, but we still need to touch on some of the negatives that exist, and this is not a negative but a fact: as at 30 June 2006, in South Australia, 28,055 people designated themselves to be Indigenous, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, or one or other of those two groups, and that was out of a population of 1,567,888 at that time. In other words, the Aboriginal population in South Australia is relatively small, as it is indeed throughout Australia. In fact, for the whole of Australia, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population amounts to

about 2½ per cent. That is important and significant but, in the context overall, not a very high percentage of the population.

In terms of negative aspects, and this is about Bridging the Gap, in 2005-07, life expectancy at birth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males was estimated to be 67.2 years, 11½ years less than for non-Indigenous males. The life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females at the same time was 72.9 years, 9.7 years less than for non-Indigenous females.

If you look at a range of other issues, not just health but education and so on, I could list quite a few of the differences. But what I want to highlight are some of the changes for the better that have been occurring. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander full-time students who are staying at school until year 12 has been increasing, and for year 10 and beyond it has also been increasing. To give an example, in the first year of secondary school to year 10, the retention rate rose from 83 per cent in 2000 to 96 per cent in 2010, and at the year 12 level the increase was 36 per cent to 47 per cent. There is still a long way to go, but it is getting better. There is a gap in terms of Aboriginal people completing schooling: 47 per cent compared with 79 per cent for non-Aboriginal people. So, there is still a way to go. But things are changing.

In 2008, 40 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 25 to 64 had attained a non-school qualification, up from 32 per cent six years earlier, another positive move forward. With regard to higher education, at the same time one in six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders had attained a bachelor degree or above, 14 per cent had attained an advanced diploma, or diploma, and 61 per cent had attained a certificate—certificate III, certificate IV, that type of thing—which is issued by TAFE and private providers. So, things are improving.

In terms of employment, in 2008, just over half of Aboriginal people aged 15 to 24 were either working or studying full-time, or working and studying, up from 47 per cent in 2002. It is not a dramatic jump, but it is an improvement. The unemployment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders fell from 23 per cent in 2002 to 17 per cent in 2008. Again, not a big jump, but still good. So, some of those positive statistics continue.

It is an unusual statistic but the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who lived in households that had run out of money for basic living expenses decreased from 44 per cent in 2002 to 28 per cent in 2008. I thought that seemed a little bit of a cheeky question for someone to be asking Aboriginal people, but there is obviously an improvement in that issue. Life expectancy is showing an increase for Aboriginal people, but there is still a gap, as I indicated earlier.

I want to touch quickly on some individuals who have achieved—and I cannot list them all. I mentioned earlier on Lowitja O'Donoghue. We now have at the Adelaide University a young woman who has been nominated as a Rhodes Scholar, and she is just one of many who have achieved. I notice in the paper today that Aboriginal author Kim Scott won the Miles Franklin Award yesterday. He is another person who has been very successful.

I will mention some of these people: Vincent Buckskin, otherwise known as Jack, who is a Young Achiever; Wade Thompson, who is another Young Achiever; Jessica Parker; Jessica Smith; Chris Wilson, who is doing a PhD in archaeology at Flinders University; Megan Davis, who is the first Aboriginal woman to be appointed to the UN; Ken Wyatt, who is the first Aboriginal MP in the House of Representatives, as a Liberal member.

Mr Pengilly: As was Neville Bonner.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: Yes, Neville Bonner. There are so many on this list: Professor Buckskin at the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education, the list goes on and on.

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell) (11:58): I indicate that the government supports this motion and I thank the member for Fisher for drawing attention to some of the ways in which we are slowly bridging the gap. The South Australian government, together with the commonwealth government, has committed to bridging the gap, or closing the gap, through a series of national agreements and national partnership agreements.

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement outlines six targets and 27 performance indicators to close the gap. Targets cover a range of areas: life expectancy; health, early childhood education; secondary education; and employment. These targets are ambitious and challenging. In June 2011, the first NIRA Performance Report was released. Its intention is to measure the progress against the targets at a jurisdictional level. The report identifies that not only are there

challenges in meeting the targets but also there are challenges in measuring and capturing progress against those targets within existing data limitations.

It is important that these difficulties do not distract us from our shared goal and the continuing effort to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across a range of social determinants. As the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation acknowledges these gaps, on her behalf I would like to bring to the attention of the house some achievements in this area that are cause for celebration.

A number of these achievements have been sourced from data reported in 2010. A snapshot of South Australian successes, cited in the NIRA Performance Report 2009-10, reveals:

- historical data shows that Indigenous mortality rates in South Australia have decreased significantly between 1991 and 2009;
- between 2007 and 2009 child mortality rates decreased significantly;
- between 2008 and 2009 NAPLAN data showed that in South Australia the gap significantly decreased between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at all year levels who were at or above the minimum standard in reading; and
- apparent retention rates of Indigenous students have increased in South Australia.

Other achievements are not quantifiable in terms of data, and their impact may not be immediately apparent but they deserve recognition and commendation nonetheless for their longer-term contribution to closing the gap. Indeed, in South Australia the government has committed to a range of strategies and programs to work more broadly towards bridging the gap.

Some of these relate to increasing participation, visibility and engagement of Aboriginal people at the senior level. To further this, the government has established the permanent South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council to advise government on key issues relating to Aboriginal affairs. This government has also appointed two commissioners for Aboriginal community engagement—one male, one female—providing a high level voice and advocacy for Aboriginal people in both government and community.

The government has also appointed two Aboriginal women to the Premier's Council for Women. Other important achievements include the ongoing review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act, which is being prepared for cabinet and which will work to close the gap through the recognition of cultural heritage and placing Aboriginal people at the heart of decision-making about their heritage.

Implementation of the Remote Service Delivery Strategy and agreement on Local Implementation Plans in Amata and Mimili are also significant. Further of great importance is the implementation of the Food Security Strategy on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands to improve access to food. The building of three permanent police stations and extra housing for police and child protection workers in Mimili, Amata and Pukatja is, again, significant.

The cross-government agreement on implementation of place-based initiatives to close the gap in Port Augusta and northern Adelaide through Aboriginal community-driven change is yet another move that indicates the government's commitment to closing the gap. We acknowledge that much hard work lies ahead for South Australia to meaningfully bridge the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

I thank the member for Fisher for this opportunity to share the government's official actions in relation to closing the gap, or at least some of them. We all know that it is up to all of us to take initiatives to close the gap, and I am pleased to report on some of the events in my area during Reconciliation Week, which, of course, is a very important step in our community for recognising the Aboriginal people as the original owners of our land and recognising that they have not always been treated well—in fact, they have generally been treated pretty badly.

One of the events I attended during Reconciliation Week was an assembly at Christies Beach High School, which was supported by some very moving addresses about what reconciliation can mean, and the need for us to think of reconciliation in our personal lives every day. I also had the opportunity to try some kangaroo-tail soup and some kangaroo sausages prepared by members of the local Aboriginal community.

The Onkaparinga council staged a reconciliation event outside Colonnades, where both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people could come to gain information about community services and activities involving Aboriginal people. In this regard, I want to particularly thank and

congratulate the Onkaparinga Rugby Union Football Club, who had a stall there promoting their women's team. I was able to meet a couple of the Aboriginal women who play on their team, and really enjoy the opportunity to get out there, get down and get dirty, and get a bit rough, as part of their team's activity.

Pimpala Primary School held a superb event where they had a range of special activities, including Aboriginal dance, boomerang and spear-throwing demonstrations, painting river stones, rainbow serpent, friendship bands, hand cut-outs, boomerangs and paper woven baskets, dreaming stories, cooking and games. From looking at the photos, the enjoyment of the children in learning some Aboriginal dance is quite evident, and their happiness in participating in this community event is their on their faces.

At O'Sullivan Beach Primary School, there was also an important event, where all the Aboriginal children in the school were provided with a certificate of recognition of their membership of their school, and their valued membership as part of the school community. We also had singing and dance activities, with about 100 children all trying to learn a Tiwi Island dance, which was something to behold. But, order was restored after the great enjoyment that the children obviously had, from participating in that event.

I think another mark that our community recognises that we do have to work to close the gap was the attendance at the Don Dunstan Foundation's Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration recently. That event was absolutely packed; there was no standing room left, and to look at the range of people participating in the event it showed how well-entrenched all groups in the community are finding the need to recognise that we have to do better in terms of closing the gap with Aboriginal people.

There were young people, there were old people, there were well-dressed people, there were people who did not look so well dressed and, importantly, there were Aboriginal people. The orator was Paul Keating, who gave some important insights into the events that lead to the Mabo legislation, and I think it needs this retrospective for us to understand how significant that legislation was in determining the course of Australia's judicial processes, our lands processes and, very particularly, our recognition of Australia's first people.

Time expired.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (12:09): I certainly stand to support the member for Fisher, and all others who support his motion. We have come a long way—that is not, for a moment, to try to indicate that the job is done, or that there are not still great difficulties being faced, but certainly in Australia and in South Australia we should be proud that we have made significant achievements in this area.

I have a view that reconciliation and, particularly, closing the gap (which is what the member for Fisher's motion is about) has a lot more to do with individual's hearts and minds than it has to do with institutions. We need institutions to establish some guidelines and some resources, and we will not succeed without that, but the reality is that until a willingness to succeed in this area is not deep and genuine in people's hearts and minds we will not achieve what we need to achieve.

I would also like to point out too that, with regard to closing the gap, a couple of years ago—and I assume the statistics are very similar—the difference in the life expectancy rate between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Australia was 17 years and the difference in the life expectancy rate between rural and urban people (regardless of their race) in Australia was also 17 years and I think that is a very fair thing to put on the record.

However, we are here to talk about closing the gap for Aboriginal people which is one of the greatest challenges that we face in our state and our nation. It has a lot to do with opportunities. I mentioned institutions before, and institutions play a great role with regard to providing opportunities, but people need to take opportunities as well. That is a very important part of this issue and I believe that an important step towards closing the gap is that, in our society, Aboriginal people have the health, the confidence, the information, the ambition, the desire and lots of other things for them to take the opportunities that exist for them.

I think that is incredibly important because providing opportunities is not enough. People should take the opportunities as well and I think that will be very important. This is everybody's responsibility. It is the responsibility of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people jointly to progress this issue, so that we all live in a society which we would like to live in and which we think is important.

Integration is an interesting aspect of this issue and it is also quite a delicate one. You will find some people who are completely supportive of the issues that the member for Fisher raises and also people who are not supportive of it, but each group will also be divided about integration. Some are keen for integration and some are not. At the end of the day that is a very personal issue. I believe that all opportunities, whether they concern health, employment or social issues, should be available for everybody.

I also think there is no better example of a healthy society and the sort of society which I would like to be in than one which has couples and families from all sorts of racial backgrounds, whether they be different cultures, different races or whatever. You do not choose your partner, you do not choose your family by their racial background: it is about who you love and what you have in common. I think a wonderful example of progress is when you see Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people join together in immediate family. I think that is an outstanding thing that I am fortunate enough to see quite often throughout the electorate of Stuart.

This issue is part of a broader multicultural debate. I think, for us in Australia, it is the most important part of the multicultural debate, but the issues are very similar in terms of making sure that opportunities are given to and taken by everybody who can and who wants them in our society. I was fortunate enough to spend much of my teenage life living in Washington DC in the United States. I was also fortunate enough to be very healthy and sport crazy through my high school years and into my university time. I still could be described that way but I am not nearly as active a participant as I used to be.

I would like to say that sport is one of the very best ways for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to interact. It is certainly not the only one; there are many others, but sport is a tremendous thing. It is not because of the sport; it is because there is a team aspect. I am talking particularly about team sports because, in individual sports, there is no integration or joint participation, but, with a team sport, the team unites to address a common challenge. It is hard work.

It is hard work to become good at sport. You need skill, you need talent, you need to rely on each other and you need to do a lot of training, and it is that sort of thing that I believe will make an enormous difference to closing the gap, and not just in sport. When people, whether they are Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal—and ideally both together—combine to jointly address significant challenges, some of the difficulties go out the window because you have common goals and common issues that you are trying to address and common successes that you want to share, and I think that is a very important issue.

Along that multicultural theme, I think it is also worth pointing out that every single one of us in Australia is a migrant, including Aboriginal people. Tens of thousands of years ago, Aboriginal people migrated to our continent, then there was a huge gap until a couple of hundred years ago when other people from the rest of the world started migrating to our country.

I am connected with migration myself. My father was a Dutch migrant who married a girl whose family had been in Australia for quite a long time. My wife's father was an Italian migrant who married a girl whose family had been in Australia for quite a long time. I like the term that Aboriginal people in Australia and South Australia were the First Australians. They are not the only Australians, but they should have a very proud place in their hearts and their minds that they were the First Australians here on our continent.

Closing the Gap is critical. As I said, it is the most important part of multiculturalism, because it affects people's health. There are many statistics, but that statistic about life expectancy is so vital, so poignant and so important to all of us that we have to work on closing that gap. As the member for Fisher said, we have come a long way, but not nearly far enough. We need to keep working very hard on this issue.

I also take this opportunity to say that often the country and the outback areas of our state are unfairly maligned. There is an assumption that in the city communities are more open and more multicultural and that in the country people start to separate out. I would like to say that that is actually not the case. I highlight the outback town of Marree as a place that I visit very regularly, which is a tremendous example of Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal and, indeed, people of Afghan descent living very well and very cooperatively together. If people, regardless of their racial background, get on with the job, want to contribute, and are honest, genuine members of the community, then they get on, and the community of Marree does extremely well in that way.

I express one bit of disappointment, that the government has chosen that this year's parliamentary sitting schedule will clash with NAIDOC Week. The government has scheduled

estimates and parliamentary sitting throughout NAIDOC Week. I think that is an unfortunate situation, because it will certainly limit members of parliament being able to participate in NAIDOC Week celebrations and prohibit country members of parliament from participating in NAIDOC Week celebrations. That is a bit of a shame but, nonetheless, I do accept and appreciate the government's sentiments on this issue, as expressed by the member for Reynell.

I genuinely hope that the government's Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Hon. Grace Portolesi, will come down here and support this motion in person herself.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would just respectfully remind the member for Stuart that we do not tend to reflect on the whereabouts or not of a member of parliament because, technically, we are all here. I know that we might not all be here, but technically we are all here.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As a first-term member, I appreciate that and I am happy to change my remarks from 'come down here to support this motion' to 'speak in support of this motion'.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are indeed generous and courteous; well said.

Mr BIGNELL (Mawson) (12:19): I also rise to support this motion and to reiterate a few of the comments that have already been made this morning. The member for Stuart said that closing the gap starts in people's hearts and minds, and he is correct. We all need to play our part in closing the gap.

The member for Reynell spoke about some events that she went to during Reconciliation Week in the schools in her area. Similarly, I was at Noarlunga Downs Primary School for the opening of their fantastic new Building the Education Revolution gymnasium during Reconciliation Week, with my federal counterpart Amanda Rishworth, the member for Kingston. We were there and saw some fantastic displays of Aboriginal singing and performance from the local students, which was quite breathtaking. What we have seen with this generation over the past 10, 15 or 20 years is that through our education system students are learning about closing the gap, perhaps more so than previous generations in many parts of South Australia.

In that same week, I was in Oodnadatta opening a new medical facility which the state government has spent \$800,000 on. It was terrific to have the students from the Oodnadatta Aboriginal School along for the opening. They had all made posters which were stuck over the front of the new medical centre. They were so well behaved and fantastic, sitting through speeches at the opening, that I asked them if I could go and visit their school later on.

I went to the school and was very pleased to see them learning Spanish and having a great time on their computers. There are computers there for all of the students. The senior students were in Adelaide having a careers week, visiting Adelaide and learning things about city life, because Oodnadatta is one of the most remote places in South Australia.

A few days after that I was at Noarlunga Downs Primary School and I saw all the great work they had done on reconciliation. I suggested that the two schools link up through the computers at both schools to become email friends. I am sure the Oodnadatta Aboriginal School students can tell the students at Noarlunga Downs a lot about the desert and desert life, just as the students at Noarlunga Downs can explain city life and life close to the beach.

The member for Stuart also mentioned sport as a great area for closing the gap. We need to pay tribute to people like Kevin Sheedy. When he became coach at Essendon there were no Aboriginal players and he asked why. He did not get any satisfactory answers, so he demanded that the talent scouts and the football manager put up Aboriginal players to be included in the squad at Essendon. One of the reasons Essendon has been so successful, and was so successful under Kevin Sheedy's leadership, is that they have so many Indigenous players on their list.

We saw that continue with one of Kevin Sheedy's assistants, Mark Williams, when he moved over to Port Adelaide. Some of the Port Adelaide players, such as Gavin Wanganeen and Che Cockatoo-Collins, have become—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Excuse me, member for Mawson, there does seem to be an awful lot of background noise in the chamber. It would be terrible if we did not hear everything the member for Mawson had to say.

Mr BIGNELL: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Some of the noise may have been from my colleagues who are giving me some assistance—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was.

Mr BIGNELL: —with some additional names. Che Cockatoo-Collins and Gavin Wanganeen are just two of the many great ambassadors who, even after their football days are over, are out in the schools and in the community pushing the concept of closing the gap. I thank the member for Fisher for bringing this motion forward, and I support it.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (12:23): I thank members for their support. I realise that a motion in itself will not change the world, but I think we have a lot to celebrate, and I mentioned earlier Rebecca Richards, who is the young Aboriginal woman from the University of Adelaide who was awarded a Rhodes scholarship.

It is important that we focus on positives and that we do not become obsessed and bogged down with things that may not be at the level we want to achieve what we may wish for. As the member for Stuart said, the fact that we are seeing more examples at the personal level of people marrying people from an Aboriginal background and vice versa I see as a very positive thing. Years ago that would never have happened: someone like my mate's son, as I say, a senior police officer, marrying an Aboriginal person would have been extremely rare, if it ever happened.

The daughter of a friend of the family recently married an Aboriginal lad, a member of the Kurna tribe, doing law at Adelaide University. That sort of development—evolution in terms of relationships—is a great thing. It shows that, as a society, we are maturing and able to accept people irrespective of race, religion or whatever. To discriminate against people on the basis of race is probably the most evil form of all discrimination; it certainly ranks amongst the worse type of discrimination.

In highlighting some individuals there is always the obvious danger that you leave out a lot of fantastic Aboriginal people who did not get a mention. I could list many people: John Moriarty (I went to Flinders University with him) is a very successful Aboriginal businessman and runs a design company making clothing. Many members in here have probably bought some of his products.

There are plenty of examples if we look in the sporting arena. The member for Mawson would know them off the back of his hand. You only have to look at the AFL, and those of us who love it know the number of people of Aboriginal background playing footy. They make a fantastic contribution to the game that many of us regard as the best game in the world.

We are reaching a point where, whilst we need to reduce the gap, we should also celebrate that our society is moving forward. Probably, for much of our history, we did not meet the expectations in the proclamation that was read out back in 1836. However, South Australia should try to be a leader and set the standard in terms of how we relate to Aboriginal people given, as I said earlier, that we gave the vote to Aboriginal men in 1858 and Aboriginal women in 1894. That was a reflection of our society recognising Aboriginal people as being able to make a contribution.

We were the first in Australia, I believe, to allow Aboriginal people to give evidence in court and to be accepted as equals. That was a long time ago. There have been a lot of other pioneering developments, including land rights in South Australia; many things that we as a society can be proud of. However, as I am only too eager to acknowledge, we still have a long way to go.

As in the case of discrimination against women, hopefully we will get to a point where gender is no longer an issue and race is no longer an issue, and it is not even worthy of a motion in parliament other than to reflect on a positive aspect. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (12:28): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes the Senate's Community Affairs References Committee Report entitled 'The Hidden Toll: Suicide in Australia' that recommended a suicide prevention and awareness campaign for high risk groups and also recommended that additional 'gatekeeper' suicide awareness and risk assessment training be directed to people living in regional, rural and remote areas;
- (b) notes that both the World Health Organisation and the International Association for Suicide Prevention have advocated a multifaceted approach to suicide prevention, including recognising the important role that community-based organisations can play in preventing suicide;

- (c) congratulates the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association and the Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice for seizing the initiative and providing funding to establish its own Community Response to Eliminating Suicide Program on the Eyre Peninsula; and
- (d) urges the Rann government to place greater emphasis on community-based organisations and acknowledges their importance, particularly in preventing suicide in regional South Australia.

The CORES program was first discovered by John Dawkins, I think back in 2006, and he has been advocating for many years that this program be funded by the state government. In fact, the Liberal Party took to the last election a policy to fund \$350,000 towards seed funding so that this could be set up in 10 regional and rural areas.

Having heard about the CORES program, I decided to undertake the program so that I would have a much better idea of what the program offers and whether I could stand here and recommend it to you as something that I think would have great benefit. I see this as a very practical way of helping people. It is inexpensive, it empowers people, and it actually gets the community involved. It is not another report or another lot of money spent on surveying people, but it is actually a practical approach to finding the solution and getting the community involved.

We know that there is a high rate of suicide in country areas in particular, and this is one relatively inexpensive way that we can make a difference. I am particularly concerned with the effects that selling the forests in the South-East will have on the mental health of the men in the region and the people in that area. Programs like this would be of great benefit, because it teaches you, as somebody who has participated in the course, to recognise characteristics, words that are used, and behaviours, and see when people are under stress and under duress.

Suicide is an issue that is not discussed very often. We talk about rates of death on our roads, yet there are far more suicides every year. So being able to recognise and then know what to do from there—how do you help somebody? There is a lot of confusion; certainly there is beyondblue and there is Lifeline and there are certain places that you can go, but where in a practical way can we be taught what the steps are?

The course also teaches you what level of danger the person is in, so that you know what the appropriate response is in that situation, whether you need to take them straight to a GP to get an assessment immediately or whether you just need to ring Lifeline or help them set up some structures in their life of how to cope, so some coping mechanisms. It might be that you recognise some depression or changes in someone's behaviour and that you actually then get them involved in the community through sport or activities to re-engage them and help them build up their own coping mechanisms.

So there are lots of ways that we can assist the community to identify problem areas and then help people build up their own resistance to those. I think that for \$350,000 of seed funding to help 10 regional rural and community areas this is a great cause. I strongly recommend that the house thinks about this and I commend it to the house.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (12:33): I commend the member for Adelaide for bringing this forward. I understand the government will seek to amend it, but hope not to in any way undermine the intent of it. This is an issue which I think one would trust is above political point-scoring. We know that in Australia more people die as a result of suicide than in road accidents. That is an appalling statistic when you realise that the number of people who die on our roads is about 100 in South Australia, so you can multiply that roughly by the population of Australia. That is an appalling statistic in its own right, and when you acknowledge that suicide results in even more deaths, it is something that we need to try to do something about.

Traditionally, the strategy has been not to talk about it. I do not think that is a good strategy. I think it is important to talk about something, because if you do not talk about it you are not likely to do anything about it. We have had similar problems not just with men's health but, I guess, with women's health as well. If you do not talk about things, don't discuss them, don't raise them, then little will happen.

One of the problems with regard to suicide is that it tends to be more common per capita in rural areas, and that is for a range of reasons: lack of access to services like counselling, problems associated with the risks of farming, onset of drought, and incredible debt burden, all those sorts of things. Often, people who take their life think they are solving the problem but, sadly, they create a bigger problem for their family—the loved ones who are left behind.

One of the worst experiences I have had as a member of parliament—and most of the time I love what I do and enjoy it—was with a lad I was dealing with who had done something silly when he was a juvenile working for a boss. I might have mentioned it here before, but I will mention it again. He was given the boss's credit card to buy something for the company, and he bought something for himself on the credit card. It was not a big purchase. It was not a colour TV, but, anyway, it was wrong; he should not have done it, and he got a conviction.

About nine years later, he wanted to become a security guard. He topped the class, he had an excellent report and went to get a job with Chubb, I think. They had a look and said, 'No, you've got a conviction.' That lad, who was a very active member of the Young Catholic Workers group, hung himself. His mother could not get to him in time and he was dead.

Dealing with that family—I do not know whether other members have had this experience, and I trust they never will—is one of the worst things that you have to deal with. That family is obviously shattered forever, and it was one of the motivations for my bringing in the spent convictions legislation. That lad took his life for something that was a silly thing to do when he was a teenager, but it should not have been held against him and prevented him from getting a job. Before he took his life (and I did not realise he was going to do that), he said to me, 'I'll never get a job. I'll never get anywhere in life.' Within a short period of time, sadly, we became aware that he had taken his life.

I had another such experience in the complex where my office is located. I will not be too precise, but the grandson of somebody who works in that area drowned in a swimming pool; that put pressure on the parents' relationship and they split up, and then the husband, the father of the little boy, took his own life. As I say, I will be a bit vague, but what do you say to someone who works in the same general area as my office? What do you say to someone who has lost their grandson and then lost their son through suicide? Sometimes, I wonder how people cope with the pain of that.

So, I think it is important that we deal with this issue. One of the good things that has come out of Victoria, in particular, was Jeff Kennett, who I pay tribute to (some people might have thoughts about whether what he did as a premier was good or bad) and his championing of the cause of beyondblue, which I think has been fantastic. I know people might think I am on a soapbox and I am: I make no apology for it. I believe it is very important that, in terms of the school environment, particularly high schools, we check out young people in their early secondary years to see if there are there any signs of emerging depression or any other indicators that might suggest that a person is at risk.

For many years, in the Division of General Practice, the commonwealth funded a program in country areas where young people were assessed at school for learning disabilities, psychological issues and so on. I have never understood why that program was never extended to the metropolitan areas of Australia. I see in the motion that the member for Adelaide refers to the Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice. As I understand it, the doctor at Tumbly Bay—I will think of his surname in a moment, his first name is Graham—

An honourable member: Dr Fleming.

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: Yes, thank you—Dr Graham Fleming. Is he still a GP there?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. R.B. SUCH: He is still a GP in Tumbly Bay. He was very keen to get the suicide rate down on Eyre Peninsula. I think it was running at something like eight or nine deaths a year—I do not know the exact number. Through this program of working with young people and assessing students at school, I think the suicide rate—those tragedies—were brought down to either one or zero. To me it makes sense. If you get in early, you can observe the issues—the problems—and you can get the counselling and treatment. Dr Fleming is to be commended for that program.

I know one of the psychologists who worked in that program, Dr Garry Childs. He was part of assessing the children there. That sort of program should be throughout the community, because it is in those early teenage years that we often see indications that there are problems with depression and other issues. There is a whole range of them that can and should be diagnosed then. It is done in Scandinavian countries. I do not understand why, in Australia, we are not more switched on in terms of prevention and trying to reduce the incidence of suicide, among other things.

I commend this motion. I think it is good to be discussing it. It is a sad and tragic topic. The pain for the people who have experienced it in their family goes on and on. As a society and as a government, all of us have to be better at trying to ensure that people do not take their life at a time when things are down, when they are under a lot of pressure. As I said at the start, the number of people taking their life is greater than the number we lose on the road, and that in itself is an appalling number. I commend the member for Adelaide for this, and I ask members to support it.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (12:42): I also indicate my support for the member for Adelaide's motion. It is a most worthwhile motion. I would sincerely hope that the government supports it as it is written and get on with it. I am particularly interested in the regional and rural side of suicide prevention. It is an enormous problem that very much goes unnoticed probably by a vast number of people in the metropolitan area. I acknowledge also that it is a considerable problem in the city. It is not putting it to one side.

Over the years, I have known many people who have been driven to take their own life and, indeed, some who have attempted to and have been caught in time, so to speak, and now do not have that same problem. It is an enormous problem. In the bush, people live under pressures that it would be hard for people in the metropolitan areas to understand. Farming families in particular are enormously stressed.

I know numerous farmers, both husbands and wives, who, over the years, have been under enormous stress—pressures from banks, pressures from seasonal conditions, pressures from prices, all sorts of pressures lead them to get themselves in a state of mind where they contemplate suicide. It is a terrible, terrible thing. Indeed, when we had the interest rate hike, I can recall my own business paying 27 per cent on our overdraft. That drove people to the stage where they just thought there was no hope. They could not see light at the end of the tunnel, and they contemplated taking action to end their own life.

This motion is well thought out. It has been well researched. It covers the broad spectrum of South Australians and, of course, the broader Australian community. I have heard and listened with interest to what members have had to say on the subject this morning. It does not escape any of us. I am aware of the issue closer to home. I do urge the house to support the motion.

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (12:45): I move to amend clause (d) as follows:

Leave out all words after (d) and replace with the following words:

That the government notes that effective suicide prevention awareness is best delivered through collaborative partnerships, including through local communities, non-government organisations, public health services and primary care health practitioners.

The government of South Australia recognises that community-based organisations play a vital role in suicide prevention in our communities. I know, indeed, many people in my area in the rural areas around Virginia and Two Wells and beyond, and it is an issue that emerges commonly when you go into the communities up there.

However, we also recognise that effective suicide prevention is a whole-of-community responsibility and requires combined effects and collaboration of local communities, health services and primary care practitioners, together with local community organisations, to identify and support individuals at risk of suicide. I know the people at the Two Wells RSL, which is a community-based RSL. Tony Flaherty and many of his members there are actively engaged in reaching out to people in the north of Adelaide who are at risk or suffering from depression or who are worried that potentially one of their family members could take their own life. I praise them for the work they do as community organisations involved in it.

The government is concerned about the increased risk of suicide for people living in rural and remote communities. The rate of suicide in rural areas is 20 to 30 per cent higher than in the metropolitan area, according to a Senate report, with factors including geographic isolation, economic and environmental challenges, difficulties in accessing mental health care, a traditional reluctance to talk about mental health problems or to seek help, and increased access to means of suicide such as pesticides and firearms, contributing to this increased risk.

The effect of suicide is an all-of-community effect. It is profound and far-reaching, and we recognise the importance of encouraging suicide prevention initiatives throughout our country communities in South Australia. As part of the development of the South Australian Suicide Prevention Strategy, the government will be consulting with a wide range of country communities across the state, evaluating existing suicide programs and services across Australia to identify

service gaps in order to develop a coordinated approach to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention across the state.

This will include a review of the best ways to encourage and support community-based organisations, as well as health services, local communities and primary healthcare practitioners to identify and assist people at risk of suicide and their families so that they can reduce the burden of suicide in our state and our nation. I know that the Wakefield Group is particularly interested in and involved in community engagement for people in the northern areas of Adelaide and beyond to the Barossa and are working on these projects. I welcome the government's attention to these matters and put forward this amendment and hope for bipartisan support.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Treloar.

CIGARETTE PACKAGING

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Sibbons:

That this house expresses its support for the federal government's move to introduce plain label packaging for cigarettes across Australia by 1 July 2012.

(Continued from 9 June 2011.)

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (12:48): I have spoken with the mover of this motion, the member for Mitchell, and because the opposition is supporting this motion I would like to amend his motion so that it reads:

That this house expresses its support for the federal government's move to introduce plain label packaging for cigarettes across Australia by 1 July 2012 and notes that this move will not be opposed by the federal opposition.

This is an extremely important motion. The move to put cigarettes in plain packaging is one that I was asked about 18 months ago. I was initially sceptical. I said, 'This is policy looking for evidence.' I should put on the record that I have never smoked. I cannot even stand second-hand smoke when walking behind smokers on wonderful Jetty Road down at the Bay. It is just atrocious. You try to hold your breath while you get past them. I do not understand why people would want to smoke.

Even representatives of tobacco companies who have been to see me openly admit to me that they and their companies know that smoking is the highest cause of preventable deaths. I do not think it is over-exaggerating to call them merchants of death. Why people would spend the money that they do now on cigarettes is unbelievable. How can they afford to do that? I do not know. I think some of the biggest addicts of smoking in the past have been in governments. The tobacco excise has been a huge part of the tax take for governments of all persuasions, both state and federal.

I remember the school fete when I was a kid in grade 3 at Elizabeth South Primary School. I cannot remember what the actual game was—it was a board game, I think—and I won a packet of Craven A 10s. This was when I was in grade 3, and I was given a packet of Craven A 10s! I admit that my brothers and I smoked them on the way home, between Elizabeth South Primary School and Hogarth Road, and we were all sick as dogs. Perhaps that is what put me off cigarettes. How attitudes have changed.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, Madam Speaker. A minute ago, the member for Morphett said he had never smoked in his life, and now he has just told the house that he smoked cigarettes when he was in grade 3.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, minister. Sit down; we will not acknowledge that point of order. Member for Morphett.

An honourable member: He didn't inhale.

Dr McFETRIDGE: I did inhale. I meant as a regular smoker. I understand the member for West Torrens' point of order. There are a lot of things in life you try, member for West Torrens, but you never become a regular participant. I will continue.

This is an extremely important motion and, as I said, my attitude was that this was policy looking for evidence. If you want to see that evidence now, just look at the advertising on television. You have a lady who is portrayed to be like something out of the SS in Germany telling you what you will do. That impression is draconian. The impression is that this is the end of the world, all your freedoms are going. To me, that is pretty clear evidence that tobacco companies know this is going to work. If for no other reason, I am more than happy to support this motion and the plain packaging of cigarettes.

As a Liberal, I would like to see people who are selling legal products able to advertise and sell those products in a way that can enhance their business. However, when you have a product such as this—that tobacco company representatives tell me they know is the largest cause of preventable deaths, yet they still want to keep pushing it to not only older people but also young people—we need to do something about it. This may be one way of reducing the impact of cigarette smoking on our population and on our health system. The burden on our health system is phenomenal. I forget the actual number of people who die from cigarette smoking every year, but it is huge.

I would still like to see the evidence that moving to plain-label packaging will reduce the total amount of smoking in the population. I have read some information about this, and I understand that the big concern of tobacco companies is not the total amount of tobacco they are going to sell but the profits they are going to lose, because the range of cigarettes that are marketed across the nation vary from top-end brands—and I do not know these brands, but they are in flash cigarette boxes, gold colours, and things like that—right down to fairly plain packaging.

The cigarettes, as I understand it, are identical. I am being assured by some of the smokers in the house they are not identical but, to me, they taste identical. They still cause a lot of health issues. The profit is in the top end and the plain packaging will reduce consumer demand for that top end where all the profit is. So the consumption of tobacco may not decrease significantly—I hope it does, but it may not—but the profit margin will go from the top end range of cigarettes, the really expensive cigarettes. If it dents their profit margins, that may make them think of coming up with other ways of advertising and marketing their products, but we should do anything we can to reduce smoking.

Putting the price up or doubling the price is not going to work. People will just divert their income from other areas and kids and families may suffer because people are spending money on cigarettes and not on food, clothes, rent, power and that sort of thing. We cannot have a simple solution for this. It is a very complex problem. This packaging change will go a long way to addressing that. If it stops some people smoking, that is great.

We need to continue the fight against smoking: we cannot just stop at this. I am very pleased to see that there is support across both sides of the house. Some people do not agree with it, I know that. As I said, Liberal policy would be to allow people selling a legal product to market it in ways they choose, but there is a special reason we are looking at this and that is that people die and have lots of disease and ill health. The federal opposition certainly is not opposing this.

It is good that we are getting this going and it will be interesting to see the results we get from the changes. I hope there is evidence of this policy working 12 months after it is introduced in 2012. The evidence should be there and if the policy is not working perhaps we have to look at it again, and we will be back in this place talking about other policies. I look forward to seeing that evidence.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (12:58): I think we need to remember that 1,200 South Australians die every year of smoking-related diseases. I was very pleased to hear an interjection from the minister for corrections that he has given up smoking. I congratulate him on doing so. I will sleep better at night knowing that his health will be better in years to come.

I think we have to look at the fact that, if tobacco companies had come to the government in this day and age and said, 'We have got this great new product. You are going to earn billions of dollars a year in tax. We are going to make a lot of money, employ a lot of people, grow tobacco farms, set up manufacturing plants in your country and advertising companies will make a lot of money promoting our product, but the only catch is thousands of people will die every year using this product,' I do not think we would see cigarettes introduced into the marketplace here in South Australia, or any civilised western country. As a matter of fact, the only countries where we are seeing a rise in the use of cigarettes are those where there is still strong branding and less education about the outcome of cigarettes.

I think it is important that, as community leaders—although it grinds against the libertarian views that we have about making laws about the way people run their lives—I think we have a social responsibility to destroy the advantage that cigarette companies have gained over the years in building up their brands and addicting people to this product. We all know how important branding is in selling products and making money.

That is why we see more and more 'home brands', if you like, in supermarkets. We have our two large supermarket chains grabbing nearly 80 per cent of the market and what we are

seeing over time is that they are destroying brands so they can have more control over the price they pay suppliers for those products because they know how powerful brands are for the consumer. What this legislation will do, of course, is diminish that ability for branding. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debated adjourned.

[Sitting suspended from 13:01 to 14:00]

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Members, we have a group of students here today from Blackwood Primary School who are guests of the member for Davenport. We hope you enjoy your time here.

HAMPSTEAD REHABILITATION CENTRE

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide): Presented a petition signed by 984 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to listen to the will of the people and cease any further planning to charge for car parking in the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. M.D. Rann)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—
Mutual Recognition (South Australia)—Temporary Exemptions
Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (South Australia)—Temporary Exemptions

By the Minister for Health (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

Report into the actions taken following Coronial Inquest Death into the of Ms Laura Parker
Reflecting on Results: Review of the Public Health System's Performance for 2008-10—
SA Health's Formal Response June 2011

By the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Hon. J.D. Hill)—

Regulations made under the following Act—
Controlled Substances—Controlled Drugs

By the Minister for Correctional Services (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Parole Board of South Australia—Annual Report 2009-10

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Ramsay—Premier, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change) (14:02): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The parliamentary Labor Party this afternoon elected the Hon. Russell Wortley MLC to fill the vacancy in the cabinet. Later today, I will be recommending to His Excellency the Governor in Executive Council the appointment of Mr Wortley to the ministry and the assignment of portfolio responsibilities.

Mr Wortley's experience before entering South Australian politics in 2006 ensures he will bring both knowledge and fresh ideas to cabinet. He brings to the important role of being a minister experience of having worked as a tradesperson, as an apprentice plumber, a plumber and gasfitter, a workers' advocate in the unions, a community activist, a local government representative and, of course, a committee chair in the parliament.

Mr Wortley started out as an apprentice plumber and gasfitter before being elected in 1984 as an organiser for the Federated Gas Employees Union, then followed more than 20 years as a senior union official including his election as secretary of the union in 1996. In 1987, he successfully stood as a councillor in Fitzroy ward in Prospect City Council where he served until

1993. I congratulate Russell on his election and I am sure all members will join with me in wishing him well in working in the best interests of the people of South Australia. I am sure members opposite will also extend their congratulations.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

PARKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Hon. M.D. RANN (Ramsay—Premier, Minister for Economic Development, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change) (14:04): I seek leave to make a second ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In October last year, I asked Social Inclusion Commissioner Monsignor David Cappo to conduct a review of the Parks Community Centre. Today I am pleased to table that review in the form of a report entitled *The Parks Community Centre: A Practical Approach For The Future*, and to announce that the state government supports the vision set out in the report.

Following the announcement in September 2010—in the context of a very tough state budget—that we would cease funding for the centre, the community made it clear that they wanted to keep the services at the Parks. We heard this message loud and clear, and we listened. We committed at that time to work with the Port Adelaide Enfield council and the community to find a new and better solution for the future of the Parks.

The Commissioner for Social Inclusion has mapped out such a plan in this comprehensive and practical vision for the Parks. Before I summarise the recommendations contained in the plan and the state government's response to those recommendations, I think it would be helpful to provide some context for the report that has been tabled today.

The original Parks Community Centre was the creation of the Don Dunstan government in the 1970s. It was an early model of integrated social welfare and education services intended to service the local area known as 'The Parks'. At that time, the area was recognised as being amongst the most disadvantaged in Adelaide.

As noted in the plan, the inner most suburbs to the Parks Community Centre are Angle Park, Athol Park, Mansfield Park, Kilkeny, Woodville North, Ferryden Park, and, adjacent to these, are Regency Park, Croydon Park, Renown Park, Dudley Park and Wingfield.

The plan notes that there has been a vast improvement in key social economic indicators in these suburbs since the 2001 census. The plan also notes that a key driver of this improvement has been the Westwood Urban Renewal Project. This was an initiative of this state government that involved a \$600 million regeneration joint venture between an international developer and the Department for Families and Communities, in conjunction with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and the City of Charles Sturt.

In response to these changes in the area, the plan appropriately seeks to change the nature of the parks as a welfare centre to a community hub that fits with the whole western region of metropolitan Adelaide. The plan provides a clear and exciting vision for meeting the needs of the local community. The plan recommends the following five key elements to be delivered in partnership by the state government and the Port Adelaide Enfield council.

It recommends the creation of a recreation and sports hub to include a brand new indoor swimming pool, an upgraded fitness centre, squash courts, an expanded basketball/recreational centre, new tennis courts, shared-use clubrooms and significant new sports fields. It proposes a refurbishment and expansion of the existing children's centre to provide expanded day care services for children in the local area, as well as provide programs and support services for parents.

It also recommends a new purpose-built health centre, a new library and community centre and the development of a new residential and retail area on the western side of the site. The plan also envisages a new urban village for the local community, with a new coffee shop, a town square, car parking, pedestrian boulevards and landscaped outdoor areas. The useable open space on the site is planned to increase.

The commissioner has also recommended a portion of the site be used for housing, including affordable housing, which will enhance the community hub atmosphere of the new Parks. The plan recommends that the government fund the new Parks Community Centre and sport and recreational services, with some of the cost being offset by the retail and residential development.

I am delighted to advise that the state government remains committed to the continuing operation of the Parks Community Centre. The Parks Community Centre isn't going to close. The Parks Community Centre will never close. We support the implementation of the plan in consultation with key stakeholders, such as sporting clubs and, importantly, in partnership with the Port Adelaide Enfield council.

The cooperation of the council as a partner with the state government is vital to the success of the plan and critical to implementing this new vision for modern facilities and services. The plan requires the council to agree to commit a parcel of adjoining land between the centre and Greyhound Racing SA for the successful redevelopment.

In addition, the plan proposes that the state government provides the council with 2,000 square metres of the existing park site for the council to rebuild the library and the community centre. The plan also recommends that the council should own and manage the recreation and sports precinct, which includes the new indoor swimming pool and outdoor sports fields, and clubrooms. We consider that there is great potential for the redeveloped site to become a central sporting hub for the local community. The site could become the new headquarters for a major sporting club and will certainly attract much local use.

The state government will be consulting closely with the council about the proposed recommendations. This process began today with the Deputy Premier meeting with the mayor and the chief executive of the Port Adelaide Enfield council. Implementation of the proposed concept plan is subject to the preparation of a detailed precinct plan, which will be worked out with the council.

To fully implement the plan, some government agencies and community groups that currently use the site may need to move to alternative venues, particularly during the construction phase, and, for some, longer term alternatives may need to be developed. Starting today, government representatives are contacting each of these groups and will be working closely with them to identify new accommodation or other arrangements. People can view the detailed proposal on the Social Inclusion website and, over the next month, provide their feedback. In the meantime, all services will continue to be provided as normal on the site.

I am confident that, with goodwill and with the interest of the community, a suitable arrangement can be reached with the council. But, in any event, the government remains committed to the ongoing operations of the Parks.

I congratulate the social inclusion commissioner on his balanced and integrated recommendations for the Parks Community Centre and look forward to turning his vision into a reality, in collaboration with the community of western Adelaide. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work that has gone into preparing this concept plan. Monsignor Cappo and his dedicated team in the Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet consulted directly with more than 650 members of the community, in addition to reviewing past consultation outcomes relating to the future of the Parks.

The SPEAKER: Before I call on the Deputy Premier, can I remind media camera operators that you are only to film people on their feet. It has been reported to me that there has been some filming going on of people not on their feet, and I would remind you of that.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I omitted to mention a group of people here from the Campbelltown Combined Probus Club. I am sorry; I thought you were with the school group, part of the primary school, but welcome.

ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Urban Development, Planning and the City of Adelaide, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Food Marketing) (14:12): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Organised criminals who are celebrating the decision of the High Court today are living in a fools' paradise. The government's unrelenting fight against organised gangsters, standover merchants and thugs is about to step up a notch. We place you all on notice: life is about to get a lot more difficult.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: The High Court today published its long-awaited decision in the case of *Wainohu v State of New South Wales*. The plaintiff in this case, Mr Derek Wainohu, was a member of an unincorporated association known as the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club in New South Wales.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: He had been a member of that club since November 1989, served in various roles and regularly associated with other members and supporters of that club. Mr Wainohu sought a declaration that the Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Act 2009 of New South Wales was invalid.

This act generally corresponds to—and I emphasise 'generally'—but in important particulars differs from the South Australian Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act. In particular, the New South Wales legislation sought to use a mechanism similar to that in our act to declare 'certain organisations', with certain consequences to flow from that declaration, including the ability to obtain control orders over members of a declared organisation.

Importantly, the New South Wales legislation provided for an 'eligible judge' of the Supreme Court of New South Wales to make a declaration without being obliged to provide reasons for his or her decision. The case revolved around whether the principle outlined in a number of cases but, in particular, the case of *Kable v The Director of Public Prosecutions*, had been offended.

For those opposite, in simple terms, the *Kable* principle, derived from chapter III of the Constitution, prevents the parliament of a state conferring a function upon a court of a state in which federal judicial power is vested, as in the case of all of our criminal courts, and impairs the institutional integrity of the court—and these are important words here—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I will read that again because I do not want them to miss that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much background noise.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Impairs the institutional integrity of the court such that it ceases to be a fit repository of federal judicial power—that is the point. It is difficult to predict the outcome of the application of this principle in advance of a court reviewing a state law. As the members of the High Court have recognised—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Bragg! Attorney.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I think she wants me to read that again. It impairs the institutional integrity of the court such that it ceases to be a fit repository of federal judicial power—that is the bit.

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: And he has dumbed that down for you.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Anyway—

The SPEAKER: Order, members on my right also!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: It is difficult to predict the outcome of the application of this principle in advance of a court reviewing a state law. As members of the High Court have recognised, what

amounts to the impairment of the institutional integrity of a court is not susceptible to definition in terms which necessarily dictate future outcomes—and those are their words, not mine.

This decision, when taken in conjunction with the decision in Totani, presents a complex but, I believe, not insoluble constitutional problem. I have asked the Solicitor-General to give urgent attention to closely considering these judgements and recommending to me a course of action which will enable us to repair the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act to overcome the problems exposed in Totani in a way that will not be constitutionally flawed.

The government has no intention of giving up on providing the police with the appropriate legislation to protect the community from organised crime. Organised crime in general, and outlaw motorcycle gangs in particular, are a cancer on this society and pose a clear and imminent threat to law-abiding citizens. I have no intention of giving any ground in the fight to disrupt and frustrate them. In fact, I will soon be presenting a package of measures to attack organised crime in ways which go beyond—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: —the matters considered by the High Court, member for Bragg. I also note—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I also note that, in the months since the Totani decision, a number of uninformed and foolish remarks have been made urging me to 'fix up' the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act. Had the government taken this advice, we could well now be confronting another constitutional challenge rather than being in a position to enact constitutionally valid laws to protect our community. It is my intention that we do this job once, and we do it properly. I intend to be—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.R. RAU: I think I should read that again. It is my intention that we should do this job once—that is, repair the legislation—and do it properly; not enact bits every time you over there call for, 'Fix it up, fix it up.' I intend to be in a position to recommend appropriate amendments to the South Australian act in the near future and to bring them to parliament as a matter of urgency.

I call upon all members of the parliament, whether in this house or in the other place, to treat this issue with the gravity it deserves and to commit to supporting this legislation with a speedy passage.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We had a late night last night and most people are feeling tired, so I would ask you to behave today, or someone will go out.

QUESTION TIME

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): My question is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister confirm that since 31 May 2011 the Flinders Medical Centre has had a policy to use treatment rooms as ward accommodation for patients?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurana—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:20): I am not sure what the member is relying on. I take with a grain of salt anything that the opposition says about anything that happens in our health system. They were caught out badly yesterday—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Point of order. What is your point of order?

Mr WILLIAMS: The purpose of question time is for the minister to answer questions—

The SPEAKER: The minister is answering questions, sit down.

Mr WILLIAMS: —not to question the motives behind—

The SPEAKER: Sit down! There is no point of order. Minister.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: As I was saying I think I am entitled to take with a grain of salt anything that the opposition puts to me about health.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Point of order.

Mr WILLIAMS: The minister is impugning improper motive on the part of the opposition; it's an outrage.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I think the minister has made his point and he needs to be a little bit careful. Minister, can you finish your answer.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I am being careful, Madam Speaker, because what is put to me as a fact and asking me to comment on I am questioning, because we know from yesterday how badly embarrassed the Leader of the Opposition was. She was set up by her shadow health minister and she was badly caught out.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I will happily get a report, Madam Speaker. In relation to the Flinders Medical Centre, the emergency department there is undergoing a transformation. As I indicated publicly at the time that we started the works back in October—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Norwood!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: As I said at the time back in October when we commenced the building works there, there would be difficult periods while those works were happening because we were running the emergency department while we were undertaking building works there to expand it. The end result will be a much bigger emergency department.

Mr Williams: You don't even know what is going on.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for MacKillop!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I could say so many things but that would just incite the member for MacKillop. I understand exactly what is going on in our hospitals: we are building capacity so that we have sufficient capacity in the future to look after the patients that we know are coming through our system. There are obviously transitional issues while we are doing that building work at the emergency department of Flinders Medical Centre. That work, I am advised, will be completed before time and so will be in better shape by the next winter season.

There are some incredible pressures there at the moment. We have seen reports in the paper about ambulances and the like, but the staff there are doing a superb job and they are managing in the best way they can in the circumstances. So, if they are making interim arrangements because they are adapting what they have to suit the needs of the patients I congratulate them on that. Anybody who says the opposite just does not understand the way our health system works. I will happily get a report for the member.

VICTIMS OF CRIME DATA

Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the Minister for Police advise the house about the official ABS victims of crime data released today?

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY (Port Adelaide—Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Police, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Motor Sport, Minister Assisting the Premier with the Olympic Dam Expansion Project) (14:23): I thank the member for Little Para

for his question. This is a very important release of statistical data today. I make the point that this is ABS data and it is not something that is produced by the police department. The Premier has made a very significant policy point since coming to office that we would be tough on crime, that we would resource our police department—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It is actually unparliamentary to interject, member for MacKillop.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Since coming to office—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: —this government has increased the South Australian police department's budget by some 90 per cent—90 per cent. When we came to office—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Just wait, member for MacKillop. Since coming to office—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for MacKillop, I warn you.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: It's not even a smart interjection. You wouldn't mind it if they were witty—

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: —or intelligent, but they are just dumb interjections. We have put an extra 700 police on the beat in this state since coming to office. We will put a further 200 or 300 on before this term ends. We will be probably closer to 1,300 more police, or a number of that equivalent, than at the mid-term point of the Liberals all those years ago.

What has been the result of this significant increase in resources, as well as the toughening of many laws that the former attorney-general quite proudly championed in this place and that has seen a significant toughening up on many laws across our statute book? The 2010 ABS data show us the following when compared to 2009.

Sexual assaults in this state fell to 1,362 compared with 1,488 in 2009 and 1,625 when we came to office in 2002. Motor vehicle theft offences—and I really ask the house to listen to this figure—in 2009 there were 5,099; this year, 4,540. But when we look back to when we came into office, in the last year of the Liberal government there were 11,214 thefts of motor vehicles in this state. We have now got that number down to 4,540. We have more than halved the number of motor vehicle thefts—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Look at it! Liberals, Madam Speaker—weak on crime. It's a known fact in this state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: They say that it was technology—well, how do you explain this one, geniuses? Total unlawful entry, that is with intent to break into homes, fell from 17,755 last year to 16,830 this year, but—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: —they say we halved the number of motor vehicle thefts because of technology. When we came to office, the total unlawful entry with intent break-ins under—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Oh, you think that's funny, getting hit, do you?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: You think that's funny, getting hit?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Unley! Member for Unley and the minister.

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: When we came—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Yes, they make fun of it. Good luck! When we came to office there were 33,054 unlawful entry with intent break-ins. We have got that number down to 16,830. We have halved it. Is that technology?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: No, it's because you are weak on law and order and we are strong. Madam Speaker, we can look at a number of other categories. If we look at blackmail and extortion, down to 31 compared to 49 last year; and when the Liberals were last in office, 61 offences of blackmail and extortion—down to 31, another 50 per cent cut. Was that technology? Other theft offences: in 2002, other theft offences in this state was a horrendous, unacceptable, appalling figure of 79,185; this year, 42,083. That is a halving yet again.

This is clear evidence that under a Labor government we have delivered a much safer community, a community that is experiencing less—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: What's your point?

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: Well, I hope one day, if you get belted in the street, you don't have to go through—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: —what I've gone through.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Williams interjecting:

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: I said I hope you don't get belted. But make fun of it. That's fine; you can do that. You'll get into any gutter—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.O. FOLEY: —but one thing I can make very, very clear to this house is that under Labor most offences are down significantly, some are down by 50 per cent. The people of South Australia, when they re-elect a Labor government, they know one thing for certain: a Labor government is tough on law, tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition.

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): My question is again to the Minister for Health. Is it intended that the treatment rooms at the Flinders Medical Centre be used as ward accommodation for patient stays exceeding 24 hours?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:31): As I said in answer to the first question, the pressures on our hospitals from time to time become quite intense. We have had a particularly difficult winter. The winter onset really—

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the member for Morphett!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: We've had a particularly busy winter, and the pressure on the hospitals has been great. The winter onset really came in March this year rather than later in the year, so there has been quite a lot of pressure on the hospital system. As members would know—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: —all of our metropolitan hospitals have strategies in place to upgrade and expand the capacity. We have opened 200 extra beds since we have been in government, and we have another 250 that will be opened up over the course of the building work that is underway. So, from time to time, decisions are made which mean there is a use of rooms which were designed for another purpose. That is perfectly acceptable as long as it is done safely, because the alternative is not to have a place for a patient who needs it.

I think members should understand that this is done in a safe way by the hospitals to make sure that patients are accommodated. You cannot overturn the backlog of beds as quickly as we would like. We have to build new infrastructure. What would the Liberals do? Of course they would ignore that fact. Their policy was about privatisation. They cut hundreds of beds out of our system when they were in government. And in relation to the Royal Adelaide Hospital they would have done—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: —nothing except build a big tower to make the emergency department unworkable.

GP PLUS HEALTH CARE CENTRES

Mr SIBBONS (Mitchell) (14:33): My question—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBBONS: My question is also to the Minister for Health. What services will be offered at the new GP Plus health care centres, and how will this help people stay fit and healthy and avoid hospital visits?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:34): I thank the member for Mitchell for his question. This is a very good segue from the questions asked by the opposition, because they asked what we are doing about it.

One of the great commitments that we have is to increase the amount of out-of-hospital care. The advice to us by the Generational Health Review was to create greater capacity for primary health care, prevention and chronic disease management so that fewer people need to go to the emergency departments of our hospitals.

We know that as our population ages it will require more health care. As a result of that, of course, the costs of running the health service continue to increase. As part of the response to this challenge, the government is changing how health care is delivered to make sure that we have a sustainable system for the future. That involves not only building up our hospital infrastructure but it also involves building up infrastructure around the primary health care area.

We have had some success in slowing the growth in hospital demand. In 2006-07, the financial year before the release of our Health Care Plan, the growth in separations—which is a technical term to describe the patients who move through the system—in metropolitan Adelaide was 4.6 per cent. So in the year '06-07 we had a 4.6 per cent growth in hospital separations. Last financial year, that had declined to 1.9 per cent, and this year, to the end of April (we do not have the later figures) it was down to 0.1 per cent, hardly any growth at all in the separations. That is a major achievement.

In contrast, we have seen quite strong growth in the country, and that is also a major achievement. We have had a 3.3 per cent growth in separations to date this year on the back of a 4.4 per cent growth last year. That is because we are able to use the capacity in the country. The percentage of beds being used is about 50 per cent across all of country, so there is the capacity there. If we can use that capacity by having more patients looked after in country communities then fewer people come to the city.

The GP Plus health care network is also a key part of this reform process. These centres will offer a range of health services close to where people live and help ease pressure on busy hospital emergency departments by treating non-urgent conditions such as colds and flus and so on. Smaller GP Plus health care centres have been operating at Aldinga and Woodville for some time now and they have been very welcome additions to the services available in those communities.

In conjunction with the commonwealth government, we are also building GP Plus super clinics at Modbury and Noarlunga and the country centres are being built at Ceduna and Port Pirie. In 2011-12, with the completed major centres at Elizabeth and Marion, the projected number of appointments at all of the GP Plus health care centres is expected to top 205,000. That is a tenfold increase on the current financial year: 205,000 extra patient visits that will be able to be accommodated. These appointments will be provided in brand new purpose-built facilities in major population centres and will have a big impact, we believe, on hospital demand.

This coming Saturday, we will celebrate the official opening of the GP Plus health care centre at Marion and the state's first community mental health care centre as well. These important collocated developments open the door to a new level of health care in Adelaide's inner southern suburbs. Under the one roof people can access allied health professionals, dentists and community health staff to help manage their health conditions and to help them stay healthy and out of hospital.

The centre is located adjacent to the spectacular new aquatic centre, which has also just opened to the public. The new GP Plus health care centre and community mental health building is about 7,500 square metres and is built over four levels. I commend both of these new centres, the Elizabeth one and the Marion one, to the house and I would invite all members to inspect them; we could arrange visits, if you would like.

Services offered at the GP Plus include dental services, drug and alcohol counselling, allied health services such as podiatry, physiotherapy, nutrition and psychology, early childhood development therapy, including speech pathology and occupational therapy and health assessment, including self-management programs, particularly for people with chronic health conditions. We know that people who have chronic illnesses (generally older people, but not always) are likely to have lots of hospital visits.

Importantly, the centre will also have a focus on teaching, education and development of the health workforce. The centre will work in conjunction with the adjacent Marion Domain Medical Centre, which provides general practice services for extended hours seven days a week. I am very pleased that the Domain Centre has again started bulk-billing, which is great news for people in that community.

The new Elizabeth GP Plus health care centre held an open day last Sunday for members of the community, and a number of local members were there to be a part of that. Members of the community were given free health checks and tours of that impressive new facility. An estimated 750 locals took the opportunity to inspect the new centre and learn about the services that it provided.

I am also delighted that our first community mental health centre has opened at the Marion site. We are developing six new community mental health centres across metropolitan Adelaide as part of our Stepping Up mental health reforms to provide different steps of care for people as they suffer setbacks in their health. That centre will provide a range of public mental health services

which are essential in assisting people with mental health issues to continue to live, work and contribute as active members of their community.

Like GP Plus centres, community mental health centres are about offering non-emergency treatment and health care in locations that are more appropriate than hospitals. The other five mental health centres will be located in the outer southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, inner north, outer north and western suburbs. Together, the new GP Plus health centre at Marion and inner southern community mental health centre will care for the physical and mental health of local residents for many years to come. These centres—a big investment by government into public health—are part of our strategy to make sure that we have a sustainable health system.

I would not pretend for a moment that we have solved all the problems. There are many issues that need to be dealt with: extra capacity in hospitals, extra capacity out of hospitals, encouraging people to look after their own health, a whole range of things. All of these things have to be addressed at once, but I am very proud of the work that this government has done, and we will keep doing this kind of work to make sure that our system is sustainable for our children and their children.

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): My question is again to the Minister for Health. Does the minister think it is acceptable to use treatment rooms at the Flinders Medical Centre that have no windows and no toilet or bathroom for patients who need ward accommodation?

An honourable member: Good question.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Health.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:40): This is an interesting thing. I'd like to know what the Liberal Party's policy is on how to create extra capacity in our healthcare system.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Apparently, they read the editorial the other day and they are going to come out with some exciting new policies in the future. We're waiting to hear. I know there's a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: —policy that members of the opposition have, and it doesn't involve a future for the current Leader of the Opposition. I am advised that hospitals from time to—

Mr Marshall: Mark it in your calendar.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Norwood!

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members on my right also, Minister for Defence Industries!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. The member for Norwood has such an angry face, it scares people. The advice I have in relation to treatment rooms is that treatment rooms can be used for overnight stays, if required, when the number of beds has to be flexed up, and that's what the hospitals—

Mr Williams: So we were right.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I didn't deny it.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for MacKillop!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: A revelation by the member. They place one bed in the room, usually overnight, and it is common practice in many hospitals. They have a policy on the use of the rooms and sometimes use treatment rooms for dying patients, in particular, to provide them and their families with privacy because we don't at the moment, of course, have single rooms in our hospitals. That's our policy—to have single rooms, a policy that the other side hasn't adopted and

opposed, as I understand it. The rooms that they are referring to are on wards and are usually used for minor procedures, such as wound dressing.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: They are not large, but they are comfortable and sufficient for a single room. I make the point, and I make no apology for the fact—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: —we will use the capacity we have to look after patients. I'm not sure what the opposition would do. They would throw them out into the street, presumably, unless they could pay because their approach would be privatisation of our healthcare system. That's what they did in government, and that's what they keep advocating for now that they are in opposition.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I warn members that if they persistently disobey my directions they may not be given the opportunity to ask their questions.

CHILDREN'S CENTRES

Ms THOMPSON (Reynell) (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Early Childhood Development. Can the minister update the house on progress in implementing children's centres, which are so important to support children and their families in the early years?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:43): I would like to thank the member for Reynell for her question and for her passionate advocacy—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —for children not only in her electorate but around the state. Investing in the early years of life has been a hallmark of this Rann Labor government.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Bragg!

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: We know that the experiences of children in those developing years has a profound impact not only on their learning but also on their health and wellbeing. The future health trajectory of a child is fundamentally affected by what happens in the first five years of life, and so as many resources as we can put into that area are absolutely crucial. That is why we have developed the concept of the children's centre, bringing care, education, family support and health services under the one roof.

Children do not see themselves as having particular needs that fall into portfolio areas. They are children, seeking to develop in a healthy way, and it is for us to bring those services together to make them accessible for them and their families. There is no such thing as a hard-to-reach family, there are just hard-to-reach services, and we have to make sure that our services are tailored around the needs of those families.

We now have provided 2,200 children's places, including 1,600 preschool places and 500 childcare places in these children's centres. That is why I was very proud to recently open the latest in our network of children's centres, including the O'Sullivan Beach Children's Centre last week and just yesterday the Trinity Gardens Children's Centre.

These two facilities were made possible by the incredible collaboration of a group of passionate citizens—professionals—all coming together, together with their communities, to create these services. At Trinity Gardens we have a range of services, including a Positive Parenting program, which helps parents develop strategies.

The truth is that every family that has a newborn child come into it is under enormous pressure. It does not take many nights of sleeplessness for parents to feel desperate, so being able

to come together and share information with other parents in an environment where they are supported is a fantastic thing.

The My Time peer-support group is another fantastic initiative. That is an initiative where a parent of a child with a disability comes in for a couple of hours. Someone makes them a cup of tea. Their child is looked after by a paid professional, and, while the child is getting support and assistance and is introduced to a range of maybe therapies, toys or other things they might not have access to at home, the parents are also given an opportunity not only to have a break but also to talk to other parents who are parenting children with disabilities. It is incredibly valuable when parents realise that someone else is going through exactly the same thing as them.

There is also a range of programs, such as Getting to Know Your Baby, a parenting course for new parents. In the Trinity Gardens Children's Centre yesterday, I was very pleased to announce that the local headquarters for the Australian Breastfeeding Association is now located there. They were looking for a new home. They have secure funding. I think that they are funded by the federal government, and they have found a home in the Trinity Gardens Children's Centre, and that provides incredibly valuable support for new mothers, and also for expectant mothers. This sounds like a small thing, but the question of breastfeeding and whether or not that works in the first weeks after a child is born can be an enormous source of distress for parents, families and for children.

At the opening of the O'Sullivan Beach Children's Centre the other day with the member for Reynell, I announced the government's latest commitment to the Smith Family's Let's Read program, together with a fine citizen, Mr Jaeschke, who, I think, had a relationship with those opposite once upon a time. He now runs the Smith Family's Let's Read program. He is its chief executive in South Australia. Together we had the great pleasure of announcing \$365,000 of funding to bring this successful program, which assists people in reading to their children from the early years of life, into each of our children's centres across the state.

It may sound like a small matter, reading to a newborn child, but we know that so much of the profound brain development occurs even in the first seven months of a child's existence. That first seven months is the most profound activity in the wiring up of a child's brain receptive for language. That is frightening when you consider that it is not until two years before they tend to produce their own language. But, when you are talking to the child, what is actually happening is that you are wiring up that child's brain for the later capacity for them to learn.

This is an incredibly important initiative, and it is one that I am sure all members of parliament would support. I would like to thank the communities of both the O'Sullivan Beach and Trinity Gardens children's centres for inviting me to be a part of their facilities. It was wonderful to see the way in which the community has embraced these facilities. This is going to make the most profound difference to the healthy human development of these children and to the capacity of our community in the future.

FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:49): My question is to the Minister for Health. As the minister has now admitted that treatment rooms at the Flinders Medical Centre are being used as wards, where are the patients who would have been normally treated in these rooms now being treated?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurana—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:49): 'Now that the minister has admitted'—you can just hear the argument dripping on the words, Madam Speaker. As I said, the hospital flexes up beds when it is required. These are treatment rooms which are not being used in the middle of the night; that is why they are available to have patients sleeping there.

Just for the record, let me inform the house that, in relation to the Flinders Medical Centre, when we first came to government in 2001-02, which was the last year of the former Liberal government, there were 419 beds open at the Flinders Medical Centre. In 2009-10, there were 551 beds open at the Flinders Medical Centre. That is a massive increase of 130 extra beds put in by this government to help service the people of the southern suburbs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Of course, Madam Speaker, that was done because we put the investment in, because we are committed to public health, unlike those on the other side. While I am on the issue of capacity, beds and so on: yesterday, the member for Morphet put out a media release—he said at 2pm on 20 June 2011:

The average wait time in the RAH ED is 35.9 hours—nine times higher than Labor's recommended four hours.

That is what he said. That is absolutely, categorically untrue, like so much of what the opposition has to say on health. Categorically untrue. He never checks the facts, he makes reckless decisions about the truth—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Point of order, member for Finniss.

Mr PENGILLY: Standing Order 98: the minister is clearly debating the matter.

The SPEAKER: Minister, have you finished your answer?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I think I have made the point pretty clearly: they don't know how to tell the truth, Madam Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WILLIAMS: Point of order, Madam Speaker—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WILLIAMS: It is—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, minister for Transport!

Mr WILLIAMS: It is 127, actually: the minister is impugning improper motive.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not uphold that point of order because I have seen the same sort of aspersions coming from both sides of the chamber today, but I remind members to be careful about what they say. The member for Taylor.

AGED RIGHTS ADVOCACY SERVICE

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (14:52): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Ageing—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Sorry, I did not hear that question, member for Taylor.

Mrs VLAHOS: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Ageing. Can the Minister for Ageing please advise the house on a new initiative to prevent the abuse of older South Australians?

The SPEAKER: Again, before I call the minister, I will remind members if you persistently ignore my requests for order, you will not be given the call. Minister for Families and Communities.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Housing, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability) (14:52): Since coming to government, we have consistently increased the support for seniors and made efforts to keep our elderly safe. The Department for Families and Communities funds the Aged Rights Advocacy Service for more than \$730,000 each year, to help raise awareness and prevent abuse of older people in our community.

In 2010-11 to date, the Aged Rights Advocacy Service has assisted approximately 454 older people directly suffering abuse. A further 372 friends or family members have been provided with information and assistance, and 126 information and education sessions have been conducted for 2,730 people.

Last week, at the Adelaide Convention Centre, I launched a new protocol for responding to the abuse of older people living at home in the community. This practical resource gives older people and their nurses, carers, social workers and service providers the tools and clear guidelines so they can make confident and informed decisions if they suspect abuse is occurring.

A DVD has also been developed in conjunction with the protocol; 'No Excuse for Abuse', and it highlights some of the common signs of elder abuse so people know what to look for and how to identify abuse when it occurs.

Signs of abuse can range from physical, psychological, financial or social. An older person can have bruising or swelling, may act fearfully, or may be under or overmedicated. They may be reluctant to make their own decisions, be overly nervous and anxious in the presence of a particular person, or may tell conflicting stories that could indicate abuse. If an older person is being financially abused, there may be unpaid bills, missing personal belongings, a change in the will or important documents, confusion about assets or unusual activity in bank accounts.

The protocol and DVD were developed by the Aged Rights Advocacy Service and funded by the state government. A recent *Advertiser* article featured the movie star Mickey Rooney, who openly discussed—

The Hon. J.D. Hill: I met him.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: Have you? He openly discussed abuse he suffered from his 52-year-old stepson. He had been bullied, made a prisoner in his own home and forced into signing over his assets—before he received help.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: How many wives did he have?

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: About eight. An example like this just goes to show that anyone can become a victim of elder abuse, and the perpetrators can be the people we most trust—a family member, a close friend or a carer. This is also why it can be so hard to ask for help. Ensuring all South Australians—especially our elderly—know their rights and how they can get help if they need it is one of the best ways to prevent abuse.

The government is pleased to have supported the protocol and the DVD, and I hope it will help further assist the many people and organisations doing a wonderful job caring for our seniors and helping them stay safe and independent.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: Once again, you see the opposition finding great mirth in initiatives that help the most disadvantaged in our community; well done!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for Finniss that he will be old one day; he is very close to it now. Member for Morphett.

HOSPITAL DEMAND

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:56): Thank you, Madam Speaker; 35.9 hours, John.

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morphett!

Dr McFETRIDGE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Which other public hospitals have adopted the Flinders Medical Centre policy as of 31 May 2011 to use treatment rooms for ward patients, given that at 11am today, four hours ago, the Lyell McEwin was overcrowded at 101 per cent capacity, the Flinders Medical Centre was at 102 per cent capacity, the Noarlunga hospital was at 110 per cent capacity and the Royal Adelaide Hospital was at 113 per cent capacity—four hours ago, John?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (14:57): 'Four hours ago, John.' Well, look, breaking news to the member for—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett, behave.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: As I have said frequently, the emergency departments in our hospitals are under a lot of pressure at the moment, there is no doubting that at all, and we are going through a range of processes to relieve that pressure. The substantial thing we are doing, of course, is to increase the capacity of our emergency departments at Flinders, Lyell McEwin, TQEH, and of course building a new Royal Adelaide Hospital, which will have a lot more capacity. Of course, they objected to that, so their solution is to not do anything except build a big building in the driveway of the—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Norwood, you are warned.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I don't know what he said anyway; it just sounds loud to me. So, we are going through a process of building extra capacity and putting extra capacity out of our hospitals so fewer people have to go to the emergency departments, and the performance across the board in health in South Australia is improving. That is not to say at some times—and particularly at the moment—there is a lot of pressure on the emergency departments, and we do everything we can. We put on extra staff, we put in extra resources, but, after we build that extra capacity and build the extra out-of-hospital capacity, there will still be pressures. I have never said that that was not the case, but we have a strategy to address all of these issues and I am very, very confident that we will get there.

From time to time hospitals do flex up beds, and that means using beds which might be ascribed to another purpose, so treatment rooms from time to time are used, and that is perfectly normal and perfectly reasonable. If you have too many people coming through the door, you have to do something; you cannot turn people away. I have absolute confidence in the managers of our hospitals and the staff who work in our hospitals to manage all of these things in a professional way.

HEALTH BUDGET

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (14:59): My question is to the Treasurer. Is the transfer of ward patients into treatment rooms at Flinders Medical Centre a consequence of the government's policy of increasing the health budget by around 2 per cent per annum when the government has previously claimed health costs are increasing at 9 per cent per annum?

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurana—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (15:00): The answer to that is clearly no. The health budget has been growing over recent years and one of the goals we have had as a government is to reduce the demand on our hospitals and we have been successful, as I indicated to the house a little while ago. The growth in demand for hospital services in the last 12 months was down below 2 per cent for Adelaide hospitals. That is a real reduction on the average of about 4 or 5 per cent that we have seen over previous years.

The government has done that by having greater capacity outside the hospitals and putting plans in place to help people who have chronic disease so that they do not come to hospital as frequently. We have identified a large number of people, usually elderly, who are frail, who have multiple chronic diseases and who are in and out of hospitals. If you put care in their homes then you could stop them going into hospital. We have done a whole range of things and, as a result of investment in out-of-hospital care over the last five years by Treasury through the health system, we have been able to reduce the growth in demand.

That is not to say that from time to time there will be spikes. That would happen in any system depending on the circumstances—weather is one of the major factors that drives this. The overall trend is very positive. It is still growing but the rate of growth in demand for our hospital services is reducing and that is what our overall goal is, and the money that is given to us by Treasury reflects that.

POLICE FUNDING

Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (15:02): My question is to the Attorney-General. Given the high costs of continuing legal challenges to the anti-bikie laws, has the government had any discussions with SAPOL as to whether the limited resources available to government would be better spent on better resourcing our police rather than fighting court cases?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Urban Development, Planning and the City of Adelaide, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Food Marketing) (15:02): I thank the honourable member very much for her question. I would like to read a statement to the parliament which I think really answers the question:

It's about time we asked ourselves a question: is it better to waste money in futile High Court challenges or is it better to get in, back into the parliament, make laws that are well within our...constitutional power and get on and fight organised crime?

The Hon. K.O. Foley: Who said that?

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Stephen Wade; he said it today!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Conservation. What progress is being made regarding threatened or vulnerable species in South Australia with the implementation of the government's No Species Loss Strategy and protected land programs?

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Environment and Conservation, Minister for the River Murray, Minister for Water) (15:03): I thank the member for Torrens for a very important question and I certainly acknowledge her desire to ensure that we preserve all of our native species. The government has made significant progress in implementing the No Species Loss Strategy. Recovery actions have been implemented for around 280 or 59 per cent of the 476 endangered or vulnerable species in South Australia, exceeding the 40 per cent goal of the No Species Loss Strategy.

I am pleased to have been advised that there has been no known species loss in the past decade. A number of threatened species are showing positive signs of recovery as a result of the government's recovery programs.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: I do not think they are interested, Madam Speaker.

An honourable member: I am.

The Hon. P. CAICA: No, you're not.

The Hon. I.F. Evans: That is what Leon was saying earlier in the week!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: Unlike the buffoons who aren't at risk, the warru is. It is also known as the black-footed rock wallaby.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: It is one of the most endangered mammals, having once been common across the APY lands—

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will sit down until there is some quiet.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, Minister for Health! Minister for Environment.

The Hon. P. CAICA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The warru was once common across, as I said, the APY lands. The total population is now estimated to be around 150, restricted to only two localities. The Warru Recovery Program is a successful partnership between the Anangu traditional owners, government agencies and scientists, the program including predator control, surveys to find colonies and determine population sizes, research to address key knowledge gaps and a captive breeding program at the Monarto Zoo.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Madam Speaker, they make it very hard, but I will just plod on. A predator-proof enclosure was recently built in the APY lands to further assist in the recovery of this species. I am pleased that my colleague, the Minister for Youth, was able to release into the 100-hectare enclosure five captive-bred warru in March this year, wasn't it? You did a very good job, thank you. A further release is planned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: The mainland tammar wallaby—

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Madam Speaker, there is one that will never become extinct—the shrieking parrot of the east. That one is not anywhere near endangered. The mainland tammar wallaby was once thought to be extinct but was reintroduced in South Australia during 2004 following the most amazing discovery of a feral population of wallabies in New Zealand. I think these people here will remember that story back in 2004. Since their reintroduction to the Innes National Park the wallabies have been the focus of an intensive recovery program, including fox baiting, population monitoring and a captive breeding program. A recent survey at the park revealed the tammar wallaby population has more than doubled since 2009.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Double what we had. The program—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I do remember the former member for Goyder complaining about that release, thinking it was going to have a devastating impact on the farmers at that time.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I know you did. You did a really good job. Madam Speaker, this program also contributes to the recovery of a number of other threatened species, including the malleefowl, the western whipbird, the hooded plover, the painted button-quail and the heath goanna.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: They are; they're all over there. The strategic action taken by the government during the extended years of drought has helped save several threatened species of fish from extinction.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: That's just one of them, one of the species, that's right. The Rescue to Recovery program in South Australia's Murray-Darling Basin has been instrumental in preventing the extinction of several native fish species through captive breeding, environmental water allocations, restoration techniques and genetic research. Several populations in the state's South-East—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Point of order, Madam Chair: I am concerned the minister's got one of my old briefing notes.

The SPEAKER: I am glad to see there is such passion and interest in what he is saying. It's a bit like listening to the speeches in the Appropriation Bill.

The Hon. P. CAICA: It is nice that the member for Davenport is interested in this. As I say, Madam Speaker, several populations in the state's South-East were also rescued in 2008-09, with fish being placed into captive breeding programs at local schools, before being reintroduced into their natural habitat.

This one will be of interest to the member for Finniss: the Kangaroo Island Threatened Plant Recovery Program. I am sure he has been out planting during these particular days. The

program is reinstating large areas of habitat to support the recovery of several threatened plant species in eastern Kangaroo Island. One of the key achievements of this program has been—

Mr Pengilly interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Well, there have been some very good burning exercises on Kangaroo Island in recent times.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: One of the key achievements of this program has been the development of the annual Kangaroo Island Planting Festival. The last three planting festivals have involved 1,000 volunteers and have resulted in 225,000 seedlings being planted over 100 hectares. Other achievements of the recovery program include the development of successful propagation techniques for threatened plant species, construction of nursery facilities for 130,000 tubestock, collection of seed from 160 local species, and the development of effective restoration techniques using fire and spreading of stored topsoil.

Mr Griffiths interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Yes, spreading it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: The progress achieved to date is in no small part due to this government's commitment to conserving our threatened species, which is clearly demonstrated by the amount of land that has been added to the protected area system under Labor governments. Whilst the member for Davenport might have said this could be one of his old briefings, quite simply this could never have been in his briefings—what I am about to say—because it distinguishes between us and them.

The Hon. K.O. Foley interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: What I am about to say. In 1992, Labor introduced the Wilderness Protection Act, and 70,000 hectares of land had been protected by 1993. Yet, in barren contrast, no additions were made throughout eight years of government under the Liberals. More significantly, since March 2002 there have been 49 new parks created under the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the Wilderness Protection Act.

Additions have also been made to existing parks, which have added approximately one million hectares to the protected area system. Once the Nullarbor Plain is declared as a wilderness protection area, the total area of land in South Australia with the highest form of environmental protection will be almost 1.8 million hectares, about 25 times the area covered by this form of protection compared to when Labor came to government in 2002.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: Not one square metre.

An honourable member: You're kidding.

The Hon. P. CAICA: No, not one—not one.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: This government is committed to protecting our state's unique biodiversity and is playing a leading role nationally in this regard, for example, through our collaboration with the Northern Territory government in establishing the world's first transcontinental wildlife corridor—the Trans-Australia Eco-Link—which will stretch 3,500 kilometres from coast to coast when completed. The Rann Labor government wants to ensure that generations of South Australians to come will—

Mr Venning: You wrote and believe this?

The Hon. P. CAICA: —I do, Ivan—be able to enjoy our natural environment.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! There are eight minutes left of question time.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P. CAICA: As I said, 1.8 million hectares under wilderness protection—not one square metre during their time.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:13): My question is to the Minister for Education. Why have the contractors for up to 100 school bus route services been waiting for six months for their contracts to be renewed, and when will the minister renew them?

Some school bus operators have purchased new buses, at a cost of up to \$400,000 each, in good faith that their contracts will be renewed by the government following the minister's own comment on 13 September 2010 that 'the bus and coach industry wants certainty for private operators'. Minister, why the delay?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Minister for Education, Minister for Early Childhood Development, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:13): I thank the honourable member for his question. The simple answer is that there has been no delay. What we announced—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Well, the process we announced on 13 September last year is precisely the process that we are following. It is worth just recapping on what we announced. It was \$114.5 million to modernise and improve our school bus fleet in terms of its air conditioning and seatbelts. The procurement process that I announced back in September has been proceeding without delay. The reason for the time taken to award contracts is that there is, simply spoken, more than one operator who has sought to tender for each of the routes.

Contracts have been and will continue to be awarded by the department, and the department, of course, is in regular contact with those local bus operators and their association. About half the bus services that we provide in our schools are provided by private contractors and the other half by our own government fleet. Madam Speaker, you will recall last year that there was some concern amongst those opposite, and also on behalf of a number of their constituents in regional areas, about this whole potential issue of the rolling over of the contracts and the new arrangements.

The concern at that time was that small local operators that had given good service to the community over many years would be squeezed out by the bigger players. We listened to those concerns. We sat down with the Bus and Coach Association and we designed a tender process which was designed in a way to ensure that existing contractors would be given a fair chance to compete with those tenders.

The tender process involved a two-step process. The first step was an expression of interest process to see whether there were any routes where there was no competition for tenders so that we could go to direct negotiations with those existing operators. Despite the fact we were told that would be the case, it did not happen. There was competition in relation to each of the routes.

The second step involved requests for proposals for each route. Among other measures to assist existing operators, this request for proposal process included a weighting for the incumbent bus contractors to recognise prior service and the cost to the government when changing from one bus contractor to another. So, there is an in-built fairness to the existing operators.

We have now sent out over 900 requests for proposals for 99 routes of the 275 routes that exist, and I am very pleased to say that the first seven contracts to be awarded have been awarded to an existing local contractor. The member for MacKillop would be interested because the local and incumbent bus operator, P.G. and M.A. Stone, has been awarded seven bus contracts for the Keith Area School. This is in recognition of their good service to the Keith area and to the community, as well as their ability to provide the service with upgraded safety standards and also air conditioning standards. As we go along, what we do is we communicate with the successful—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: For those members opposite, what happens is that as the contracts expire we seek to go out to tender for those contracts. If you have more than one person who wants to participate in this process then you have to conduct a procurement process. That is pretty orthodox, and that is what we have chosen to do.

As a tenderer is chosen and is successful, we tell the unsuccessful tenderer and the successful tenderer and negotiations are then finalised in respect of the successful tenderer. This is the procurement process that we announced last year. Nothing has changed with it. It is rolling out as we expected.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I must say that for members opposite there were different points of view. We had the agrarian socialists up the back who did not want a contracting process, they wanted to have direct dealing. Then, at the front, you had the economic rationalists who thought that we should be going out to tender and that it should all be based on price.

We have tried to get a sensible blend of giving proper recognition for prior service and the good service that has been provided by existing operators. We designed a procurement process which gives them every fair opportunity to win those tenders, but the process has thrown up more bidders for each route than we need. What that means is that you have to conduct a process.

I have spoken to the Executive Director of the Bus and Coach Association, Sonia St Alban, just this afternoon and she accepts that it is important that accurate information be put out there to contractors who are part of the process. There is no doubt that it is an anxious time for those people who have put in a bid for these routes. This is their livelihood, I accept that, and we are doing everything possible to expedite the processing of that tender process so that we can award the tenders to the appropriate and successful bidder and then move on to the next contract as that contract expires.

CHILD'S DEATH

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:19): My question is to the Minister for Families and Communities. Was the legal advice to 'be incredibly cautious' in respect of the five-year-old boy who died at Modbury Heights two weeks ago to ensure that there would be no interference with the pending criminal case or to protect against self-incrimination, or to avoid embarrassment to the minister, or all of the above?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Housing, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability) (15:20): The member for Bragg—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: The member for Bragg is supposed to be a lawyer. She should know the difficulty that I would face if I actually spoke about the circumstances of this case while the trial is underway and, in fact, the advice that I received was in relation to prejudicing a trial.

CHILD'S DEATH

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:21): My question again is to the Minister for Families and Communities. Was the legal advice from the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: Was the legal advice from the minister's 'in-house counsel' given—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Crown law.

Ms CHAPMAN: In her department.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Crown law.

Ms CHAPMAN: In her department.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Crown Solicitor's Office.

Ms CHAPMAN: Read the *Hansard* from yesterday, Tom.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: Was the legal advice from the minister's 'in-house counsel' given verbally or in writing, in respect of the five-year-old boy who died in a housing trust property two weeks ago?

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: Maybe she can answer it. Is she able to answer it, do you think, Michael, or do you want to help?

Members interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: Do you want a conference first, or she'll answer the question?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Housing, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Disability) (15:22): The questions that the member for Bragg asked today are nothing short of offensive, extremely offensive.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: She comes in here trying to make assertions that somehow this is about protecting me, and questioning my integrity, and my commitment to protecting children here in South Australia and I find her offensive. She does nothing but embarrass herself—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: —in the house. She does nothing but throw innuendo and muck.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, the Minister for Defence Industries!

Ms CHAPMAN: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order: I hear what the minister says. The question was whether this advice was verbal—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: —or in writing, and if the minister is offended by a question asking whether the advice she has received is verbal or in writing, if she is offended by that in some way, I am happy to say that I'm sorry you're offended—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: —but that was the question: was it verbal or was it in writing?

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The minister has chosen to answer the question in the way she chooses.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! What is your point of order, Minister for Transport?

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: I just need a point of clarification. I would assume that any advice, whether in writing or not, would have been verbal, otherwise it might be in pictures.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

CHILD'S DEATH

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:24): Supplementary, Madam Speaker. I have had, I think, a former minister and a minister—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: —actually answer the question.

The SPEAKER: Order! I gave the call to the member for Croydon.

PARTNERS OF VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON (Croydon) (15:24): Can the Minister for Veterans' Affairs advise the house of activities undertaken—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for MacKillop, behave.

The Hon. M.J. ATKINSON: —in the veterans' community by the Partners of Veterans Association?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, there is something wrong with your microphone. It is very difficult to hear you. You will need to direct it more towards you.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister Assisting the Premier with South Australia's Strategic Plan) (15:25): How is that? There we go; it works. Very good. Racing! Madam Speaker, we as a nation make much of the service of our veterans, and that is right. It is also our national responsibility to acknowledge and thank them for their service and, when they fall, for their sacrifice. However, there is another important part of every veteran's life which often does not always get the recognition that it warrants, that is, their family.

The family is often held together in good times and the not so good times by the partner of a veteran. This is an enormous responsibility, and I do not think the challenges faced by the partners and families of our veterans are fully understood by the broader community. The irony, of course, is that in almost all cases the partner of a veteran is not the one who volunteers for military service. This to me magnifies the dimension of their contribution and sacrifice both to the family and to our nation. That is why the establishment of the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia has been so important.

This association reminds us all about the unique needs and challenges faced by the partners and families of our veterans. In South Australia, the Premier has played a pivotal role in raising the profile of veterans' affairs, not just within government but also within the community. On ANZAC Day 2008, the Premier announced the creation of a veterans' affairs portfolio for South Australia.

The Veterans' Advisory Council was established in South Australia shortly after, in December 2008, following consultation with veterans and ex-service organisations and the communities they represent. The Partners of Veterans Association has had a representative on the Veterans' Advisory Council since its inception. I am sure that members would be pleased to know that Jennifer Dowling and Mrs Jan Wallent have ably represented the Partners of Veterans Association at the state level on our Veterans' Advisory Council.

Mrs Wallent is well qualified to provide advice on key issues of importance to the families of veterans. Her husband served in Borneo and in Vietnam as a field engineer. Mrs Wallent has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans' families and is the current President of the South Australian branch of the Partners of Veterans Association. Mrs Wallent is also the President of Carers SA, on the national board of the Partners of Veterans Association, the Secretary of the Australian Veterans

and Defence Services Council, the Consultative Council of Ex-Service Organisations, the Department of Veterans' Affairs/UniSA Veterans Reference Group, the Veterans, the Veterans Families Counselling Service Regional Forum and the SA Dementia Implementation Plan Advisory Group.

I am sure that all members will agree that is a significant contribution to our community. In 2010 Mrs Wallent was awarded the Joy Noble Prize for volunteering in recognition of her work with the Partners of Veterans Association and Carers SA. Mrs Wallent worked as a nurse and also as a senior manager in the aged-care sector before retiring in 1999 to care for her husband. The Partners of Veterans Association has become a respected and valued member of the ex-service community and is a credit to their organisation.

On behalf of the South Australian government, I wish the Partners of Veterans Association well in its endeavours on behalf of the partners and families of veterans, and I thank them for their contribution.

FILM HUB, GLENSIDE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:28): My question is to the Minister for Health. When was the minister—

The Hon. P.F. Conlon: Is this question going to be verbal?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: Listen up, sweetheart, listen up.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Croydon, behave.

Ms CHAPMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I need protection, too. I'm such a sensitive person.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: When was the minister—

Members interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: We're back on the Minister for Health.

An honourable member: On health now?

Ms CHAPMAN: Can't hear? Do you want a hearing aid? It's a long waiting list.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: When was the minister—

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: It's to you. It's you. I'm asking you.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: A very long list.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member get back to the question.

Ms CHAPMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When was the minister and the Department of Health advised—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: Are you still with me?

Members interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: When was the minister or the Department of Health advised that the Premier's film hub at Glenside would be a construction site for a year longer than expected, and will the department review the completion date for the hospital as a result of this? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain, Madam Speaker. The Glenside campus—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: The Glenside campus—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms CHAPMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you know, Madam Speaker, this a statewide psychiatric facility for all of South Australia, including your electorate, and I appreciate that. The Glenside campus—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.F. CONLON: Point of order, Madam Speaker. The opportunity to ask a question is not one to make a speech. Perhaps we could get a question in here somewhere today?

The SPEAKER: We have had the question and we are now having the explanation—

Ms CHAPMAN: The explanation, yes.

The SPEAKER: —and I would ask you to draw it to a close.

Ms CHAPMAN: The Glenside campus is a major construction site at this point, with dirt and earthmoving equipment next to the patient facilities. The state budget this year reveals that not only is the Premier's film hub getting an extra \$1.3 million from the Treasurer this year but it will take a year longer than expected to complete.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister for Health.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kurna—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Southern Suburbs, Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts) (15:32): Madam Speaker, I struggle—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I do find it passing strange, Madam Speaker, that the shadow opposition spokesperson for both disability and ageing would make a joke about my hearing. I have had my hearing tested, as it happens, and as a result of that test I know I have hearing loss at higher pitch levels, particularly when there is a lot of background noise.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.D. HILL: And I am told—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister will answer the question.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I am told, Madam Speaker, that that loss of hearing is absolutely consistent for somebody of my advanced years. It is absolutely just so typical of the member for Bragg to make jokes about such things. The other point I make (I say this parenthetically)—my doctor did tell me there are some very good hearing aids I could get if I chose to which would allow me to pick up sound very well. He said it would actually be very useful in parliament. I could tune in—

The SPEAKER: Order! Point of order, member for Bragg.

Ms CHAPMAN: Whilst I am sure we are all sympathetic to the minister's health issues—

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Ms CHAPMAN: —the question was: when was he advised?

The SPEAKER: Yes, thank you; I uphold that point of order. Minister, could you please answer the question?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Well, I am not sure that I actually heard exactly what she was saying, so I am happy to read it, and I will get an answer for her.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! He will get back to you.

GRIEVANCE DEBATE

DINGOES

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:33): I rise today to address the very difficult and serious issue of dingoes, which are ravaging stock in pastoral South Australia below the dog fence. Dingoes below the dog fence are declared pests, and the responsibility of all pastoralists in that area is to eradicate them. Today I want to talk specifically about my belief that the South Australian government should set up a system whereby we give a bounty for the culling of dingoes. I make it very, very clear that this is my view as the member for Stuart: the Liberal Party has not yet debated this, and I put this forward on my behalf, representing the people of Stuart.

The difficulty with dingoes is that they are extremely hard to shoot, to poison and to trap, and those are the three main methods by which pastoralists, the NRM boards and other agencies try to remove them from pastoral areas below the dog fence. One of the issues that is particularly difficult is that, when seasons are good—when we have had high rainfall, as we have for the last 18 months or so—dingoes do not take baits nearly as readily as they do during drought times.

The difficulty is that, being a wild animal and with plenty of food source around, they have a strong preference for chasing and killing their own food, rather than just picking up the odd lump of meat that might have some poison in it. They do it for the sport and they do it for the pleasure, on top of their need for survival. In drought times, they eat whatever they can get; when times are good, they go for the fun as well.

I believe that we ought to have a system whereby people who shoot a dingo can claim a bounty from the government. I propose very seriously that the only people who could collect this bounty would be pastoralists with pastoral leases below the dog fence, and, very importantly, pastoralists who are already actively participating in other government programs for the culling of dingoes.

A pastoralist who is not participating in any of the other programs typically offered by the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board—if you are not already doing those sorts of things, you cannot claim the bounty. So, this stops people from bringing dingoes from other parts of the state, it stops people from going on their own personal shooting trips, and it also stops people from claiming if they are not doing the other things already, which is terribly important as well. There are some very good programs already being offered by the NRM boards, but of course they are not able to do everything that we need them to do.

The bounty, in my opinion, should be in the order of approximately \$200. When the bounty is claimed, it would be very easy for the government agency to tell if it is a genuine dingo from that area. Pastoralists would not be allowing other people to go and shoot the dingoes from other areas and bring them, for example, from north to south of the dog fence, because the pastoralists take this issue extremely seriously.

This would help with a very proactive system, where the people who know the land, know the country and have the very important personal self-interest—self-interest from their own business but also, very importantly, self-interest for their own stock and their own families, because a lot of these other issues are extremely time consuming. A lot of the ways that they go about this are extremely time consuming, but if there is a reward, a bit of incentive, they would certainly take it up and get onto this sort of program.

As members of this house might know, I was able to take a photo a few months ago (1 March) of a dingo 300 kilometres south of the dog fence. That is an alarming distance. This is not just an issue for pastoralists in the remote area; this is in the southern end of the pastoral

district and, if this problem continues unchecked, we will have these dingoes ravaging sheep in our freehold farming areas. The issue must be addressed.

The NRM board is doing the very best it can. It does not have sufficient funds. The government has not put a lot of money into these programs over the years. The sheep industry, actually, has been the major contributor into these programs. I think that setting up a bounty system would make this a far more efficient dingo eradication program.

LEVEDA ACCOMMODATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (15:38): Today I wish to speak about Leveda Accommodation and Community Support Service. Leveda is an important accommodation and community support service for people with disabilities and complex support needs in the north and north-east of Adelaide. Leveda was formed in late 1988 by a group of parents whose sons and daughters were moving from the state-operated Ru Rua Nursing Home and wanted their children to have greater involvement and choice in services. From the outset, it was founded on the values of choice and inclusion, values that are still relevant today to this sector of our society and the community in general.

Over the last two decades, Leveda has grown from an organisation supporting 20 people with severe and multiple disabilities to providing high-quality accommodation, respite and community support to more than 140 people living with severe and multiple disability, development disability, acquired brain injury, complex health needs and challenging behaviours. In the past five years, it has expanded its support to include children and adolescents in the north and north-east of Adelaide.

Supported by nearly 300 staff, who work mostly as disability support workers and who have attained or are in the process of obtaining Certificate III or IV in Disability Studies, these homes make a huge difference to people in the north. I recently visited a home of four Leveda clients in Salisbury North, and it was one of the first ones Leveda began operating in its early years. Joining me on this occasion were the CEO of Leveda, Wendy Wake-Dyster, the marketing coordinator, Donna Sullivan, and the home coordinator, Heather Hookham.

The home, which is owned by Disability SA, is maintained by Leveda and has received considerable modification over the years to better meet clients' needs. This visit, and my attendance at the volunteers program launch last year in their new premises on Park Terrace at Salisbury, has provided me with a valuable insight into the challenges and achievements of this wonderful organisation. This program and the volunteer program have been supported by Northern Volunteering SA Incorporated and their work there.

Leveda now has around 26 volunteers assisting the service as a result of the volunteer program. Volunteers in the program have the opportunity to learn about Leveda, the clients, and also extend their own skill set. Some of the volunteer roles Leveda is searching for and has already secured include: beauty therapist, disco assistant, driver, community visitor, gardener, house party co-ordinator, caterer, interior decorator, IT support, minibus driver and a disco DJ. These roles will enhance the activities that the paid staff can provide clients, broaden the range of people and relationships developed with their clients and give a richer and fuller life to many of their families as well.

In conclusion, I would like to place on the record my praise and admiration for the people at Leveda and its dedicated team of workers and volunteers, who every hour of each day are making a valuable contribution to the lives of people with complex needs and disabilities in the northern suburbs. I look forward to supporting Leveda in the coming years as it reaches 25 years of selfless service.

STATE BUDGET

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (15:41): Continuing on from my speech on the budget yesterday, I want to say that this Labor budget has delivered nothing but debt, deficit and deceit. It is going to hurt South Australians not only now but will continue to do so for many years to come. Is this the rhetoric you would expect from a member of the opposition? Consider this: as long ago as 2005-06 the report from the then auditor-general, Ken MacPherson, warned the Rann government in the following terms:

The Government has benefited from substantial windfall property taxation revenue and from higher than budgeted Commonwealth government current grants, particularly from GST revenues.

He also stated:

Given the forecast expectation that such revenue growth may not be sustained, control of expenses will be important.

The new Auditor-General, Simon O'Neill, advised in a similar vein in his 2007-08 report that 'the state may have developed a culture of expecting growing revenues to support increased expenses'. In other words, for the last five years this government has been on notice that it was living beyond its means.

Many decisions that have been made are bad, particularly in relation to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. As I said last night, when the costs have blown out by over double before a single brick is laid, should the decision not be reversed because we cannot afford it? As the member for Mitchell said, when is the sky falling down? I believe it is when it comes to an issue like this.

If you were planning a new home and you budgeted for \$400,000 for that home and you got the estimate from the builder of \$800,000, what would you do as a private person? You would say, 'No, thanks,' and get a new quote, redesign your house or just not spend the money. I am wondering what the process in this government is to say no to a project we cannot afford. The worst thing about all this is not in the budget. Who in the government ranks makes this decision? Are all the government backbenchers involved? Was the member for Mitchell asked? Were you, member for Mitchell?

Mr Sibbons: We have already heard this.

Mr VENNING: Was the member for Bright? I will name all the marginal members. Was the member for Bright asked? Was the member for Mawson asked? Was the member for Taylor asked? Was the member for Light asked? Was the member for Florey asked? Was the member for Hartley asked? All these members are in the firing line when you have a state that is in debt, as we are.

I was here during the State Bank, remember? We lost a lot of good friends in that debacle. You were left with 10 on this side of the house, and you are going to go the same way because this debt is going to be larger than that one was and we are not going to have the capacity to pay it back. No doubt the Liberals will form government in March 2014. How are you going to arrest a debt in the vicinity of \$12 billion? How are you going to pay that back? Are you caring? Are you thinking about it? In business, I would be because I do not want to pass on to my kids a business or home situation that is totally broke. There is nothing worse than families handing on to the kids, where the kids have to go into rented housing because the family has lost the home, lost the assets, lost the property.

What do you think you are leaving to our next generation? It is going to be sad as we go into the 2014 election knowing that the people coming behind us, behind this government, are going to have a real train wreck on their hands. Of all those members I have named—and I am happy to talk to you privately in the corridors—were you consulted? Did you get the opportunity to put up your hand in the caucus room? Did you? I have not heard anything since I made this comment yesterday. As the member from Mitchell said, the sky will fall down and the state will be at a tremendous financial disadvantage.

I just cannot understand why we cannot make efforts to prune. We on this side of the house are here to cooperate. We are, with all the rhetoric aside, because we hope to govern in 2014 and we have to try to soften that blow. If you are not prepared to listen, and if you yourselves were not asked, I just wonder how bad it would have to be. If the price came to be \$5 billion, would you still build it? Would you still go ahead, when we have the great opportunity to upgrade the Royal Adelaide right where it is, with a reputation we are all very envious of? I hope the members will consider this.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Light.

THOM, MRS A.

Mr PICCOLO (Light) (15:46): Today I bring to the attention of the house the birthday of one of my constituents. I would like to talk about a resident of Gawler Eldercare, Mrs Alma Thom, who is celebrating her birthday today. It is no ordinary event as she will be required to blow out 100 candles.

Born at home in the main street of Jamestown to George and Ruth Noble, Alma spent a great deal of her life in rural farming communities. While mum ran a boarding house, Alma

attended Jamestown Primary School, and she then went to Darke Peak Primary School when her family moved to Eyre Peninsula in 1920. The trip from Jamestown to the peninsula took 32 days and was by horse and dray.

One of six children, only Alma and her younger sister Coral, who currently lives in Cleve, remain. Dad drove a truck that took flour from the mills to the railway station. While Alma played some tennis and basketball, a great deal of her time in her early years was spent house cleaning as she left school after completing primary schooling. At age 21 she got a job as an assistant in the local post office shop.

Alma married Frank Thom, who coincidentally was born in Willaston, Gawler, but moved to Darke Peak with his brother to work on his uncle's farm when he was 13 years old. The wedding ceremony took place in Darke Peak Hall, as the town had no dedicated church. They stayed in Darke Peak until about 1954-55 when they came to the local area where Alma ran the Rowland Flat shop and post office for about eight years, later moving to Gozzard Street in Gawler—so it was a round trip for her husband, who started his life in Gawler and ended up back in Gawler.

Frank passed away in 1968, the years of hard work and a work-related accident taking their toll. A widow for almost 30 years, Alma recalls without any rancour the long days of working dawn to dusk and the days of drought. Husband Frank was a real handyman, shearing, building, a jack-of-all-trades. Alma and Frank had five children, with son Brian dying at the age of five. Daughter Maureen lives locally in Willaston.

Alma has fond memories of Jamestown and believes that her family should not have moved to Darke Peak. The death of her husband and son at an early age still weighs heavily on Alma. Despite many challenges, Alma has found time for community. She was a foundation member of the Gawler Women's Probus Club and supported Meals on Wheels as a driver for 25 years. She is slowly outliving all her friends, with Aileen West, another Eldercare resident, who also lived in Darke Peak, passing away a few weeks ago aged 97.

Alma is enjoying her retirement, having moved into Eldercare at Evanston Park about 2½ years ago. With eight great-great-grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 12 grandchildren, Alma will certainly have a lot of help to blow out the 100 candles on her cake today. I would like to extend my personal happy birthday congratulations to Alma Tom.

PARKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:50): Today the Premier has announced that he is not going to cause all of the Parks Community Centre to be sold or the services at the Parks to be removed. He made a statement to parliament today, and I quote:

The community made it clear that they wanted to keep the services at the Parks. We heard this message loud and clear and we listened.

The announcement suggests that there is going to be a sell-off of a portion of the area of the Parks, a new facility built, and instead of having the current substantial welfare facilities and accommodation for government departments, meeting halls, etc., it is to become a sports hub. He detailed the swimming pool, basketball courts and other facilities, that he says, as the social inclusion minister, the report of Monsignor Cappelletti has set out, in the terms of his report that has been launched today.

This is a report prepared in April this year by Monsignor Cappelletti, provided to the government at least by 2 May. I am not sure why we did not hear about this during the budget speech by the Treasurer, the new family-oriented Treasurer. Nevertheless, we had the announcement today that the Parks is not going to be sold completely; it is only going to be half sold.

May I just remind the house that, in 2005, local members—the current Attorney-General and the current Minister for Education in the neighbouring electorate—stood arm in arm with Monsignor Cappelletti to preserve and continue to maintain the services, espousing the virtues and high demand in the location for these services to be maintained. That was published in the housing trust newsletter, I think, at the time. Obviously, they were suggesting that this reflected the importance in their community and the need for that to be sustained.

Then we had Monsignor Cappelletti, via his position on the Sustainable Budget Commission, put a number of recommendations to the government, including that they sell off the Parks. The announcement at the time was that it was really surplus to requirements, the general community

profile had changed and different services would be required, and that, in any event, what services were there could be sent off to the Port Adelaide Enfield council, which, without any adequate funding from their perspective, would be expected to pick up the load.

The public were outraged, it is fair to say. People came forward to say that that was not the case, they did need to have these services maintained. People who had used the service, like Lorraine MacMillan, bravely came out to say that this was not acceptable. I was proud to stand by her at the Parks facility, to espouse the significance of the services that had been provided to her. There were people like Tara Nicholson, who is the community development coordinator for the Parks Community Centre, who was very well apprised of the significance of the services that are provided at this facility. These people came out, notwithstanding, to say that it was important for this to be retained.

We had the Sustainable Budget Commission say this should go. All those people in the cabinet had signed off in last years budget to say, 'This has to go. We don't need the services any longer. The profile's changed, this is what we are going do.' But, when the public continuously spoke out about this matter, the government, the Premier, now says to us, 'We listened. We got Monsignor Cappo to do another report.' So he went from standing arm in arm with the two members of parliament—ministers Rau and Weatherill—saying that it was important to keep it to a Sustainable Budget Commission saying that we do not need it, flog it off. Now they are going to flog off half of this facility. They are going to transfer it into a sports hub, and what inadequate provision is left for the poor people out there who are left with having to travel either to Port Adelaide or other council services to try to get access to those services is anyone's guess.

They made it very clear to the Premier last year that this was not acceptable, they needed these services. The Port Adelaide Enfield council made it very clear that it did not have any funding to pick this up. So, what does the government do? The Premier comes in here and says to us, 'We've listened to the community. We are going to follow the vision of this report,' and we are left in exactly the same position. It is totally unacceptable for the people in that region.

Time expired.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (15:55): I am sure a number of members in this house would have received complaints from constituents regarding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Although I am very grateful that we have such a scheme, there are obvious anomalies that need to be looked at. I was interested to receive recently a letter from the South Australian retired unionists group, who were very concerned about this issue. They say that in recent months the Australian government has been negotiating a transpacific partnership free trade agreement with the United States and a number of other countries in our region.

One area that they say is under negotiation is the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, which currently ensures that many medications are available at an affordable cost. There are other issues that are involved in these negotiations, which I will go into later, but certainly for me as a local member the issue of people being able to get low cost, if not free, medication that they need is a very important one.

The South Australian retired unionists group has linked up with another group called Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network Incorporated, and this group has been around for quite some time trying to argue some of the issues it has with the US trade agreement in particular. It also points out that many common prescription medicines that are available are three to 10 times dearer in Australia than they are in places like the United States, so I think this certainly does need some following up.

The other thing pointed out by AFTINET is that there are a number of other issues of concern with regard to these negotiations. I understand the federal government is negotiating with the US, Chile, Peru, Brunei, Singapore, New Zealand and Vietnam with the aim to developing a multilateral agreement based on the bilateral agreements the US has with four of these countries.

The agenda will be quite large. There are issues regarding GE food labelling, obviously the pharmaceutical benefits and the no investor state dispute process. One of the things that I know would be of interest to the retired unionists, and certainly many people in this house, is the strong labour and environmental clauses that are in the agreement.

I understand that the agreement has weak labour and environmental clauses which are not enforceable. What the groups are saying is that it is really important that the Australian government

recognise the need for International Labour Organization standards in the ILO conventions and also the strong environmental clauses to be respected in any of those negotiations, particularly the United Nations' environmental agreements with trade penalties for non-compliance.

I understand also that with the US being the largest producer of GE foods, it is particularly important that we maintain our position regarding genetically engineered food and labelling and also regulation of that food in the agreement. I am not sure how far these negotiations have gone, but I do commend particularly the SA retired unionist group for raising these issues, and also for providing me with a petition which they intend to present to the federal government asking that negotiations respect some of the good principles that we have here, and particularly look at the pharmaceutical benefits issue, and also enforcing appropriate labour rights and environmental protections.

NATIVE VEGETATION (APPLICATION OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Adjourned debate on motion to note grievances.

(Continued from 22 June 2011.)

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (16:01): It is with some pleasure that I get the opportunity to speak on the grievance debate in relation to the Appropriation Bill. During my time in this place I have traditionally always used the grievance debate of the appropriation to talk about the impact of the budget on my electorate of Davenport.

I have spent some time examining the thousands of pages of the budget and I have found one line of good news for the Davenport electorate; that is, after many years of lobbying, the Eden Hills Primary School is going to get a \$2.9 million upgrade over the next year or two. That is excellent news for the school community which has done a great job on a very small site. It is a small school in number. It is at capacity because of its popularity, and it really is a good outcome for the Eden Hills community that they will finally get some more upgrades to their facilities on the school site.

Just up the road, I hope the government keeps to its word to fund an upgrade at the Eden Hills CFS station. This was first promised at their 50th birthday in 2001, and I went to the 60th birthday celebrations recently and was very pleased to hear the new chief officer re-announce that they are going to get a station upgrade. So, the Eden Hills CFS has had the unique experience of having a station upgrade announced in its 50th year, which never occurred because of the election intervening, and then the re-announcement of that policy occurring now in 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The Eden Hills CFS Brigade is a wonderful group of people. They are one of the longest serving CFS brigades in the Mitcham Hills. They are a very tight-knit family group. The partners of the volunteers, and family members of the volunteers, put up with a lot. They have a high callout rate in a very high-risk bushfire zone. Eden Hills is situated on the top of a number of valleys which face north, and they are aware that on a catastrophic fire day their community is very much in the firing line. I am hoping that after 10 years of neglect this government can finally keep its word and deliver on that promise as outlined in the budget.

There are other issues in the electorate of Davenport which we have been lobbying for for a number of years that the government simply ignores. One is the need for more car parking at all the railway stations along the Belair line that service my electorate, but, in particular, the Eden Hills station, which has very limited car parking.

The sad part about it is that there is actually a block of land that is for sale. It is owned by the Australian Rail Track Corporation, which has indicated that it is willing to sell it to the government. It has even nominated a reasonable price. The government simply will not buy the land and convert it into car parks, which does seem a little unusual for a government that is out there talking about public transport, although I note that the Belair line is not being electrified.

Other members have spoken about this issue. The member for Torrens in her speech yesterday talked about the money that is going to her electorate for public transport and park-and-rides. The member for Light mentioned an amount of money being spent in his electorate. It simply will not invest in Davenport in the Mitcham Hills. That is the brutal reality of it. This government is ignoring a very simple solution to a very complex problem.

It is on a windy, steep piece of road. They are narrow Hills roads. There is no parking on the roads without creating even more danger. The government says that it wants to increase passenger transport patronage, but it will not increase the car parking facilities at those sites. It is not as if the land is not available. Representatives of the Australian Rail Track Corporation met us on site. They walked around it, and said that they were happy to sell it. They even wrote saying that they were happy to sell it. I have forwarded that to the minister a number of times. So, it is unfortunate that the government will not do that.

The other issue, of course, that goes hand in hand with that problem is the increasing traffic down Old Belair Road, Unley Road and Fullarton Road out of the Mitcham Hills. This is primarily a result of the increase in housing development at Blackwood Park. That should be no surprise to this government given that the development of Blackwood Park was snuck through by the Bannon/Arnold government in its dying days. The Liberal Party when in government allocated around \$2 million to start addressing the traffic issues to do with the Old Belair Road, James Road and the Blackwood main street.

The first thing that this government did was come in and take what was left of that money, which was around \$900,000, and stopped the project. It actually took money out of the electorate because it did not want to fix the roads. As I have said to the house before, and I will say it again, the road capacity in the Mitcham Hills will not stand an evacuation when there is a fire. Every summer I am concerned about a bad fire and the capacity to evacuate.

The simple facts are that Old Belair Road, James Road and Belair Road will not carry the traffic in the event of a fire. I always invite members of the government to come and do a tour with me if they want to have a look at that particular issue. One now senior cabinet minister has done that, to his credit, and understands and shares my concern, I suspect. But the government is investing nothing at all in the road infrastructure there, and there is no plan that I can establish as to what to do on those very bad catastrophic days.

In relation to other road infrastructure, the member for Fisher raises the fact that there is land for sale—or about to come on to the market—adjacent to Flagstaff Road. I would support his call to the government to look at buying that land. Even if it does not build on it straightaway, Flagstaff Road is one of the reversible roads, and there are always close calls on that road.

The community of Flagstaff Hill, Flagstaff Pines, Craighburn Farm and Craighburn who use those particular roads would certainly support some forward planning by preserving that particular road, and, if the budget allows, some construction there to make it a proper two lanes in/two lanes out scenario, rather than a reversible road. The other issues are not new to the government. The need for another pedestrian crossing on the Blackwood main street has been well known to the government for many years and, again, the government turned a blind eye to that.

This is a not a government that governs for all South Australians as the Premier promised in his election night speech and victory. This is a government that governs for mates, and the simple fact is that if you are not a government mate they simply will not invest in a project that will benefit you. This is a government that certainly deals only with its mates.

With those few words, I am at least gracious enough to give the government credit that, after many, many years, we received some investment at last in the Eden Hills Primary School.

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:10): The 2011-12 budget presents opportunities for further progress in the Florey electorate. In education, The Heights School, recently given national prominence to showcase its impressive site and curriculum when hosting a visit from the federal community cabinet, will see an injection of funding of \$1.9 million to facilitate stage 3 of their redevelopment of existing middle school facilities.

There are many great schools in the electorate of Florey, and the BER funding has been well utilised in conjunction with state funding to deliver campus upgrades to a level not seen for many years. Students are reaping the rewards and, wherever they are on their path of lifelong learning, it is obvious the impact surroundings have on learning. In support of our wonderful teachers and ancillary staff, new initiatives will also foster a culture of learning. In particular, the recent announcement that 700 contract teachers will be offered permanent contracts is welcome, and other measures to strengthen local autonomy will show dividends in time.

In health, Modbury Hospital remains the hub of acute health care in our area. Over the past few years, following the return of the hospital's management to the state, we have seen many improvements. In this year's budget, we will see \$22 million of expenditure, with the Accident and

Emergency Department being earmarked for long-anticipated refurbishment. We will also see a new rehab and therapy centre. Staffing issues will continue to be addressed, and it would be very welcome if the knockers, who with their contrived comments continuing to erode the confidence of the community in their hospital, recognised the government's commitment to ensuring that Modbury Hospital remains a vital part of the state's health system.

The facts speak for themselves, and the Modbury Hospital will benefit from continuing improvements in the years to come. The dedicated staff deliver the best possible health care and, on behalf of the community, I extend to them our sincere thanks for their continuing commitment. They and their work are greatly appreciated. Parking at the hospital remains an issue of concern, and I will continue to work with the responsible departments to ensure that ample capacity is eventually reached and that those with special circumstances are not disadvantaged.

In another major health initiative, extra spending of \$19.3 million over four years will ensure that 23,000 more women can be screened for breast cancer. It will be good to see the early intervention that these mammograms will provide in the hope of detecting life-threatening cancers in as many as an estimated 340 cases. At the Modbury GP Plus super clinic, proposed construction expenditure over the 2011-12 period is over \$7.4 million. Doctors are already in place, and local advertising is advising that the centre is open and ready for business. These new doctors will relieve the pressure on other local practices no longer able to take new clients. In addition, the ancillary health professionals will be building up their patient services and lists.

In disability, this budget delivers extra spending of \$37.5 million over four years to help meet the needs of South Australians living with a disability and to support their carers. The need is great, and this major commitment will go some way to ease the burden, along with a further \$10.8 million over the next four years for much-needed equipment.

In transport, the O-Bahn, our public transport link in the north-east, will see proposed expenditure of over \$6 million in the 2011-12 year for upgrades to the Klemzig and Modbury interchanges to improve passenger amenity and safety and, of course, parking at the popular park-and-rides. This will go some way to address the pressure on parking in the Modbury Central area and will be part of the solution I seek to address, for it remains an issue of concern to local residents. In conjunction with the member for Newland, I will continue to lobby and keep the O-Bahn the jewel in the crown of the Adelaide public transport system.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms BEDFORD: Yes, but I am working with him. I can work with you, too. I call on local government representatives to work with state government to ensure the best outcome. Local planning issues from long ago are in part responsible for the parking dilemma, and with Tea Tree Plaza drawing large numbers of people to Smart Road, along with the hospital and O-Bahn and other adjacent retail outlets and services, such as Centrelink, SA Housing and financial institutions, it will be necessary to be visionary to ensure that the next 30 years are better for pedestrian and vehicular movements. The current shocking road toll reminds us all to be patient and courteous on the roads.

For families, a highlight for the most vulnerable in the community is extra spending of \$69.1 million over the next four years to boost the state's child protection system. I would also like to put on the record the thanks of the community for the work these departments do. They provide help to families in need.

Before closing, it is important to acknowledge the contribution of volunteers in our community. The recent concert at Festival Theatre, most ably MC'd by Peter Goers, himself a volunteer of renown, celebrated the work of our unsung heroes—those able to spend time making life better for others. In particular, I acknowledge the International Women's Group operating from the Modbury Uniting Church. Pat Thomas, Wendy Sinnott and a hardy band of volunteers have worked for many years to ensure that the experience of many new settlers in our country, and particularly in our area, is made as easy as possible, with classes and interaction with other service providers in the area helping to make them feel much more at home much more quickly.

These brief remarks, while obviously not addressing every budget measure, concern those measures with a positive impact on the Florey electorate. Community counts, and my job is to advocate for my electorate. This budget has addressed some very important matters I have raised with ministers, and it is good to make this progress. I look forward to seeking additional opportunities to provide extra services in my area. I remain as committed as ever to highlighting whenever possible new ways to improve the wellbeing and lives of my constituents.

Mr MARSHALL (Norwood) (16:16): The 2010-11 budget has now been delivered. The response from the public, the media and the analysts reminds me of the final lines of that famous T.S. Eliot poem, *The Hollow Men*, 'This is the way the world ends: not with a bang but a whimper.' What a huge disappointment this budget has turned out to be. If ever there was an expectation for setting a new course for South Australia, it was at this point of the budget, and the Treasurer has failed at the very first hurdle.

The previous budget, which was only brought down nine months earlier, was universally condemned, not only by the opposition but also, importantly, by the PSU and the Labor Party faithful. The treasurer at the time said that the September 2010 budget was passed unanimously—

Ms Thompson: PSA, not PSU.

Mr MARSHALL: PSA, sorry. The treasurer at the time said that the September 2010 budget was passed unanimously by cabinet. He did not want to be held responsible for this budget, so he put his arms around his friends in caucus and his friends in the cabinet and, very interestingly, he brought his friend in, the member for Cheltenham, and said that they were lock step with all the toxic measures in that September 2010 budget.

In fact, in this very house he suggested to us that he had received a standing ovation for that budget, and I think he pointed out that there was probably going to be a public move to establish a statue in his honour for the wonderful work that he had recently done as treasurer. In reality, the budget was completely and utterly toxic: it cost the former treasurer his job and it sent the Labor performance in the opinion polls into a tailspin, which it is yet to recover from, but it cost the people of South Australia much, much more.

What did the new Treasurer deliver in response to this public condemnation of the September 2010 budget? He essentially delivered precisely the same budget. Although, he did repackage it. This time it was in soft blues. There were some beautiful photographs of hard-working South Australians adorning the pages. In fact, he even put a photograph of his poor, unsuspecting family in there to try to take us off the scent of the real deceit that is in this budget. Fundamentally, he let down every single South Australian, the people whose photographs adorn the pages of this budget.

This budget confirms the deception of the September 2010 budget, the deception that saw the Rann government go to the election campaign promising savings of \$750 million, to be implemented by the Sustainable Budget Commission across the forward estimates, with actual savings in revenue measures in excess of \$2.5 billion, which was a deception on the people of South Australia. That budget, like this budget, was a budget of deceit. This budget is a budget of debt and deficit and, most importantly, it is a budget of wasted opportunity. That is the order I will follow for the remainder of my address here today.

Let's start with debt. The Treasurer is fond of using the number '\$4.2 billion' when he talks about net debt. This fits in with the theme of deception. Yes, it is true that there is the net debt of \$4.2 billion but this is not the total picture. When we look at the whole-of-government debt, last year debt was projected in the forward estimates to be \$7.5 billion. It has now blown out to \$8.2 billion. This is the whole-of-government debt when you talk about the debt of all the government enterprises: SA Water, ForestrySA, etc.

That \$8.2 billion is after the sale of the forests and the lotteries. We are absolutely dripping in debt. If we scrape the surface a bit further and we look at the total picture of liabilities that exist in this state at the moment the total picture is something like \$20 billion when you include our unfunded liability with regards to WorkCover, the Motor Accident Commission and public servant superannuation entitlements. That is the true picture.

This Treasurer would like to talk in simplistic terms about credit cards, '\$4.2 billion is not a lot of money. It is like the average person having a \$26,000 debt.' Let me tell you what it is like: it is like a household having a debt on its Visa card but forgetting to tell anybody about what is on their Bankcard, their Diner's card or their American Express card. It is about time the Treasurer came clean with the people of South Australia and told them of the total amount of debt which is currently a liability here in South Australia.

The second point is, of course, the deficit. The Treasurer made much of comparing the state budget with his home finances. Continually, he said, 'Look, we won't be borrowing money to fund our operating expenses. We won't be racking up the debt on our credit card.' In 2008-09 we had a deficit of \$233 million. We do not have cash reserves in South Australia at the moment so

that can only be funded through debt; putting it on the credit card, to put it in simplistic terms for the Treasurer.

We did have a small surplus in 2009-10 but let me point out that was a budget year. If we look at the deficit that is likely to occur this year, the Treasurer himself has said that it is likely to be a \$427 million deficit. Already the Treasurer is predicting that next year we are going to have a \$263 million deficit, so it is completely inaccurate to tell the people of South Australia that we will not be putting our operating expenses onto the credit card. That is precisely and unequivocally what this Treasurer is doing. Again, he needs to come clean.

Minister O'Brien was correct when he said we were borrowing money to pay our wages. That is precisely what we are doing here in South Australia. I believe the real failure of this budget is the complete neglect of our economy here in South Australia. The Premier proudly announced that he would create 100,000 jobs in this current term of office. That was the centrepiece of his otherwise lacklustre 2010 election campaign. In reality we have gone backwards.

There is no policy supporting his outlandish claim of creating 100,000 jobs. Of course, like so many other times, he misses the fundamentals: governments do not create jobs, it is the private sector which creates jobs. It is the private sector, the small business sector and the family business sector in South Australia which creates the vast amount of employment here in South Australia.

What has this government done to try to help with this great goal of theirs to create 100,000 jobs? I will tell you some of the policies of this Rann government: firstly, they closed the business centre; secondly, they closed the centre for manufacturing. They got rid of the Small Business Advocate and now we are the highest business tax state in Australia. None of those policies, none of those programs of the government and none of those cuts are going to do anything to create one single, additional job.

In this current budget the withdrawal of funding for the BECs cuts in; the withdrawal of funding for CITCSA; the withdrawal of funding for Playford Capital; the closure of Small Business Week; and getting rid of the Family Business Sector Manager within DTED. In fact, if we look at DTED itself, what a complete shell of a ministry that is! Of the nearly 89,000 public sector employees in South Australia, we are now down to 122 in our peak agency dealing with economic development—122. The Premier has more in his spin department.

What are the consequences of this? Unemployment in South Australia is unacceptably high. It is well above the national average. If we look at our exports in South Australia, only 4 per cent of our firms now are exporting. The national average is 14: we are down to 4 per cent. The second lowest is actually Tasmania, at 7 per cent. This government has completely failed our exporters and completely failed our business sector and in so doing has completely failed our employees.

We have the largest interstate migration. In fact, as our leader pointed out the other day, 23 per cent of firms moving interstate are coming from South Australia, leaving here. What we need in South Australia is a government with a plan and a vision. What we need is one that recognises the importance of job creation through supporting business and our economy. Unfortunately, what we have is one racked with division and consumed with ambition at the moment.

I came to this parliament to contribute. The first year we sat only 31 days. This year we are going to sit for only 52 days. The problem with this government is that it does not have a legislative agenda. It does not have policies to support these outlandish goals that it is creating. It needs to do some work, come in here more often, put some policies in place, support our family business sector and ultimately support every employee who wants a job here. This government has sent this state backwards.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:26): The grievance debate on the budget bill is when I like to talk about things that are happening in my local electorate. One issue I would like to quickly raise is the disappointment of the residents of my electorate of Unley, which takes in probably two-thirds of the City of Unley and a chunk of the City of Burnside. In the City of Burnside, we are losing a big chunk of open space with the Glenside Hospital, and it was interesting that, in reading the budget papers, I came across two contrary views put to those reading the budget papers in the very same budget papers. In the Budget Overview, Budget Paper 1, when they are talking about mining—PIRSA, obviously—it states:

The Glenside Core Library is recognised by the resources and petroleum industries as one of the best purpose-built drill core reference libraries in the world and is fundamental to identifying the state's mineral and petroleum resources inventory.

A fantastic resource for South Australia, and it is a boast by PIRSA in those budget papers. If we go to Budget Paper 6, the Budget Measures Statement, we see that in the core library facility business case half a million dollars has been allocated to look for alternative sites for that building. So, we are boasting about how wonderful it is, but at the same time the government is looking at spending half a million dollars, which is an extraordinary amount of money to develop a business case, to move it. Obviously, it is looking at selling off more land in Glenside.

If we understand the geography of the seat of Unley, it is geographically the smallest of all the seats in the South Australian parliamentary districts, with 12.2 kilometres. On a busy day, it can take me probably five or six minutes to drive from one end of the electorate to the other—a bit longer in peak hour, particularly if I am running north to south. If I am running north to south, it will take me a lot longer when I am travelling at 2.7 kilometres down Unley Road.

That is another problem we have in Unley, because let's not forget that in 2001 an extensive study was done for dealing with traffic flow and traffic congestion on Unley Road as part of the previous government's plan to deal with the growing suburbs directly south of Unley; it was to deliver a plan to enable peak hour traffic to travel more freely. What is extraordinary about this plan is that it was agreed upon by all stakeholders. Even 68 per cent of bike riders thought it was the best plan for the City of Unley. It would have moved the bike lanes into Porter and Rugby streets.

The council's role was to remove the Stobie poles and replace them with light poles. The department of transport's role was to allow for two lanes in in the morning—dedicated right turning lanes in the centre of the road and a single lane out—and then reversing that situation in the afternoon. It mainly dealt with clearways. It was quite a cost-effective program. It was a cost-effective way of dealing with the peak hour traffic issues on Unley Road.

That got all the way through to the process of being approved. Even the department recommended the budget, that it should go to cabinet. Then there was a change of government. The new transport minister, the Hon. Trish White, was advised by her department head to take that project to cabinet for funding, and she refused to do so. Here we are with the latest RAA traffic report telling us that in that same 10-year period it now takes an extra six minutes to travel down Unley Road in peak hour. On top of that, we are seeing more housing development being allocated south of the city, an enormous expansion of Mount Barker, and more people using Unley Road to get into town, and yet there is no provision to deal with the density of traffic in order to move that traffic.

There is Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton Road, Unley Road and Goodwood Road. All of those roads are fed from the southern and south-eastern suburbs, and that is where we are seeing enormous growth. It is no good saying that we will get on a bus, because the bus gets stuck in traffic as well. I am sure that members understand that a bus actually uses the road and is affected by the slow traffic in those areas. It makes the buses less attractive to travel in because not only are they held up in the traffic but they also have to pull over more often to pick up people.

It is a real battle for the Unley council because it has to deal with the traffic dodgers, those people who try to shoot through the side streets to avoid the main roads, whether that be Goodwood Road, Unley Road or Fullarton Road, to try to save a few minutes getting into town. Of course, there is a uniform 40 km/h speed limit through the side streets of Unley. The only people who complain about that speed limit are those people who do not live in Unley.

Those of us who do live in Unley understand how important it is to have safe streets, and slowing down that traffic does make it safe. Unfortunately, a lot of these people, these road runners, as we like to describe them, think they are still on the main road. They see a clearway through Weller Street at Goodwood, they see someone at the other end, but there is a car parked on either side of the road, and there is a race to see who can get to that gap first; so we see traffic travelling even faster in those areas.

It is very disappointing that we did not see that traffic plan continue because it would have taken a lot of pressure off the small feeder roads, feeder streets, in Unley. It would have helped those people who live in my colleagues' electorates, in the seats of Waite and Davenport, travelling to the city as well. That is a very disappointing part of Unley.

We have recently had a fire on Unley Road. The thing that we learn from this is that SAPOL looks for any excuse to temporarily close the Malvern Police Station. It is always understaffed. Often police are not staffed to cover people who are ill, on leave or training, so that police station has to close earlier than the advertised time on the door. However, this time, it is closed because there was a fire a couple of shops down in the 7 Day Centre on Unley Road.

The last time there was a fire at a police station was not long after I was elected. It was close to 12 months before the police station reopened, so it will be interesting to see how long it will be before the police station reopens in the 7 Day Centre. They are a couple of the issues that I wanted to take this opportunity to raise in the house this afternoon.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (16:35): I would like to talk about a few areas in my electorate that are struggling and continually needing funding via state, federal and local government. The first area I would raise is the township of Sellicks Beach. It has been an interesting transition for me taking on Sellicks Beach, and, indeed, taking Mount Compass back into my electorate.

Sellicks Beach, being the absolute outer southern metropolitan suburb before you go over the hill to Myponga, has been something of an education for myself, and I suspect it has probably been something of an education for them having me because they tell me that they have not seen their local member down there very much in the past, so I have been pleased to have that effect.

It is an area that is largely forgotten. It does, indeed, have some public transport, which is the only part of my electorate that does have regular public transport, but it faces significant environmental issues. Fortunately, the Onkaparinga council recognises its difficulties. It is most concerning that the effluent drainage there runs down footpaths, down gutters and across lawns. The kids play in it in the summer, and it concerns many residents, particularly families with young children. Of course, some people have their own BioCycles and do not want effluent, but by and large most people would welcome it with open arms.

The issue there is that the state government does not seem to want to come to grips with the financial requirements of putting this in. The Onkaparinga council, as the largest council in the state, is stretched to the limit. I have had several discussions with the mayor, Lorraine Rosenberg, CEO Jeff Tate, council staff and others. It is something that needs progressing and something that needs a good outcome sooner rather than later. They feel as though they are forgotten people down there on the extremities of the metropolitan area.

In addition, the farming community across my electorate is running out of patience with the amount of bureaucracy that is being thrust upon it. At the moment, on the Fleurieu we have the western Mount Lofty water allocation plan going through and we now have the eastern Mount Lofty water allocation plan going through.

The farmers on the Fleurieu, like farmers right across the state, across Australia and probably across the world, actually know their own country best of all. They know what needs doing on their own country, they know how to manage their own country, they know how to look after their own country. They understand the environment, and they do not like, nor do they appreciate, bureaucrats coming down and telling them what they should and should not do.

I have not seen the bureaucracy fronting up with tens of thousands of dollars a year in interest payments to help them with their farms, all it seems to do is put more pressure on families in rural areas. I know that school bus runs are being altered on both the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island. That is upsetting my constituents. It puts additional pressure on farming families, particularly when they find they have to drive many kilometres to take their children to catch the school bus, where the school buses once served.

The vanishing numbers of families with young children obviously mean that school bus routes need addressing from time to time. My view is that the coordinators of the school bus routes within DECS and the central bureaucracy need a good dose of Epsom Salts, or something similar, to wake them up to what is going on.

There are a number of buses in my electorate that are very ancient, well over 20 years old, with no seatbelts, limited comfort inside and no air conditioning. Whilst we accommodate people here catching public transport, having heating and cooling in trams and buses, on Kangaroo Island there are children from as young as four or five catching buses without any sort of creature comforts and, in many cases, no creature comforts at all. I say to the house that this is not good enough. The current Minister for Education—soon to be something else, but I am not quite sure

what yet—has been active in discussions on a lot of these issues, but he is not going to change the world overnight.

I think the Minister for Education understands that people in the South Australian community are absolutely, totally and completely fed up with the nonsense that comes out of government and out of politicians' mouths and they want to see some real action. That is the feeling that I get loud and clear across my electorate and in the wider community—that they are sick of nonsense.

They are sick of the nonsense coming from this government, they are sick of nine years of hollow promises, and they are sick of not seeing things that should be done that have not been done. They have just seen a budget handed down by a Treasurer green around the gills who has no idea, and we are rapidly going down this enormous debt spiral in South Australia which is going to be extremely difficult for our children, grandchildren and their children to try to sort out in the long term.

I say to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, that the only government that can fix up the debt mess in South Australia is a Liberal government. We have the same thing happening now as happened when the Bannon government was in place: they are just leaving an almighty mess and hoping we will pick it up and sort it out. They could not care less.

The absolute arrogance and bullying attitude that we saw in this place this afternoon from the police minister and the Minister for Transport, in respect of the way they treated the member for Bragg, was a disgrace. It was an absolute disgrace. They talked over the top of the member for Bragg, they abused her, they stuck it up her. She is more than capable of handling herself, I might add, but even the Speaker must have been appalled at their behaviour. When is the Labor Party going to sort this mess out? I think South Australians are way over this business of bullying and thuggery that comes from the front bench over there, and it is time that it was sorted out.

The farming community is under immense pressure. We have what has occurred in the northern part of Australia with export cattle being stopped—hopefully temporarily—and already this week we have a 10¢ per kilo reduction in the price of cattle going through the markets here just from the enormous influx that has already come in. It is inherently dangerous.

It is interesting that out of the announcements last week—just returning to road funding and the bit for Kangaroo Island that is coming forward—I had a couple of phone calls from Mr John Melbourne who runs the Andermel Marron Farm, to which I have taken minister Caica and minister Weatherill at different times to meet local members of the community, and we have been around the traps and had a good look. Mr Melbourne has spent in the vicinity of millions of dollars, I would suggest, developing a fantastic business there, but the problem is that for three or four months of the year you cannot get down the road to it.

The road is absolutely appalling. We have the surfing competition coming fairly shortly to Vivonne Bay, and Mr Melbourne's property is just up the road and the road condition is appalling. It is a district road, but I think the road funding needs to go a lot further. Mr Melbourne has a justifiable complaint about the condition of his road, and I would hope that, when the Labor Party visits the island in July, a few of them might go out to Andermel Marron Farm and enjoy what they have to offer out there and take a good look at the road.

This budget has not done a lot for rural South Australia, and it has not done a lot for my electorate. I noted what the member for Davenport said earlier about what he does not get. It is a travesty of justice that this single-minded government, intent on doing everything they can to help themselves and employ each other's family members by the look of the staff notices in the varying staff outlines that come through on the computer. They are a self-serving pack of rats as far as I am concerned and, with what we saw today with the election of Hon Russell Wortley as a minister in the upper house, they are really struggling.

Time expired.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite) (16:45): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As this budget progresses to the final stage of grieves, one reflects back over the last few weeks and looks for some sign of life from the government, in fact, some sign of life from the parliament, that there is a vision for the future.

Sadly, I think, our constituents, the taxpayers of South Australia, must be looking at this debate and languishing in concern, not only for their own future but also for that of their children and grandchildren, for it has been a very lacklustre debate, as indeed it has been a very lack lustre

budget, missing completely is any grand vision for the future, missing completely is any long-term purview. Instead, what we have been dealt in the parliament are short-term plans, short-term initiatives and short-term budget figures that deal with the year ahead and not much further in any meaningful way.

The key to all this is getting the state economy in order. As has been said by others, 'It's about the economy, stupid,' and, without that, nothing else works, and there is little in this budget to stimulate the sort of transformational change to this state's economy which is needed.

The state budget is approaching a difficult place. We had the disaster of the State Bank in the 1990s. The legacy of the Olsen and Brown governments was that they paid off the debt and put the state back on its feet. This government walked in in 2002 to an outstanding set of books, with debt virtually vanquished and at the cusp of one of the greatest booms this country has ever seen. Sadly, the great opportunity of the six years from 2002-08, one of greatest boom periods in this state's history, was wasted by the Rann Labor government.

Nothing was built. No vision was created. Nothing tangible was achieved. Now there is a splatter of activity at the end of its life—in its ninth or 10th year—to start building things, to start doing things, but it is too late. I welcome some of the initiatives, and I give the government some credit for at least pressing ahead with things like the Northern Expressway, though the figures were bungled; the underpass along South Road under Anzac Highway, though, again, the figures were bungled. I give it some credit for at least the Superway, as it is being called, that is to be built on the northern extremities of South Road. I will be pleased to see that happen.

Under pressure and as the consequence of initiatives from the Liberal government, we have the desalination plant. It should have been a 50 gigalitre plant. The government went a 50 gigalitre step too far and it has resulted in almost \$1 billion worth of waste, but at least we have some resilience now in our water supply.

I welcome the fact that we are getting a new hospital. It is being built in the wrong place. It is not a regeneration and reinvention of the hospital that we have: it is going to be the 'rail yards hospital', but at least we are going to get a new hospital; but, sadly, of all the initiatives in the budget this is the one that financially worries me the most, because it is a rotten deal in terms of cash outlays and it is a blatant unabridged callous privatisation. The government that promised 'no more privatisation'—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson interjecting:

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Oh, here we have the galah from Cheltenham, in here with his dictionary, ready to nitpick. If only the former attorney-general could—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Point of order. Excuse me, member—

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: —elevate his brain beyond—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Waite! Member for Waite, order! There is a point of order. Could you please take your seat. As a military person I thought that you would understand the concept of the order. Minister, you had a point of order?

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: Ma'am, the member for Waite referred to the member for Croydon as an animal. I believe that's unparliamentary.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Actually, as a bird.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON: They are all animals—a species.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I do accept the minister's point of order, but I should note that, earlier on in question time, a person from my right referred to the person on my left as a parrot. So, you know, galah, parrot, birds—I think we'll let this one go. Member for Waite.

Mr HAMILTON-SMITH: Thank you very much. Sadly, the hospital will cost this state, as we have heard, billions over its lifetime, and a first-class hospital could have been delivered to the people of South Australia far more inexpensively if we had done it the way the opposition envisaged—but at least we are going to get a new hospital.

Again, we are going to get an extension to the Convention Centre—again, a Liberal initiative, copied from us. We are going to get a new oval in the city—a renewed oval and football into the city—and I think that is good as well. We are going to get an electrified rail system; I

welcome that. We are getting these initiatives at the back end of the government's term, initiatives that should have been built and commenced in their first term, not now.

So, the fact that those infrastructure initiatives are going to be made I think is something to be welcomed. Sadly though, because the government has so bungled the books of state we are going to find our children and our grandchildren paying for them. The problem we have is that there is only one way to sort the books out: we either have to get our income up or our expenses down.

Sadly, this government has already ratcheted the income up to its optimum point. We are the highest taxed state in the country. There is no more blood to be squeezed. There is no more juice to be squashed out of the lemon. We have milked the people of South Australia dry, through a government that looks to increase its revenues before it first looks to keep its expenses under control.

Sadly, as we found in 1993-94, when the Liberals last came into office, we will have to sort out Labor's mess, and that is going to require getting the expenses under control—doing something about the 18,000 public servants that this government has hired beyond those that were on the books when they first came to government, many of whom cannot be explained in terms of doctors, nurses or teachers.

I note that a state Labor government has now, in the history of this state, taken the step of removing tenure for the Public Service. It is official: from 2014, there will be no more tenure for the Public Service. Public servants can effectively be sacked at will, and a state Labor government—the Rann Labor government—has delivered that, and the opposition has announced today that it will not get in the way.

So, you have delivered it. Labor has delivered that change, and we will be reminding the Public Service Association and every government worker for years, possibly decades to come, that a Labor government made the monumental step of abolishing tenure for public employees. It is your legacy to carry, and it will be your cross to bear. You have done it. You have delivered it in this budget, and we will not get in the way.

Perhaps they realise, themselves, that they are going to have to make some dramatic changes after 2014, and they are foreshadowing those changes. But, you will need to get the expenses down; you already have the incomes up. We need to get WorkCover organised. It is the most inefficient and incompetently run scheme in the country. And we need to do something about tax reform.

I would urge members to re-read the Tax Summit report from a tax summit that I organised in June 2007. I have it here, and it is available on my website. Have a look at the many recommendations that flowed from industry as a result of that tax summit that dealt with: stamp duty on residential and commercial conveyances; residential land tax; commercial land tax; payroll tax and mining royalties; taxes on motorists; gambling; insurance taxes; environmental taxes; and fees, levies and charges. The work was all done in 2007 and 2008 by the opposition. You need to get the tax regime down.

We also need to maintain the momentum on industrial relations reform, and we need to reinvent industry in this state if we are to generate the sort of export revenues that we need in order to grow the economy. To do that, you are going to need to find a new formula to reinvigorate manufacturing, which has fallen off a cliff and is crashing to the rocks below. That reinvention of manufacturing is going to need to be based around science and innovation.

We need to get action happening on mining, not just exploration. We have had the talk, but we have not had the delivery. Even if we do get the delivery on Roxby Downs, in the overall scheme of the number of projects underway in Australia at the moment it is significant, but it is not monumental. On a national scale, it is just another project compared with multiples more of billions that are being cab-ranked in WA and Queensland, offshore and onshore, in terms of projects underway.

Welcome though it will be, fantastic though it will be, we need to get out and find more mining opportunities, and we have to make sure that we get the added value in terms of employment and other benefits from it. Most important of all, though, we need plans over 20 to 30 years, and we need budgets that deliver results over 20 to 30 years, otherwise we are wasting our time.

[Sitting extended beyond 17:00 on motion of Hon. P. Caica]

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:56): I take the opportunity today in this grievance debate to raise a number of issues that are pertinent to my electorate in the South-East. My electorate has never fared well in a Labor budget not just from this Labor government but also from previous Labor governments, but I feel that my electorate is particularly being picked on in this particular budget, and I will raise just a couple of the issues.

Obviously, there has been a lot said about the proposal to forward sell up to three rotations of the ForestrySA forests. I remind the house that I asked a question of the Minister for Forests this week, pointing out that it was revealed in Victoria at the beginning of this week that a company that was contracted to mill logs, to process logs out of Victorian state forests, was actually putting those whole logs into shipping containers and then exporting them—over the Melbourne wharves and exporting them off into Asia to be processed.

ACIL Tasman did a study into the regional impact of the forward sale. The government accepted the conclusions of ACIL Tasman that there would be no export or no substantial export of logs out of the South-East. I do not know how they drew that conclusion. I think that the study was flawed, but I do not know how they drew that conclusion. I asked the minister, in light of the revelation of what is happening across the border in Victoria, whether he now accepted that the report that he has been working on, and that the government is taking its action based upon, might have got it wrong.

To my surprise, the minister said, 'Oh, well, we have the ups and downs, the swings in the housing industry, which impact greatly upon the profitability of the sawmills that are processing the logs, and of course sometimes we will have log exported.' He was making the argument that, when there was a downturn in the local or the domestic timber industry, it might be a good thing if we exported log to keep the harvesting side of the industry going.

That is exactly what the people in the South-East do not want to happen. They want that resource protected from export such that it will underpin a viable processing industry in the South-East. That is what underpins most of the jobs, that is what underpins most of the economy of the region around Mount Gambier and across the South-East. It is not about just growing the forests and producing the log; it is about all the value-adding that we can do to that. That is what it is about, and the minister, in answer to my question on Tuesday this week, suggested that he fully expected, from time to time, log to be exported. That sent a shiver down my spine, and I am sure those very people he has sitting on a round table to give him advice will be equally horrified at the minister's answer. I will be making sure that those people are well aware of his answer and have a copy of it.

On that point, how disappointing it was for the people of the South-East when they learned that the leaders in the community, and the leaders in the fight to have the government change its position with regard to the forward sale, were corralled by the government into a round table to advise the minister and to empower those people and at the first meeting it was demanded that they sign a confidentiality agreement so that they could not go back and talk to their community about what they were doing on their behalf. It is absolutely outrageous that the government would treat the people of the South-East with such contempt, because I believe that is what it is doing.

I also touch on the Keith hospital. I had a meeting with my colleague the member for Morphett a few weeks ago. He was in the South-East looking at the whole gamut of health issues across the South-East and we called in and spent some time at the Keith hospital and we met with the chairman of the board, some of the board members and some of the senior staff of the hospital. It was a good meeting. I was delighted that the people of Keith, who are working incredibly hard to save their hospital, were able to give us some of their time and walk us through the current issues with regard to that hospital.

Notwithstanding what the minister keeps saying, I report to the house that the Keith hospital is under very serious threat. The doors are only still open because the community is raising and putting its own money on the table to keep those doors open. The reality is that they believe there are some opportunities to get additional funding, particularly from the commonwealth government and particularly with regard to the aged-care services they provide, but they have to make the case and then they will have to wait until that is assessed and then the funds may start to flow. All of that may well take six to 12 months, and in the meantime they are struggling.

We saw a horrific motor accident on the Riddoch Highway only a week ago, one of the worst motor accidents for the year in this state. Some of the traumatised victims of that accident

ended up in the Keith hospital. They are incredibly grateful that that hospital is there, and, again, the point is made that you can airlift people who need additional care at a more major hospital directly from the Keith hospital to the likes of the Royal Adelaide Hospital without having to stop the helicopter to refuel. It is a very important and strategic hospital and it needs to stay there.

It is an absolute disgrace that this government has let matters get to where they are. This government is quite happy, it seems, to sit back and allow that hospital to slide into oblivion. The minister should have come out on day one and said, 'We are not going to let this hospital go. We are going to continue the funding to ensure that it stays operational and viable. In the meantime we are going to work with the board because we think they can do things better and get some extra funding out of Canberra.' That is what should have happened, but unfortunately this minister, who has no regard for country people, said, 'You go off and fund yourselves in the meantime.'

Mrs Geraghty: That is not true.

Mr WILLIAMS: It is true. If it was not true the minister would have done the right thing by those people.

In the last couple of minutes that are available to me I want to talk about the other hit that is aimed firmly at my electorate by this budget, and that is the proposal to now charge the landholders in the South-East a drainage levy for the drains that crisscross the South-East and take away the floodwaters because that part of the state is subject to inundation. In fact, it is subject to great inundation, and we have a fantastic drainage system there which has been developed for a period of about 150 years.

I could speak on this matter for hours but I do not have that time. What I can say is I think the government has not done its homework on this issue. This was put forward as a proposal either in the late 1960s or the early 1970s, and after years of work, the proposal was canned because to operate a system of levying on those drains was going to cost more than it was going to raise in the levy. I want to point out to the house that the drains are not just there for the benefit of agriculture. In fact, my constituents in the Upper South-East, where the most recent drainage system has been constructed over the last 10 or a little bit more years, would argue that that scheme is more involved with environmental outcomes than it is with agricultural outcomes.

The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: The minister does not agree but there are many, many farmers there who lament—they agree that the drains are helping them, but they lament that the drains were put there specifically to get environmental outcomes and it has compromised the value of the drains as an agricultural system. The reality is that the drains were originally constructed to aid transport, because the good people of Mount Gambier were petitioning the British government, to secede from South Australia and to form a new colony.

Mrs Geraghty interjecting:

Mr WILLIAMS: This was back in the mid-1800s. This is why you people need to know a little about history. You want to understand what has been going on in this state. It is very disappointing that my time is up, but I will have more to say on this matter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for MacKillop. Even I should probably state that I do not think the member for Torrens was alive in the mid-1800s. I think that is drawing a long, long bow. Member for Morphett.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (17:06): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The big problem with health in this state, besides the minister, is the fact that I have had such a short time in this place to actually talk about the \$4.6 billion budget that we have. I have 4½ hours in estimates, a billion dollars an hour, we are 20 minutes in the budget speech and I have 10 minutes now, and every day there is another issue in health. Today we saw the issue of patients being crammed into treatment rooms which really are storage rooms at Flinders Medical Centre, and I understand that this is happening all over South Australia in our major public hospitals because they are full to bursting—full to bursting!

The minister also had a go at me about exaggerating the time that people are in the emergency departments. We know that the four-hour target that they have is failing. It is failing in Western Australia; even my Liberal colleagues there, who manage the health system much better than this lot here do, are unable to implement the four-hour system. Read *The West Australian*, read what the unions are saying over there; the four-hour system is not achievable. You are going

to kill people the same way as they did in the Mid Stafford area in England if you insist on doing that.

People are waiting a long time to get into hospital in the EDs, and they are waiting even longer once they are in the emergency departments. If the minister does not believe me—and he said today it was not true—well, minister, go and read your own CAP plans, your capacity planning documents. Go and read those, because the one I was using for the hours that the minister said were wrong was Monday 20 June at 2.21pm from the Royal Adelaide Hospital: the emergency department, ED occupancy, 61; ED patients waiting greater than four hours, 17; ED patients waiting longer than eight hours, 8; ED patients waiting longer than 12 hours, 7; EDALOS (average length of stay), so the average length of stay in the ED, in hours per patient was 35.9 hours—35.9 hours!

I got one of these today for the Flinders Medical Centre, because we know there is a crisis down there, but I think there is a mistake in this one. I do give the minister the benefit of the doubt with this one. I think there is a typo here. Today at 11:05 in the Flinders Medical Centre, in the ED inpatient area the occupancy was 19; there are 18 admissions today; there was a discharge today of 2; but it said the ALOS there, their average length of stay in hours per patient in the ED, was 534.3 hours. That is like 22 days!

Even I do not believe that the mismanagement is that bad, so I will give the minister a bit of leeway there. I know he will be listening, and his overworked minions will be listening. Let's get what the real figure is there, but I bet it is not a lot better than the 35.9 hours that the patients were waiting at the Royal Adelaide on Monday afternoon. They were waiting there and let's hope they are not still waiting now, because when you look at the capacity management plans for our hospitals, when you look at them right through till Saturday, Saturday at 4 o'clock in the morning, you can see in black and white and red lines on there that the hospital is up over capacity. Even their predicted capacity, the actual capacity, is greater than that. They are bursting at the seams, and what do we see from this minister? Rack 'em, pack 'em and stack 'em in storerooms.

This has been going on a while. I say that because a very, very dear man, a lovely man and a client of mine in my veterinary practice for many years who used to bring his dogs to me—I will not mention his name—had terminal cancer, and he was in the last stages of his life at Flinders Medical Centre. He could not go into the palliative care area and he was put into a storeroom. His family were absolutely distraught that this lovely man ended his life in a storeroom at Flinders Medical Centre.

This minister knew about it because it was covered on the TV. He has done nothing about it, and he is doing nothing to improve hospital conditions in South Australia, other than saying, 'It's all happening, 2014, 2016.' Minister, you have been there with minister Stevens for nearly 10 years now. You had rivers of gold pouring into this state and you have stuffed it up. You have nothing more to offer than denial and delay and deflect. It is just not good enough.

In the few minutes left to me I would like to talk about what this budget is not doing in the electorate of Morphett. Unfortunately, Morphett has been a safe Liberal seat. I say 'unfortunately' in as much as we are happy to have it because I love the people down there. I feel privileged to be representing them, but this government knows that they are not going to win it, so they put what in there? Peanuts, unless it is going to affect possible areas that might affect them.

What we are looking at here is the flood mitigation schemes, the Barcoo Outlet and, in this case, we have a few million dollars in there to fix up the lock gates down at the Pat. There is nothing much this year; \$320,000 this year and the total budget for that is \$3.6 million—not a lot when you have a premier tourism area, the only declared tourism area in South Australia.

Millions of people come there every year. We get 25,000 for the New Year's Eve party, when 70,000 plus people arrive; not all of them are my constituents. I love to have them, but they are not all constituents. It is just not good enough, particularly when you consider that the value of properties in the electorate of Morphett is sky-high—land tax and stamp duty alone. I could tell you how many hundreds of thousands of dollars in stamp duty that my wife and I have paid to the state coffers in the last 10 years. It is hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are happy to invest and progress and work our backsides off. We do not mind paying some tax, but the tax that is being levied on the people of Morphett through stamp duty and land tax is just so discouraging.

One constituent I spoke to the other day, who lives a couple of houses down, is selling 10 or 12 apartments in Alice Springs. He said, 'Duncan there is no way I will reinvest that money in South Australia. We are going to Victoria.' I said, 'Why?' He said, 'Stamp duty and land tax. Why

the hell would I invest here?' That is a disincentive. The government is missing out; 1 per cent of something is better than 100 per cent of nothing, minister.

You have got to balance your budgets, whether it is a home budget, a business budget or the state budget. You can not live beyond your means. Let's not kill the golden goose. People who are working hard in South Australia, developing this state, do not mind putting in. They will put in to develop themselves, they will put in to develop the state, and they deserve a lot more than they are getting here.

We saw last year's budget and it is carrying on, even with Glenelg Community Hospital. My son was born at the Glenelg Community Hospital, and my wife has been there as a patient. It is a fantastic community hospital. I understand that members opposite have family members who have been in the Glenelg Community Hospital. I congratulate them on that because it is a fabulous hospital. I understand that the South Australian Dental Service uses it for general anaesthetics for kids for dental work because it is a fantastic hospital.

But what did we see last year? We saw a miserable cut to the Recovery at the Bay program. These were long-stay patients coming out of the Repat and out of Flinders who were recovering from hospital treatments, who did not need an acute bed at \$1,200 a day. Glenelg was offering them at \$120 a day, 10 per cent of what they were being charged for an acute bed. Massive savings, but, no, the government cuts that.

Those patients, as I understand it, are going into some of the intermediate care beds in Flinders, the Repat and other places, and some of them are going down to McLaren Vale & Districts War Memorial Hospital. It is a great hospital, but even people down at McLaren Vale said to me, 'How are they going to get here, Duncan? We're happy to have them, but how are they going to get here? There is no tram down to McLaren Vale.' What is happening there is just not good enough.

Let us talk about some of the non-spend in the electorate of Morphett. If you want a terrific example, the electorate of Morphett used to share a boundary with the electorate of Bright. That boundary was at Hove, by the Foodland and Holder Road. They still share a boundary but it has moved north now up to Whyte Street. I lost one of my best booths to Bright. I love all of my constituents though.

If you want to see what happens go there, in fact you do not even need to go there, look on my website and you will see footage of me standing on Brighton Road, with one foot in Bright and one foot in Morphett. What is in Bright? New bitumen on Brighton Road and old bitumen in Morphett.

Go down to Anzac Highway and Morphett Road today, which is the boundary of Morphett and West Torrens—and it goes across into Elder once you get past the racetrack—you will see old bitumen in Morphett and new bitumen on Anzac Highway in West Torrens, going on into Ashford and Elder. Morphett misses out again and again.

One thing that really puzzles me about the Minister for Transport is that we seem to be the only place in the world where you cannot run heritage trams. We built the old H class trams at Edwardstown, yet we cannot run them here as a heritage tram. This is the only place in the world where you cannot do that.

This government cannot see the wood for the trees. It is selling the woods off, we know that; it is selling the forests off, so there will be no trees left anyway. Let us have a look at where we are going. Let us look to the future. Let us look to building more than just shiny monuments to Mike Rann. Let us look to building a state for all South Australians. Let us not penalise progress. Let us not penalise success. Let us make sure that South Australians get what they deserve, and that is not what this government is giving.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:16): I rise today to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2011. I want to talk about some of the things that have been inflicted on us in this budget. At the Mid-Year Budget Review there was an \$81 million surplus. That has now turned into a budget deficit of \$263 million in 2011-12, and as the budget deficits roll out they go to \$114 million, \$80 million and \$655 million surpluses in the forward estimates.

Debt is rising to \$8.2 billion over the forward estimates, which is a \$900 million difference to the 9.1 infrastructure program that Labor has in place. I note that financial liabilities are up to \$20 billion by 2014, and the cost of living increases for families are up \$750 per year. I notice the

liquor licensing fee increases which will impact on our pubs and clubs, which is basically the open door tax, a price rise of \$4 million per year.

The Office of Public Integrity, the Clayton's ICAC, will only be funded at \$3 million per year, commencing in the year 2012-13. When we look at further public sector job cuts, we see more job cuts of 400, on top of the 3,750 job cuts in the public sector last year. There is \$396 million in deferred capital works, and this involves projects in my community which I spoke about last night, the Murray Bridge police station which has been deferred by 18 months.

The Riverside precinct has been delayed by two years, so that will begin in 2015. The government has made a pre-budget release of a \$600 million drop in GST, and this is what the government has announced. It is actually \$650 million less in GST and royalties compared to the 2008-09 years. People need to understand what the government is referring to here. The government is really \$52 million better off on GST since the 2010-11 Mid-Year Budget Review over three years.

There is no funding for any upgrade to the current Royal Adelaide Hospital which is going to have to survive quite a long time before we get the monument to Mike Rann finished on the rail yards. We see the state's first home owner payment abolished and we see \$1.1 billion in extra taxes over the forward estimates imposed on the people of this state. We see driver's licence renewals are up by 32 per cent and speeding fines up by 29 per cent, and this is for speeding less than 15 km/h over the limit.

We see water rates, for everyone across this state, up to 50 to 60 per cent increase and more increases coming. Those increased fees make me fearful for what's going to happen to agriculture in this state. I have had many constituents come to me, especially constituents who have had to access water—like where I live off the Keith pipeline because water is too saline. We have had the Keith pipeline in place with River Murray water coming through it since the 1960s and that has been a boon for our area. But the problem is, it is becoming uneconomic for people connected to reticulated water in agriculture. We see the cost to piggeries, to feed lots and to people running mobs of cattle on dryland farms because the simple fact is they are not going to drink any less water. You need to clean their water troughs out to make sure they have good clean water.

People are saying it is just going to become unviable, and there is a real risk that we will see people abandon these areas. I know that there were emergency procedures put in to put pipes in around to Meningie and Narrung. Once we got through the bureaucracy it was great to see that the one thing that did work was the contractors, who really got going, and they had several crews going, and I must commend them. They had rock saws and several crews operating in a hurry to make sure that water got delivered—if only the bureaucracy previously could have operated just as quickly.

The sad thing is people are still heavily reliant on this pipe water because some of these people live around Lake Albert, and previous to the drought they were drawing fresh water from Lake Albert for their farming operations. But, no, we still have the effects of the Narrung bund, about which the government has not just hesitated, it has basically stalled in removing it. We see the problem with the bund at Clayton and Currency Creek. We have had the minister tell us that they are not sure how to get it out. I do not think it is that difficult. Just hire the contractors, get the money on the ground, and get it done.

When these things went in under emergency procedures, they went in relatively quickly but the bureaucracy and the bungling around applying for finance to get rid of these structures so that the people of communities around the Lower Lakes and the lower Murray can get the benefit of the fresh water that has been thundering down this river since the rains during last year is dissipating, because these people should be able to access this water that is coming down.

We have had thousands of gigalitres come back down through the river system, and it is a great boon, but I feel for those hundreds of producers, cattle producers, sheep producers and also people involved in our viticulture industries and other irrigation. The orchards and other associated horticulture, especially the ones that are on piped reticulated water, are paying through the nose.

I have had one grower in Murray Bridge—a herb operation—who basically said to me, 'Well, we've got to go. It's got too dear. We've got to get back next to the river and purchase an allocation because it's just uneconomic to put this water through the pipe.' I am very fearful that we will see a lot of this landscape turn into houses that will just be abandoned. It will be like the people who tried to grow wheat north of the Goyder line many years ago around Hawker. You just see

relics of the farming operations that were there because they tried to crop wheat far too north in this state.

Another thing I want to talk about—and we were talking about it in a bill earlier today—is the introduction of more fixed speed cameras to raise revenue. The government—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

Mr PEDERICK: Yes, absolutely. Why would you put them in otherwise? The government has targeted speed cameras to raise an extra \$24 million in additional expiation fees in 2011-12. We see payroll tax up by \$91 million in 2011-12. We see taxes across this state up by more than double the rate of inflation in each year of the forward estimates.

We see other projects that are being deferred. The government is still a long way off balancing a budget, but it is deferring \$193 million relating to rail network standardisation. We see regulatory fees up by \$75 million in 2011-12 and an increase of \$199 million in the forward estimates. We also see (and I mentioned it last night in my speech) that SA Lotteries will be privatised.

As I mentioned last night, here we have a government that is so anti-privatisation, but it is quite happy to sell off the lotteries, which is very much a profit-making venture, similar to its privatisation of the South-East forests, because it has no vision outside of the urban areas. Certainly, I feel in my mind that the forward sale of the forests is just pillaging the South-East for the government's coffers.

Time expired.

Mr VENNING (Schubert) (17:27): Before I start, I just want to inform the house of the passing of the Hon. Ken Vaughan. He was a Queensland Labor MP. He was a man I had a lot of admiration for. I played bowls with him for nearly 20 years. I am very sad, indeed. He will be sorely missed by the fraternity of past parliamentary bowls players right across Australia.

I would also like to note that this week it is 10 years since a good friend of mine, Mrs Margarete Hale, passed away. I did note that at the time in this house on the *Hansard*. It is 10 years, and she was one of those people you never forget. Another day in the diary. We do, certainly, again, remember Margarete, and also pay our condolences to the Vaughan family in Queensland. We have sent a card on behalf of this parliament.

Mr Pederick interjecting:

Mr VENNING: He was, and a damn good bloke to boot. Rural and regional South Australia has long been forgotten by the Rann Labor government; however, this has become more apparent in the last few months. I note that we have a past minister of agriculture sitting here, and I am pleased he is here. He can comment or interject if he wishes.

Again, agriculture received nothing in the recent budget—agriculture, a sector that has been gutted in previous years by Labor continues to be slashed. I also have the shadow minister right alongside me, which I am pleased about. The agriculture, food and fisheries budget was slashed from \$216 million to \$181 million in 2011-12. These figures include a \$11.3 million reduction in expenditure for the Exceptional Circumstances program, completion of the State Drought Response Program and a drop of \$4.3 million in the agriculture, food and wine programs. Cuts were also made to SARDI. The budget paper states:

The \$2.7 million decrease in expenses is due to a reduction in research and development activity and service delivery to meet budget savings targets.

It is ludicrous that, at a time when food security is becoming a very real issue and the future of agriculture will be of utmost importance, the government slashes research and development. I cannot understand how the Rann government can expect the agricultural industry to succeed into the future when it continues to gut it.

Farmers today, more than ever before, need professional, unbiased advice not just from private consultants who usually often have a strong commercial bias or link. Many of the fertiliser companies, chemical companies and fuel companies have their own agronomists, so obviously their advice will be product-focused. I am not being critical about that; at least you have some people out there who know the business. When the department of agriculture was there, they always gave you good, unbiased advice. A lot of people within the department (which is shedding

its staff) end up working for these larger companies, and we have someone on our farm who is an ex-department trained agronomist.

In a recent submission by the Australian Food and Grocery Council to a national food plan, the claim was made that Australia faces severe food shortages in 10 years if governments do not act immediately. The Rann Labor government has not only failed to act in relation to ensuring our food security into the future but the cuts it has made to agriculture are detrimental, removing all the research and development and removing the voice farmers had via the Advisory Board of Agriculture.

I wonder what a notable previous Labor minister of agriculture, who introduced SARDI, thinks about this—and I will name the Hon. Lynn Arnold, who was later premier. This Labor government's decision to withdraw funding from the board on 30 June is another slap in the face to country people and to one of the state's most important industries. Why is the minister wishing to sever the long-held tie with agriculture for the sake of the cost of one salary? I have raised this matter with the minister several times and voiced my concerns very strongly, but to no avail.

The Advisory Board of Agriculture has served in South Australia for over 123 years, providing the minister with advice and allowing knowledge, information and data about agricultural issues to be exchanged. The ABA is also the managing body of the strong Agricultural Bureau movement of South Australia—the strongest farmer extension body in Australia. I sat on the board myself for eight years, and I firmly believe that governments of both persuasions got very good value, especially if they wanted to work with it, as most did.

It was a pleasure to work with Labor ministers, and I will name them: the Hon. Kym Mayes listened and took advice from the board, and the Hon. Frank Blevins was a good minister for agriculture because he took advice.

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: You didn't say that at the time.

Mr VENNING: Yes I did; I always have. He took good advice. The Hon. Lynn Arnold I named and, while I did not serve with the Hon. Paul Caica, I understand the board speaks glowingly of him. They never got political, they never gave the minister a hard time, they always kept the confidence, and that is why I feel so sorry now that the board is unable to come out and defend itself. It has not, and it will not. They sit there and take this in total silence, and I think they ought to be speaking up—maybe that is why I am doing this now.

It seems that the current minister has no real understanding of how important this board is. I am a bit concerned about discussing letters in this place, but in this instance I think I have to, and I apologise for doing so, but I was outraged by the minister's response to a letter I sent him outlining my concerns. The letter, which I received a few weeks ago, stated:

Over time, with the growth of agribusiness, professional bodies and the revolution of information technology, the minister's reliance on the ABA as a source of information has diminished.

All I can say is that it is very sad indeed. I think the budget last year for the whole board was about \$160,000, and that is for a board of 10 people, plus a research officer. If you could not get value out of that, I would be absolutely surprised.

I wonder how the current members of the board feel about the minister's comments that the information they provide to the government is no longer sufficient. He has shown a complete disregard for a board that has served South Australian agriculture well for over 123 years, or is it because he has not had the opportunity to build a rapport or relationship with the board and to use it to mutual advantage?

I think it is like everything else and, as the previous minister would know, if you wish to use these boards and have confidence in them, I am sure that a very strong mutual advantage can be struck up. In this instance, I do not believe that has ever happened, because the minister has not been in the job long enough.

The minister also said, 'The cost of running the ABA is significant and competes for highly contested funds.' I am extremely doubtful that forming a new Agribusiness Council will be more cost-effective than continuing with the existing structure of the ABA. The government has decided to replace the ABA, which meets on average 10 days per year, with an Agribusiness Council that will only meet eight hours per year. I would be very interested to see a cost analysis comparing the ABA and the new Agribusiness Council once it has been in operation for a year or so.

As I would know, board members on the ABA are selected from the agricultural bureaus across South Australia, and the minister vets those appointments. Members were paid a very basic mileage and sitting allowance; certainly not enough to meet their personal out-of-pocket expenses. This is another bad decision by the Labor government and I am sorry that it is at the expense of the very historic Advisory Board of Agriculture. 30 June will indeed be a sad day.

The attitude of the Labor government towards rural and regional South Australia is one of utter contempt. Yes, the sky is falling down. I know the member for Mitchell made that profound statement yesterday.

Mr Sibbons: Put your hard hat on.

Mr VENNING: I did listen. I am angry, and South Australians living outside metropolitan Adelaide are angry that we face continual cuts to services and receive next to nothing in new projects, initiatives or programs. When you consider what the budget for agriculture was in 2002 and what it is today, it is an appalling disgrace. If you follow this graph down, it will not exist in a decade. There is no joy in this budget for anyone, but rural and regional South Australia again appears to have borne the brunt of budget cuts and neglect. I am encouraged that, hopefully when the Liberals are elected to government in 2014, the board—

The Hon. M.J. Atkinson: You have been saying that ever since 2002.

Mr VENNING: —will be immediately reinstated. I don't think there will be any doubt about the decision come 2014, because, really, 51 per cent of the people of South Australia did not want you in 2010, but I think by 2014 it will be more like 65 per cent, unless you can totally rebirth it. Anyway, I am not here to play base politics, I am here to get results and to deliver for the people that put me here. I know I am judged that way. I wish we could turn it all around.

Mr SIBBONS (Mitchell) (17:37): It is increasingly obvious that the members opposite have no answers, no alternatives and no policies to offer in response to the Rann Labor government's latest budget. The government has been investing in infrastructure and jobs for today and the years ahead, paving the way for a brighter, safer and more prosperous tomorrow for our children and grandchildren.

Meanwhile, the opposition has no alternatives, no significant policy announcements and no ideas. While those opposite are a policy-free zone, the government is getting on with the job and laying solid, sensible foundations for the future. Massive investments in public transport and road upgrades, and projects such as the Adelaide Oval redevelopment, the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the state aquatic centre at Marion are examples of sound policy and real action that will benefit South Australians for generations to come. The 2011-12 budget appropriations legislation before us continues to build on those foundations with well-targeted, responsible measures, delivering to areas of greatest need.

I have already mentioned some of these measures today, and I wish to flesh out the detail in one particular area—that of support for vulnerable South Australian families, particularly those living with disability. The budget has a strong focus on supporting such families and includes new spending of \$149 million to help thousands of vulnerable South Australians to remain healthy, to feel secure and to be able to have access to the services or assistance they need. My esteemed colleague Treasurer Snelling said:

For many people with a disability and their families, children in foster care, the elderly and those struggling to find somewhere stable to live, it is often difficult to achieve things other people take for granted.

That is so true, and that is why since the government came to office in 2002 it has worked to lend a hand to these South Australian battlers. The 2011-12 budget continues this tradition. Disability funding has almost doubled since 2002; however, it is a growing sector, and the government recognises that it is an area in need of more assistance in practical and financial terms.

In this coming year, South Australians with a disability, and their families and carers, will benefit from a wide range of budget measures. Generally, disability funding is being bolstered by more than \$37 million over the next four years. This support will help disability clients' needs, accommodation support, community access and respite services for carers. This comes on top of the extra \$70.9 million committed over four years in the last budget.

There is also a new allocation of more than \$10 million being budgeted in recurrent funding over four years to help meet the demand for disability equipment now and into the future. This will help to reduce waiting lists and give people living with disabilities access to the equipment they

need sooner. A further \$7.7 million is being allocated to help relocate 32 of the current 63 residents of the Strathmont Centre in supported accommodation into the community, while around \$400,000 will be spent on the remaining residual villas and site infrastructure at the centre to improve the accommodation for remaining residents.

The sum of \$8 million over four years will be invested in works to be identified in the Public Transport Disability Action Plan. This will involve upgrading pathways, platforms, information displays and shelters at rail and bus interchanges to support improved accessibility. Funds will be increased for the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme, which delivers subsidised taxi fares for people with mobility impairment. The \$63 million being invested over four years from 2011-12 will ensure that the government continues to deliver the same level of service in the coming years, despite an increase in taxi fares. Of course, we are also continuing to revamp our public transport fleets on the way to having all buses, trains and trams accessible for people with disabilities.

We are also continuing to revamp our public transport fleets to ensure that the broader impacts of living with a disability have been met. I have met with a number of constituents for whom everyday tasks, such as getting from A to B, can be a real challenge. Just recently, my officers met with a young woman who has various physical disabilities and mental health issues. She told me of the difficulties involved in getting herself showered and dressed, preparing meals and accessing transport. She has also endured a long wait for an appropriate wheelchair.

Here is one of many similar stories, which is why it is important that the government invests in improving the lives of people with disabilities across the wide variety of areas mentioned. Always more help is needed, but I am proud of the work the government is doing in this area and the planning and provisions being made for the future improvements.

As well as targeted assistance to people with disabilities, other ways in which this budget is helping to support vulnerable South Australian families include: \$50.2 million to support what has become a growing need of children in state care, including the construction of new residential community care facilities; \$22.1 million over four years to increase water rate concessions from 20 per cent to 25 per cent to help offset increased water prices; intensive support programs for families at risk to help parents and children deal with their challenges and stay together as a family at a cost of \$19 million; and \$1.8 million so that more than 2,000 eligible South Australians suffering from a medical condition affected by extreme hot or cold weather will benefit from the introduction of a medical heating and cooling concession.

As I have previously said, the real strength of this budget is that it delivers help to those who most need it. With the reduction of GST revenue to the state from the commonwealth, these are not booming times, the coffers are not overflowing; however, this budget is reasonable and responsible. As our Premier, Mike Rann, has said:

It is responsible borrowing to build the State for our children and grandchildren.

Our financial management has again been recognised by the ratings agencies, which have again given South Australia the internationally recognised AAA credit rating, the highest rating a Government can get.

It is a report card that shows this government is a responsible manager of the state's finances, while the measures included in the budget restate that this is also a government with a heart for its community and its people most in need.

[Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. P. Caica]

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (17:47): I would like to just say a few words today. I tabled a petition today with 984 signatures regarding stopping the car parking charges at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre. The centre is a 150-bed facility that provides clinical rehab for people with traumatic brain injury, stroke, other neurological and medical disorders, spinal cord injury, orthopaedic conditions and amputations. It also has physical activity for the ageing, a special gym and exercise laboratory, and fitness testing and research. It has specially modified equipment and a hydrotherapy pool.

The Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre is not a standard hospital where you would expect to pay standard parking fees. I certainly understand that the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Women's and Children's Hospital are in commercial areas where people might be inclined—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is a lot of background chat going on. Could members resume their seats or please leave the chamber, as the member for Adelaide does have the right to be heard. Thank you.

Ms SANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the Women's and Children's Hospital currently charge commercial rates for their parking, and that is a lot more understandable, given that they are in commercial areas and it would not be unlikely that, if they had free parking, city workers would park there and utilise the space. However, this is not the case at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre. It is 10 kilometres north-east of the city, and it is certainly not likely to be somewhere you would drive to get good cheap parking.

One of my constituents, who had filled in a couple of pages of petition forms, told me that her husband, after a car accident injury, was in the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre for six months and that not only had they lost the only income in their household by him losing his job due to injury but she visited him every day, and the parking charge—it is expected to be \$13 a day—would have been completely unaffordable for her.

I have had other constituents, elderly and retired people, who use the pool three times a week, and they see it as a way of keeping themselves fit and healthy and out of our hospital system. They are actually saving us money by looking after their bodies. To charge, I believe, \$2 per hour will make it unaffordable for several of the gentleman whom I spoke to, which is certainly, I do not think, the intention of this government. I think it is penny-pinching and a very bad decision. The petition had over 900 signatures within two weeks. I think that there are a lot of people who are very upset and quite angry about this decision. I would implore the government to please reconsider and withdraw their intention to charge car parking fees at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

I would also like to make a few comments on the budget as a whole. In particular, the thing that strikes me as quite outrageous, with my accounting background, is that you buy things when you can afford them. Whilst the Liberal Party supports football in the city, it is football in the city at the cost of our beautiful Adelaide Oval, and the destruction of the oval, bringing us from a two-oval city, which we have maintained for 30 years, down to one oval at a cost of \$535 million—and that is without the footbridge, and without any suitable or adequate parking, and it will require parking on the Parklands. I have had hundreds of letters from people who are extremely upset about the parking on the Parklands. Even if we do park all over the Parklands, there are still not enough car parks for the expected crowd numbers. North Adelaide, I envisage, will become a car park, and it will be extremely inconvenient for the residents and business owners in the area.

I note that the only large concert that we have had at the Adelaide Oval in the last year or so was the AC/DC concert. As I have a business on Melbourne Street, I witnessed it first-hand. Now I know what to wear if I go to an AC/DC concert, because I saw hundreds of concertgoers walking past my office. It is basically black T-shirts, lots of black, with AC/DC written on them. From about 3.30 in the afternoon, way past the end of Melbourne Street—past the Lord Melbourne Hotel—there were streams of people walking past. Had any of my clients wanted to visit my store, or if anyone wanted to have a meal at the Lord Melbourne, or buy the paper at the newsagents, or get a coffee at the local coffee shop, nobody would be able to do that because the AC/DC concertgoers were parked in those parks. I envisage that will happen every weekend there is a football game on.

It is of detriment to the people in my electorate. As is well known, I am strongly opposed to the redevelopment at the site. I do believe it is a waste of money. It is not a suitable site. We already know that in terms of the western grandstand, even if you sit five rows back you actually get wet. We know that the lighting tower already has to be raised or moved because of the design. We already know that for the media unit to film from the western grandstand you are going to have to spend considerable extra money. We already know that there are not enough toilets. And this is on the you beaut redeveloped \$85 million stand that is already within weeks of being open—already unsuitable for its purpose. This is an absolute waste of money. Is going to encroach on the Parklands on the eastern side by up to 15 metres. It is absolutely a bad decision.

That brings me also to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Why would you forego a \$1 billion-dollar asset, move down the end of the road away from the university medical school, the Hanson Research Centre, the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, away from all of the convenient areas that work with it, and put it down the other end, where you are at a major intersection of Port Road, West Terrace and North Terrace. How will the ambulances get through?

I have already had calls from ambulance drivers saying it is going to be absolutely chaotic at that intersection. So, I do not know how you going to get them there. There are lots of problems. There are obviously issues with contamination. I was sitting next to someone on a plane the other day who was telling me about the massive amounts of contamination on that site.

The cost is already something like \$1.1 billion more than estimated, so it is already blowing out. The cost is outrageous for a hospital that we do not need. We already have a very good hospital that could be rebuilt on site, as the Liberal plan had, by demolishing buildings at the back of the site, building at the front and then moving things over.

It is a beautiful site and we would be retaining current world-class facilities such as the burns unit. It is also in the perfect location, right near the Botanical Gardens, which is wonderful for rehabilitation. We all know how important parklands are, which is why people are so upset about the redevelopment of Glenside, because the whole point of rehabilitating people is to have the parks and the serenity around them to help their mental health.

It is absolutely outrageous to be redeveloping Glenside to put a film hub there. I am from the modelling and acting industry and I can tell you that I have rung nearly everyone I know in the industry and they do not think it was even needed. It was an unnecessary waste of money on a site that was not appropriate. A warehouse in Port Adelaide would have been far more appropriate, if you are going to be putting together a film hub.

The site that the South Australian Film Corporation has at Hendon, which I have visited several times, is more than adequate for what they need. I am told that there is nothing extra that they are getting at this new facility. So, the government has again spent millions of taxpayers' money on a site that is unsuitable. It is an absolute waste of money on another monument to this government.

So, while the heating and cooling rebate is great, which was one of our initiatives, there is not much else in this budget that I can see that is very good for anyone in South Australia. If I did not love this state so much I would be inclined to maybe move to another state. Our taxes are incredibly high. It is very difficult to run a business in this state. Land taxes are high.

If you look at commercialrealestate.com you will see how many shops and offices are available on Melbourne Street, O'Connell Street and Prospect Road. There is something like 12 businesses empty for lease along Prospect Road with the redevelopment. There are a lot of empty buildings around here and the government needs to start looking at what it can do to help small business, because it is the largest employer in the state. There is not one mention of small business in this budget and how the government can help it, yet is a large employer in this state.

Mr BIGNELL (Mawson) (17:57): I critiqued my first budget in 1982. I know a lot of you would be thinking that I could not be old enough to have done that, but it was in fact the John Howard budget under Malcolm Fraser in 1982—beers and smokes up, from memory. I had to do that because—

Members interjecting:

Mr BIGNELL: I was 15 years old, in year 11, and my economics teacher, Kathy Snelling, the mother of the present Treasurer of South Australia, had all of us in class do a critique on the federal budget of 1982. I was glad to see Kathy in here the other day to watch her son hand down his first budget. I am sure it would have been a very proud moment for her and one that will be critiqued very well by her students of today.

The Treasurer has done a tremendous job in very difficult circumstances, given the global financial crisis and the reduction in GST revenues. It is a tight budget. It is a responsible budget. It is a budget that will look after the most vulnerable people in our community, and I commend the Treasurer for a great first budget and thank him.

There are some real standout things in this budget, such as the establishment of the Commissioner for Public Integrity and an associated public integrity office, and the continued spending on infrastructure, which is making a huge difference in the south in the electorate of Mawson. We are building the Noarlunga GP Plus super clinic, which should be completed by the end of this year, and we are doing that, of course, with the help of the federal government. We have the Flinders Medical Centre redevelopment, and there is \$162 million going into that. As I mentioned, the other major infrastructure projects going into the south are the \$445 million duplication of the Southern Expressway, a road that was the laughing stock of Australian transport systems, built by a Liberal government that thought it was a good idea to have a road that went one

way half of the day and another way for the other half of the day, and closed for two hours a day for the changeover.

We are also making a huge difference to safety on the Victor Harbor Road at the intersection of Main Road at McLaren Vale where we are building an \$18 million overpass to get people up and over the Victor Harbor Road and safely into the flow of traffic. Again, we are doing that in a cooperative agreement with the federal government.

Under the rail revitalisation program we will be re-sleepering, upgrading the rail tracks, and electrifying the train system, which will be fantastic. The federal government is extending the Noarlunga line down to Seaford. We are going to have new rolling stock as well. The ride in from Seaford on an express train will take about 35 minutes. It will be a cleaner, more comfortable, greener ride into the city, and, once the Adelaide Oval is redeveloped, I am sure people will flock in to watch AFL and cricket at the Adelaide Oval.

We are doing a targeted program of shoulder sealing around the south particularly in black spots and where we have had problems with accidents. The government has been listening. I know I am one of several Labor members in the south who are continually writing to the Minister for Road Safety and the Minister for Transport, urging them to turn their attention to spend some money in our area to make our roads safer, and we are very grateful for the money we are receiving.

I am particularly interested in country health and it is great to see the huge investment in this area. There was an increase on last year's spending, and there is going to be another increase this year in spending in the regions in South Australia. That is very important, as I have said over this week. A couple of weeks ago, I was up in Oodnadatta opening an \$800,000 medical facility, and last weekend I opened two ambulance stations, each valued at \$1.1 million, which were also contributed to by the local community. At Orroroo it was \$230,000, and at Booleroo Centre, \$300,000. We thank the local communities there for their contribution and for their willingness to work with us as a state government to try and deliver better health services for everyone across the state, no matter where they live.

I will leave my comments at that and congratulate the Treasurer once again on an outstanding budget.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Treasurer, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education) (18:02): I move:

That the proposed expenditures for the departments and services contained in the Appropriation Bill be referred to Estimates Committees A and B for examination and report by Wednesday 6 July 2011, in accordance with the following timetables:

APPROPRIATION BILL
TIMETABLE FOR ESTIMATES COMMITTEES
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A
29 June 2011-5 July 2011
WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2011 AT 9.00 AM

Treasurer

Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education

Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (part)

Premier

Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change

Minister for Social Inclusion

Minister Assisting the Premier in Social Inclusion

Minister for Economic Development

Minister Assisting the Premier with the Olympic Dam Expansion Project

Minister for Arts

Minister Assisting the Premier in the Arts
Minister Assisting the Premier with South Australia's Strategic Plan
Legislative Council
House of Assembly
Joint Parliamentary Services
State Governor's Establishment
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Department of Trade and Economic Development (part)
Arts SA
Auditor-General's Department

THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2011 AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Health
Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Minister for the Southern Suburbs
Department of Health
Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Minister for Families and Communities
Minister for Housing
Minister for Disability
Minister for Ageing
Department for Families and Communities
Administered Items for the Department for Families and Communities

FRIDAY 1 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Police
Minister for Defence Industries
Minister for Motor Sport
Minister for Emergency Services
South Australia Police (part)
Administered Items for South Australia Police (part)
Defence SA
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)

MONDAY 4 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Small Business
Minister for Mineral Resources Development
Minister for Industry and Trade
Minister for Correctional Services
Department of Trade and Economic Development (part)
Department of Primary Industries and Resources (part)
Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Resources (part)
Department for Correctional Services

TUESDAY 5 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water

Minister for the River Murray
Department for Environment and Natural Resources
Administered Items for the Department for Environment and Natural Resources
Environment Protection Authority
Department of Water
Administered Items for the Department of Water

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

29 June 2011-5 July 2011

WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2011 AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Transport
Minister for State / Local Government Relations
Minister for Industrial Relations
Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Administered Items for the Department of Treasury and Finance (part)
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Administered Items for Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice
Minister for Tourism
Minister for Food Marketing
Minister for Urban Development, Planning and The City of Adelaide
Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Electoral Commission SA
Courts Administration Authority
South Australian Tourism Commission
Minister for Tourism
Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Planning and Local Government (part)

THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2011 AT 9.00 AM

Minister for Education
Minister for Early Childhood Development
Minister for Science and Information Economy
Department of Education and Children's Services
Administered Items for the Department of Education and Children's Services
Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (part)
Minister for Volunteers
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Youth
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)

FRIDAY 1 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Minister for Forests
Minister for Energy
Minister for Northern Suburbs
Department of Primary Industries and Resources (part)
Administered Items for the Department of Primary Industries and Resources (part)
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Administered Items for Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Department for Planning and Local Government (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Planning and Local Government (part)

MONDAY 4 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Public Sector
Minister for Gambling
Minister for Government Enterprises
Minister for Regional Development
Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Administered Items for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (part)
Independent Gambling Authority
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Administered Items for the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Department of Trade and Economic Development (part)

TUESDAY 5 JULY 2011 AT 10.00 AM

Minister for Recreation, Racing and Sport
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Road Safety
Attorney-General's Department (part)
Administered Items for the Attorney-General's Department (part)
Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
Administered Items for Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (part)
South Australia Police (part)
Administered Items for South Australia Police (part)

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Treasurer, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education) (18:03): I move:

That Estimates Committee A be appointed, consisting of Ms Bedford, Hon. I.F. Evans, Ms Fox, Hon. S. Key, Mr van Holst Pellekaan, Mrs Vlahos and Mr Whetstone.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Treasurer, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education) (18:03): I move:

That Estimates Committee B be appointed, consisting of Hon. M.J. Atkinson, Mr Gardner, Mr Griffiths, Mr Odenwalder, Ms Sanderson, Mr Sibbons and Hon. M.J. Wright.

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. P. Holloway to the committee in place of the Hon. R.P. Wortley (resigned).

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. P. Holloway to the committee in place of the Hon. R.P. Wortley (resigned).

STATUTORY OFFICERS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. G.E. Gago to the committee in place of the Hon. B.V. Finnigan (resigned).

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Council informed the House of Assembly that it had appointed the Hon. G.E. Gago to the committee in place of the Hon. B.V. Finnigan (resigned).

STATUTES AMENDMENT (LAND HOLDING ENTITIES AND TAX AVOIDANCE SCHEMES) BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 7, page 9, line 19 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 92(3)(a)]—After 'the land' insert:

other than where the separation of ownership occurs by virtue of or as a result of the operation of another Act or law

No. 2. Clause 7, page 9, line 21—After 'to the land by' insert:

virtue of or as a result of the

No. 3. Clause 7, page 9, lines 31 to 36 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 92(5)]—Delete subsection (5) and substitute:

(5) In addition—

(a) in connection with the operation of subsection (3)(a), if the Commissioner is satisfied that, at a relevant time, it was not part of an arrangement to avoid duty under this Part that an item was separately owned from the land, the Commissioner may determine that an entity's interest in land will not be taken to include an interest in the item; and

(b) in connection with the operation of subsection (3)(b), an entity's interest in land will not be taken to include an interest in an item which is owned by another entity unless—

(i) the relevant entity and the other entity are related entities and—

(A) the relevant entity holds a significant interest in the other entity or vice versa; or

(B) a chain of significant interest can be traced between the relevant entity and the other entity; or

(ii) a person or group holds a significant interest in both the relevant entity and the other entity.

No. 4. Clause 7, page 10, line 37 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(1)]—Delete 'relevant entity' and substitute:

private company or a private unit trust scheme

- No. 5. Clause 7, page 10, line 38 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(1)]—Delete 'relevant entity' and substitute:
private company or a private unit trust scheme
- No. 6. Clause 7, page 10, line 40 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(2)]—Delete 'a relevant' and substitute:
an
- No. 7. Clause 7, page 11, lines 8 and 9 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(3), Example]—Delete '(a listed company)'
- No. 8. Clause 7, page 11, line 10 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(3), Example]—Delete '(a private unit trust scheme)'
- No. 9. Clause 7, page 11, line 11 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 95(3), Example]—Delete '(a private company)'
- No. 10. Clause 7, page 11, line 16 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 96(1)]—Delete 'related entity' and substitute:
private company or a private unit trust scheme
- No. 11. Clause 7, page 11, lines 17 and 18 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 96(1)(a)]—Delete 'related entity' and substitute:
private company or private unit trust scheme
- No. 12. Clause 7, page 11, line 20 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 96(1)(b)]—Delete 'related entity' and substitute:
private company or private unit trust scheme
- No. 13. Clause 7, page 11, lines 27 to 29 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 96(2)]—Delete subsection (2)
- No. 14. Clause 7, page 11, line 35 [clause 7, inserted Part 4, Division 1, section 96(3)]—Delete 'related entity' and substitute:
private company or private unit trust scheme

APPROPRIATION BILL

The Legislative Council gave leave to the Minister for Regional Development (Hon. G.E. Gago) and any other member of the Legislative Council holding a commission as minister during the period for the examination of estimates to attend and give evidence before the estimates committees of the House of Assembly on the Appropriation Bill, if they think fit.

MOTOR VEHICLES (THIRD PARTY INSURANCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Consideration in committee of the Legislative Council's amendments.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

Motion carried.

ELECTRICITY (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

- No. 1. Clause 7, page 3, line 20—Delete the definition of *designated day*
- No. 2. Clause 7, page 5, line 29—Delete 'the amount of \$0.54 per kWh' and substitute:
the feed in price
- No. 3. Clause 7, page 6, lines 13 to 29—Delete subsections (5) and (6) and substitute:
- (5) A person is not eligible to receive a credit under this section—
 - (a) on or after 1 October 2013 in respect of a generator (being a qualifying generator) unless the person is a Category 1 qualifying customer or a Category 2 qualifying customer in relation to that generator; or

- (b) on or after 1 October 2016 in respect of a generator (being a qualifying generator) unless the person is a Category 1 qualifying customer in relation to that generator.
- (6) If a generator is, on or after 1 October 2011—
 - (a) altered in a manner that increases the capacity of the generator to generate electricity; or
 - (b) disconnected and moved to another site,
 a credit under this section will not be payable from the date of the alteration or disconnection.

No. 4. Clause 7, page 6, after line 39—Insert:

- (9) For the purposes of this section—
 - (a) a Category 1 qualifying customer is a qualifying customer in relation to a qualifying generator where—
 - (i) the generator is a qualifying generator before 1 October 2011; or
 - (ii) a person, before 1 October 2011, has received permission to connect the generator to a distribution network from the holder of a licence authorising the operator of the network and has, within 120 days after 1 October 2011, made arrangements with the holder of the licence for a new meter to be installed on account of that connection; and
 - (b) a Category 2 qualifying customer is a qualifying customer in relation to a qualifying generator where—
 - (i) the person does not qualify to be a Category 1 qualifying customer under paragraph (a); but
 - (ii) —
 - (A) the generator is a qualifying generator on or after 1 October 2011 and before 1 October 2013; or
 - (B) a person, before 1 October 2013, has received permission to connect the generator to a distribution network from the holder of a licence authorising the operation of the network and has, within 120 days after 1 October 2013, made arrangements with the holder of the licence for a new meter to be installed on account of that connection.
- (10) In this section—
 - feed in price* means—
 - (a) in relation to a Category 1 qualifying customer with respect to a qualifying generator—\$0.44 per kWh;
 - (b) in relation to a Category 2 qualifying customer with respect to a qualifying generator—\$0.16 per kWh.

No. 5. Schedule 1, clause 1, page 7, line 40—Delete paragraph (d) and substitute:

- (d) disconnected and moved to another site,

No. 6. Schedule 1, clause 2, page 8, after line 8—Insert:

- (ab) will be taken to be a Category 1 qualifying customer under section 36AE (as enacted as part of new Division 3AB) with respect to a qualifying generator; and

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. M.F. O'BRIEN: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

It is my intention, if I get the concurrence of the opposition, to accept all amendments as a package. I have spoken with the deputy opposition leader and he is agreeable to accepting them in totality.

On 31 August the Premier announced that it was his intention to increase the feed-in tariff from 44¢ to 54¢. Since making that announcement, over 45,000 households in South Australia have joined the scheme, and as of three days ago, on 20 June, a total of nearly 73,000 households had joined the scheme in that they were either connected to the grid or would be connected to the grid.

One of the amendments within the group is an amendment that we will reluctantly accept because we want this legislation dealt with tonight. It is an amendment put through by the Liberal opposition, with the concurrence of the Greens, which prevents the Premier's promise and undertaking to 73,000 households in South Australia from being realised. Effectively, the feed-in tariff will remain at 44¢.

I have had extensive discussions with the opposition in working this up. We have talked about the financial modelling that it necessitated. There was a reference to ESCOSA who looked at four different models and I have appreciated the input from the opposition, particularly the member for MacKillop, and also the Greens. It has been a robust process and I can understand their concerns about increasing cost imposts on other consumers of electricity who do not have panels on their roofs.

One of the reasons that we moved to close down the scheme was because we were, as a government, becoming concerned at the cost impost on those households that were financially unable to avail themselves of solar panels, or were not so inclined. I have a good understanding of the Liberal Party's position on this, but the government came to the view that a promise had been made—in this case a promise to 45,000 South Australian households—that had to be honoured.

These households, predominantly, are in the mortgage belt. They are in our new and establishing suburbs in the south, the north and the north-east: households that are struggling to balance the complexities of the family budget and who have made a decision to put the panels on the roofs of their houses to get some control over their electricity prices. We felt that it was unfair to these householders to take away something that influenced their decision to purchase.

There is going to be great disappointment in 73,000-odd households throughout South Australia with the decision that the Liberal Party has made, but we are prepared to accept it, because we believe that these households ultimately deserve some surety, and that the legislation should go through tonight. Also, industry needs the certainty that our step-down scheme over five years will come into effect on 1 October—and for that reason I am prepared to accept the amendment that the Liberal Party, with the support of the Greens, has adopted in the Legislative Council.

We have a suite of propositions within our legislative package: most importantly, the step-down proposition that industry is desirous to see implemented on 1 October. For those reasons, we would like the package of amendments to go through forthwith.

Mr WILLIAMS: Might I say that this is politics, this is pure politics that we have just seen and heard. I do not mind reminding the committee that members of this government love standing in front of cameras and saying that the thing about being a good politician is taking the tough decision and making the right decision. Can I tell the committee that the only people who have done the right thing today by the people of South Australia are the Liberal Party.

Can I say that I am delighted that other minor parties in the other place supported the Liberal Party, but the Liberal Party took the right decision, and the minister knows that, the Premier knows that and everybody in the Labor Party knows that. I know full well that some of those 73,000 people might feel that they have been done over a little, but let's not forget that there are hundreds of thousands of other South Australians, the ones who would have been paying for this nonsensical 10¢ increase, who are going to feel relieved. There are about 700,000-odd individual consumers of electricity in this state. I feel somewhat sorry for the 73,000 who feel that they had an expectation that the Premier had made them a promise.

The problem for the Premier and his government is that they made the promise on 31 October last year and they did nothing about it. I do not blame this minister for this; it is his predecessor who was so slack that he did nothing about bringing the legislation to the house to implement that promise, and in the meantime other factors, principally decisions made in Canberra, saw this industry and the installation of solar panels get out of hand.

That stampede of the installation of solar panels is going to cost South Australian electricity consumers quite a bit of money—those hundreds of thousands I have talked about. The Liberal Party makes no apology for making the right decision. It is something which the government often pays lip-service to but often fails to actually live up to. Let me say that I think the parliament has come to a reasonable decision, a reasonable landing place on this. It is not my preferred option.

The minister has told us it is not his preferred position. I think it is a lot better than the position that the government brought to the house, and I do thank the minister for his work in

getting to this position. I made a commitment to the minister about a fortnight ago. We sought some further information, and the minister facilitated that. I made a commitment to him that we would pass this legislation this week if he enabled us to get some further information, which he did, and it was provided by ESCOSA. That, I think, informed all of us.

Also, in the meantime, we saw that this stampede of installations was getting even further out of hand. I understand that the 73,000 the minister just told the committee about—the 73,000 households which have made commitments to install solar panels—is a substantially greater number than that we believed was the correct number even a matter of a few weeks ago. This has moved so quickly that it has required us to actually make the tough decision. I believe we have done that; we have made a tough decision, but it is the right decision. I make no apology for that, and the Liberal Party makes no apology for that.

I remind those members: let's just put the politics aside for a moment. I know what the government is planning to do come the next election. It probably has the names and addresses of all those who have a solar system on their house, and it will probably letterbox them all and blame the Liberal Party—and I note some nodding. That will just confirm that people who enter that sort of process have no feeling for making the right decision and/or the tough decision.

We have saved the average consumer of electricity in South Australia a substantial amount of money today. This one matter will save around about \$10 million a year. In fact, on the number the minister has just told the house, I suspect it will be substantially more than that. On the work that ESCOSA provided for us over the 17 years that the scheme is due to continue to run, my best estimate was that it was going to cost about \$150 million. On the number that the minister has just provided, I think that would have underestimated it substantially. I suspect we are talking well in excess of \$10 million a year that is to be saved off the average electricity account in South Australia—in total; not off each account.

Every industry analyst—I have read a fair few of them over the last few months leading up to these decisions—points out that this is probably the most ineffective and costly way of achieving carbon abatement that we have in this country at the moment. It is well in excess of double the cost of achieving carbon abatement from large wind turbines. It is well in excess of double of what we achieve by using bioenergy technologies. It is not a very effective way of meeting the goals that have been set.

Again, having reined it in a little, the Liberal Party makes no apologies. We are pleased that the government has decided to accept these amendments as they come from the other place. Let's get out there and inform the community of the decision the parliament has made today. Hopefully, come October this year, the industry that has grown around this developing technology will not hit a brick wall but will continue; however, I think we all expect it to slow down substantially. There are a lot of people out there whose livelihoods rely on this industry to keep them going.

I am delighted that the minister has seen the good sense in having a feed-in tariff—albeit a very much modified feed-in tariff—to continue for the next couple of years, and go on for the next four or five years. That will lessen the impact as the industry approaches that brick wall in October. Hopefully, the industry will find itself on a reasonable footing.

We do expect electricity prices to continue to rise, and to rise quite rapidly, just as we do expect the price of PV cells and the system's associated equipment to decrease much further. I think those of us who have made a bit of a study of this industry expect that, within a very short period of time, probably three or four years (it might be a little bit sooner or later) people will not need any incentive at all to go out and purchase PV systems to put on their rooftops. I commend the amendments to the house.

Motion carried.

At 18:34 the house adjourned until 6 July 2011 at 11:00.