

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 6 September 2012

The **SPEAKER (Hon. L.R. Breuer)** took the chair at 10:31 and read prayers.

### STATUTES AMENDMENT (NATIONAL ENERGY RETAIL LAW IMPLEMENTATION) BILL

The Hon. **T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Recreation and Sport)** (10:32): I move:

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

Motion carried.

### STATUTES AMENDMENT (SEX WORK REFORM) BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 31 May 2012.)

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (10:32):** I rise in support of this bill from the member for Ashford. I congratulate her on having the courage to bring this sort of legislation before this place, because it is always controversial and always subject to conscience votes. The support I have had for this legislation has come from many areas in my electorate. I have canvassed my electors broadly and I am delighted to say that it has come from just about every group that you could possibly think of.

Even yesterday, I was speaking to some church leaders from my electorate who surprised me by the level of their support for this piece of legislation. They are not in favour of legalising prostitution in brothels, but they certainly are in favour of what this bill wants to do, and that is to decriminalise the sex industry.

This bill is an opportunity to bring the whole of this industry—and it is the oldest profession in the world, we all know that—into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The economic rationalists in this place—and I am not one—would be quite pleased, I think, to see that this will make the profession come under a lot of legislation so that there will be the paying of taxes. People involved in the industry will actually be contributing to the state through taxes.

Sex workers are severely disadvantaged in the current circumstances. While sex work is not considered work, those engaged in it are stigmatised by current attitudes that they are less likely to seek assistance when they are at risk from unscrupulous clients' behaviour. That is one of the big issues we have had. We have seen supergrass legislation this week, legislation about supergrasses trying to get people to spill the beans on their criminal colleagues.

This measure is about protecting people who, again, are subject to the influence of unscrupulous types in the industry as it stands at the moment, and it should be supported by all those in this house who want to see fairness for people in South Australia. You are not going to eliminate the sex industry. To those who have written and emailed me who want us to stamp this out and eliminate it altogether, I say that it is the oldest profession in the world. If there is a way of achieving that goal, they certainly have not put it to me. I believe that you have to be pragmatic about this, and that is what this legislation is doing.

The bill before us does not allow younger people to enter into the sex industry. The age of consent remains the same. The bill does not seek to promote underage sex industry engagement; that remains and should always remain at 18 years of age. The bill also does not permit those under 18 years of age to procure the services of sex workers.

The New Zealand government reforms recently decriminalised the industry, and the sky did not fall in over there. Wellington has not become Sodom and Gomorrah. The New Zealand report of the Prostitution Law Review Committee on the operation of the Prostitution Reform Act 2003 reports that decriminalisation of the sex industry has not led to an increase in the number of sex workers operating in New Zealand.

This bill will not mean that there will be a sex worker or a brothel on every street in Adelaide; it is not happening. This bill is aimed at allowing those who are involved in this industry to have the protection of the law to which they are quite entitled.

The situation at the moment is that street-based sex workers are severely disadvantaged. They are more likely to be prosecuted than indoor workers. I know that there are still some issues about this legislation and its coverage of street workers. I spoke to the AIDS Council yesterday about some of its concerns. Street-based sex workers are subject to greater levels of violence and, according to international research, they are more likely to experience greater pressure to use unsafe practices than other sex workers.

In some areas, street-based sex workers are the most visible part of the sex industry, sometimes drawing strong reactions from some parts of the community. Unfortunately, if you go to some areas that are well known in Adelaide where there are street-based sex workers, that seems to be the stereotype for the whole of the sex industry. I am assured by those working in the sex industry, and also by those who have other knowledge of it, that it is a far different picture from what people perceive from seeing some of the sex workers on the streets. In some areas, street-based workers are the most visible part of the industry, though, and that is something we have to continue work on here so that they are not forced to be out on the streets putting themselves in danger and engaging in unsafe sex practices.

Any estimate of the size of the sex industry is difficult, as activity in this area may be temporary and sporadic. We do hear stories of students who get involved in the sex industry to help fund their way through tertiary education. I am making no judgement on that at all, but what I do want is that, if that is their choice, they should be given the protection of the law, whether it is industrial law or whether it is the protection of the justice system or it is an obligation to pay their taxes. It is an issue that I am very aware of, and it is an issue that everybody in this place should be very aware of, that it is not just a matter of stopping people engaging in sexual activity; it is much broader than that—and this legislation is aimed at bringing all those issues to the fore so that they can be dealt with in a fair way.

By focusing on industrial issues and by protecting the rights of sex workers, we can ensure that owners and operators of sex work premises, including brothels, comply with the relevant legislation because it is so important. We know that the incidence of HIV now is much greater amongst the heterosexual population than it is amongst the homosexual population. We need to make sure that other sexually transmitted diseases are under control because this industry is going to continue. I keep saying it, but it is the oldest profession; it has been going on for a long time. We need to be realistic. It is okay to have these ideals, but the reality is that this is what we are faced with and we have to be able to come up with a 21<sup>st</sup> century solution.

I congratulate the member for Ashford on this piece of legislation and it is something this house should support. I hope members here will be brave enough not to use their own values but to use those of their electorates. Go and talk to your electorates. Conscience votes are not about your own conscience: I am not a delegate—I am a representative of my electorate. I have spoken to them broadly, and there is broad support for this sort of legislation. I remind other members here to have the courage to be the representative of your electorate—get out there and talk to them. Do as I have done, and as other members here have done and go and talk to them. See what the real world is. Most members probably have done that, and I hope you have, and I congratulate you if you have.

Getting back to the bill, it will not allow sex businesses to operate within 200 metres of schools, childcare centres or churches, and this will be further limited to 50 metres in the Adelaide central business district. By moving for the decriminalisation of the sex industry we are removing the need for prostitution-specific regulation imposed by the state. Existing statutes and regulations will cover employment conditions for other industries. Those involved in sex work have the same rights and responsibilities as other workers, for example, paying taxes, as we said.

The other states that have had to deal with this: New South Wales has had a decriminalised sex industry since 1995; Victoria controls its sex industry through a combination of planning processes and licensing systems; Western Australia has a prohibition on all forms of prostitution (however, brothels have for many years, as we all know from anecdotal evidence, operated under de facto policy, particularly in Kalgoorlie). The sex industry was legalised in Queensland in 1999. Sexual services can be provided by sole operators or in licensed brothels.

The Prostitution Act 1992 in the ACT regulates certain aspects of prostitution and provides for licensing of individual sex workers in brothels in certain circumstances. The Northern Territory provides for licensing of escort agency businesses and regulates sex work.

In summary, it is time for South Australia to move away from the criminalisation model that we have been talking about to decriminalising the sex industry in South Australia. A more liberal approach? No, a more pragmatic approach, and therefore everybody in this place should be thinking very carefully about what they do with their vote on this legislation, and I congratulate the member for Ashford.

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for Florey, I recognise in the gallery Molly Byrne, the first Labor woman member of this house and a wonderful role model and mentor for many women in this place. It is lovely to see you here again.

### STATUTES AMENDMENT (SEX WORK REFORM) BILL

Second reading debate resumed.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (10:42):** Sex workers exist throughout the world and here in South Australia as well, and they have endured and continue to endure ostracism and marginalisation within our community. I am concerned that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century sex workers are still judged almost exclusively against principles which impact upon the way they are considered and the opportunities afforded to them. This has further impact on the rights they can expect in their workplaces, their daily activities and their futures.

Why do people enter the sex industry? There are some research findings concerning Australia: overseas research, particularly from New Zealand, through the report of the Prostitution Law Review Committee and the operation of the Prostitution Reform Act 2003, published in May 2008, is quite helpful at understanding the phenomenon. Like any industry, there is a combination of factors. For young street workers there are instances of abuse and neglect at home, a breakdown in care giving, school exclusion, homelessness and a general lack of money.

Other factors reported to draw people into the sex industry include excitement, encouragement from others involved in sex work and a way of seeking affection. Of most importance, sex work can offer more money than is available to a particular worker through other avenues. Other research regarding Australian sex workers shows that most had entered the industry to support families, pursue higher education, pay off debts and to buy houses or cars. In this regard people engaged in the sex industry are no different from other Australian workers or citizens.

The bill before the house at this time, the Statutes Amendment (Sex Work Reform) Bill, addresses a number of matters that bring the sex industry into line with 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace provisions. I have every confidence and commend the member for Ashford and acknowledge her diligence and inclusivity in the sensitive work she has done on this bill and on the issue. The bill seeks to address the inappropriate and unfair administrative practices concerning the Spent Convictions Act 2009. In particular, this area of the spent convictions has long been of interest to me through contact with constituents, who remain unfairly impacted by offences, some relatively minor, committed in their youth. This act has a general provision that in section 8 states: 'A conviction for an offence is spent on completion of the qualification period for the conviction.'

Members will, I hope, reflect on that section of the Spent Convictions Act 2009 at section 7, which gives direction regarding the determination of qualification period:

- (1) Subject to this section, the *qualification period* for the conviction of a person for an offence is—
  - (a) in the case of an eligible juvenile offence, other than where the person was dealt with as an adult—5 consecutive years; or
  - (b) in any other case—10 consecutive years,
 from the relevant day for the conviction for the offence.
- (2) If during the qualification period for a conviction (the *first conviction*) the person is convicted of another offence (the *second conviction*), the time that has run as part of the qualification period for the first conviction is cancelled and the relevant day for the second conviction becomes a new relevant day for the first conviction (and a conviction for a third offence within the period that then applies will have a corresponding effect on the first and second convictions, and so on for any subsequent conviction or convictions).
- (3) In addition—
  - (a) if at the end of a period that applies under subsection (1) or (2) the person is a registrable offender under the *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006* who is subject

- to reporting obligations imposed by Part 3 of that Act, the qualification period is extended so as to expire when or if those reporting obligations cease or are suspended under that Part [of the act]; and
- (b) if during the period of extension that applies under paragraph (a) the person is convicted of another offence, the conviction has the same effect on any previous conviction that is subject to the period of extension that a second or subsequent conviction has on a previous conviction or convictions under subsection (2).
- (4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3)(b), a conviction for a second or subsequent offence will be disregarded if—
- (a) the offence is a minor offence (including in a case where the conviction with respect to the minor offence is constituted by a finding under section 3(5)); or
  - (b) the conviction is quashed; or
  - (c) the convicted person is granted a pardon.
- (5) A period under a preceding subsection may commence before the commencement of this Act and, in such a case, the qualification period will be completed—
- (a) on the commencement of this Act; or
  - (b) on the day on which the qualification period would have been completed if this Act had been in force continuously since the day of the relevant conviction,
- whichever is the later.

However, in practice, sex workers who have been convicted of an offence often do not realise the number and range of offences against them until they find themselves in need of a police clearance, whether that is to work in another area or to even assist with reading or other activities at their child's school or sports groups.

Consider this case: a young woman takes a job at a health studio in the 1990s. She has no qualifications and is happy to take the position of receptionist. She is unaware that there are 'extras' being provided at this health studio, and police raid the studio. This young employee is holding the keys to the establishment because she has been charged with opening up the premises for business each day. She also takes moneys from customers for the massages they have received. The police charge her with being on the premises, living off the earnings of prostitution and for keeping premises for prostitution.

Many years later, she finds that, although she has worked her way through a professional degree, she cannot find more than casual or short-term work because her employer or employers are alerted to the history of her convictions and they are not spent, as she had been led to believe. There is little if any chance of her obtaining work in human services and limited of any potential in engaging employment regarding children.

Her ability to secure full-time work is affected even though she has completed a degree. Her credit rating is also affected. She cannot secure a loan; it is very difficult for her to purchase a house or a car. If she wanted to establish her own business in other fields, it cannot be assured that insurers will facilitate insurance cover.

More significantly, it is important that we appreciate that, while currently we do not recognise the sex industry as work, there is no WorkCover for sex workers and neither is there provision for superannuation. Therefore, from the sex workers' time in the industry, there are no nest eggs to draw on for post-work financial support. We are therefore forcing this group of workers to be welfare dependent, possibly for housing and certainly for their pension.

This type of marginalisation is quite significant; however, I am advised women in these circumstances endure significant levels of stress which, in time, contributes in many cases to a deterioration in their mental health. Imagine not being able to share or disclose some part of your past and not applying for positions with better terms and conditions or payment because you are fearful that your unspent convictions will surface.

While we do not know the full range and extent of the number of women and men affected by this set of circumstances, we do know that there are many who are not able to make their full and true contribution to the community in which they and we all live. They are not able to fully participate in the economy and contribute as other workers do. They are not able to change jobs or professions. We also deny them the opportunity to enjoy their full potential in our economy, our community and society in general, and we certainly limit their options in many ways and in many areas. A lot of doors are closed, despite the provisions of the Spent Convictions Act 2009.

This bill provides for amendments to the Spent Convictions Act 2009 by changing section 16A to have 'convictions of a person for a prescribed sex work offence' to be 'taken to be spent'. I am clear that the long-term ramifications for how we see and judge the sex industry supports people who have been convicted of sex industry offences and who subsequently live peacefully within our communities will have a major benefit for all of us; and for this and many other reasons, I commend the bill to the house.

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite) (10:50):** Can I, first, commend the member for bringing this bill to the house. I know that she does it very genuinely, and I think it is a very important issue. I do remember the previous debates on this subject in previous parliaments that took different forms.

Can I say that, at this stage, I am not certain how I will vote in regard to the bill. I am happy to listen to the debate, and can I signal to the proponent of the bill that I would like to see it go into committee because I would like to ask her some questions about various clauses of the bill before I decide. So, although I may support it at the second reading, I may ultimately vote against it in the final reading once it has been through committee, and the reason for that is as I will explain.

First of all, I think that members—I cannot speak for other members, but in my own case—should vote on this matter based on their conscience but also with some consideration as to the views of their electorate and what is in the best interests of people involved in this industry. Can I say that I think it is often described as the oldest profession. I am quite certain that we will have prostitution with us for as long we survive as humanity.

However, it brings with it a range of related ills in many cases which hurt society and which hurt individuals considerably, and what we are trying to do here is come up with a law that, at the end of the day, will be fair and reasonable to everyone, and that is not easy. I remember when I previously dealt with this matter, I was attended at my office by a group of very enterprising young women who were engaged in the sex business and who put to me the argument that they were single-minded, enterprising young ladies who were running a very successful business.

They knew exactly what they were doing and they did not need any help from members of parliament to tell them how to live their lives. They explained to me how the business worked from their point of view, and they made an important point to me, and that was: who are the victims here? They made the point to me, 'We are not victims. We know exactly what we're doing. We're running a very successful business. We tend to our own health needs. We are capable, competent women. We don't feel as though we're victims. In fact, we are doing quite well out of this, thank you very much, and our customers similarly come to us for a service which we are happy to provide on a commercial basis. So, who are the victims?'

After about a hour and a half meeting with these young ladies, I came away thinking, 'Well, I understand their point, and in a way they're right.' I thought, 'Well, perhaps one needs to support this measure.' Two days later, I had a visit from three nuns, which was very, very interesting. The three nuns sat in my office. They were dressed in their habits, and I will not mention where they were from but it was from within my electorate. They went over with me the counterargument, and I must say that they were equally persuasive.

At the end of the day, I tested with them some of the arguments I had been given by the sex workers who had visited me a few days before. I said, 'Well, who are the victims here?' and they gave me their answer. Then I said, 'Well, it's always been with us, it will always be with us and you'll never get rid of it, so why should we make it even more illegal?' because one of the bills that was on the table at that time was an even harsher bill; we were given three options to make it totally illegal.

They said, 'Well, Mr Hamilton-Smith, murder and stealing have also been with us since time immemorial and will be until the last human being walks the planet. But with theft and assault you have to do all you can as a legislator to stop it.' They made an equally powerful point. That was, an argument that says, 'This has just been with us and always will be,' is not necessarily an argument to support it or to enshrine it, and they reminded me of my obligations as a legislator to keep doing what you can to get rid of those things that are not good for society.

So, I think both sides of this moral argument are persuasive, and no-one is completely right or completely wrong. I do not propose to come in here and moralise to anybody and impose my personal moral value on this issue onto everybody else in the community in this particular case. I think this is quite different to some of the other issues we have considered, such as euthanasia, same-sex marriage, and like a host of other issues on which I, one by one, make up my mind as to what I believe. I think this is a unique issue.

My view about prostitution and how it should work is simply this: I think, provided there are no victims, I see some merit in this not being an illegal act. It gets to the question of what you define as an act of prostitution. Okay, if someone provides sexual favours to someone else for a cash exchange, that is pretty simple. Is a nice dinner out and a small gift for sexual favours afterwards an act of prostitution? Well, if it was, there would be an awfully larger group of people picked up in the definition of what constitutes an act of prostitution.

If a single mother, or for that matter, a single father, or anyone else who might be struggling to make ends meet, is entering into relationships and receiving cash rewards from partners or successive partners, or some form of financial assistance, are they committing an act of prostitution, or are they just having a string of relationships that are to their financial benefit? If someone can give me a clear-cut definition of what constitutes an act of prostitution, then I will be much clearer on the issue, because I think it is a very woolly definition indeed.

My view is that if this parliament is ever to pass legislation that deals with this matter, I would like to see that legislation regard prostitution as a small business activity conducted by sole traders, if you will, who are competent and capable of managing their own lives and their own affairs. I am very sceptical about legislation that will enshrine brothels and the institutionalisation of sex working as a big business, ultimately to be run by big businesses—even publicly floated companies—or by entrepreneurs, or whatever you like, because I think that is a different thing.

I think an individual sex worker, or two friends perhaps running a small business together where they provide sexual favours for financial reward, is one thing. A powerful business interest running a large brothel in a city, where there are dozens and dozens of sex workers involved, and the comings and going and customers, and all the paraphernalia that goes with it (such as alcohol and possibly drugs) is another thing altogether. I find that latter prospect very, very difficult to deal with.

I am very sceptical about the law or the police knocking down doors at people's private homes in the suburbs where an individual may be running, on his or her account, a small business where sexual favours are provided for reward. I do not think anyone in the community would want to see that. But, it is another thing when brothels are concerned.

It is the aspects of this bill that seek to enshrine brothels that I find disturbing, and that is why, in committee, I will be particularly asking about section 25—Soliciting. To my mind, if an individual wants to solicit—a small business person trading on their own—maybe that is something that should not be made an offence, which is what this bill actually proposes.

This bill actually seems to me to want to make it harder and more difficult for an individual, or a couple of individuals running a small business that provides sexual favours to do what they want to do and actually easier for brothels to be established and enshrined. I think that is a flaw in the bill, so I would want some explanation of that.

I think there are some other aspects to the bill that I can see have good intentions, but which I think are very unrealistic, like section 28, which talks about no-one being able to ask for sexual favours without the use of a prophylactic. It is very hard to police and very impractical. I think a lot of aspects of that are simply unworkable, so in many ways this bill is flawed.

In summary, I can see the moral issues here, and I do not think any of us are in a position to moralise to anyone else about what should happen; I think that is a separate issue. I am looking for a bill that would not hurt those enterprising individuals who might want to provide these sorts of services where there are no victims, although I recognise that a lot of people argue that there are always victims. That is a debate we could have.

However, I am certainly very sceptical about brothels, so my instinct will probably ultimately be, if the bill remains in its current form, to oppose it. However, I am looking for amendments or some way where we can deal with the concerns I have raised and support the bill without throwing it out altogether, because I see the point.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:00):** I will be supporting this bill, subject to possible minor changes during the committee stage. I commend the member for Ashford for introducing the bill. There will always be opposition in the community to issues like this, and certainly to a bill being brought before the parliament, but we are all well aware that the member for Ashford actually cares about people, and this bill is a result of that attitude.

In my view, our society has never been able to deal adequately or appropriately with the whole question of human sexuality. My learned colleague the member for Mount Gambier said that

it all goes back to the day of the apple, Adam and Eve. Perhaps we should ban the apple. In our society you only have to look at the absolute hypocrisy that occurs: on the one hand various elements within the total media promote sexual activity, often targeting young people, children, and then we see some of the consequences of inappropriate sexual behaviour, particularly directed against women and children.

I think that, as a society, we really have not come to terms with dealing with human sexuality in a mature and sensible way. My view is that what consenting adults do in private is their business, as long as there is no violence. By definition, if they are consenting one would assume there is no violence; if they are consenting, that is fine. I believe we have to protect children, and I think all members would agree with that.

I am particularly pleased to see in this bill a provision to allow people who are prostitutes to get out of the industry if they wish. That is a point often made by people in churches and other organisations, to help these people get out of that activity. Through the office of the member for Ashford I met someone who is a prostitute and who lives in my electorate. She has a child, but I will not be any more specific than that. She said to me that she could not get out of the industry because every time she went for a job her police record would come up. Basically, she is doomed to do that work. I think a very important provision of this bill is the spent conviction provision, because if people genuinely believe that prostitutes should be able to get out of the industry and have a new start in life, then that is a very fundamental starting point.

As I said, this bill is subject to controversy in the community, but I think it is better to regulate an activity and ensure that it protects the health of all members of the community who are involved in these activities, whether they are a sexual health worker or a client. I think that is very important. This bill can be subject to some refinement in the committee stage, but I believe it is a step forward. I encourage people who may be hostile to the concept of prostitution to acknowledge, as the member for Morphett said, that you are never going to eradicate prostitution; therefore, it is better to have it in a format that is subject to proper standards of behaviour, of health protection issues and so on.

Here in South Australia, the police have from time to time got on the prostitution bandwagon and, in my view, done silly things like going around and destroying condoms in brothels. To me, that is just silly, very unhelpful and putting the health of workers and the clients at risk. I think we need in this community a more mature and sensible approach to an issue which is not going to go away, and this bill reflects that. I am not trying to brag; I have never used a prostitute and I have no desire to. I find the whole concept alien and not something I would want to engage in.

I accept that there are some people, a whole range of people, who for various reasons may want to pay for sexual activity. There are some people with disabilities who may wish to do that, and there are people who want to for other reasons. Regarding the point raised by the member for Waite about what is prostitution, I will not be too specific, but I remember someone who lived near me making it quite clear to her husband that if he wanted sex there had to be some trade-off in relation to other things. I regard that as a form of prostitution, and that is within a marriage arrangement.

As I say, there is a lot of hypocrisy and double standards. I remember that at dinner parties one of the most hotly contested topics, particularly amongst the women, was, 'Would you prostitute yourself, if you had to, to save your child from starving?' If you want to have a good dinner party discussion, that is a question you can raise, and it brings out very strong views. The main issue here is: let us try to acknowledge that this is happening, that there is prostitution occurring, and let us get it into a systematic framework which is protective of the clients and those who are supplying the service. Let us ensure that we protect children and vulnerable young people so that they are not in any way compromised by this happening.

I look forward to the bill progressing to the committee stage, but at this point I do not see any reason why I should not support it. Some of my constituents have expressed opposition to it, but I suspect that no matter what format a bill came in they would have a moral objection to prostitution. I acknowledge and respect that, but I have to reflect the wider view of my community which, I can safely assert, believes that this issue should be resolved by parliament in a sensible and mature way.

**Mr PEGLER (Mount Gambier) (11:08):** I rise to inform the house that I will be supporting this bill. Yes, prostitution has been with us since the beginning of time, as have theft and murder.

With theft and murder, there is always a victim; with prostitution, generally we see a situation where there are two parties and both finish that transaction in a profitable manner—the person providing the services gets a reward and the person who receives those services has their needs sated, so I do not see a problem at all.

Whilst we have prostitution as an illegal activity, parasites who prey on prostitutes can be very active, and we see victims because of basic sexual slavery, either through financial means or through drugs. I am sure that if we legalise prostitution it will take away a lot of that criminal element within that activity, and I am sure that as a society we will be better off if we can take the criminal element out of prostitution. Also, I certainly support the fact that if prostitution becomes legal convictions on people who have been booked previously will be spent, and they will be able to get on with their lives if they wish to get out of that field. I also might say that, if this bill is not successful, as sure as I am that the sun will come up tomorrow so will prostitution continue. So, let us legalise it and have some controls.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

### **MOTOR VEHICLES (HISTORIC NUMBER PLATES) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 14 June 2012.)

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (11:10):** I rise today to support the bill proposed by the member for Schubert, the Motor Vehicles (Historic Number Plates) Amendment Bill, and I do so on the basis that I have had contact from constituents who are vehicle enthusiasts. There is an auto preservation society that exists within the Goyder electorate and, indeed, a vintage and veterans motorcycle club. For them, the connection with the history of their vehicle via the numberplate is a very important issue.

When the member for Schubert brought this issue to the attention of opposition members, he did so on the basis of declaring a personal interest in that he is very much a collector of historic vehicles but mainly upon the basis of a contact from Mr Eric Collins, who has a vehicle of 1929 construction that has been in the family forever. It was transferred from Mr Collins' now-deceased father to Mr Collins and, indeed, as a result of that transfer and the regulations in force at the time, he has been required to relinquish the historic numberplate that was attached to the car and take up a more modern one. Given that the rest of the vehicle is completely authentic and in original condition, this is devastating to Mr Collins.

I have spoken to people in my electorate who spend an enormous amount of time restoring old cars and motorbikes and, for them, it is important that they have this opportunity. In some cases, they find these old vehicles in a disused barnyard somewhere or under storage somewhere or, in some cases—

**Ms Chapman:** Ivan Venning's shed.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Or the member for Schubert's shed, potentially, as the member for Bragg comments. But they want to make sure they are pristine, and it is a great opportunity to preserve an important part of Australia's motoring history. Every effort is made to ensure that the vehicle is returned to mint condition and, if you have ever had the chance to look at these old vehicles, you know that they are spectacular. There is no other way to describe it. I have had the opportunity to be with the member for Schubert in a 1912 Hupmobile, I think it was, and—

**Mr Bignell:** What about the Goggomobile?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** G-O-G-G-O. No, it was a 1912 Hupmobile, and was part of a rally to do with Kernewek Lowender, which is the Cornish festival on the Copper Coast. We were cruising along at 75km/h an hour, or thereabouts, beautifully.

*The Hon. R.B. Such interjecting:*

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** No, we were out on the wide open roads. So, you have to appreciate it. The member for Schubert is very concerned that there are hundreds of people in South Australia who are being forced to go into an open market auction system, at great cost, often when they do not have the financial capacity to do so, and their real desire is to ensure that there is an opportunity for that class of vehicle to be recognised and for the numberplate that applies to it to remain with it.

There might be some other people who want to talk on this. I commend the member for Schubert for putting forward the bill. We are concerned that the intention to just auction off those licence plates is purely a revenue-raising measure. It does not reflect the will of those members of our community who want to have that important link with history and the vehicles that they have repaired, drive and keep on the road. New generations of young people would have a chance to look at them and wonder, 'That numberplate looks a bit strange. Why isn't it the old original one?' It is a good move, and I hope that other members of the chamber are prepared to support the bill, also.

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide) (11:14):** The government does not support this bill, for two reasons. The first is that the bill itself is problematic in terms of its operation. The second is that, while it may not be a perfect system for everyone, we believe that the current system provides for choice between recognising the sentimentality of plates to individuals as well as benefits returned to the community. It is important to note that section 71A of the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 states that numberplates remain the property of the Crown. The member for Schubert refers to the numberplates being 'forfeited', implying some level of ownership of the plates.

Numberplates are primarily for enforcement officers to identify a particular vehicle and determine whether the vehicle is legally on the road. When the plates fall into disuse by not being part of a registered vehicle and are no longer an accurate identifier of legal access to the road network, the registrar resumes them. The proposed bill attempts to recognise the right of an individual who is a descendant of someone who had a particular numberplate in the past, even though the original user never had the right themselves.

While it is not clear in the bill what rights are to be offered, advice from the registrar is that numeric numberplates should continue to be made only through a class specific rights agreement offered through public auction. This reduces administrative complexity and ensures a fair and efficient process is given to all persons interested in retaining one of the state's first series of numberplates.

The member for Schubert has stated that owners of vintage vehicles wish to keep the originality of their car and pass on the numberplate to their descendants. If a vehicle is registered to joint owners and the transport department is notified of the death of one of those owners, the vehicle may be transferred into the remaining owner's name. If that vehicle has a numeric numberplate on it without rights, there is no change. The remaining registered owner can continue to register that vehicle with that numberplate.

It is only if the vehicle registration lapses or the vehicle ownership is transferred that the numeric numberplate is required to be returned to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. If the bill were passed as proposed, it would allow family members to gain class specific rights for these numberplates. These rights would then allow them to allocate these plates to any vehicle in their name and also sell them by private sale at any time.

The bill would also lead to issues with multiple claims from different family members and, as a result, possible disputes between families over ownership. The definition of those able to claim a plate in the bill would include not only grandchildren but also siblings, wives, partners, partners of partners and, it appears, perhaps anyone else with even a tenuous link to a vehicle they may not have sat in.

This bill also presents a problem in failing to recognise whether someone else has already purchased a specific number. Are those to be usurped? To do so would create confusion, uncertainty and possible claims by current numberplate holders who paid market price. I understand that every vehicle owner with a numeric plate allocated had the opportunity to purchase the rights to the vehicle's plate, initially prior to the Great Plate Auction in 1985 and right up until approximately 2008.

The current system of a public auction provides for all. Those who wish to purchase plates are able to do so and others who may not be able to afford a plate benefit through safer roads. The current system provides transparency and is not complex to administer. The revenue from the sale of numberplates goes to the Highways Fund for road transport and road safety initiatives. Given that the loss of income used for saving lives on the road could be significant, and given the significant complexities in changing the system, the government does not support this bill.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (11:18):** I thank the house for the time to allow me to raise this matter, firstly in this house, and also with the members I did actually personally contact. I do declare initially and upfront—and I have declared before—that I am a vintage car enthusiast. I own

several and I have three on historic motor vehicle plates which I purchased over the years, but for nothing like the prices they are expected to bring today.

In fact, the Hupmobile that the member for Goyder just spoke about is on a four-digit numberplate, which I paid \$700 for, which I thought was reasonable, and that is the original number on that car. Without that number on the front of that car, it just would not be the car it is. I have no personal advantage at this moment to push this forward other than that I know exactly the heartache that a lot of these people are putting up with.

I am disappointed to now realise that the government will not be supporting this. I heard what the member has just said and I am very disappointed. I hope the caucus had a full debate on this and you all had your say, because I cannot understand how you come up with this position. I was happy for the government to amend this to ensure safety, and for some of the matters that the member for Port Adelaide just raised to be addressed by amendment, but you did not do that. I am very disappointed.

I thank the hundreds of historic car owners, the people and the 126 car clubs and motorcycle clubs that they belong to, for their support. I particularly thank all of the state's car clubs and motorcycle clubs that responded to the petition. There was not one dissenting voice. I thank them all. The old car club fraternity in South Australia is vibrant and strong, probably the most active and successful in the world. Our international event, the Bay to Birdwood, is a real focus for the vintage, veteran and classic car and motorbike fraternity. We debatably have the highest number of historic vehicles per head of population than anywhere in the world because we collected these cars up many years ago through fine collectors like the late Mr Rainsford and Mr Vinall and many others, right back to the twenties.

This issue has legs out there. As I have said, the nub of this issue is allowing car owners to retain the original numbers of their cars, many of which have been in the family since new. I sent the photo of Mr Collins around to members. You can see that it is genuine. Some of these cars are over 90 years old. I circulated a photo of Mr Collins from Naracoorte and I said:

The proud owner of his father's 1929 Oakland, which the family has owned since new.

On Mr Collins Sr's passing the car sat for a short while and the registration expired. You can imagine how son Eric felt when he went to re-register the car in his name and was told he could not use the number that was on the car because—as the member for Port Adelaide just said—it is the property of the state. What a load of rubbish. The number 100-926 was not his to be used. If he wanted it he would have to buy it at auction. It would probably have a very high reserve price. You cannot get a bargain because the government ensures that you do not. We now have a very inflated price on these plates of approximately \$3,000.

I think it is a disgrace. This beautiful car now has this grotesque white plate, XHV-099, plastered across the front of it. I have given you a photograph. Have a look. It is a disgrace. It really destroys the unique character of the car, the very incongruous mark across the front of the car. It totally distracts from all of its classic features.

So, who won out of this? No-one. Mr Collins could not justify the cost so he lost the use of the plate. The government did not get the money and the numberplate dealer—who I know very well, he is a friend of the family—did not get his commission either. So, nobody wins. It is a real disgrace. A true enthusiast is disappointed and a state heritage item is defaced. These cars are part of our state's built heritage and give so much pleasure and interest to so many people.

I cannot understand the government's position on this. I gave the undertaking to accept any amendment that would ensure that any plate that was granted an amnesty like this could not be subsequently sold at a profit. Most car enthusiasts have no intention to ever cash out the plate and have no problem for this legislation to carry a clause to prohibit it. The government is using this issue to revenue raise, with no consideration for the genuine car enthusiast wanting to keep the car original. I thank the house for its time. I would urge members to support it, but it does not look as though it is going to be successful and I am very disappointed.

Second reading negatived.

#### **CITY OF ADELAIDE (CAPITAL CITY COMMITTEE) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 12 July 2012.)

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:24):** I support this bill. I think it is a very reasonable proposition from the member for Adelaide that the member for Adelaide be on the City of Adelaide Capital City Committee. I cannot see why you would want to exclude the residents of the City of Adelaide from having their representative on this committee. I understand that the government is going to oppose this and I think it is being very petty in doing so.

I think people who live in this particular part of the state are entitled to have their member convey their particular views. There are a lot of issues being raised by the council, some of which I question. There is a proposal, for example, to have a blanket 40 km/h speed limit in the city and 50 km/h on the perimeter. I do not have a problem with 40 km/h where there is intense shopping; I think it makes a lot of sense. However, I do not see why you should have that as a blanket provision in all of North Adelaide or in the rest of the City of Adelaide. I think the people who live there should have a say in matters like that because that is being discussed, as I understand it, by the Capital City Committee at the moment.

The overlap between council and parliament is interesting. When I came into this parliament I was a member of a council as well as a member of parliament but that is no longer allowed in South Australia. It is no longer allowed in New South Wales, and we will see an interesting result, I believe, this Saturday because the Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, is also a member of parliament and the government in New South Wales changed the law so you can either be one or the other. I believe what will happen there (and I will have to eat humble pie if I am wrong) is that there will be a big backlash against Clover Moore because of some of the policies that she has pursued, which might be well-intentioned but I think there is going to be a reaction against them.

In relation to Adelaide, it seems that the current Lord Mayor has a hostility towards the motor car. I am a supporter of bike riding and walking. I was one of the pioneers of wearing a cycling helmet here nearly 40 years ago. I still have it—it was a mountain safety research helmet—and I have been a great fan of cycling for a long time. These issues about what you do with on-street parking and the way in which you energise the city are all valid concerns and issues that the residents, through their local member, should be able to put to the Capital City Committee.

I am very surprised that the government would want to deny this opportunity. I am all in favour of democracy and I think this is just an extension of the democratic principle that the people who live in an area should have a say and that it not be left to others, in terms of issues that will be considered by that Capital City Committee. I strongly support this bill. I think it has merit, I think it is reasonable, and I urge government to reconsider if it is planning to oppose it.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Griffiths.

### **OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES**

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (11:29):** I move:

That this house congratulates all the South Australian athletes on their selection to the Australian team for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Of course, we do now find ourselves in a slight predicament but I do not see any need whatsoever for amendments. I gave notice of this motion on 17 May and set a date for debate of 19 July which was, of course, going to be before both the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games commenced. The motion was going to be to congratulate them for their nomination to the teams. Now we find ourselves, because of the maintenance required to this chamber, in a situation where the Olympic Games are finished and the Paralympic Games are still ongoing, but I do not see any reason why we cannot all join together in our support for all of these athletes.

I am sure we are all incredibly proud of every single South Australian who has gone to London to represent our nation at the Paralympic and Olympic Games. They all compete at the highest level of competition in the world and deserve to be held in extremely high esteem for their sporting ability which we should all remember is a combination of natural talent, physical and mental training, application, determination and, very importantly, support from their family, coaches, friends, sporting clubs and other supportive organisations. They are also held in high esteem for the focus, dedication and sacrifices they and their families have made along the way without which none of them would be representing us on the world stage.

While we acknowledge our national champions, please also take a moment to consider the hundreds of thousands of other sports men and women and boys and girls who train and compete

at all levels throughout our state and our nation and the very important contribution that they make to our communities and our culture as a whole.

Of course, while we admire AFL and many other sporting champions, there is no doubt that the Paralympians and the Olympians are at the very top of the tree. Let me first mention our South Australian Olympians, and that is only because their competition has finished and while the Paralympians are still overseas representing us as we speak. In fact, as we speak, I hope they are all tucked up in bed getting ready for competition tomorrow; that would be the sensible thing.

Our South Australian representatives at the Olympic Games were Jessica Trengove (athletics), Brad Newley (basketball), Abby Bishop (basketball), Laura Hodges (basketball), Jenni Screen (basketball). The women's basketball team won a bronze medal. Let me make special mention of Abby Bishop who comes from Melrose, a small town 22 kilometres away from Wilmington where I live. Other South Australians at the Olympic Games were Louise Bawden and Becchara Palmer (both in beach volleyball), Johan Linde (boxing), Hannah Davis (canoeing), Sam Willoughby (BMX) who won a silver medal, Brian Kirkham (BMX) who is a former Port Augustan, Stuart O'Grady (road cycling), Jack Bobridge (track cycling), Rohan Dennis (track cycling), Annette Edmonson (track cycling), Alex Edmonson (track cycling), Matt Glaetzer (track cycling), Kaarle McCulloch (track cycling), Anna Meares (track cycling) who won a gold medal. Anna Meares, Kaarle McCulloch and Annette Edmonson won bronze medals, and Jack Bobridge and Rohan Dennis won silver medals. Congratulations to all of them.

Other South Australian Olympians were Rachel Bugg (diving), Blake Gaudry (gymnastics), Renee Chatterton (rowing), Bryn Coudraye (rowing), James McRae (rowing), who won a bronze medal, Chris Morgan (rowing), David Chapman (shooting), Hayley Chapman (shooting), Will Godward (shooting), bronze medallist Hayden Stoeckel (swimming), our world famous South Australian champion Lleyton Hewitt (tennis), Harrison Peacock (volleyball), Nathan Roberts (volleyball), Greg Sukochev (volleyball) and Aden Tutton (volleyball) who are internationally famous now because our 22<sup>nd</sup> ranked South Australian team beat Poland which is third ranked in the world. Congratulations to all of those athletes. I would like to highlight that in individual performances all of those athletes won one gold medal, four silver medals and nine bronze medals—14 medals in total, which equates to 13.1 per cent of the total medals won by our Australian team well in excess of (nearly double) our average by population. Congratulations. Our South Australians really did us proud in that category.

South Australia's Paralympians are: in athletics, Gabriel Cole and Michael Roeger; in cycling, Kieran Modra, who won a gold medal with pilot, Scott McPhee; also winning gold in cycling, Felicity Johnson, with pilot, Stephanie Morton; in equestrian, Grace Bowman; in goalball, Rachel Henderson; in shooting, a very famous and very popular Libby Kosmala OAM, aged 70, at her 11<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games, which is an extraordinary achievement; and in swimming the equally world-famous Matt Cowdrey, who so far in this meet has won three gold and two silver, and overnight became Australia's most prolific gold medal Paralympian, breaking his own world record in the 50 metres and winning his 11<sup>th</sup> gold medal. So far in his career, Matt has won 11 gold, seven silver and two bronze medals. Also in swimming are Jay Dohnt and Esther Overton.

Our South Australian Paralympians have so far won five gold and two silver, totalling seven medals, which is currently 10 per cent of the medals won by all Australians at the Paralympic Games. Again, we are overachieving in relation to our state's representation on a per capita basis. With respect to gold medals, South Australians have won five gold medals to date, which is nearly 16 per cent of the total gold medals won by Australian Paralympians so far. Again, that is well in excess of what would have been expected by our state on just a population basis. I am not too proud to say that in my youth I dreamed of being an Olympian.

**Honourable members:** It's not too late!

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Thank you very much to members opposite for their support, but I do know that it is too late. The reason I say that is that I know what an extraordinary achievement it is for all of our athletes—men and women, Paralympians and Olympians—to have achieved the heights they have. Purely to be selected on one of these teams is extraordinary. I worked my guts out; I tried as hard as I possibly could, I performed extremely well, and I am very satisfied with my achievements, but I was a long way from being an Olympian, so I hold these people in exceptionally high regard.

As we celebrate the combined 47 South Australian athletes who represent us this year on the international stage, please take a moment to consider how far we have come as a state, as a

nation and as a community, that we look up to and admire these champions equally. It is their personal story, their achievement, their talent, their integrity, their personality, their charisma, and their other strengths and attributes that will make each one of us pick out our own personal heroes from all these champions. It will not be whether an athlete competed at the Paralympics or the Olympics that will have a bearing on that choice.

As we celebrate all 47 of these athletes—and, it must be said, their two pilots in the cycling—please consider what more each one of us here can and will do to put all people on an equal playing field in our minds and that it is their important personal qualities, efforts and achievements that will impact on our judgement about people and not their physical differences.

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (11:38):** It is with great pleasure that I speak in support of this motion congratulating all our athletes on their selection to the Australian team and their performances at the recent 2012 London Olympic Games. I also congratulate our athletes who are currently competing at the 2012 London Paralympic Games, and I was delighted this morning to hear that Australia is fifth on the medal tally.

Unlike the member for Stuart, I can say that I was never going to be an Olympian, but I very much enjoy watching the Olympics. Gymnastics was probably the sport that I dreamed of, but I was never ever going to get there. Out of a total of 410 athletes in the Olympic team, South Australia has 39 representatives across 17 sports. They are: Jessica Trengove, Henry Frayne and Claire Tallent in athletics; Leanne Choo in badminton; Joe Ingles, Brad Newley, Abby Bishop, Laura Hodges and Jenni Screen in basketball; Becchara Palmer in beach volleyball; Johan Linde in boxing; Hannah Davis in canoe sprint; Sam Willoughby and Brian Kirkham in BMX cycling; Stuart O'Grady in road cycling; Anna Meares, Matthew Glaetzer, Glenn O'Shea, Alex Edmondson, Annette Edmondson, Jack Bobridge and Rohan Dennis in track cycling; Rachel Bugg in diving; James McRae, Chris Morgan, Bryn Coudraye, Renee Chatterton and Sally Kehoe in rowing; William Godward, David Chapman and Hayley Chapman in shooting; Hayden Stoeckel in swimming; William Henzell in table tennis; Lleyton Hewitt in tennis; Blake Gaudry in trampolines; and Aidan Tutton, Nathan Roberts, Harrison Peacock and Grigory Sukochev in volleyball.

Included in the selections were a number of unique combinations, including the first brother and sister to compete in track cycling at the same Olympics—Alex and Annette Edmondson from Stirling. Also unique was the first ever father and daughter combination to compete at the same Olympics—David and Hayley Chapman in the pistol shooting disciplines. These selections also reflected the strong international performances by South Australians during the 2011-12 year, with 11 SASI athletes winning a total of 10 gold medals at senior world championships.

At the 2012 London Olympic Games, Australia was placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall on the medal tally, with a total of 35 medals (seven gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze), involving 92 athletes. South Australian athletes contributed eight of these medals to the tally (one gold, two silver and five bronze), involving 12 athletes. The result was achieved across eight events, from track cycling, BMX, rowing, swimming and basketball. South Australia also had 23 athletes making their Olympic debut in London, with five of these athletes returning home with medals.

Seven of South Australia's athletes were originally identified and developed through the South Australian Sports Institute's (SASI) talent search and talent identification program, in canoe sprint, cycling, rowing and volleyball. Cyclist Anna Meares was South Australia's most prolific medallist, winning gold in the women's sprint and bronze in the women's team sprint. There was further South Australian success in track cycling, with local riders Jack Bobridge, Rohan Dennis and Glenn O'Shea members of the men's team pursuit combination who returned home with a silver medal. This group, led by Bobridge, and which also included Michael Hepburn from Queensland, finished behind Great Britain, who had to break a world record to beat the Australian riders.

Another South Australian success at the velodrome was Annette Edmondson, one of our Olympians discovered through the SASI talent search program, claiming a bronze medal in the six-event women's omnium competition. Her first time at the Olympics, Annette's medal has meant she finished on the podium in all three of her international starts in the event, all in this year. Annette was also a member of the Australian combination to contest the women's team pursuit, which finished fourth overall, after being beaten by Canada in the bronze medal race.

In BMX cycling, current world champion Sam Willoughby overcame a tough start to his London campaign to complete a silver medal and Australia's first ever Olympic medal in the discipline. I have to say, I watched a bit of the BMX and it was fast and furious. I grew up as a child

of the 1980s, when *BMX Bandits* was a very cool movie and everyone had a BMX, so the fact that it is an Olympic sport is quite impressive.

Rowers Chris Morgan and James McRae finished strongly behind the dominant German and Croatian crews to win a bronze medal in the men's quad scull. Current world champions, the pair, along with teammates Daniel Noonan and Karsten Forsterling, made sure the disappointment of missing out on a podium finish in Beijing would not be repeated.

At the Aquatic Centre, Hayden Stoeckel claimed bronze as the backstroke member of the 4x100 metres medley relay. Hayden also reached the final in the 100 metres backstroke with his time of 53.55 seconds, his personal best in a textile suit. In women's basketball Laura Hodges, Abby Bishop and Jenni Screen were members of the Opals team who secured the bronze medal after beating Russia in a tough encounter—83 to 74.

There are 14 South Australian athletes currently competing in the 2012 London Paralympic Games. They are Nathan Arkley, Gabriel Cole, Katie Parrish, Michael Roeger in athletics; Felicity Johnson, Stephanie Morton, Kieran Modra and Scott McPhee in cycling; Rachel Henderson in goalball; Grace Bowman in equestrian; Libby Kosmala in shooting; and Matthew Cowdrey, Jay Dohnt and Esther Overton in swimming.

I just want to make note of Matthew Cowdrey who last night became Australia's greatest Paralympian. He has successfully won 11 medals over three games, and it is very impressive for Matthew. In competing at her 11<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games Libby Kosmala has been synonymous with the Paralympics through its history here in South Australia. I for one would like to congratulate her on this amazing feat. In comparison, Rachel Henderson is a Paralympic debutant, having only started competing in goalball just two years ago. Whether a new athlete to the Paralympics or a veteran, this has been an exciting time for our athletes and a just reward for their absolute talent as well as their perseverance and hard work over the years.

The South Australian Sports Institute has played a critical role in the identification, development and support of these athletes in their Olympic and Paralympic quest and journeys. The South Australian Sports Institute partners with the national and state sporting organisations to conduct intensive coaching and support programs. The institute also partners with the AIS and national sporting organisations to play a pivotal role in hosting a number of key national programs based here in Adelaide. These include the world powerhouse Cycling Australia AIS track cycling program, the AIS beach volleyball program and the national trampoline program.

Australia's high-performance system is increasingly complex and comprehensive, with athletes now more than ever moving around the country to ensure access to the best program and training environment for their needs. To compete at events like the London Olympics and Paralympics the requirements for international competition and training are increasingly rigorous. The intense work and training of the athletes is guided by the critical stewardship of the coaches and supported by the technical and scientific edges that are able to be provided through the likes of SASI.

Stable, supportive home environments are a hallmark of many a champion and elite athlete. It is in moments like this that we should also recognise and thank the parents and partners who provide the support our sporting champions and aspirants require. Their support and sacrifice are critical factors in enabling many of these athletes today to experience Olympic and Paralympic competition. Therefore, it is without hesitation that this government supports the motion in congratulating all South Australian athletes chosen to represent Australia and compete at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:48):** I rise to congratulate the many men and women who have represented Australia at the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. I commend the member for Stuart for bringing this motion to the house and I am very gratified that the government is going to support it. The member for Stuart in his contribution indicated that, while he had dreamt of being an Olympian, he was not able to make that mark. At least today we know that his endeavour to get this motion up in the house may well be more successful.

The member for Stuart is a very modest man, actually, as somebody who has represented sporting teams at the highest level in Australian competition from 1985 to 1988, while, at the same time, undertaking full-time university study, when he says he tried his hardest, and hardest, and hardest and did not make it. We know that he made an active decision to pursue a career in business and eventually politics as well; so, he certainly has been able to make it in the field of his

choice, and perhaps in another world an Olympian we might have seen, but not from the man beside me in this one.

From a hobby to a passion to a dream the athletes who represented Australia at the Olympics and Paralympics have grown through dedication and hard work to now represent our great nation at the highest level in elite sport.

These athletes have sacrificed countless birthday parties, family barbecues, sleep-ins and nights out. They have balanced training with work or school and hit the training track even when the bravest of souls elsewhere might have turned back. Not all of these athletes have won every race or broken all the records, but all of these athletes have tried and tried, and tried again. They have done their best, and better again, and they have made us all proud. Australia was well represented at the games, and we congratulate these athletes. Representing Australia at the Olympics and the Paralympics is a magnificent achievement, and we are very proud of all of them.

In particular today I want to focus my remarks on our South Australian Paralympians. I also commend the member for Stuart for his perspicacity in choosing today to move this motion, a day when South Australian Matt Cowdrey has formally become Australia's greatest ever Paralympian. For those of you who are following on Twitter, @matt\_cowdrey has just put up: 'Thank you everyone! Number 11 may have been the sweetest of them all!#proudparalympian.'

Matt Cowdrey, in winning his 11<sup>th</sup> gold medal, is identified as Australia's greatest ever gold-medal winner at the Paralympics. That, of course, is in addition to nine other metals of less golden hue. At 20 medals overall, that also, I believe, makes him Australia's greatest medal winner at the Paralympics in addition to being Australia's greatest ever gold-medal winner. That is an amazing achievement for somebody at their third Paralympics, a proud son of the Norwood swimming club.

**Mr Marshall:** Hear, hear!

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you, member for Norwood. I will mention a bit more on that later. On 29 August this year, the opening ceremony was held for the 2012 London Paralympic Games, marking the official beginning of Paralympic competition.

The Paralympics began with the ideas of Ludwig Guttmann. Ludwig Guttmann was a German neurologist who founded and then directed the National Spinal Injury Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. After treating injured servicemen and women, Ludwig looked at alternative methods for rehabilitation.

After years of using sports as a means of rehabilitation, on 29 July 1948, the first ever Stoke Mandeville Games were held in London, the same day as the Olympic opening ceremony. Two teams from the Stoke Mandeville Hospital and the Star and Garter Home for Injured War Veterans competed in archery for the Challenge Shield. By 1951 the Stoke Mandeville Games had grown to include 11 British spinal injury organisations.

Australia first competed in what is now considered the first Paralympics in Rome in 1960. Australia's first gold Paralympic medal was won by Ross Sutton, and Australia's only female athlete at the games, Daphne Ceeney, won two gold, three silver and one bronze in swimming, archery and athletics.

From the early days of 16 athletes competing in one sport, the Paralympic Games have grown to include 4,200 athletes from 165 countries. This year 2.2 million tickets have been sold to the Paralympics, with the highest spectator turnout in the history of the games. Athletes will compete in sports such as archery, athletics, boccia, cycling, equestrian, football, goalball, judo, powerlifting, rowing, sailing, shooting, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

Australia has selected 161 talented athletes competing for pride and country. To aid our athletes, we also have 144 staff making the trip, including three pilots to help vision-impaired athletes. Australia has athletes in 13 of the 20 sports, and South Australia has 13 athletes competing in the games this year. Some of these athletes have competed already and some are still awaiting their chance on the big stage.

Libby Kosmala of Klemzig has already received a mention this morning. She is competing in her 11<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games. On previous occasions she has won nine gold and three silver medals for Australia. She is the only athlete to compete at the previous Paralympic Games when they were last in the UK, and we congratulate her for representing Australia in shooting at 70 years of age.

Gabriel Cole of Malvern will be competing in the 100 metre, 200 metre (T46) and the 4x100 metre relay. Gabriel has previously competed at the Delhi Commonwealth Games and last year won the 100 metre gold at the nationals. Gabriel will be partnered in the 4x100 metre relay with Langhorne Creek resident Michael Rogers. This will be Michael's second Paralympics after making the 1,500 metre final in Beijing. Michael will be looking to repeat this feat in both the 1,500 and 800 metres.

Nathanial Arkley will be competing in the 5,000 metre event. The young St Agnes man manages to balance his schooling and training and hopes to one day win a marathon gold medal. Felicity Johnson will be looking to go one better after winning silver in the one kilometre time trial in Beijing. The cyclist has held the second world ranking and won gold in the 2011 World Championships. Felicity will be competing with her pilot, Stephanie Morton. The pair has had a successful World Championship campaign both this year and last year, winning gold and breaking world records in the one kilometre time trials and 200-metre sprint.

Kieran Modra will be competing with his pilot, Scott McPhee, in the one kilometre time trial, individual road race, individual pursuit and individual time trial. Kieran is an experienced athlete, competing in Seoul, Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney, Athens and Beijing. The pair won silver and gold at the 2011 World Championships. Kieran has already claimed gold in the individual B pursuit final, an inspirational achievement after recovering from a road accident in December 2011, when he broke three vertebrae.

Grace Bowman is looking forward to competing in her second Paralympic Games. After finishing fourth at the 2011 World Champions, both Grace—and I am told her horse—are eager to compete in various equestrian events at the games. I will rely on other members more familiar with horse craft to know how they know how excited the horse is about it—but I am informed that the horse is indeed very excited as well!

Nuriotpa's Rachel Henderson is a newcomer to the sport of goalball, but has had a rapid rise to the top. Rachel will celebrate her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday whilst at the games, and we wish her luck and a happy birthday. After Ferryden Park resident Jay Dohnt's bronze medal swim in Beijing, he was inducted into the South Australian Swimming Hall of Fame. He will be competing in London in the 100-metre breaststroke, 200-metre individual medley and 400-metre freestyle. Jay also hopes one day to swim the English Chanel. Esther Overton will be competing in the 50-metre freestyle and 50-metre backstroke. In 2011, Esther won bronze in the Para Pacific Championship, and she is looking to better her fifth and sixth finishes in Beijing.

Matthew Cowdrey is already one of the biggest names in swimming and, at 23 years of age, we hope that he will be successful for many years to come. I have already mentioned his 11 gold medals, including three at these games. In his third Paralympics, he is the most successful Paralympic athlete Australia has ever produced. After breaking five world records and claiming five gold and three silver medals in Beijing, Matt was named the APC's Paralympian of the Year. He is quickly matching these feats with his performance at these games.

We wish all of our Paralympians luck, and we congratulate them for being such great ambassadors for Australian sport. I am sure that many have been inspired by the achievements of these athletes. I hope that all members have taken some time to watch the coverage on ABC2. The show has been really well produced by the ABC, and I commend the ABC for that. We can always do better, but I have to say that there have been some spectacular and inspiring scenes during the coverage.

I also congratulate and thank the many hardworking parents and carers, partners and families who have supported our athletes in the journey to the games. Whether it be driving them to Little Athletics or flying over to London to support them in person, they, too, have sacrificed a lot to get those athletes where they today. I congratulate all those involved in the London 2012 Games.

I also note the ongoing work and support of those involved in the Special Olympics, which is sometimes forgotten in our focus on the Olympics and Paralympics. Every year many young Australian athletes, particularly with intellectual disability, rely on the Special Olympics to provide them with that sporting competition and opportunity for participation. I enjoyed the opportunity to go to the Medina Treasury a couple of weeks ago for the launch of the Special Olympics strategic plan. That organisation does a great job. We look forward in the years ahead to seeing it grow in stature and reputation from its already strong base. I hope all members will take every opportunity to support the Olympians, the Paralympians and the Special Olympians who are working and active and competing in our community.

**Mr BIGNELL (Mawson) (11:59):** I rise to support the member for Stuart's motion and also to congratulate all of our athletes at the Olympics Games and the Paralympic Games for the wonderful achievement of making a Paralympic or Olympic team. I also congratulate people on their individual and team successes over in London. Everyone who went to London did their very best.

One person who keeps on being missed out on the list of South Australian athletes is Emily Seebohm, who is obviously a South Australian. She was brought up in this state, but she had to move to Queensland to be with her swimming team, so she is ranked as a Queenslander—in much the same way, we have adopted Anna Meares here in South Australia. Emily Seebohm is a great South Australian swimming under the Queensland banner. I would like to claim her gold medal and two silver medals. If we then put that on top of the 13 per cent of representation of South Australia's share in the Australian medal tally, it looks even better than as was outlined by the member for Stuart. The member for Stuart lamented that he did not make an Olympics. I was fortunate enough to make two—once as a journalist in Sydney and then at the Beijing games I was there as a supporter of the equestrian team (not as an athlete, obviously, but I still did my best for Australia).

**Mr Venning:** There is time!

**Mr BIGNELL:** I think that maybe the Masters Games is more my style and pace now, member for Schubert. I also pay tribute not only to the team members and athletes but also to the members of the team over there in management roles, and to the many volunteers who go over there, in particular David and Julie Kavanagh from the electorate of Mawson. They are from McLaren Vale. They are keen equestrian people. Just as I saw them in Hong Kong for the Beijing games, they were over in London at Greenwich for the equestrian events.

I say thanks to the volunteers as well. I think the Sydney Olympics really put volunteering at the Olympics on the map. It was amazing how many Australians put up their hand to put on the volunteers outfit and to help visitors to Sydney and Australia find their way around Olympic venues and everything else. From what I have heard from people who have come back from London, what we did in Sydney has only been matched at this Olympics in London. The London volunteers did a very good job, and to David and Julie Kavanagh, and to all the volunteers, thank you for the wonderful work you have done.

To all the journalists who made it over there as well, it is a very tiring job. I think I averaged about 1½ to two hours sleep for the 15 days during the Olympic campaign in Sydney. If you are a journo worth your salt, you just do not want to sleep—there is stuff going on all the time. There are always stories to be had. I remember when Cathy Freeman won her gold medal in the 400 metres, I was there for that, sitting next to the head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. I was sitting next to him, having talked my way in, not having a ticket, to get his reaction as Cathy Freeman went over the line. I went back and filed that story and then went out and tracked down the woman who handed Cathy Freeman the Aboriginal flag with which to do her lap of honour. Any journo is out there and not just recording the events and reporting on them, but going the extra mile to try to find the stories behind the story. To all the journos, well done!

To anyone who knows anyone who went to the Olympics, whether as an athlete, a coach, a team manager, a volunteer or a journalist, just look out for them, because when you come back from an Olympics there has been such an enormous build up to it and it is such an exciting place to be around that, when you get back into your own town, lifestyle, job and everything else, it can be a large emotional let down. Just be aware of that. While people might think that they have just come back and have been at the Olympics, that they must be cock-a-hoop and on cloud nine, there is a period of time where people have to make that readjustment, so if you have someone in your family just keep an eye out for them and keep them buoyed.

I mentioned Emily Seebohm before: I must mention her parents, John and Karen Seebohm. John was born and brought up down in the South-East of South Australia, as was I. I am a Glencoe boy; he is a from Mount Burr and he played more than 300 games for Glenelg. John and Karen were always good to me as a teenager when I would go down and follow the Bays. Karen, in particular, would always get me into the WAG section at the footy, which is always pretty good when you are 13 or 14 years old, having the best seats in the house in the grandstand. All my mates were a bit jealous. Getting back to the point, to everyone in our Olympic and Paralympic teams: congratulations on not just what you achieved over there but also on the enormous amount of work over many years to get to that point. Congratulations!

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (12:04):** I congratulate the member for Stuart on bringing this motion before the chamber. There is no doubt that all of us in this room are inspired by the commitment that these 47 people from South Australia have made to be selected on the Australian Olympic and Paralympic teams. While I in no way profess to having a level of broad information available to me about the individual names and different fields of endeavour that these people have pursued, I want to talk about four people in particular, and they come from the electorate of Goyder. I will talk first about David and Hayley Chapman, a father and daughter, and members of the Balaklava Pistol Club. David is actually a second-time Olympian, having shot at the Sydney 2000 Olympics in the 25-metre rapid fire pistol event.

I have spoken to David since he got home, at another pistol club function, and he was a bit disappointed, I must admit. He had built himself up, but he said he did not perform on the day, and he is frustrated by that, but he was just so inspired by the others around him and, indeed, by the fact that he was so amazingly lucky to have his own daughter, Hayley, there as part of the Olympic team.

Hayley also competed in the 25-metre pistol event as a first timer at the age of 20. She was coached by her father initially but has now gone on to some other coaching arrangements. It is a great story for regional South Australia that a father and daughter team from a town of about 1,500 people could commit themselves to such a level that they were good enough to be selected for our nation. I just marvelled at it.

When David told me that he was a bit embarrassed by his performance, I said, 'Don't be. You have got to where thousands have attempted to get but have not been good enough. You have been good enough since the late 1990s to be selected in the 2000 Olympic team, and you have carried through that expertise that you showed for another 12 years to be selected in your second Olympic team, so be very proud of what you have done.'

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Sired a dynasty.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** The member for Stuart says that he has sired a dynasty—it could be true.

*Mr Venning interjecting:*

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** The member for Schubert acknowledges that David's parents, who I have also met and who are very active in the shooting field, are also good people and still actively involved in the Balaklava club. When I went there probably two years ago—and I think the member for Frome was with me—they were generous enough to be our hosts and I really enjoyed the camaraderie. I enjoyed the opportunity to go to the Balaklava Pistol Club because they are good people and, I must admit, safety is absolutely paramount there. So, to David and Hayley Chapman, on behalf of the wider community I say congratulations. I hope that both of them continue for many years.

The next person I want to talk about is Will Godward. Will is an outstanding young man of about 28 who was born in Queensland, but his mum's family is from Moonta. Will, his mum and his sister moved back to Moonta, and I believe his sister lives in the Adelaide Hills, and I have met her too. I walked into a fundraising event at the Moonta footy club about two weeks before Will went overseas with the team, and it was to raise some money for him. Later on in the evening, we heard about the costs associated with dedicating your life to getting selected, the overseas travel that is involved and how he has to support himself. He is lucky to work for a very generous employer who gives him a lot of time off and who is also involved in the shooting industry.

When I walked in, I thought I saw a mannequin. He was doing a computer-generated shooting exercise, so nothing was actually discharged, and the score of the shot would show up on the computer screen. He was absolutely still and I thought it was a mannequin because he did not move for about five minutes. He was completely in the zone where the total focus is upon the target, and all there is is a movement of the head, a slight clearance of the thoughts and then back focusing on the next shot until you are absolute steady and comfortable and the next one goes off again.

He did this for about 15 minutes and, other than his head movement, it was impossible to actually see him move. He tells me that when he is in competition he stands like that for two hours, so the challenge is to keep the blood flowing through the legs so they do not go numb. The discipline that goes into the sport of shooting and the level of fitness, both physical and mental, that you must have to be good at the sport is amazing.

We had a crowd of about 150 people there, and the large number of very generous donations to assist Will with the cost for him to be an Olympic shooter (he is in the 10-metre air rifle section) was really good because it was the local community getting behind a local boy they are proud of—and I can tell you that the community is really proud.

I first met Will about five years ago on an Easter Friday at a Moonta rifle and pistol club function and it was obvious that he was focused then too. He had been brought to the club as a 12 or 13 year old, it was what he wanted to do in life and he has made it his own. I am amazed he has the time for a lady friend, but he does have a partner who must be a very understanding young lady.

**Mr Pederick:** You've got to be realistic.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** That's right. It costs him a lot of money per year to do it, but he loves it and he is going to keep doing it, so all power to young Will Godward. I know he has the support of his community, and certainly Yorke Peninsula people were very proud of him being selected and competing well. The last person I want to focus on is, I think, the person with the most inspiring story I have heard in my life. It is Grace Bowman who has paraplegia and who is a second-time equestrian Paralympian. Grace's injury is as a result of a horse accident when she was 12. She has suffered not only that in her life but also she has suffered since with the loss of her mother first and then her father. Grace is only 22. She has two younger sisters.

Her dad was a teacher; a great man. She was in high school when her mother died in a horse accident where a horse reared from a horse trailer, fell back and crushed her; and her dad subsequently died, I think, two years ago now from prostate cancer. She is an amazing girl the community of Yorke Peninsula just love. She makes herself available. She does not see herself as a motivation but she is. She speaks to young people about what can be achieved in life when you actually focus on it.

For Grace horses have always been her love, and she has been so lucky that she has had some wonderful support over the years. However, she and her sisters have suffered emotional hardship with the loss of both their parents. Luckily her dad married a great lady not long before he passed away, so there is still some parental support there that exists not from her natural mum but for all intents and purposes from her stepmother who has taken on that role. I just want to say to Grace Bowman, 'I am so proud whenever I think of you', and I know that the people of the Goyder electorate and, indeed, anyone who has ever met Grace are nothing but impressed.

She is a beautiful young lady. She did very well in her matriculation. She will make a success of her life. She does not see being in a wheelchair as the end of her life: she sees it as an opportunity to prove what she can be. So, to Grace Bowman as one of the 47 members in the Olympic and Paralympian teams, I say, 'Congratulations to you, no matter what you achieve.' She sets very high standards for herself. Her level of commitment is unquestioned. For anyone who has ever met her, she acts as in inspiration to us all.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Recreation and Sport) (12:11):** I would like to add my voice in support of this motion. Even as the Paralympics continue and our athletes strive to deliver the results that they seek in London in the Paralympics it is a nice time for us to reflect on what has happened in the Olympics in London and already in the Paralympics up until now.

Just from a purely parochial point of view, I think that we can all be proud of our South Australian athletes. A number of members here have pointed out that we are over-represented in the medal count, and that is an exceptionally good thing. When our population base is about 7 per cent of the country and we have got about 13 per cent of the medals there is nothing to be ashamed of at all; in fact, there is in fact a lot to be very proud of.

Even those members of the team who did not medal at all, you can see that there was no shortage of effort there. I got up early to watch Johan Linde, who works, of course, in Treasury and Finance and who is a boxer. He lost in the second round of the first bout up against the silver medallist from China in the Beijing Olympics, so it is nothing to be ashamed of at all. He put up an incredibly good effort. The commentators, who know a lot more than me, were very impressed with him. It is not for lack of trying or lack of effort. That is what the games are about. It is just giving everything you have got. I think that we can fairly say that all our South Australian athletes gave it everything they had and we can be, as everyone has said, immensely proud of them.

Along with half the country, I got up early and watched various events. I particularly remember getting up to watch Anna Meares. I was really pleased to see her beat Victoria Pendleton. The British had really hyped that ride and they were expecting Victoria to win that race. For Anna to take her out in two consecutive races was an incredible effort, and it was very good for Anna to be vindicated in that way.

Incidentally, she has adopted South Australia as her home. She raced for South Australia in the nationals just gone, which were held in Adelaide. She raced for South Australia. She lives, I think, in Mile End and considers herself a South Australian now. She has transplanted completely, so that is good.

**The Hon. S.W. Key:** Whose electorate is she in?

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** I couldn't tell you whose electorate she is in—probably West Torrens, I would think, if she lives in Mile End.

**Mrs Geraghty:** Croydon?

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** It could be Croydon. I am sure she has been doorknocked by the member for Croydon if she lives in Croydon. That takes us, of course—

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

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** Does she? In Ashford? There you go.

**The Hon. S.W. Key:** West Torrens.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** West Torrens it is. We had great results. A number of members have already outlined them and I will not go over them again, but it was very pleasing to see. We should never underestimate the contribution of coaches. Sport gets more and more professional and that means there is more and more support staff attached. They rarely get the glory, or even a mention sometimes. A number of coaches have come from South Australia and, in fact, we had three SASI coaches—Jason Lane (rowing), Nathan Luce (canoeing) and Nikolay Zhuravlev (trampoline)—selected as Australian team coaches at the 2012 Olympic Games. SASI head cycling coach, Tim Decker, was selected as part of the Australian Sports Commission's travelling coach professional development group, with participants being identified as future Olympic coaches.

We thank them for their contribution and assistance with the team, and they are to be commended for their work. Of course, they are all striving for their own professional development and looking to make their own contribution to Australian sport, and they have certainly done that.

Members have made mention of the members of the Australian Paralympic team from South Australia, and there are a number of them. I was very fortunate to see Matthew Cowdrey win a gold medal on Friday night. It was an event that inspired a lot of pride in me to see him achieve as an Australian and a South Australian. I look forward to seeing how he goes in the couple of races he has left (I think he has two races left) and whether he can push further than he already has. He is already Australia's most successful Paralympic athlete and it would be good to see him drive that even further over the next few days, the last few days of the Paralympics.

I was particularly impressed by the Paralympics because, by definition, there are extra challenges to be overcome. It is not a matter of just participating as hard as you can. There are challenges in your everyday life that have to be overcome before you can even step up to your competition. It complicates your travel and your arrangements. Olympic athletes, I think, display a great deal of courage just to be there and to compete, and that is an inspiring thing from my point of view. I find it is easy to be weighed down by things you perceive to be negative in life but, to see these people being so positive, so goal-focused and orientated and so fully committed to what they are doing, is an inspiring thing.

I was very privileged to be able to be there to see a few events and very proud to represent South Australia and pass on the good wishes of the South Australian community to the athletes that I met and also to the parents and supporters they have. In the Olympics, of course, family plays a very strong supporting role but I think that is magnified in the Paralympics. The supporting role of parents and family in the Paralympics is even greater still because of the extra challenges that they face in life, and it is hard not to commend them and thank them for that and to reflect on that selflessness on their part.

I am very happy to support the motion. I look forward to the last of the Paralympics and watching the last few days of competition, and I am very pleased to be able to support this motion.

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (12:18):** I also rise to support what is clearly a very good motion. I would have thought that there would have been no objections whatsoever from anybody in this place. I am not a passionate follower of the Olympics but I do note with interest the various events and results as they come through. I have probably taken more interest in the Paralympics this week than in the actual Olympics themselves. I think those in the Paralympics go to extraordinary lengths to get there and actually achieve.

I do not want to go through the long list that other members have gone through but, as the member for Goyder said, I have always watched with interest the career of Grace Bowman and the tragedies that have gone on in her life. The fact that she has got to where she has, to me, is an enormous inspiration. There is Matthew Cowdrey; I, probably along with others, heard his father on the radio this morning. He was very much a quiet, unassuming sort of fellow and obviously very proud of what his son has achieved. He said that he had never looked back since the day he was born, so clearly he has the initiative to get where he has. He has had an amazingly successful games.

It would also appear that the British have put on an amazing two events. As a matter of fact, my niece and her husband were at the Paralympics a day or two ago. She had heard on the rumour mill (it thrives even better over there than in South Australia, actually) that those sitting up the back could not see a thing. Well, she and her husband sat at the back and they saw everything quite clearly. She said it was absolutely brilliant watching the track and field and other various things that took place.

On another note, I was interested to listen to Anna Meares when she came back to Australia after the Olympics. With her pretty laid-back approach to life, she was looking forward to having some time out. In fact, she is a guest speaker at a fundraiser in my electorate in a couple of weeks, which will be good, and I look forward to speaking to her.

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

**Mr PENGILLY:** She is coming to support an education fund, to speak on that. She had committed to it before she went to the Olympic Games, so—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr PENGILLY:** Well, we might make it a fundraiser for me. Seriously, the member for Stuart has brought a good motion to the house, and I look forward with interest to all members supporting it and getting on with it.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:21):** I rise to support the motion of the member for Stuart that this house congratulates all the South Australian athletes for their selection in the Australian team for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games. I acknowledge the efforts of all these Olympians and Paralympians over the years: the early-morning starts and the relentless training they have to go through to make sure that they are at the peak level at the right time to do their best for the nation.

It is always amazing to see these young people and the training they go through and the commitments they have to make around work and family. Certainly, there is a huge support team behind them all, whether it be family or coaching staff. It is just so good to see not only the success we have had at the Olympic Games but also the enormous success we are having at the Paralympic Games. We saw Matt Cowdrey notch up his 11<sup>th</sup> gold medal—a championship performance.

As members have said previously, to see what the Paralympians do to get through their events is absolutely fantastic. One thing I do enjoy watching is the Paralympians playing basketball in those chairs they are in. They crash and roll over, then pick themselves up or get picked up, and away they go again, and—

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** I will leave that! I think it is fantastic to watch these people in that event. I would like to talk about James McCrae, a Murray Bridge boy. He did very well in these Olympics in the quad sculls, winning a bronze medal. He and his crew were fourth in Beijing, so they are stepping up the ladder. He still young enough—I believe he is only about 25—to go a long way yet in the Olympic Games and hopefully get a gold at the next one.

I was just informed by my staff that James was an under 12s ruckman for the Ramblers in Murray Bridge, in the football club, and that he could have made a great footballer. I am sure he could; he is about as tall as I am although a little bit slimmer, as you would expect in a rower. He has made an excellent choice in chasing his rowing career, not that I doubt that he would have made a great footballer. I know his mum, Chris, was over in London and she would be immensely proud of his achievements. I ran into James when we had the welcome home parade at the Adelaide Town Hall and he is a very unassuming lad, which is a good thing. He has obviously achieved a lot as have all the Olympians who competed and, whether they won a medal or not, just to get to that level is an amazing achievement, whatever field you are in. I congratulate all our Olympians and Paralympians and wish them all the best now and into the future.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (12:25):** I want to contribute quickly in support of the motion moved by the member for Stuart. I will not go into all the detail of the Olympians as others have because that has already been mentioned in the debate, but for all the reasons outlined by other speakers, I want to support this motion. I particularly want to mention one of the South Australian divers, Rachel Bugg, who is a family friend. We have watched Rachel grow up into a magnificent young woman, and she took up diving at a young age after some success at gymnastics. Her father and mother are involved in Diving SA at the most senior level and encouraged her in the sport.

At one stage she was wavering as to whether she would continue with the dream. To her great credit, and to her parents' great credit, she decided to commit again to the sport, and move to the training program in Brisbane. She won her way into the Olympic final and dived in the synchronised swimming 10-metre platform event, and dived a personal best coming a very credible fourth. I know Rachel would have loved a medal of any kind but to go to the world's best event and do your personal best, you cannot do any better than that. I want to put on the record that, while I am proud of all the South Australian contributors, I particularly want to recognise Rachel's magnificent contribution and dedication to the sport, and pass on my congratulations for her efforts.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (12:27):** It is a great pleasure to move a successful motion in this place, and as shadow minister I very genuinely appreciate the support of the minister, all of my colleagues and all of those opposite. There is no doubt that we are at one in this motion in a very genuine fashion, so I thank all members for their contribution. I highlight that, perhaps, the member for Morialta was more generous than he needed to be in some of his comments but that was very good of him.

I would also like to recognise the member for Mawson's comments about Emily Seebohm, and I think that that is very important. There is always some difficulty in who we claim. He is quite right that she is originally a South Australian and I think it is appropriate to mention her in the way that Anna Meares was not originally a South Australian. We are very proud to claim Anna Meares and, of course, Emily Seebohm is welcome back any time she likes.

**The Hon. R.B. Such:** What about Julia Gillard? She is South Australian.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Member for Fisher, I was talking about Emily Seebohm. With regard to the medal count, I would also like to highlight that, in the Olympics, our nation finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the medal count and so far in the Paralympics our nation is ranked fifth internationally in the medal count. Again, that speaks volumes for our Paralympians and our Paralympic program, and I think that it is absolutely outstanding that we can be so proud of all 47 of our athletes who have gone away to represent us at both games.

I would like to refocus very briefly on the fact that we admire and revere them all equally, and whether they compete at the Olympics or the Paralympics, they are on exactly the same pedestal, and that is because they provide us with heroes, and heroes are exceptionally important in life, and I do not mind where heroes come from. It is very appropriate that our heroes, in some cases, should be our family members and in some cases should be friends. We can have heroes in business, we can have heroes in art, and in medicine. We can have heroes in politics, and we can have heroes in sport, and I think that is absolutely fantastic. Our heroes in sport may be able-bodied or they may be otherwise, and I think it is fantastic that we have got to that stage. We have a way to go, but I think we should all be very proud of the fact that that is exactly how we feel, and that we can pick who our heroes are going to be based on their personal characteristics and not necessarily on their physical attributes.

Let me just wind up, Mr Deputy Speaker, by thanking all those athletes, their coaches, supporters, families, friends and administrators for representing us so well in London.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Motion carried.

**ROBIN BRIDGE**

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (12:30):** I move:

That this house:

- (a) condemns the state Labor government for its failure to commit to painting the Robin Bridge at Nuriootpa prior to 2014-15; and
- (b) urges the government to undertake the necessary repainting works immediately to ensure the bridge is once again a beautiful landmark in Nuriootpa.

I thank all the members for their consideration of this motion, because I have raised it with several of them. This bridge has become a bit of a passion of mine and others in the Barossa community. It was first brought to my attention by a constituent approximately four years ago. To see this bridge painted would mean a lot to many in the community. It would ensure that what is now a dull, shabby and unappealing landmark could once again be a feature in the town of Nuriootpa.

I did stick my neck out because of a response to an interjection in this place. When I was asking, 'Why doesn't the government paint the bridge?', I think it was the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis who yelled out, 'You can afford it, you do it.' So I said, 'Okay, I will.' That was just an interjection across the house, and I did not do any more about it. It was picked up by the local newspaper, *The Leader*, in the Barossa, and therefore I have had to deliver, and I will. So, it has gone on from that.

Since I moved this motion prior to the winter recess I have been inundated with messages of support from the community. Service clubs and individuals have contacted me to see if they are able to assist with the painting of the bridge, in any way, and a local business has offered to supply the paint. I have not accepted any of these offers as yet, but I probably will. With such good will out there, I cannot understand why the minister cannot work with the community, harness some of the generous offers being made and get the bridge painted.

The minister did respond to me earlier this year to advise that the bridge has been included in the Periodic Bridge Repair Program for painting in the 2014-15 year. This is too long to wait for such a simple job; anyway, this government won't be there, and, either way, I doubt very much that minister Conlon will be the minister.

I have heard rumours, sir—and I sincerely hope that they are just that—that the department has estimated it will cost approximately \$600,000 to have the bridge painted, removing all the railings, the uprights and the lamp posts to take them to Adelaide to have what little (if any) of the remaining lead paint sandblasted off so that it does not fall into the South Para River and pollute it. Sir, this really is nanny state stuff. It is ridiculous, \$600,000, and then we wonder why our state finances are in the shape they are, and why people have lost respect for those in office.

It is totally ridiculous; it is absolutely laughable when you see it. The waste that occurs is just ridiculous. There are many in the community willing to help me to get this done, if the minister does not step in. We have not seen any action forthcoming to date, so I have my spray gun at the ready, and I will begin in the next two to three weeks. I will put the drop sheets down, and I will sand the flaking paint off. I will keep most of it out of the river by using these sheets. I will wear gloves and a respirator. But I do not think the bit of old paint remaining will be any threat to my health, or anybody else's, for that matter.

There is a plant hire company just 200 metres up the road, and I thank them for offering me the use of a small scissor lift so that I can reach the top of the four lamp posts. So, it is all coming together. I have already sprayed the bridge with an anti-fungus product to neutralise the fungus and moss before we do the undercoat.

Safety will be paramount and I am a bit concerned. I will liaise with the local police and Transport SA, even though they will frown upon what I am doing. Sorry, I should not be doing it, but the government has had four years to address this and it just has not. There is still time. I will be pleased if next week a vehicle rocks up there and starts the job. I will not be upset, but nothing has happened at all so I will do it out of pure frustration, and hopefully, it could also create community focus on self-help projects.

I estimated my costs for this: 20 litres of paint, \$300; emery paper, brushes, thinners, etc., \$150; hire of the scissor lift, \$250; time, one person equivalent, four days—I think I could do it in four days—I give myself \$30 an hour, but seeing that you are already paying me it is nothing; with other sundries, all up approximately \$1,800. It is a fair bit short of \$600,000, isn't it?

Seriously, it is all about common sense, isn't it? I will not be painting the underside of the bridge, admittedly. I give the government its due—if they did what they were going to do, they would paint the whole thing. I will not be painting the underside. I am just doing an appearance job to make the bridge look appealing in the community. There is time.

I know some people say it is a gimmick. Well, it probably is, but it started off as an interjection across the house. It is in the *Hansard*. The Hon. Tom Koutsantonis threw it across to me. He was rude. I said to the government, 'Why don't you paint the bridge?' He said, 'Well, you could afford it; you do it,' and I said, 'I will.' That was all that happened. I did not pick it up from there; the local media did, and I am trapped in it, so I am going to do it.

I know how to use a spray gun, so I can say that we will do a good job, but I am concerned about the safety side of it. If anybody else should come onto that bridge site and step off and sprain an ankle or break a leg, I understand that is a problem and a risk, so I will put the witch's hats out and I will put signs up that say, 'Real worker at work,' and we will see. It has become a bit of an issue up there, and the government can still move in and cut my water off quickly and nicely, but you are not going to do that, are you?

You are not going to do that, so I have locked in and I will do it. I just ask the house to please consider the motion. As I said, it condemns the state government for its failure to commit to painting the Robin Bridge—it is a bridge of some history in Nuri—and it also urges the government to undertake the necessary repainting works immediately to ensure the bridge is once again a beautiful landmark in Nuriootpa, and also probably save my neck. I urge the house to support the motion.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:38):** I am not sure whether I am doing this reluctantly or not, but I would like to support the member for Schubert in his endeavours and his motion which condemns the state Labor government for its failure to commit to painting the Robin Bridge in Nuriootpa prior to 2014-15 and urges the government to undertake the necessary repainting works immediately to ensure the bridge is once again a beautiful landmark in Nuriootpa.

I would just like to say a couple of things. I urge the government to take up this matter because I do not want to see a by-election in Schubert. We have enough work with every one of us in this place working towards the elections in March 2014, and I am concerned for the occupational health and safety of the member for Schubert, but I do understand the extraordinary circumstances that he is in that he is prepared to take on this job.

He is saying that he can do this job on a very modest budget of \$1,500, donating his time because he is obviously already paid out of the public purse and he is going to do it after hours. I am concerned, in all seriousness, with what the member for Schubert indicates, that the government is talking about a \$600,000 paint job on this bridge, and not just with this bridge but with everything involving government quotes. We saw this with the Building Education Revolution, everything cost twice as much for government schools as it did for private schools because of the process, because of the bureaucracy.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr PEDERICK:** No; that is exactly right. I saw this happen in Coomandook where we have an \$800,000 (alleged) basketball court that is only about two-thirds size. Two days before it was opened they had to run 23 tradespeople in there to finish construction so that we could have Senator Anne McEwen, the Hon. Bob Sneath and myself present at the opening of that gym. We saw the water tanks that were installed—which were ridiculous anyway because they are within 20 metres of a River Murray pipe that has plenty of hydrants, the firefighting tanks—which normally would have been quoted, with appropriate fittings, at \$50,000.

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** I rise on a point of order. While it is interesting to hear the member's version of history I think he is straying well beyond the bounds of this motion.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder):** I uphold that point of order. Get back to the subject matter.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I will get back to the subject. I feel suitably admonished. I support the endeavour of the member for Schubert for a whole range of reasons, as I have said. I do not want to see any problems and I want to make sure that everything is done with the utmost safety and integrity. The last thing I want to see is a by-election in the seat of Schubert. I would like to think that the government would grab the bull by the horns, or the bridge with a paint tin in this case, and get on with the job and do it for the benefit of not only the residents of Nuriootpa but for the benefit of the residents of Schubert.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (12:42):** I will be very brief. I support this bridge being painted but also a lot of other infrastructure around our city. I recently travelled on interstate trains and coming into Adelaide the graffiti on buildings and bridges looks really bad. I do not normally drive in, but this morning on my way in I saw that the bridge over the Millswood Underpass was covered with graffiti. It looks awful. I do not know what it is but South Australia seems to specialise in people doing wilful damage, and there is sometimes a lack of prompt response in dealing with these issues. The Southern Expressway is continually vandalised. I know the Department of Transport does its best but as a community—

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** I rise on a point of order. Again, I say that I think the member for Fisher is now straying well beyond this motion.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder):** I agree. I think you should confine your comments to the Robin Bridge in Nuriootpa, if you can.

**Mrs Geraghty:** And could we change the spelling? It is spelt wrong, I am sorry.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** The Robyn Geraghty bridge. But whether it is the Robyn Geraghty bridge in Nuriootpa or elsewhere, as a community let us make the place look good and keep it looking good.

**Mr PICCOLO (Light) (12:43):** I move:

Leave out all words after 'house' insert 'notes the government gives priority to safety over aesthetics in its bridge maintenance program and that the Robin Bridge is scheduled for repainting in the 2014-15 financial year.

This is an important matter because what we have been asked to do is to give priority to appearance or aesthetics over safety. I will explain that because it is very easy to bring these matters up but you have to remember that the department is responsible for the maintenance of 1,470 bridges across the state, and its primary and first concern is for public safety. I would hope that every member in this place would put public safety ahead of appearance.

However, we have heard it said today in this chamber that, yes, it is an issue of appearance etc., and other members (who are not aware of the priorities) are prepared to give priority to painting this bridge because of appearance—and that is important—but I would be most concerned if a member stood here and said, 'Well, appearance is more important than safety.' That is exactly what I have heard. I also heard the words 'it's a gimmick'—to say that a gimmick is more important than public safety is of concern to me, as well.

I understand that the member for Schubert has been writing to the minister about this matter since 2009. When determining to allocate funds, the department, and in my view quite rightly, gives priority to continued safety rather than improved aesthetics. In fact, the member for Waite raised this issue about the safety of bridges on a number of occasions when I was on the public works committee. He raised a number of issues about his concern for safety. At least the member for Waite, even though I did not agree with him, said that safety was paramount.

We have here today a motion before us which says that appearance is paramount over safety. I hope the member for Hammond, in supporting this motion, will ensure that this work does not occur before some bridge in his electorate which requires work for safety—and that is very important. The bridge is on the routine bridge inspection program and has been inspected every five years, on average, since 1980.

The deterioration of the paint on the handrails, while its appearance might suggest otherwise, is not considered to be a safety issue and, therefore, funds have been directed to areas other than the Robin Bridge in this financial year. None of the inspections have reported serious corrosion on the pedestrian barrier but it has been noted that the bridge should be repainted at the same time as the girders. So there is recognition of the work and, when they are there for the safety maintenance of the bridge, this work, which is for appearances, will be done at the same time, therefore saving taxpayers' money.

Following the most recent inspection in 2011—and it is important to note that the bridge was inspected in 2011 and, therefore, is not being ignored by the government—it was recommended for repainting in 2014 and that the handrails should be painted at the same time as the girders, which are of greater importance from a public safety point of view. By his own admission, the member to Schubert said that we should put effort into the handrails and ignore the issue of the safety aspect in terms of this bridge.

The bridge has now been placed on the DPTI Periodic Bridge Repair Program for 2014-15 and funds have been allocated to paint the girders. As part of this process, a detailed paint assessment was commissioned (as mentioned by the member) which confirmed that paint loss on the handrails and railings is significant but corrosion is low. The handrails will, therefore, be painted at the same time as the girders.

Previous reports identified that the handrail paint contains lead and its removal needs to be managed professionally. Painting will involve the removal of existing rails in order for them to be sandblasted and the installation of temporary barriers. A traffic management plan will need to be in place for alternative road access to ensure worker safety. Conducting these projects—that is the whole lot—at the same time will minimise inconvenience to road users and make the best use of available funds.

The issue was raised regarding why sometimes public projects perhaps cost more than in the private sector, and part of it is the process but also the expectation by the community that there is a higher level of accountability in the public sector. I suggest that this house support my motion of safety first with priority over appearance. I would hope that every member would support that motion.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (12:50):** I am quite disturbed by the comments made by the member for Light. I have never once said that safety was not paramount; it is, absolutely and totally. All we are discussing is a small project here, and it is a matter of appearance. The bridge is structurally safe; it was well built when it was put there. It is just a matter of the constituents saying that in the middle of a beautiful garden setting this bridge looks terrible. Not once have I ever indicated that there was a safety problem. I do not want to cause a public nuisance, I do not want to cause any risks to people, but out of frustration after four years I said to them that because I took a bait—and I have just had the member for Torrens trying to talk me out of it. Yes what she says is correct—it is not the sort of thing a person should do—but I have taken the bait and I will do it and whatever happens happens.

I just hope the government will move in the next three or four weeks and start the project. It is simple. They do not have to take the rails away. Why they cannot employ some unemployed people—say, four or five unemployed people—with a supervisor from the department to paint this bridge, I do not know. It is as simple as that. They do not have to remove the panels. I certainly oppose the amendment because it is just going back to the same old, same old.

We want some action. It is a simple thing which should be easy to address but the minister has said no and, rather than change its style and manner, he said, 'No, we are not going to paint your bridge. You have to wait until 2014-15.' He will not be there—we know that—and the government probably will not be there either. That is way into the future. We are not prepared to put up with that, so for the sake of a bit of cosmetic paint—and that is what it is, nothing more than that—I think it is just ridiculous. What has it cost the parliament just to discuss this matter this morning? Probably the same amount as the paint would cost. I urge the government to reconsider. It is a small issue and, if you are prepared to say, 'Okay, we will do it in six months,' then I will back off. I urge the house to support the motion. I certainly do not support the amendment.

The house divided on the amendment:

AYES (23)

Bedford, F.E.  
Caica, P.  
Fox, C.C.  
Kenyon, T.R.  
O'Brien, M.F.  
Piccolo, T. (teller)  
Rau, J.R.  
Vlahos, L.A.

Bettison, Z.L.  
Close, S.E.  
Geraghty, R.K.  
Key, S.W.  
Odenwalder, L.K.  
Portolesi, G.  
Sibbons, A.J.  
Wright, M.J.

Bignell, L.W.  
Conlon, P.F.  
Hill, J.D.  
Koutsantonis, A.  
Pegler, D.W.  
Rankine, J.M.  
Thompson, M.G.

## NOES (16)

Chapman, V.A.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Goldsworthy, M.R.
Griffiths, S.P.	Hamilton-Smith, M.L.J.	Marshall, S.S.
McFetridge, D.	Pederick, A.S.	Pengilly, M.
Pisoni, D.G.	Such, R.B.	Treloar, P.A.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Venning, I.H. (teller)	Whetstone, T.J.
Williams, M.R.		

## PAIRS (6)

Snelling, J.J.	Redmond, I.M.
Weatherill, J.W.	Evans, I.F.
Atkinson, M.J.	Sanderson, R.

Majority of 7 for the ayes.

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

*[Sitting suspended from 12:58 to 14:00]*

## VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I understand we have some young students here today from St Ignatius College, years 11 and 12, who are guests of the member for Morialta. Welcome. It is lovely to see you here. We also have some students from Para Hills High School, who are guests of the Treasurer. It is nice to see you and we hope you enjoy your time here.

## RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICE

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite):** Presented a petition signed by 42 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to immediately appeal to the Australian Red Cross to reverse its decision to close testing and processing facilities at the SA Blood Service and provide an independent impact statement on the provision of blood services in South Australia.

## LOWER EYRE PENINSULA WATER SUPPLY

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders):** Presented a petition signed by 493 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to take immediate action to make the Lower Eyre Peninsula exempt from deep mining to protect the water supply.

## STILLBIRTHS

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders):** Presented a petition signed by 38 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to support an initiative to give mothers and fathers of babies delivered between 12 and 20 weeks gestation the right to obtain a birth certificate as would be the case in a live birth.

## MCGEE, MR EUGENE

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss):** Presented a petition signed by 186 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the Attorney-General to refer the conduct of Mr Eugene McGee in relation to the death of Mr Ian Humphrey on 30 November 2003 to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the following written answers to questions be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**69 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (27 May 2010) (First Session). In each year since 2006, how many children in South Australia have died or have been infected from each of the following—diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis poliomyelitis, measles, mumps and rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B, hepatitis B, pneumococcal disease and chicken pox?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Karna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I am advised that the following table summarises the information requested:

Children (0-18 years)	Year											
	2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	119	0	48	0	222	0	1616	1	268 4	0	766
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mumps	0	6	0	3	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	2
Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Haemophilus influenzae Type B	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Hepatitis B	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1
Pneumococcal Disease	0	21	1	26	0	19	0	28	1	38	1	32
Chickenpox	0	610	0	582	0	465	0	374	0	302	0	353

### SURPLUS EMPLOYEES

**243 Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (13 July 2011) (First Session). With respect to 2011-12 Budget Paper 4—Volume 3, p130, Program 2—

1. What is meant by 'higher level of excess employees' arising from the government's TVSPs?
2. How many staff are dedicated to managing the excess employees database?
3. How many staff are employed in the Office of Ethical Standards and Professional Integrity?
4. How many employees are currently classified as excess according to each agency and in each case, how long have they been excess?
5. When will up to date workforce information be released on the Office of Ethical Standards and Professional Integrity website?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

1. The excess employee database has been established to monitor information such as the number of excess employees and their skills, experience and characteristics. The database also monitors the outcome relating to a particular employee (for example when they are placed in ongoing or long term employment or take a TVSP). A higher number of excess employees were expected as a result of the budget savings measures.
2. One staff member is primarily responsible for management of the data base with support being provided (at times) from several other staff members.
3. The Office of Ethical Standards and Professional Integrity comprised 16 staff members in July 2011 including the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.
4. Figures in the table below relate to 30 June 2011:

Agency	<1 year	>1 year and <2 years	>2 years and <3 years	>3 years and <4 years	>4 years and <5 years	>5 years	Total
Attorney-General's	9	2	0	0	0	3	14
Correctional Services	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Courts Administration Authority	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
Department of Health	38	10	0	0	0	1	49
Education and Children's Services	1	1	0	0	0	4	6
Environment and Natural Resources	3	2	0	0	0	0	5
Families and Communities	24	19	7	1	0	3	54
Further Education, Employment, Science & Tech	41	17	10	6	0	4	78
Health Units	75	8	1	0	0	5	89
Planning and Local Government	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Premier and Cabinet	6	3	2	3	1	5	20
Primary Industries and Resources	11	3	0	1	0	1	16
SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
SA Metropolitan Fire Service	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
SA Police	5	1	3	0	1	9	19
State Emergency Services	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Trade and Economic Development	25	0	0	0	0	0	25
Transport, Energy and Infrastructure	30	5	0	1	0	3	39
Treasury and Finance	2	5	2	2	0	0	11
Water, Department for	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>439</b>

5. Workforce information is regularly published on the Office for Public Employment and Review website.

#### AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION

**245 Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (13 July 2011) (First Session). With respect to 2011-12 Budget Paper 4—Volume 3, p136, Sub-program 3.4—

How much government funding has been invested in the Australian Centre for Social Innovation, how much has been contributed by the private sector, will there be any further government funding in 2011-12 and beyond, and is the Centre now financially viable in its own right?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) exists to identify and support innovative ideas, methods and people to accelerate positive social change. To turn bold ideas into

better lives. Its establishment was a key recommendation of Adelaide Thinker in Residence, Geoff Mulgan.

To help this to reality, the South Australian Government has invested a total of \$6.2 million in TACSI. This includes an initial seed funding grant of \$6.0 million for the 2009-11 financial years and specific project funding of \$204,000 in the 2010-11 financial year. The final seed funding instalment payment of \$2.0 million was paid to TACSI on 7 March 2011.

The government will not be investing any further core operating or seed funding. However funding either through project partnerships or sponsorship arrangements may occur from time to time, as is normal practice with any non-government organisation delivering specific services or projects for government.

TACSI is a non-government organisation registered under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*. As such, financial and operational inquiries should be referred to TACSI.

#### LEE, PROF. L.

**258 Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (13 July 2011) (First Session). With respect to 2011-12 Budget Paper 4—Volume 3, p137, Sub-program 3.4—

What costs were involved with the appointment of Professor Laura Lee?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

In 2010-11 approximately \$60,000 was associated with Laura Lee's residency, including:

- some general administration costs for finalising the residency, editing, design, printing, and distribution of the final report
- a final payment made to Laura Lee on completion of the final report, as per her contract; and
- an additional payment for preliminary planning associated with the establishment of the Integrated Design Commission (IDC), which emerged from the residency recommendations.

There were no costs associated with Laura Lee's residency in 2011-12.

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE DISCRETIONARY FUND

**25 The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport)** (21 February 2012). With respect to the Chief Executive of each Agency reporting to the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, is there a Chief Executive Discretionary Fund, and if so—

(a) what is the fund's allocated budget for 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2015-16, respectively; and

(b) what are the details of all grants provided from the fund for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11, respectively?

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton—Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation):** I have been advised of the following:

The Chief Executives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Environment Protection Authority and Zero Waste SA have provided the following information for the portfolio:

(a) The fund's allocated to the DENR Discretionary Fund budget from 2011-12 onwards were:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources:

Year	Budget
2011-12	\$500,000
2012-13	\$500,000
2013-14	\$500,000
2014-15	\$500,000
2015-16	\$500,000

Environment Protection Authority:

The Discretionary Fund allocated budget for 2011-12 was \$290,041. There are no allocated budgets over the forward estimates as the fund budget is set each year as part of the internal budget allocation process.

Zero Waste:

Zero Waste advised that it does not hold a Chief Executive Discretionary Fund.

(b) No specific grants have been identified; rather the Chief Executive Discretionary Fund is used, for unforeseen and unavoidable costs which are once-off in nature:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources:

Year	Grant Recipient	Grant Details/Purpose	Amount
2007-08	N/A	N/A	Nil
2008-09	N/A	N/A	Nil
2009-10	N/A	N/A	Nil
2010-11	N/A	N/A	Nil

Environment Protection Authority:

No grants have ever been provided externally as this is not the purpose of the fund.

Zero Waste:

As Zero Waste does not hold a Chief Executive Discretionary Fund, not grants have been identified.

#### **PRISONERS, HOSPITAL CARE**

**50 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (21 February 2012). What is the annual cost to the Department for Correctional Services to supervise remandees or prisoners in hospital care, either by departmental staff or through contracted services?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Multicultural Affairs):** I have been advised of the following:

The Department for Correctional Services does not separate the cost for supervision of prisoners in hospital care from other prisoner supervision costs.

In relation to the prisoner movement contract (G4S) which includes hospital watches, the tenders were required to provide an overall price for prisoner movements and in-court management, therefore no individual cost for hospital watches is recorded.

#### **KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**83 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite)** (19 June 2012).

1. Why has the Minister refused to comment on the matter of Professor John Knight since his exoneration by the Coroner?

2. Why has the Minister relied on the claim that he will not comment on the matter of Professor Knight because it is an internal staffing matter for SA Health and that he does not interfere in these decisions, when the Minister made a Ministerial statement to the house on 27 October 2009 announcing Professor Knight's suspension?

3. Why did the Minister not make a subsequent announcement to the house about the result of the Coronial findings reported on 28 March 2011 and the exoneration of Professor Knight?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I have been advised of the following:

I am unable to comment on these matters as they are currently part of judicial proceedings.

#### **KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**84 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite)** (19 June 2012).

1. Why was Professor John Knight not reinstated as Director of the Cardiac and Thoracic Surgical Unit at Flinders Medical Centre and why has his contract at Flinders Medical Centre not been renewed past 30 June 2012?

2. Has a performance review of Professor Knight's work been undertaken since his return to Flinders Medical Centre?

3. Is the non-renewal of Professor Knight's contract at Flinders Medical Centre for budgetary reasons, and if so—

(a) does this mean Flinders Medical Centre will have a cut in its allocation of cardiothoracic surgeons despite the rapidly increasing workload due to the ageing population; and

(b) does this contravene statements by the Government that no front-line medical staff will be cut in light of the response to the cost blow-outs in SA Health of some \$125 million?

4. What are the implications of the non-renewal of Professor Knight's contract on waiting lists for Cardiac and Thoracic patients, particularly patients in country South Australia, whom Professor Knight has assisted in previous years?

5. What action will the Minister take to ensure that the clinical, teaching and research experience, and skills of Professor Knight are not lost to South Australia, particularly at this time of establishing the SAHMRI?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I have been advised of the following:

I am unable to comment on these matters as they are currently part of judicial proceedings.

#### **KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**85 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite)** (19 June 2012).

1. Is the Minister aware of, or has the Minister been briefed about, the nature of the writs served against SA Health on behalf of Professor John Knight and what will the budgetary implications of a successful action be for the Department of Health?

2. What action has the Minister and/or the Department of Health taken against the Department of Health Officials who were involved in the Professor Knight matter and are named in the Coroner's Report including, but not limited to former Departmental Chief Executive—Dr Tony Sherbon, who wrote to the Coroner regarding Professor Knight on 2 September 2009; former Chief Executive at Flinders Medical Centre—Ms Miller, Dr Morton and Ms Howard, who investigated the matter?

3. Does the Minister have full confidence in the SAHN executives and SA Health staff who undertook the internal investigation of the allegations against Professor Knight that resulted in his wrongful suspension?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I have been advised of the following:

I am unable to comment on these matters as they are currently part of judicial proceedings.

#### **MEDICAL OFFICERS**

**86 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite)** (19 June 2012).

1. What arrangements have been put in place to prevent Health Department officials mishandling matters concerning Medical Officers (referring to the matter of Mrs Vera Allan) in future?

2. Does the Minister consider—

(a) the Department of Health has a conflict of interest when determining the future employment status of a medical practitioner who is taking legal action against it for wrongful suspension?

(b) an independent arbitrator, such as the Commissioner for Public Employment, is more appropriate to make decisions in such situation, to

avoid a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest occurring with the Department of Health?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I have been advised of the following:

I am unable to comment on these matters as they are currently part of judicial proceedings.

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**87 Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite)** (19 June 2012).

1. Does the Minister have confidence in the SA Health executives who have made the decision not to renew Professor John Knight's contract?

2. Is the Minister concerned by the Department of Health actions and the damage being done to South Australia's national and international reputation as a place highly qualified medical practitioners and specialists aspire to work, given the action taken against Professor Knight and his reputation is a highly respected cardiothoracic surgeon recognized in South Australia, nationally and internationally?

3. How many other Medical Officers working in the public health system are being subject to similar incompetent and incorrect decisions by Department of Health officials and what implications does this have on South Australia's ability to attract and retain top medical professionals?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts):** I have been advised of the following:

I am unable to comment on these matters as they are currently part of judicial proceedings

#### **MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION**

**166 Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (11 July 2012). With respect to 2012-13 Budget Paper 4, vol. 4, p. 81—

1. Why is motor vehicle registration included in the Premier and Cabinet cash flow statement?

2. Why has there been a more than doubling since the 2011-12 estimated result?

3. Why was nil recorded in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgets?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

Motor vehicle registration is collected by Service SA. Service SA was transferred to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) from 1 January 2012.

The 2011-12 estimated result (\$200.4 million) relates to the period of 2011-12 that Service SA was part of DPC (1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012). The 2012-13 Budget (\$413.9 million) is for the full financial year.

As Service SA was part of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure in 2010-11 and 2011-12, motor vehicle registration collections were not recorded as a DPC cash flow.

#### **EAST TIMOR INITIATIVE**

**167 Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (17 July 2012). With respect to 2012-13 Budget Paper 4, vol. 4, p. 24—

1. What is the East Timor Initiative?

2. For what purpose did the Government fund Puglia in 2011-12 and how much and for what purpose will funding be provided from 2012-13 onwards?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

1. East Timor Initiative

Since 2007-08, the South Australian Government has been involved in the delivery of two capacity development programs in East Timor in partnership with AusAID:

The Basic Construction Skills Training Program was subcontracted by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the South Australian Government-owned Austraining International Pty Ltd. The components of this program included curriculum development and accreditation, a train-the-trainer program, a mentoring process involving SA TAFE staff and basic trades skills delivery through the Salesian Mission's Don Bosco secondary education sector in Timor Leste.

The overall AusAID contribution to this initiative was \$2.09 million, with the South Australian Government contributing \$0.69 million.

Around 500 trainees will have graduated from the program by the end of 2012, with 22 teachers having completed the 'train the trainer' program. Austraining reports that local employment take-up is around 70 per cent, and some graduates have established their own small businesses, including in disadvantaged districts.

The Public Sector Capacity Development Program enhances the policy development, management and technical skills of senior level public servants in Timor Leste through mentored work immersions hosted by South Australian Government agencies for periods of six to twelve weeks.

The overall AusAID contribution to this program is \$536,463, with the South Australian Government contributing \$410,687.

As of end 2011-12, nineteen work immersions have been hosted by seven South Australian government agencies, with systemic reforms introduced to participants' substantive agencies in East Timor through the new knowledge and skills acquired in the program. Some examples include:

- implementation of call-centre servicing standards and a new pricing regime (Electricity Authority)
- staged implementation of an Electronic Management Information System (EMIS), and Human Resource Management system for teachers (Ministry of Education)
- establishment of a mining regulatory system and inspectorate (State Secretariat for Minerals and Resources)
- creation of a database for mapping and monitoring marine species (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
- introduction of feedlot trial undertaken with Balinese cattle, demonstrating increased growth in cattle compared with extensive grazing on poor quality pastures (Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry).

## 2. Puglia Funding

In February 2008, the governments of the Region of Apulia in Italy and the State of South Australia entered into an agreement to provide \$1.2 million each over three years for a higher education and research initiative. This initiative involves Apulia investing in scholarships for Masters degrees to Apulian students in South Australian universities and South Australia investing in South Australian research centres through collaborative research projects of strategic interest to the state.

In 2011-12 the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) allocated the balance of funding commitment (namely, \$692,000) towards the 2011 Regione Puglia—South Australia Awards for Research Collaboration.

The public call was announced to South Australian research institutes and universities in August 2011. From the applications received, eight bilateral research projects were selected (list attached) and recommended by an independent panel chaired by South Australia's Chief Scientist and approved by the Premier.

The \$700,000 government funding will leverage a total amount of \$3.294 million, which includes in-kind and partnership contributions (from research centres and the Apulia Government).

Ninety per cent of the allocated \$700,000 was disbursed in February 2012 and the remaining ten per cent will be provided by the end of May 2013, pending receipt of each recipient's final report.

No additional funding is available for these activities post-June 2013.

**AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION**

In reply to **Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (6 July 2011) (First Session).

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) exists to identify and support innovative ideas, methods and people to accelerate positive social change. To turn bold ideas into better lives. Its establishment was a key recommendation of Adelaide Thinker in Residence, Geoff Mulgan.

To help this to reality, the South Australian Government has invested a total of \$6.2 million in TACSI. This includes an initial seed funding grant of \$6.0 million for the 2009-11 financial years and specific project funding of \$204,000 in the 2010-11 financial year. The final seed funding instalment payment of \$2.0 million was paid to TACSI on 7 March 2011.

The government will not be investing any further core operating or seed funding. However funding either through project partnerships or sponsorship arrangements may occur from time to time, as is normal practice with any non-government organisation delivering specific services or projects for government.

TACSI is a non-government organisation registered under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*. As such, financial and operational inquiries should be referred to TACSI.

**THINKERS IN RESIDENCE**

In reply to **Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (8 November 2011) (First Session).

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

Dr Martin Seligman, a world-leading psychologist whose research focuses on positive psychology and positive education, commenced as Adelaide Thinker in Residence in February 2012.

Each resident Thinker is paid a negotiated fee for the residency, which is paid in agreed instalments. The fee is determined by a number of factors, including the global status and reputation of the Thinker, the length and nature of the residency, the number of visits, and the agreed reporting mechanism.

\$15,281 represents the first instalment paid to Dr Seligman.

**THINKERS IN RESIDENCE**

In reply to **Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition)** (8 November 2011) (First Session).

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development):** I have been advised of the following:

In regard to Laura Lee, each resident Thinker is paid a negotiated fee for their residency, in agreed instalments, which is determined by a number of factors. These factors include the global status and reputation of the Thinker, the length and nature of the residency, the number of visits, and the agreed reporting mechanism. The total fee includes accommodation and travel allowances. In Laura Lee's case, the total fee included costs associated with her assistant.

The \$39,900 paid to Laura Lee in 2010-11 consists of the final stipend payment of \$15,000 for the residency and \$24,900 for preliminary planning associated with the Integrated Design Commission (IDC) which emerged from the residency recommendations.

Payment of the \$15,000 final stipend was previously reported as being in 2009-10, but was actually paid in 2010-11.

The \$24,900 associated with the IDC was previously reported as being paid in 2009-10 however this invoice was caught up in end of year financial processes and was paid in 2010-11. This payment is additional to the residency, but is a direct outcome of the residency recommendations.

**TAFE SA, PORT PIRIE**

In reply to **Mr BROCK (Frome)** (15 May 2012).

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Recreation and Sport):**

The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) assumed responsibility for the Port Pirie campus of the former Australian Technical College (ATC)—Spencer Gulf and Outback from the Australian Government's Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Under this arrangement, DFEEST would assume responsibility/ownership for the site over the three year calendar period from January 2010.

The site is used intermittently by TAFE SA Regional for training purposes and to store some heavy vehicle equipment.

As advised during question time, St John's Ambulance and Port Pirie Radio Broadcasters (TRAX FM) currently lease sections of the site.

The Member for Frome also referred to the alleged relocation of certificate courses in the heavy vehicle mechanics area from allegedly proposed delivery at the former ATC site, to the Mary Elie Street campus car park.

I am advised that TAFE SA Regional does not currently deliver Heavy Vehicle Mechanics (Diesel) training from the former ATC site. TAFE SA Regional continues to explore future uses for the site.

However it does deliver training for the mining and resources sector generally through Port Augusta Campus, Whyalla Campus, Port Pirie Campus and intermittently from the site of the former ATC.

TAFE SA Regional has sought funding via submission to the Commonwealth Government's EIF (Education Investment Fund) Regional Priorities Round to support the redevelopment of Port Augusta campus, which would assist in accommodating the expansion of various training areas, including Heavy Vehicle Mechanics (Diesel). A decision by the Commonwealth Government on the submission is not expected until the second half of 2012 and, if successful, it is expected that the redevelopment will take up to 24 months to complete.

Should the EIF application be unsuccessful, it would be TAFE SA Regional's intention to deliver Heavy Vehicle Mechanics (Diesel) training from Port Pirie Campus and this would require use of the former ATC site.

**MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN**

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development)** (14:04): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Earlier this year, the house acknowledged the central role that the River Murray plays in the lives of all South Australians as a driver of economic activity, as a great place for recreation and family activity, as a treasured environment and as a place with special meaning for Aboriginal people. The house also noted the fragile and degraded state of the river as a result of decades of overuse of the waters of the Murray-Darling Basin despite the efficiency of our state's irrigators and the restraint of our urban water users.

Achieving a Murray-Darling Basin plan that returns the river to a sustainable level of health and recognises our respect for the river system is paramount. Since the draft plan was released in November last year, this is what we have been working towards. We have stuck scrupulously to the science in arriving at our position, getting our scientific analysis of the draft basin plan independently reviewed.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** We have met with community leaders and representatives from environmental groups and the Minister for Water and the River Murray, and I have also visited river communities several times to discuss the draft plan. We made a comprehensive submission to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority detailing 71 recommendations that will enable the draft plan to achieve its objective of a healthy river system. We have continued to pursue this objective

through the campaign to allow community members to have their voices heard as part of this national debate, and we have endeavoured to reach consensus through ministerial council discussions.

But with the final basin plan imminent, it is important that we make it clear that there are unresolved matters on which we cannot compromise. These are:

1. Returning a volume of water to the Murray-Darling Basin sufficient, based on the best available science, to meet key environmental outcomes in South Australia and across the basin—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —with key constraints removed to assist in the delivery of this water, which we already know from the science is more than the proposed 2,750 gigalitres.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:**

2. Keeping the Murray Mouth open so that two million tonnes of salt that accumulates in the Murray each year can be flushed from the system.

3. Securing salinity and water level targets that protect the Coorong and Lower Lakes wetland site—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey, order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —and the river channel.

4. Providing river flows that help to protect and restore River Murray flood plains, such as Chowilla.

5. Recognising South Australia's responsible water use in determining where and how the water needed for the river will be recovered.

6. Investing in strengthening regional communities so that the basin reforms help drive value-adding and diversification opportunities.

This six-point plan to save the river will inform our approach to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the federal water minister and, if necessary, the courts.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

## PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation (Hon. P. Caica)—

Industry Fund—

Adelaide Hills Wine Annual Report 2010-11

Clare Valley Wine Annual Report 2010-11

Deer SA Annual Report 2010-11

Langhorne Creek Wine Annual Report 2010-11

McLaren Vale Wine Annual Report 2010-11

Pig Annual Report 2010-11

Riverland Wine Annual Report 2010-11

SA Grape Growers Annual Report 2010-11

South Australian Commercial Abalone Fishery, Management Plan for

## QUESTION TIME

### EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

**Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why there are 30,000 fewer full-time jobs in South Australia now than there were in June last year when Mike Rann was premier?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:08):** There is no doubt that there are challenges associated with the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —global financial crisis, which is playing its way through—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! You have asked the question, you will hear the Premier in silence.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Madam Speaker, perhaps they could take a leaf out of Malcolm Turnbull's book and introduce the civility that he has called for in the national parliament, introduce that here into the South Australian parliament.

**Ms Chapman:** What about answering the questions?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Well, maybe you could allow me to answer it rather than asking a question and then interjecting within the first two seconds. The truth is that this state and this nation is experiencing the effects of a global financial crisis which is working its way—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —through our economy, and that is finding its expression in the effect on commonwealth and state finances and its capacity to participate in the economy itself. And, of course, in this particular state, because of the configuration of our economy, we are particularly affected by the mining and resources boom which has driven up the Australian dollar to historically very high levels. The truth is that that is having a dramatic effect on those industries that compete with imports. It is also having a dramatic effect on those industries which export—and this is at the heart of the challenges that face the South Australian economy. That is why we have set for ourselves the task, as one of our key priorities, to transform this economy of ours from an—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —old manufacturing state to an advanced manufacturing state. The truth is that the old structure which was put in place—the old industrial structure which served us well for many decades—no longer suits us in the modern era. The Playford legacy of cheap power, cheap land, cheap labour and behind high tariff walls are no longer available for us as a means of running our economy. That is why we have, over the 10 last years—

*Mr Williams interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy leader, quiet.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —taken these steps to transform our economy. The fact that we were able to be at the ceremony today concerning the air warfare destroyer contract and celebrating the milestone that we were there was as a consequence of this state Labor government investing in the Techport facility—as a direct result of that investment in the magnificent common-user facility. At Techport and the other initiatives we have taken in relation to the defence sector, we have been able to attract something in the order of 25 per cent of the nation's defence procurement. So, the process of recalibrating our economy by using the defence sector, just as Sir Thomas Playford used the defence sector—

**Mrs REDMOND:** Point of order, Madam Speaker; that of relevance. The question was about why we have lost 30,000 full-time jobs in this state.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. You have made your point of order, but I do not uphold it. Premier.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Just as the transformation of the economy was led by the defence industry—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bragg, order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —50 years ago, the reality is that the defence sector is assisting us to transform our economy 50 years later. This is at the heart of the question the member advances. She asked a question about why is the South Australian economy under pressure, and it is simply because of the legacy—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —of an economy which was fundamentally based on an old manufacturing sector—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Chaffey, order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —that we are seeking to transform into an advanced manufacturing sector. But I do note that those opposite do not seem to be able to advance one positive idea that could assist us in this process.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRY

**Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (14:13):** My question is also to the Premier. Can the Premier expand on the progress of the air warfare destroyer program and the future submarines project?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:13):** I can. I had the pleasure today of attending the keel-laying ceremony for the first of three air warfare destroyers being assembled at Techport, together with the Minister for Defence, the federal Minister for Defence Materiel and, of course, the federal finance minister.

This \$8 billion project underscores the importance of South Australia to our nation's defence industry and, of course, the importance of the defence industry to South Australia. As I said before, we are home to about a quarter of the nation's defence spend, and this project itself is projected to provide at its peak something in the order of 1,700 jobs and almost \$300 million annually to the South Australian economy.

The keel laying for the first destroyer *Hobart* is a significant milestone in the AWD project and marks the start of the next phase in the delivery of these three warships. The *Hobart* is now quickly taking shape.

The commonwealth also today announced a delay in the AWD project schedule. While on the face of it, that seems a concern, it does assist with a particular issue that was going to arise in that there would be a gap between the end of the air warfare destroyer contract and the future submarine contract without this initiative—

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** This, of course, is going to be important to make sure that we have the skills available to participate in the future submarine project. Today, the commonwealth recommitted itself to the 12 new submarines in the future submarine contract and we'd invite you to speak to your federal colleague to get him to do the same thing. I'd also like to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —in the next—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I don't think it will, actually. I don't think it will.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Davenport, order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** We'll be taking it as far as we can.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Davenport, remove yourself from the chamber for the rest of question time.

*The honourable member for Davenport having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The member for Davenport could perhaps better assist us by using his endeavours to advocate with the federal opposition leader to ensure that the federal opposition gives the same level of commitment to this project that the federal government has given.

To cement South Australia as the home of the future submarine project, the commonwealth took another important step today. It announced the establishment of a design centre for the future submarine project to be set up in Adelaide. This is an incredibly important step in the process. This will allow us—

**Mrs Redmond:** When?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The decision was taken today. The project will proceed and ensure that hundreds of people—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Now.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** So, the project—

**Mr Pisoni:** How many dollars?

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** There are already people working in the design team. It will build up in the order of hundreds of people, in fact, by the time that the project is underway. This is a very important step in cementing this as the home of the future submarine project.

It is clear that at the core of advanced manufacturing capability are skills and capabilities which exist in the defence sector. We are already seeing that emerging where people who have been working in the defence sector are able to work across a range of other sectors. A number of defence contractors who have been attracted into South Australia have been attracted off the back of the opportunities to work not only in defence, but in—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I don't know what they think a day's work is here. They think their day's work is to come in here and shout and then pull up stumps and then swing on the hammock until the next time we have question time—back to the farm.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PISONI:** Point of order: the Premier should return to the substance of the question, Madam Speaker.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** You come in here and shout at us for an hour and then go home and have a snooze. They have got to be the laziest opposition in the history of this state.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Point of order. I presume your point of order is relevance.

**Mr PISONI:** The Premier is clearly debating.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, you can sit down. I've got your point of order. Premier, have you finished? You have run out of time anyway. The Leader of the Opposition.

**EMPLOYMENT FIGURES**

**Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is again to the Premier. Can the Premier explain to the people of South Australia why we lost to 9,000 jobs in this state last month?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Premier.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, order! And you too, the member for Unley, order! You've asked the question; you will listen to the Premier.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:18):** Making, essentially, the gravamen of the same question again in a slightly angrier voice actually doesn't advance the matter. I simply repeat the propositions that I made in answer to the earlier question. We do have challenges about the structure of our economy that we are seeking to address. The real question is: what are you advancing? We advanced seven priorities for the future prosperity of our state.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** They are cogent—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —they are reasoned, they have action associated with them, the last budget was directed at them, but we hear—

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Unley, order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** But in relation to vision and new ideas we hear from those opposite just shrieks of silence.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** That's what we hear.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Point of order.

**Mr MARSHALL:** Standing order 98: the substance of the question. He is not even going near the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Sit down, member for Norwood. I would refer the Premier back to the substance of the question. You're finished? Thank you.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Mawson.

**OLYMPIC GAMES**

**Mr BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:19):** My question is to the Minister for Recreation and Sport. Can the minister inform the house about the performance of South Australian athletes at the 2012 London Olympic Games?

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Recreation and Sport) (14:19):** Certainly we spent a bit of time—

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Unley, remove yourself from the chamber for the rest of question time.

*The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber.*

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** You can go shopping with the member for Davenport. Ma'am.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** We spent a bit of time talking about this this morning, but it happens only once every four years and the results of the South Australian athletes have been truly outstanding, and I think it is worth remembering that. Firstly, I will just take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our very own Matthew Cowdrey at the Paralympics who early this morning became Australia's best ever Paralympian—the most successful ever Paralympian.

He won his 11<sup>th</sup> gold medal in the pool this morning, making him, as I just said, our most successful Paralympian ever. He has won three gold medals in London so far (with the three he won in Athens and five in Beijing) and he still has two more races to go. He has his eyes on another two events, as I said, in London later this week.

I had the privilege of watching Matthew compete last week and I saw him win a gold medal. His outstanding efforts in the pool mirror the strong performances of South Australian athletes at the recent London Olympics. Out of a total of 410 athletes in the Australian Olympic team, South Australia had 39 representatives across 17 sports.

Overall, Australia is placed 10<sup>th</sup> on the medal tally with a total of 35 medals—seven gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze—and a total of 92 medallists. South Australian athletes contributed to eight of those medals, with one gold, two silver and five bronze involving 12 athletes across eight events. South Australia had 23 athletes making their Olympic debut in London, with five of these debutantes returning home with medals—an outstanding effort.

I also note that seven of South Australia's athletes were originally identified and developed through the South Australian Sports Institute's Talent Search and Talent Identification programs. South Australia's most successful competitor at the London Olympics, Anna Meares, claimed a bronze medal in the women's team sprint, finished fifth overall in the kieran, before claiming Australia's only gold medal in track cycling in the women's sprint.

As a result of her success in London, I am advised that Ms Meares has now become the most successful female track cyclist of all time. There were further South Australian successes in track cycling with local riders Jack Bobridge, Rohan Dennis and Glenn O'Shea being members of the men's team pursuit combination that returned home with a silver medal. Other South Australian success at the velodrome included Annette Edmondson claiming a bronze medal in the six event women's omnium competition.

BMX cycling saw world champion Sam Willoughby collect a silver medal and Australia's first ever Olympic medal in the sport. Rowers Chris Morgan and James McRae finished strongly to win a bronze medal in the men's quad scull. In swimming, Hayden Stoeckel claimed bronze as the backstroke member of the four by 100 medley relay. In women's basketball, Laura Hodges, Abby Bishop and Jenni Screen were members of the Opals team that secured the bronze medal.

I also give special mention to boxer Johan Linde, who works for the Department of Treasury and Finance (yet to be a sparring partner of the Treasurer; I think he will avoid that). He reached the round of 16 in the super heavyweight division. The London Olympics was Mr Linde's first major international competition, and I am sure that he has a bright future in the sport and I wish him every success.

In addition, numerous South Australian coaches also contributed to Australia's performance. South Australians can be proud of the performances of our athletes and coaches representing Australia at the 2012 London Olympic Games. The assistance provided by the South Australian Sports Institute and relevant sporting organisations is acknowledged. The family, friends and supporters who helped our athletes reach their goals and fulfil their dreams must also be acknowledged and appreciated. It would not be possible without them.

While the next Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro is in another four years, our focus now turns towards the 2012 London Paralympic Games due to finish shortly on 9 September. The Australian Paralympic team is represented by 14 South Australian athletes. I am sure that I can

speaking on behalf of all members here today in wishing our Paralympians every success in the remaining days of the London Paralympic Games.

#### EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

**Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** My question is, again, to the Premier. Can the Premier explain why South Australia is bleeding jobs at the rate of 1,250 a month since he became Premier?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:23):** While those opposite were fomenting some faux outrage back here in Adelaide, I was in Playford today doing something about it. Together with minister Burke—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —we announced the establishment of the Stretton Centre, a new centre dedicated to creating a jobs hub within the Playford Alive project, a project which is about the regeneration of jobs in the northern suburbs. Sadly, that is a place where they do have unemployment greater than the national average and greater than the state average—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The particular initiative there is to create a centre that will provide skills and capabilities for workers and the business capability for businesses to grow jobs in a region that needs that, making sure that we bring jobs in that region together with the people who live there and find ways of growing—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is a point of order.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Madam Speaker, 98 requires that the Premier answer the substance of the question. The question was all about since he became Premier up until today; nothing about the future.

**The SPEAKER:** No, I do not uphold that point of order, member for Stuart. The Premier is explaining in his terms, answering the question.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Those opposite are keen to recycle their point about some of the challenges within the South Australian economy, in three different ways. What I am advancing is the nature of that challenge—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —and how we are responding to it. We are responding by acting: by developing policy, by making investments, by intervening—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —by doing something that they are psychologically and philosophically incapable of doing; that is, choosing to intervene in the economy. They do not believe you should; they believe you should stand back and allow market forces to throw up what they will. I can tell members that the quickest way to accelerate reduction in employment numbers in this state is to stand back and do nothing. They have no ideas to advance. We have ideas we are advancing. For those opposite, I offer them the opportunity to participate in them—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, have you finished?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I will plough on. This is their work time, Madam Speaker; this is their hour of activity. They go back to sleep after this, so I do not want to interrupt.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. The Premier—

**The SPEAKER:** I was about to refer the Premier back to the substance of the question.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** He is indulging in debate. These are very important questions for the people of South Australia, Madam Speaker—

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. We do not need an explanation from you.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** —and we are getting no answers—

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down, deputy leader. Your question said 'explain'; the Premier is explaining. He will go back to the substance of the question and the explanation.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I can take those members opposite. Obviously it is not available for either the South Australian or the commonwealth government to intervene in the economy in a way we did in the early stages of the global financial crisis. There simply is not the capacity for governments to directly stimulate our economy. What we can do, though, is take those steps that are consistent with advancing economic activity in our state—which we are doing at every level.

We have sought to deal with the particular challenges of the building and construction sector, which is in a particularly parlous state, given the collapse in housing approvals. We have done that in a range of ways. We have kept up our investments in projects, and I must say that we have been criticised for it. We have been criticised for maintaining our investments in a series of state building projects, because that put at risk the AAA credit rating. However, we did that advisedly, because we wanted to sustain the level of our economic activity within our economy.

We also decided to defer the abolition of the First Home Owner Grant, because we wanted to maintain the level of activity. We decided to introduce a new concession in relation to stamp duty on apartments, which is beginning to have an effect on apartment dwelling investment in the city. Courtesy of the planning minister, we have given the most creative and permissive regime for new development in the city for years, in partnership with the Adelaide City Council.

These are the steps we are taking to make sure that economic activity in this state grows, but we are not taking our eyes off the long-term structural issues that are placing pressures on our economy; the need to move from an old manufacturing economy to an advanced manufacturing economy.

#### ROAD SAFETY

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (14:29):** My question is to the—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Just a moment. The Minister for Mineral Resources will stop talking across the chamber, thank you.

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** And the member for Norwood will stop responding to him.

**Mrs GERAGHTY:** Can the Minister for Road Safety give the house details about the Motor Accident Commission's new campaign to discourage the use of mobile phones whilst driving?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:29):** I thank the member for Torrens for her question. The dangers of taking your eyes off the road while driving are startling. At 60 km/h a vehicle travels over 16 metres per second. If a driver takes their eyes off the road for just three seconds to look at their mobile phone, they will have travelled almost 50 metres without seeing what is in front of them. That is enough time to miss an intersection or hit someone who has stepped onto the road, and that is the very—

**Mr Williams:** That's why it's illegal.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That's right. That's right; this may be news to the member opposite, but something like 45 per cent of road—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —crash injuries and 30 per cent of fatalities are as a result of inattention while driving. So, that is the very strong focus—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** That is the very strong focus of the new television adverts produced by the Motor—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. It is impossible for the minister to answer the question with the level of interjections that are continuing from across the way.

**The SPEAKER:** It certainly is; the members on my left will behave or more will leave. Minister.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Inane interjections—it just shows how much interest they have in road safety and saving lives on our roads.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** The very strong focus—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, back to the substance of the question.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Madam Speaker, the opposition is quite happy to give leave for her to table her written answer.

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please continue.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The strong focus of these adverts produced by the Motor Accident Commission is around inattention and using a mobile telephone. They commenced airing this week on our television sets. Humour is being used effectively to show drivers just how dangerous it is to let a mobile phone distract you while you are at the wheel.

The realities of this dangerous act are frightening, with research showing the use of mobile phones whilst driving increases the risk of being involved in a crash by up to four times, with inattention, as I said, being the primary cause of 45 per cent of road crash injuries, and nearly 30 per cent of deaths on our roads. Today, those risks are greater than ever before, with mobile phones effectively becoming mini computers that we rely on more than ever in our daily lives.

Inattention is most prevalent in rear-end crashes, making up approximately 25 per cent of compulsory third-party insurance costs and totalling approximately \$85 million each year. The simple fact is that inattention by some costs every driver on our roads.

Both marked and unmarked police vehicles will also be used to target the use of mobile phones whilst driving, as part of Operation Distraction, and this is just another part of our efforts to change dangerous driver behaviour on our roads, and that is along with the change to the speeding penalties which came into effect on 1 September. These changes reduce the lowest fine by \$110 but we doubled the demerit points in the lowest category. We will ensure that we get speeding drivers who put themselves and others at risk off our roads sooner.

Get caught using a mobile phone while behind the wheel and you will receive a \$291 fine. It is vital that we stay vigilant when driving a motor vehicle, and I implore all South Australian drivers to turn their mobile phones off, take some time out, don't be distracted and get to their destinations safely.

## EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

**Mrs REDMOND (Heysen—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33):** My question is again to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that there are fewer jobs now in South Australia than there were when Labor made its promise to create 100,000 new jobs by 2016?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:34):** Madam Speaker, what I can confirm is that this government is committed to growing employment in this state for the benefit of our citizens, and that we won't be deflected from that—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —we won't be deflected from that task by those—

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Point of order, deputy leader.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** As I said earlier, these are very important questions. This is a very straightforward question: can he confirm, or does he not know the answer? Do you have no interest, Premier?

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. Sit down. You have only given him 15 seconds to answer his question. Premier.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** We won't be deflected by those opposite who come in here wanting to make mileage, introducing their own form of negative stimulus into the South Australian economy. That is essentially—that is the only contribution that they are prepared to make to public policy.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** That is the talking down of the South Australian economy, the introduction of negative sentiment about the opportunities that exist for us within the South Australian economy. I have been open with the fact that there are challenges, challenges which we have to meet as a state, but it is only by having a vision for the future of the state, it is only by advancing policies that address those challenges that there is any possibility of us moving forward. This is what we are promoting for the future of our state and I invite those opposite to contribute one positive measurable idea.

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRY

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood) (14:36):** My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier told the house earlier this afternoon that South Australia has 25 per cent of Australia's defence sector employees and 25 per cent of Australia's defence expenditure, what will be the further effect on jobs in South Australia created by the federal Labor defence budget cuts of 10.5 per cent this year and \$5.5 billion over the next five years?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:36):** That is not precisely how I expressed it. It is 25 per cent of the nation's defence procurement, but it does translate into a very substantial proportion of jobs for South Australia. Just so those opposite do understand the nature of the effect of the delay of the air warfare destroyers contract and the effect that that has on employment levels, it is a relatively small delay in the order of three, six and nine months depending on the nature of the three forward air warfare destroyer programs, and the effect that it has is that across those various projects as they were otherwise going to be able to ramp up employment, it allows one to smooth the employment effect, so essentially there is no employment loss—

**Mr Marshall:** Only you could put a positive spin on a delay.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Well, this is the accurate answer which has been advanced by the defence minister. I happened to be—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I happened to be—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I happened to be standing next to the defence minister as he read in detail from the scheduling that will occur in relation to these projects and, if he had paid any interest at all to his portfolio responsibilities, he would know that a key issue in relation to this issue is the question of—

**Mr Marshall:** Speak to the sector, Jay. Speak to the sector.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The sector—if he had listened to the sector, he would know that one of their key—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Norwood, order! You have asked the question. You will listen.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** If he paid any attention to the sector, he would be aware that one of the key issues they advance is the so-called valley of death—that is, the gap that exists between one project finishing and another project commencing—and that was destined to occur in relation to the end of the air warfare destroyers contract and the beginning of the future submarines project.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The commonwealth has chosen to deal with that issue and also assist them with their budget imperatives by smoothing out the future profile of the air warfare destroyers project in a way which is intelligent, meets their imperatives around budget and assists us in terms of not losing capability. This is not a trivial matter. Once people are laid off their employment, they obviously seek work elsewhere. They are highly skilled people and so they would be lost to the South Australian community if there was this gap, and that is not just simply a matter of attracting new people back into the sector. It goes to the question of the quality of work that is done.

When this occurred before when they were gearing up for the air warfare destroyers contract, they found that the capability simply did not exist in some states. That is why we are doing rework on a range of BAE work that was done in Melbourne because they did not have the capabilities, so it has come back to South Australia because of those very issues. We are trying to avoid that drop off in capability that can occur when a contract does not meet up with another, and that has been achieved through this process. The truth is that, because of the nature of the defence spend and because of the relative success of the South Australian government in attracting that defence spend into South Australia, the effect of the budget cuts by the commonwealth is relatively modest in relation to South Australia.

#### DEFENCE INDUSTRY

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood) (14:39):** I have a supplementary, Madam Speaker. Can the Premier tell us exactly when the final air warfare destroyer will be launched and when the future submarine project will actually begin work? Can he confirm to the parliament what he just said there, that there will be no gap between the end of the air warfare destroyer contract and the beginning of the future submarine construction here in South Australia?

**The SPEAKER:** I will count that as a question.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:40):** I do not have the precise details—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Am I allowed to finish my answer, Madam Speaker?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes. Premier.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** I do not have the precise details in front of me of all of the scheduling of each of the contracts, but my understanding—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** My understanding is that the projected end of one contract and the beginning of the other is in the 2019 period and that is what the federal—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Norwood, order! One more and you will go.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** The 2019 period is an important period for the completion of certain packages of work in relation to the air warfare destroyers contract. This would be the

period when the future submarine project would also be gearing up. The intention of the scheduling and the way in which it has been announced today is to ensure a seamless transition between those two projects. That is the objective of the commonwealth. I think that it is a sensible objective. It meets directly the concerns that industry has raised.

Significant sections of the defence industry have confirmed that it has the very effect for which I have just contended. Significant sections of the defence industry have today confirmed publicly that it has the very effect for which I contend, that is, the seamless flow of work between the end of work on the air warfare destroyers contract and the beginning of the future submarine contract. I know that the shadow minister opposite advances himself as an expert in this area, but I am more prepared to accept the defence industry experts than I am those opposite.

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSIONER**

**Mr SIBBONS (Mitchell) (14:42):** My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General inform the house about the position of the Equal Opportunity Commissioner?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:42):** Ms Anne Gale has been appointed for a five-year term as our next commissioner for equal opportunity. She takes up her new role on 17 September this year. She is currently the Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Affairs and prior to that she was the deputy chief executive of the then department for families and communities. She also served as executive director of the Office for the Ageing.

Ms Gale brings a wealth of experience in working with the disadvantaged, including in aged care and homelessness. She has a proven record in policy analysis and project delivery, and strong strategic and analytical abilities. Ms Gale has almost two decades of public service including in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, human services and the South Australian Housing Trust. This appointment, through Ms Gale's leadership and drive, will advance equal opportunity and combat discrimination in this state. I personally offer her my congratulations on her appointment.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, Deputy Premier. Can I point out she is a Whyalla girl born and bred? Her parents still live there.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** It only gets better.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS**

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade. Following the postponement of the Olympic Dam expansion, how does the government expect employers to support the South Australian economy and create employment when Labor has announced the removal of the Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Development Program grants; the removal of the funding for the Business Enterprise Centres; the removal of \$3 million for Innovate SA; the cessation of the SA Youth Entrepreneur Scheme; the removal of funding for the small business emergency helpline; and the cancellation of Small Business Month?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! You have asked the question; you will listen to the answer.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:45):** All those programs the member for Norwood—sorry, the Liberal candidate for Dunstan—just announced, he has not once recommitted a future Liberal government to reinstating any of them—not once.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order: the minister in his very first sentence is going straight to debate. These are very important questions.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Your Premier is trying—

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WILLIAMS:** —to tell us that you've got a plan. What the hell is it?

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down! You've made your point of order. The minister is aware of the standing orders.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am surprised that after the deputy leader's near death experience—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will go back to the question.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, can you please answer the question?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, Madam Speaker. I remind the member for Norwood that if he thinks all those programs he just read off are of such value perhaps the opposition could commit to reinstating all of them and tell us how they will fund them. But, they will not do that, and the reason they will not do that is because they have no plan for South Australia.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order: this goes to the heart of this government's lack of plan.

*Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:*

**Mr WILLIAMS:** It goes to the heart of it, and the minister will not even attempt to answer the question.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Another point of order: Madam Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** —it appears from over here that the member for Kavel is throwing his voice so it sounds like the member for Norwood and the member for Bragg are interjecting.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Then that may explain what happened on Tuesday—in reverse. Now we will get back to the substance of the question. Minister, can you answer the question?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Madam Speaker, the opposition are convinced that South Australia is a one company town. They believe that BHP is the only show in town.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order: this has got nothing to do with the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you; you can sit down. The minister can answer as he chooses. I will listen carefully to what he says, but minister, please be aware of standing order 98. You will not debate the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I do not want to generate an emotional response from members opposite who make emotional decisions they regret later. I do not want to generate those responses from them now. So, Madam Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —according to the ABS new private capital expenditure in South Australia's mining industry alone, when we are talking about Olympic Dam, for the June quarter was \$199 million. New private capital expenditure for the 12 months to June 2012 totalled over \$1 billion, which is \$141 million higher than the previous 12 months. South Australia is not a one company town. We are not just about BHP. Members opposite admit it—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Point of order.

**Mr MARSHALL:** The substance of my question related to the cuts to the SME programs here in South Australia. I ask you whether you could get the minister to return to the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** You did highlight at the start of your question the Olympic Dam expansion.

**Mr MARSHALL:** I said, 'following the postponement of the Olympic Dam expansion'.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes; so you highlighted it. Thank you. The minister is answering the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Madam Speaker, it might come as a shock to the member for Norwood that SMEs actually get work through mining investment. They get working capital infrastructure being spent in this state. I know that whenever the state succeeds a little part of them dies, but quite frankly this state is still powering ahead. We are still growing faster than New South Wales, the largest economy—

*Mr Williams interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Deputy leader, order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** —in Australia. According to ABS figures, over \$8 billion of capital expenditure has been invested in mining in the state over the last seven years. Now, there are new mines coming on board and an expansion of new—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** You're a one trick pony; that's all you've got.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** The expansion of new mines contributed to capital expenditure over the past 12 months, which SMEs are vitally important to making sure that they get involved in are—I will repeat them to the house—Hillgrove Resources' Kanmantoo copper gold mine, \$144 million worth of total project capital expenditure; Uranium One's Honeymoon uranium mine, with over \$118 million worth of total project capital expenditure; OZ Minerals' Ankata project, \$135 million worth of total project capital expenditure spent on the underground expansion of the Prominent Hill copper gold silver mine.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** After all, you called on us to save Arkaroola—Heathgate Resources' Beverley North uranium mine, with an estimated \$50 million of capital cost; Arrium's (formerly OneSteel) hematite extension project, with \$390 million spent on the expansion of the hematite iron ore in the Middleback Ranges. In addition, BHP Billiton still spent \$1.2 billion on the precommitment work, and it spent \$25 million—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order, Madam Speaker: the opposition has given the minister a fair bit of latitude, but all he is doing now is highlighting the fact that, notwithstanding the mining sector, we still lost 30,000 jobs. What are you doing about it, minister?

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you. That is no point of order. Sit down deputy leader; it is not an opportunity for you to make a statement.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I am impressed that you—

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, you have 27 seconds left.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Okay, Madam Speaker.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Of course, Madam Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Of course, Madam Speaker—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Chaffey, order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Of course, Madam Speaker, the opposition cannot articulate a single policy. They spent three days talking about a near-death experience involving you.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Point of order: the minister is clearly debating.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I uphold that point of order. The minister can sit down now.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order! I don't know what those students from St Ignatius are thinking, but I can imagine what would happen if they behaved like this in their classroom.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### AGRICULTURE SECTOR

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:51):** My question is to the Premier. Following the postponement of the Olympic Dam expansion, how does the government expect agriculture to support the South Australian economy when Labor has announced:

1. a cut of \$80 million and 180 jobs within the agriculture budget two years ago;
2. a cut of \$12 million in this year's agriculture budget; and
3. a cut of \$1 million in agriculture, research and development funding?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (14:52):** Well, partly by pursuing some of the initiatives that we saw outlined in today's media, announced by the Minister for Agriculture, minister Gago—an excellent initiative to open one-stop shops in China to showcase our premium food and wine in the largest growing market in this region and in the world. The growing middle classes of China will have extraordinary demands for our pristine food and wine and our seafood, things which are incredibly highly prized in China. There are serious issues with food adulteration in relation to China, and they have a massive interest in sourcing their food and beverage from a jurisdiction which has a reputation for cleanliness and safety.

This is a massive opportunity—it is a massive opportunity for the member for Light, for the member for Mawson and for the industries. Of course, it is a massive opportunity for the member for Taylor and all of those members who cover districts which have our wine and food industries but also the associated manufacturing and processing industries which draw so heavily on those industries.

So, this is a massive opportunity for us. But, once again, in a similar way to our manufacturing sector, we do suffer from being a high-cost jurisdiction. We are high cost because we pay good wages, we insist on high safety standards and high environmental standards, but they are the very same things that enable us to market ourselves to the world as a clean and safe destination for food and beverage products. This is the agenda that we are promoting. We believe that the future for us is to differentiate our products based on these characteristics to add value to them.

I was recently in the Riverland. In fact, I have spent a lot of time in country electorates in the last few months, and I was very warmly received, not least of all by the local member for Chaffey, and I do thank him for his hospitality. Up in the Riverland, I saw some fantastic examples of people adding value to food and fibre in those areas. I saw the way in which farmers were dealing with the constraints that were imposed on them by having less water and the high Australian dollar; nevertheless, they were carving out niches for themselves in international markets by producing high quality food and beverage. It is happening already, it needs to accelerate as we meet the challenges of the future; that is why we created an agency that brought

all these things together. We now have an agency dedicated to food, tourism, fisheries and regions—all in the same department.

That has been an initiative that's been welcomed by the farming community in this Year of the Farmer and we continue to advance those agendas. It's at the heart of what we are trying to do in the South-East. It's at the heart of what we are trying to do in the Riverland. It's informing the approaches that we are taking to negotiations with the commonwealth in relation to the Murray-Darling Basin plan and it is the future for our food industries in South Australia.

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Members, we have a group of students from Para Hills High School, years 11 and 12, who are here in the chamber now. Welcome, it is nice to see you here. They are from the Treasurer's electorate.

### QUESTION TIME

#### MODBURY GP PLUS SUPER CLINIC

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:55):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ageing. Can the minister update the house on the GP arrangements at the Modbury GP Plus Super Clinic?

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kurna—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts) (14:55):** I thank the member for Florey for the question, and I acknowledge her extraordinary advocacy on behalf of the community in relation to many services but particularly in health where I know she is a real champion of the local community.

I am very pleased to inform her and the house that a new local general practitioner service provider, known as Health Services at Modbury Pty Ltd, has been contracted to provide general practitioner services at the GP Plus Super Clinic in Modbury. The new service at Modbury will start next Monday, with the equivalent of two full-time GPs offering services to the local community. They will replace the locums who have been providing services over the last six months.

The clinic's GP services will continue to be offered from nine in the morning until six in the evenings, Monday to Friday, and from nine until 12.30 on Saturday. I am advised that, as patient demand grows, the number of doctors and the opening hours will increase.

Health Services at Modbury Pty Ltd is a member of a group of general practitioner practices which have a proven track record of providing general practitioner services in the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide. So, the member I am sure will be pleased to know that they know that local community very well. The GP Plus Super Clinic Modbury operates across two campuses at Smart Road, Modbury and Gilles Crescent in Hillcrest and provides a wide range of primary healthcare services.

At Smart Road, for example, the focus is on chronic disease management, counselling, early intervention and prevention services, general practitioner services, public dental services for both adults and children, specialist clinical services, and nursing and allied health, such as speech pathology, occupational therapy and dietetics.

At Gilles Crescent, the focus is on chronic disease management and delivering health services for specific population groups such as the local Aboriginal community, various local refugee communities, people who are financially and socially disadvantaged and children and their families. I was very pleased to visit there recently with the member for Torrens.

These services have the ability to work in tandem to make sure that people get the very best support to help them stay healthy and to stay out of hospital. Since the first services opened in November 2010, the two sites have provided about 31,560 services and they are well on their way to achieving the 2012-13 projection of providing some 43,400 examples of service. Importantly, the GP service provides an alternative to hospital emergency departments for people with less serious conditions and chronic health problems.

The GP Plus Super Clinic at Modbury, along with the Noarlunga clinic that we officially opened on Tuesday, have been established in partnership with the commonwealth government and are part of the state government's wider network of GP Plus Health Care Centres and GP Plus Super Clinics being established across our state. We expect work to start on the new GP Plus Health Care Centre at Port Pirie in October later this year, which I know the member for that area is aware of.

These centres and clinics are an important part of our strategy to help South Australians to maintain good health, to better manage their health conditions and to avoid visits to hospitals where they can. I commend those in my department who have been working very hard to get these contracts in place and I wish the service all the very best.

#### **FIGHT FOR THE MURRAY**

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:59):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't think I was going to get to say anything in question time today.

**The SPEAKER:** You haven't shut up for most of it!

**Mr WILLIAMS:** My question is to the Premier.

**The SPEAKER:** There were times when you weren't going to have anything more to say; you nearly left.

**Mr WILLIAMS:** My question is to the Premier. Why has the Premier breached his own political advertising guidelines with his Fight For The Murray advertising campaign by using his own voice and image in taxpayer-funded advertisements? The government's advertising guidelines state:

Public funds should not be used for communications where the image or voice of a politician is included within the advertising.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (15:00):** I note that this was a contention advanced by the Hon. Rob Lucas in the other place. I must thank him for that because it has led to a small surge in the hits on our website. It has actually been an advantage.

*Mrs Redmond interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Of course, it doesn't, and I would invite anyone opposite to merely look at the website to see that this is not political advertising of any sort.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** It is actually advancing a proposition which was supported by a resolution of this house, on a bipartisan basis. It is not paid advertising in any sense, shape or form. It is on our website. I must say that, if they take objection to it, I have got some news for them—we'll be doing more of it. We will be using social media—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —to communicate to the people of South Australia—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —about issues of concern to them, advancing the interests of South Australians by promoting public policy debates. But I must say that, on this issue, how could there be any contention about this? I am advancing the very proposition that this house passed, on a bipartisan basis. I must say that something like 10,000 views of the site, a number of Facebook friends—it is all very congenial. If you go to the site there are probably 20 clips—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. I take it from the Premier's answer that he has abandoned his own guidelines?

**The SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order there. It is another question.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** No, you can't take from my answer that I do that. Can I say that there has been a—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** What wafts over every now and then is the member for Chaffey saying something about \$2 million worth of advertising in the public relations campaign. Can I say about this that if we get one extra gigalitre of water in the Murray-Darling Basin plan it will have paid for itself, because they are currently on the market—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —for about \$2 million.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** One extra gigalitre and we would have paid for the advertising campaign—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** —and we are asking for a whole lot more than one gigalitre.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### **FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER WEEK**

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. I am aware that it was Foster and Kinship Carer Week last week, and I ask the minister how the government is recognising and supporting the contribution that foster and kinship carers make in caring for young people?

**The Hon. G. PORTOLESI (Hartley—Minister for Education and Child Development) (15:02):** I would like to thank the member for Ramsay for this important question during this week. I am very pleased to take this opportunity to applaud the unsung champions in our community who care for children and young people in their homes right across South Australia.

As members in this place are well aware, there are young people in our community who are vulnerable at times in their lives, and this means that they are being cared for by people other than their parents. There are, of course, many complex reasons for this, but what is critical is that our community provides a caring, loving, safe and supportive home in which these young people can live and go to school.

At the heart of our alternative care system for these young people are our foster and kinship carers. These are the women and men—some of whom are mums and dads themselves—who open up their homes and their hearts to young people who need a home in which to live. I was very pleased that we honoured these people and their families during the national Foster and Kinship Carer Week. This week does give us a very important opportunity to pause and to thank our carers.

As a government we are working to bring our services and supports together around children and families because we acknowledge very much just how important it is to provide every child with the best possible start in life. It is our foster and kinship carers who are right at the front line in providing care for these most vulnerable young people, so I was very pleased this week to join with them. There were lunches, morning teas and barbecues, and I joined them at a very special dinner to honour carers.

I am also pleased to report to this place that, in terms of new information, I was very pleased to produce quite a substantial booklet which has been provided to carers to assist them in their obligations in their role—and they can be complex, there is no question about that. However, I did have the opportunity to meet with about 150 carers, and I was in awe of, humbled—and, I have to say, entertained—by them, given the enormous contribution they make.

I also had the privilege yesterday of meeting with some of the children who are entrusted to me. It was suggested to me by Pam Simmons, the guardian for young people in care, a role which we created and which we are very proud to have created. She suggested that, and I was very

pleased to meet directly with these young people in care. It was a tremendous opportunity for me to hear directly from them, and we had an opportunity to talk to them about some of their issues. So I can assure all members that we are working hard to support our carers and, of course, do our best for our children.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE EVASION**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:06):** My question is to the Minister for Transport Services. Will the minister explain why her crackdown on public transport fare evaders, announced in May, has failed? On 5 May this year *The Advertiser* published an article stating that there had been a crackdown on fare evasion on public transport, that the number of fines issued had tripled and, further, that there were 175 transport department employees in the field trying to catch the fare evaders. That was in May. Today, an article published in *The Advertiser* stated that the government is now planning one of its 'biggest crackdowns on fare evasion' because observed fare evasion has significantly increased.

**The Hon. C.C. FOX (Bright—Minister for Transport Services) (15:07):** The current operation that the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.C. FOX:** —member for Bragg refers to began on 21 August. Just because people evade fares in May does not mean that they are not going to evade fares in September, so Operation Lightning began on 21 August—

**Ms Chapman:** Operation Lightning!

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.C. FOX:** Operation Lightning—

**The Hon. T.R. Kenyon:** It's handy to have a code name generator.

**The Hon. C.C. FOX:** It is. We look forward to seeing its results.

### **GRIEVANCE DEBATE**

#### **MARINE PARKS**

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (15:08):** For the umpteenth time in this place I yet again raise the issue of marine parks and marine park sanctuary zones. Now, for the life of me I do not know what I have done, and I do not know what the people in my electorate have done, or in other electorates, or what the people on Kangaroo Island, particularly, have done, to be slain like they are by this government. At the moment we have a collective between the minister and his department of festering boils on the backs of good honest people, trying to destroy the fishing industry—recreational and professional—in South Australia. In my electorate, it is a categorical disaster. What is happening is that there has been an absolutely orchestrated campaign of a litany of lies that have come out of the department, and fed on by the minister. I think it is outrageous. There are absolutely no figures on impact for individual sanctuary zones within marine parks.

At the back of the Marine Park Regional Impact Statements Main Report published by the government, under appendix 10, there is a list of parties consulted. According to the report, there were nine DENWR staff consulted across the state, and five councils consulted around the state. In Kangaroo Island, which the most affected area, not one person from Kangaroo Island was consulted—and they call this consultation.

The report is based on theory not fact, and contains very repetitive content. If we go back to the Premier who, at one stage, was the minister for environment, he is on record as saying, when announcing out of boundaries of marine parks, that rock lobster fisheries on the western end of Kangaroo Island would be maintained. What a joke. How is taking away 35 tonnes of rock lobster (28 per cent of the KI catch) going to save that fishery? I think it is absolutely disgraceful.

There is only one meeting proposed on the island, and that is on Tuesday of next week, between 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock. How are people who are working able to get to that? How are they possibly able to get to it? Absolutely ridiculous. They are doing the same thing at Cape Jervis on Monday—1 to 5 o'clock. Nobody who works for a living can go. And they call this consultation. It is disgraceful; absolutely disgraceful.

On page 29, the gross value of the state's rock lobster catch in the Western KI zone, according to SARDI, is \$651,000. Locals suggest it is \$1,820,000, and I think they are the ones who would know; not bureaucrats who seemingly have no idea of where they are going.

On page 228, the mortality of Australian sea lions has been reported. Anecdotally, KI rock lobster fisherman, Wally (Graham) Walden, says that the sea lions are far too big to get in the pots, anyway. Most of them have seal spikes, I might add. Under 'Commercial fishing' in the DENR report, it states:

In aggregate, it was estimated that the impact of marine park zoning will generate the following loss of regional economic activity on an ongoing basis:

- Approximately \$12.60 million in gross state product (GSP) which represents 0.02 per cent of the state total...
- Approximately 124 fte jobs which represent 0.02 per cent of the state total...

It is all gobbledygook that is in this report, and it is not helping at all. Also, what they are saying in the report is:

...in the first year of implementation of the management plans the opportunity costs equate to approximately \$7 per household in South Australia.

Let me say to you that the KI figures show \$1,400 per person on Kangaroo Island. You call this consultation or fairness? I call it absolute nonsense. And it goes on, and on, and on. This thing is not going away. People are getting more and more agitated.

Just recently, the minister accused me on the radio of having no vision. Well, I do not think he has any idea of what vision is. He is getting cranky on the radio with people who criticise his department or him at all, instead of being fair-minded about it. He could not care what happens out there. The vision I have is for a strong, sustainable seafood industry to go with the strong farming sector in my electorate, right across the Fleurieu and the Island. But he has no idea what he is talking about there—absolutely no idea. They are hiding behind this claptrap that is coming out of bureaucratic reports, which is most untested and most untruthful, and I think it is an outrageous disgrace. I call on the government to go back to the drawing board on sanctuary zones.

### GILLES PLAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (15:14):** Today, I want to congratulate one of my schools, the Gilles Plains Primary School, for their inspiration and foresight in running a safety expo at their school on 18 September. I am delighted to be hosting a stall at the expo, and I would like to thank my staff and my colleagues' staff for helping me collect a wide range of pamphlets about all matters of issues regarding safety and, in particular, helping to keep our children safe. I know this certainly is a very important issue to the Weatherill government.

In reading some of this material I was reminded of a very special charity, the Alannah and Madeline Foundation, dedicated to helping children live without fear, bullying and violence. The foundation was established in 1997 as a result of the horrific tragedy at Port Arthur in 1996 where 35 people were killed, including two little girls aged six and three, Alannah and Madeline, the daughters of Walter Mikac who, with wisdom and generosity of spirit, started the foundation in their honour. I have had an opportunity to visit that site in Tasmania.

There are 70 schools in South Australia participating in the foundation's Better Buddies program which helps students entering their first year of primary school feel safe and valued and connected to the school community. Designed to help reduce bullying and create a friendly and caring environment in schools, these new pupils are paired with an older buddy to foster value and respect on both sides and across the school years.

Recent research at RMIT University has shown that bullying in schools is a serious problem in Australia as a whole, with about one student in every four reporting an episode of bullying over a period of several weeks and, in some cases, longer. Being bullied can impact on a child's self-esteem, behaviour and their ability to concentrate and perform at school. Often children who are bullied are the ones who demonstrate the most challenging behaviours in the classroom, which of course affects all the children in the class.

It is important that all schools deal with this issue in a caring and responsible manner. The foundation provides support materials for schools and access to activities to foster the program further within the school, with a Better Buddies team being available on the end of a phone during

school hours. The foundation also recognises the importance and impact of cyber bullying, but I will deal with that issue perhaps on another occasion.

I was also interested yet horrified to read that the foundation has just given out its 25,000<sup>th</sup> Buddy Bag to children in emergency accommodation. There were 9,500 bags distributed in 2011. More than 230 agencies, including foster care agencies and refuges, give out these backpacks which are filled with basic essential items so that the children have belongings of their own that help restore a sense of safety and security in their lives. Often, for reasons of safety, these children are taken from their homes, sadly often at night, with little more than the clothes they are wearing, sometimes only the pyjamas they are wearing.

Most of us as parents and grandparents see children as the most important part of our lives but there are children whose lives are surrounded by traumatic events and certainly some horrific, violent circumstances. I want to applaud the work of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and the staff and parents of the Gilles Plains Primary School because I believe that keeping children safe is paramount and is certainly a concern of everyone in my community.

### EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:18):** What shocking news we heard today in the ABS labour force statistics! It is bad enough that there are now 8,800 fewer Australians in jobs, but here in this state in South Australia there are 9,000 fewer South Australians in jobs in a single month, so that means we have seen job growth around the country but South Australia on its own has been wholeheartedly responsible for the number of job losses in the country in August of this year. This is despite the fact that this government on 28 February 2010 made a promise that it was going to create 100,000 new jobs. The exact term used by the government was 'a further 100,000 jobs' which is 'ambitious but achievable', which is what the government said.

What has actually happened since then? Here in South Australia not only did we lose 9,000 jobs in the month of August but there were 30,000 fewer South Australians working full-time than when Mike Rann was premier in June of last year and there are actually fewer South Australians working now than there were when Labor made that promise. There are 2,200 fewer South Australians with jobs now than when Labor made that election promise. There is a clear message for South Australians out of these employment figures today and that is that Labor has no plan. It put all its eggs in one basket—Olympic Dam. A couple of other eggs went into defence, but we heard more bad news about defence for South Australia today.

In the meantime, those very businesses that have built this state up over the last 30, 40, 50 years, the small business sector here in South Australia, have been left hanging and have become tax collectors for this government, in the highest taxing state in the nation. We have to remember that taxes for small businesses, particularly regressive state government taxes, are a much bigger part of a small business's turnover than of the big businesses that the government has been telling us are coming to South Australia for the last 10 years.

Two election promises, two election wins on the promise of the Olympic Dam expansion and a new economy here in South Australia. There is no new economy in South Australia. It is interesting that, whenever we have bad unemployment figures, those opposite, those in the government, will refer to the Olsen-Brown years compared to the Rann-Weatherill years. Let us just have a look that comparison.

In December 1993—remember that? That is when the state was absolutely broke after the State bank collapse—there were 79,100 South Australians out of work. That is 11 per cent of those living in South Australia in the workforce who could not find a job. By March 2002, when this government came to office, there were only 52,000—27,100 South Australians taken off the unemployment queue under the Brown-Olsen Liberal government. That is 3,387 South Australians a year who were found jobs and taken off the unemployment queue under the Liberals.

What do we have as a comparison here in South Australia? In March 2002 when this government came to office, 52,000 South Australians were unemployed. As of today there are 49,700 South Australians unemployed, just 2,300 South Australians taken off the job queue in 10 years, or 230 per year. What was the Liberal figure? It was 3,387 jobs per year—3,387 South Australians taken off the unemployment queue in the Liberal term, compared to 230 per year under Labor. This is a true comparison of where this government is going. It is interesting where it has taken us and where we are heading under this government.

It is interesting that the government said the initiative of 100,000 new jobs is going to be great for women in the workforce, for women's participation. There were 20,500 women unemployed when Labor made that announcement 2½ years ago. There are now 22,000 women unemployed. If you look at the number of men, there are 2,100 more men unemployed now than women unemployed. I am sure that nobody who was listening to the government at that time thought that growth in women's employment would be at the expense of men's employment; but both sexes have lost jobs under this government.

Time expired.

### EXERCISE BOSS LIFT

**Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (15:23):** I rise today to speak about a valuable journey I had the opportunity and honour of participating in during the winter break. Together with Nick Champion, the federal member for Wakefield, I had the privilege of travelling to the Solomon Islands to participate in Exercise Boss Lift, which the defence reserve support division of the Department of Defence coordinates. This exercise is structured to allow community business employers to visit their employee reservists on duty in the region, and allowed me to see firsthand the benefits of the valuable work of Australian defence personnel and the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

As a piece of background for members here, Operation ANODE is the name of the Australian Defence Force contribution to the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). RAMSI's assistance is known as Operation Helpem Fren—Pidgin for 'helping friend'. Helping friends is exactly what I witnessed during my time with our servicemen and women.

I saw a group of professional and caring individuals, who are striving against all odds to provide safety and help, rebuild an important local nation and its people in need. Despite the domestic criticism and debates we have in this country on the subject of regional intervention and aid, especially when military personnel are involved, I was happy to see first-hand the benefits of our nation building programs for the people most in need on the ground in the Solomon Islands.

RAMSI's primary mission is to assist the government of the Solomon Islands in the maintenance of security, law and justice, economic governance and improving the machinery of government, all things we sometimes take granted in this nation. Imagine living with unexploded World War II bombs and ordnances in your backyard. This is but one of the areas the Australian defence personnel are assisting local people with. This combined task force rotation was deployed under the ANODE leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Campbell Smith, a man of dedication to his mission, a man with a dry sense of humour, which is often most helpful, considering it is a pressure filled environment in the Solomon Islands.

The peacekeeping component of RAMSI is comprised of personnel from four different troop nations: Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. The main task for the peacekeeping component is to be prepared to respond to incidents beyond the capabilities of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force and the RAMSI's multi-led Participating Police Force.

This combined task force consists of around 160 personnel of which about 115 reserve and full-time troops are involved from either the 9<sup>th</sup> Brigade or other ADF units. This is commanded by the earnest and experienced Adelaidean Brigadier Craig McCarthy, who I was the guest of during my time in the Solomon Islands. Some of the reservists employers that visited the troops on the ground were from Adelaide and included people from Visy, Bendigo Bank, RAA, Bernie Lewis Home Loans, SAPOL, the Department of Environment, Flinders Medical Centre, A&E, and the Australian Federal Police.

On my return I have spoken to many veteran and community organisations about supporting South Australian reservists on duty in the Solomon Islands and throughout the region in their workplaces and their community. Last year I spoke to local businesses in Taylor about supporting our troops with care packages and messages of support. I look forward to continuing this domestic support in the lead up to the Christmas season as more people head overseas to serve our nation. This is a time when Australian personnel and reservists are separated from their families and are striving to provide help for those most in need in the world and displaying the very best of Australian society's values.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARE EVASION

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:27):** Yesterday, I felt some sympathy for the Minister for Transport Services in her having to swallow the bitter pill on behalf of the government and debate a

bill to fix up a monumental stuff-up in the Department of Transport. That sympathy, I have to say, evaporated when I picked up the paper, *The Advertiser*, this morning to see that the minister had announced that she was going to conduct a major crackdown on the 300,000 people who have been disclosed in the previous 12 months as having failed to pay their fare on public transport at the cost of some \$3 million a year to the bottom line, and it was going to be executed by her.

This crackdown was going to be the response to this apparent understanding that this had occurred and that there had been a major problem, and that she was going to initiate sufficient measures to make sure this did not happen again. One of them was to corral all of the people on an on-the-spot checking basis as they go off the bus, including all of the law-abiding citizens who paid their ticket, so they could do a check to find these offending people who either cannot or will not or can but do not pay their fares when they get onto our public transport.

Let's be clear about this: that in itself would not have been a bad thing except for two things. One is that this government had done nothing about this issue of fare evasion until the chronic situation that we now have with public transport in the state had been publicly disclosed over the last few months. One is a massive reduction in patronage. Millions fewer passengers are travelling on public transport since this minister has taken over the responsibility of this portfolio. There has been a massive lack of confidence demonstrated by people, with their feet, in not using public transport, an important service in the state for lots of reasons which are well known to other members.

The mass exodus of patronage was bad enough to the bottom line. Jack Snelling must have been turning in his sleep and having nightmares about what was happening over in the transport department, with this massive loss, when they are putting in billions of dollars, some of which they have cancelled (about \$1 billion worth in the last budget).

A lot of taxpayers' money is going into public transport to meet the need of what is less than 10 per cent of the population who use it. Nevertheless it is an important public service. In the last few years particularly, hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into the development of public transport to encourage more people to use it, and what do we find? We have a lot fewer people using the service under this transport minister, and those who are still travelling on the smelly, late, unclean, unlit, lack of security public transport services have repeatedly complained about the service under her watch. We find, in fact, that fewer people are using it, and we have fewer of them paying. What does the minister do? Her answer is to go to *The Advertiser* with the story today to say, 'I am going to have a crackdown on this. We are going to have Operation Lightning,' or however she described it in question time today. Lightning! Operation light bulb at this point.

The second aspect I confirmed today is that it was not only known to the department and the minister, back on 11 May, that the minister sold a story to *The Advertiser* telling them that she was having a crackdown when it was disclosed that the public transport fare evasion was clearly a problem. In fact, she trotted out this story that she had trebled the expiation notices that were going to be issued from something like 84 up to 284. Big deal! We have 300,000 people who are not paying their fare on our public transport, and the minister's action was that she would issue more expiation notices.

According to this article, apparently 12 people to date have been identified as repeat offenders to be considered for exclusion orders. Where has this minister been! Twelve out of 300,000 people who are refusing to pay on buses. Some of them apparently cannot; they cannot even operate the machines, they are not working, whatever. Some of them do not, because we will always have the scammers. But most of them can clearly pay but they have learnt under this government, under this level of mismanagement, that they can get on a bus, tram or a train—

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Wright):** The member's time has expired.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** —and they do not have to pay; it is optional.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Wright):** Thank you.

#### **SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

**The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (15:33):** This is a bit of a sad grievance in that I have been reading *Hansard* of the New Zealand parliament. I guess there are only certain sort of people who would read *Hansard* from other places. I have been really impressed with some of the debates, particularly with regard to the Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Bill first reading, which was introduced by Louisa Wall, a Labor member of the New Zealand parliament. What drew me to

this *Hansard* were comments from Prime Minister John Key. I do not believe we are related; that is another story. The Right Honourable Prime Minister, John Key, said:

My view has been that, if two gay people want to get married, then I can't see why that would undermine my marriage to Bronagh.

Although he has qualified his support for Louisa Wall's bill, he has made his position clear and voted, in the first reading, I was pleased to see, to support the bill.

One of the issues that has been raised with me, which I think is one that needs to be looked at with regard to marriage equality, is where do faith organisations fit should we have such a bill in state parliament and certainly in federal parliament. In her first reading speech, Louisa Wall said:

What my bill does not do is require any person or Church to carry out a marriage if it does not fit with the beliefs of the celebrant or the religious interpretation a Church has. Section 29 of the Marriage Act remains in place and makes it clear that once a marriage licence is obtained by a couple, it does not oblige a minister or celebrant to marry that couple. That is the situation now and nothing will change.

I must say that this is the position that I hold as well. I think it is really important for parliament, and then eventually the state, not to discriminate against people on the basis of their gender or sexuality or transexuality, but I do not believe that this is something that should be forced on faith organisations, and I particularly refer to churches. I think it is up to those faith organisations to sort out what their position is with regard to marriage equality and for the people in that particular organisation to bring those changes if they are supported by a majority of people.

The other thing that is interesting about the New Zealand legislation is that some of the anomalies that we have here with regard to adoption and also certification, like birth certificates and all the rest of it, are covered by the New Zealand legislation and there are also provisions for where a person actually changes their gender—is a transgender person—to make sure that that situation is acknowledged in the legislation.

It has been very interesting, as I said, and, in my case, it is probably sad that I am reading another parliament's *Hansard*, but I was also very impressed by the different views that were brought. Not everybody, obviously, supported the first reading, even though there was a majority of I think 78 votes to 40. Issues of concern were raised, particularly by people from the New Zealand First Party and some members of the National Party, but because this is a conscience issue in the New Zealand parliament, it meant that people had the opportunity to say what their own views were and what the views were of their particular electorate and, to me, this seems to be a very good model.

The only thing that annoys me is that the New Zealanders keep beating us all the time in social reform. While it is most admirable, I think that in South Australia we need to pull up our socks and make sure that we become leaders in social change instead of following the New Zealanders.

#### **EMPLOYEE OMBUDSMAN**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (15:38):** I move:

That pursuant to section 58 of the Fair Work Act 1994, the nominee of this house to the panel to consult with the Minister for Industrial Relations regarding the appointment to the position of Employee Ombudsman be the member for Mitchell.

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:40):** On the basis of the advice provided, I indicate that the opposition is prepared to support that nomination as moved by the minister.

Motion carried.

#### **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSIONER**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (15:40):** I move:

That pursuant to section 34 of the Fair Work Act 1994, the nominee of this house to the panel to consult with the Minister for Industrial Relations regarding the appointment to the position of commissioner to the Industrial Relations Commission of South Australia be the member for Mitchell.

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:41):** I presume that I am supporting this in the same way as I did previously. I indicate opposition support.

Motion carried.

### **STATUTES AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (TAFE SA CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL**

The Legislative Council agreed to grant a conference as requested by the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council named the hour of 3.30pm on Wednesday 19 September 2012 to receive the managers on behalf of the House of Assembly at the Plaza Room on the first floor of the Legislative Council.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (15:42):** I move:

That a message be sent to the Legislative Council agreeing to the time and place appointed by the council.

Motion carried.

### **PAST ADOPTION PRACTICES**

Adjourned debate on motion of the Premier:

That this house recognises that the lives of many members of the South Australian community have been adversely affected by adoption practices which have caused deep distress and hurt, especially for mothers and their children, who are now adults.

We recognise that past adoption practices have profoundly affected the lives of not only these people but also fathers, grandparents, siblings, partners and other family members.

We accept with profound sorrow that many mothers did not give informed consent to the adoption of their children.

To those mothers who were denied the opportunity to love and care for their children, we are deeply sorry.

We recognise that practices of our past mean that there are some members of our community today who remain disconnected from their families of origin.

To those people adopted as children who were denied the opportunity to be loved and cared for by their families of origin, we are deeply sorry.

To those people who were disbelieved for so long, we hear you now; we acknowledge your pain, and we offer you our unreserved and sincere regret and sorrow for those injustices.

To all those hurt, we say sorry.

(Continued from 18 July 2012.)

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg) (15:42):** I rise to speak on this motion only to mention two things. This is a motion which the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Morialta spoke to at the time of a special sitting (in fact, it was the only item of business) in July. They admirably put the basis upon which a formal statement of apology was recorded and which, I would hope, will be unanimously passed by this parliament to recognise the grief, pain, hardship and legacy of a policy in respect of past adoption practices, in particular that meant that many pregnant, unmarried women in previous decades had not been given the appropriate care and respect they needed, and in some cruel and unhappy circumstances had even been coerced to give up children for adoption.

Times have changed. Removal of babies, often immediately after birth without any opportunity even to view or to hold the baby by the mother—or indeed the father if known or present—is one which is long past. However, this motion is to recognise the long-term anguish and suffering of the people affected by this practice, and the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Morialta, I think, admirably set out and covered not only examples of this but also the circumstances and the extent of which the legacy of this practice has extended and affected adversely the lives of many South Australians.

I will not traverse those, but I do want to say two things. One is that I think that in this process the member for Morialta has been unfairly overlooked in recognising the work he did in bringing this matter to the attention of the parliament. On the day before this motion, in similar terms and advanced by the member for Morialta, was to be debated, the government—in particular, the Premier—came out and announced that this would be an initiative of his government, to have a motion before the house for this recognition.

I think that is churlish at best, and incredibly selfish and in bad taste at worst. I think this is an issue that every member in the house has been touched by—either personally or through a relative, friend or neighbour—and I do not in any way doubt that the passage of this motion will have anything other than the complete and 100 per cent support of every member of this house. Yet the government, on such a sensitive issue, has to be so desperate to gain attention for itself that it has acted in a manner to prevent the member for Morialta proceeding with the motion and being given the due credit and recognition that he deserves.

The second matter I want to talk about is this. I would have liked the opportunity, as a member of this house, to speak on this matter in July. However, there was a new regime of practice being offered by the government—I would suggest being imposed on this parliament—which was that we would resume for a day, on a day the government had apparently invited persons adversely affected by this, and indeed those who had been very strong in lobbying for this type of recognition not just in our parliament but around the country, to be present. It was convenient for all those invited that we debate it on a particular day.

In fairness to any South Australian who has subject matter before this parliament that is pertinent to their portfolio, interest, aspiration or particular grievance, I think it is important that we try to fit in and accommodate that. I have no problem with that; it is a reasonable courtesy to those who have been successful in advocating a particular reform—in this case the passage of a motion in the parliament as a means recognition. Yet on this occasion the government had determined that we would resume on that day, we would all come back to parliament, and there would only be one or two speakers. In this instance, and quite properly, it was the lead speaker and seconder—namely the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—and, in some acknowledgement to him, the member for Morialta, who was our shadow minister covering these issues but who had, in particular been the architect of the original motion, who were allowed to speak.

When I say allowed to speak, the government will say, 'Look, we give notice on these things that this is a process we have in mind, that we would invite the Leader of the Opposition to speak and so forth, so this was all agreed.' However, it is agreed by imposition. The government sets the agenda in this house, and I think it was quite inappropriate to have acquiesced into a program of debating the motion on that day by only a few speakers, then adjourning the motion to accommodate a morning tea that was scheduled for the stakeholders and those who are present.

I have no problem about the morning tea. Have any kind of celebratory event—I totally support that, I think was an excellent idea of the Premier. However, it should not have impeded the passage, the full determination of this matter, on that day in July, so that the resolution could be passed in the presence of those most aggrieved, and they would be able to celebrate the passage of the motion itself. That could have occurred. But no, the Premier has to set an agenda that suits him and his public presentation of getting all of the glory of such a moment.

That is what this is about, and that is what I think is so hurtful, in a debate so serious as this, so important, and so very special to the people who have been adversely affected, that they should be used as some pawn or puppet in the program that suits the Premier. I think that is unconscionable, and I think that it should never again be repeated in this house.

When we have an opportunity to celebrate the passage of something that will clearly have unanimous support, it should be allowed to occur and, as best we can, we should accommodate celebrations around that, allowing those who might be invited to attend to rejoice in that celebration. Full marks for all the arrangements for that; however, absolute condemnation for the Premier in trying to (a) take the big credit for this, and (b) then so orchestrating the management of the passage of this motion to suit his own means, way above the parliament and the people of South Australia.

**Ms THOMPSON (Reynell) (15:51):** I would like to return to the topic of the forced adoptions of children and the apology that was made to them in this house before the winter break. I want to commend both the Premier and the minister on their speeches. I thought they covered the items brilliantly, with great diplomacy and tact. I also want to commend the member for Morialta for sharing his personal experience of the issue of the adoption of children.

This is a very complicated issue, and I was pleased that the minister, in the time of preparation of the apology, invited all of us and the public at large to make contributions to what might be the final form of the words expressed, and also to the comments made in the house on that day.

I want to particularly commend Belinda Marsden, who I understand was the wordsmith who crafted those very finely balanced words of apology. The reason they need to be finely balanced is because the issue is incredibly complicated, and so many different people came at the topic from so many different perspectives.

I contacted the manager of Coolock House, a Centacare facility for young mothers in our community, which is in my electorate. These young mothers who are now being supported would have, in many years past, had their children removed from them. The manager was very interested in participating by making a contribution to the discussion, so she invited me around that very same day to have a meeting with her staff. The staff met before my arrival to canvass some of the issues. So, what I am reporting now is what came from the manager and staff of Coolock House, who are directly connected with the issue as it is in today's world, and therefore reflect very closely on what has happened in the past.

The main point that they wanted to make was that very few participants in the process had a genuine choice. They all played a role in meeting society's expectations. Every journey was different, but together they made a very sad pathway. The Coolock House people wanted it recognised that all participants probably thought they were doing the right thing, and they want all parties recognised: the mother especially, the father (if relevant), and the child.

They also see that the child's grandparents may be feeling extreme guilt, especially in light of recent publicity. Did they do enough for their child? Should they have been more forgiving or accommodating? They also thought they were doing the right thing for everybody concerned. How many adoptive parents now feel guilty that they had the joy of a child through the continuing anguish of others? We have to consider their ongoing feelings as well in consideration of this matter.

The Coolock House people talked particularly about the phrase, 'This was dishonouring motherhood.' They spoke of the long-term impact on the mother, as well as the feelings of deep loss. Many would have been traumatised by going to hospital for subsequent births, thus diminishing what should have been a joyful experience. How many of them had continuing problems with relationships, as they were always fearful that their child or partner would be taken away? What impact did this have on the ability for them to attach to subsequent children? How much were these children affected by the lack of attachment?

The Coolock House people also expressed their concern for the workers in the system and the extent to which they were hardened by taking children away. One of the workers has sat through the births of two children in situations where the mother knew the child was going to be removed at birth. She said the mother went through labour trying to keep the child inside her rather than lose the child. She found this incredibly hard and was very upset when talking to me in that group and thought that the workers involved would have had similar feelings at times even though they also presumably believed that they were doing what was in the best interests of the child.

Another group that was considered was all the Aunt Mabels who had supported girls who had been sent to them to hide their pregnancy. How do they now feel? This is a very sad period in our history and one from which we can learn a lot. The workers and I also were full of praise for Gough Whitlam for introducing the supporting parents benefit which enabled many families for the first time to have a real choice. It was in 1973 that the supporting mother's benefit was introduced for single mothers not entitled to a widow's pension. The new benefit was payable after a six-month waiting period during which time the states remained responsible for the single mother's income support under the commonwealth/state cost-sharing arrangements introduced in 1968.

Subsequently, this benefit was extended to single fathers and the waiting period was abolished. However, they were all clear that while some might call this social engineering, it was the clear case of a government making a wise decision that stopped a lot of pain and gives us the responsibility of allowing families to be strongly together and to support families in times of need rather than just remove children.

**Mr HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite) (15:57):** A constituent presented at my electorate office prior to Christmas 2010 regarding the possibility of the South Australian parliament issuing an apology to unmarried mothers who relinquished their children because of the attitudes of the times and the lack of support across government agencies in Australia. It was pointed out to me that on 19 October 2010 the Premier of Western Australia, Colin Barnett, gave a bipartisan apology to the women, their children and the families who were affected by unsupportive adoption practices from the 1940s until the 1980s in Western Australia, and it was this news that had precipitated my

constituent's visit and her quest to get a similar apology undertaken in South Australia. I read Mr Barnett's contribution. He said:

...past practices were very firmly focused on the goal of ensuring that the children of unmarried mothers were provided with the best life opportunities that were available, and the prevailing view of the time was that these life opportunities resided exclusively with caring, married adoptive parents. Options for unmarried motherhood were extremely limited, resulting in incidents where unmarried women gave up their babies for adoption without there having necessarily been proper thought and attention applied to their own wellbeing. There has been significant change in both the law and policy since that time, designed to strike a better and more considered balance of the interests and rights of both children and parents.

I think the Premier of WA enunciated the issue quite well.

My constituent, and there have been many stories told during this debate, was relinquished at birth in 1972. She stressed to me that it is important to mothers, their children and their families that it be publicly acknowledged that unmarried women did not give their babies away because they did not want them, but rather because the process that led to adoption was so flawed that the adoption of choice was removed, in effect.

My constituent's birth mother was 17 when she became pregnant. She attended at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for confirmation of her pregnancy. She was advised that it was too late for a termination, that is past 12 weeks. A social worker was called, advice was given that there was no alternative but adoption, and preliminary paperwork was undertaken. This decision was made because the father of the child did not want to marry the mother and her parents did not want the daughter's future compromised by the 'stigma' of having a child as an unmarried mother.

There was discussion at this time of a federal government move to introduce a single mother's supporting pension, but this was denied by the social worker dealing with this particular case, closing a possible door of choice, despite this pension being made available in 1973. I agree with the comments of earlier speakers that this was a pioneering move by the federal parliament, a bipartisan move, and one that transformed the face of Australia.

The teenage mother in my constituent's case gave birth to her baby, which was taken from her in October 1972. She presented at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital three weeks after the birth to complete the signing of the relinquishment papers and was only advised at the time that she had given birth to a baby girl. She did not see her baby, have any physical contact with her baby or have an opportunity to consider any other outcome but adoption.

The concept of this apology is not to blame any government department, state government or individual for past practices, but to recognise the problems with the government policy, the medical system and the values and the culture of the day. I was pleased that in the case of my constituent, she was subsequently reconciled with her birth mother at a much later time and the story ended far better than it began.

I want to draw my comments now to the involvement of adoptive parents in all of this, because I think they are a group who may be feeling particularly sensitive to this debate and to this motion. I am sure that in almost every single case those adoptive parents did what they thought was best for the children they were adopting, loved those children, did their very best to bring those children up, and knowing that those children were not with their birth mothers did everything they possibly could to replace the love and the care that that child needed.

There have been changing attitudes on the question of adoption. While the first adoption legislation in Australia in the 1920s fostered relatively open adoptions, a second wave of legislation passed in the 1960s emphasised the importance of 'a clean break' from birth parents and enshrined the principle of secrecy around the adoptive status of the children. They were to be raised by their adoptive parents as if born to them. This principle was meant to provide adoptive parents with heirs without fear of stigma or interference from the biological parents, but it also operated to allow the unmarried mother, her child and her family to be shielded from the supposed shame of an illegitimate birth.

Subsequent revelations decades later of the history of the treatment of removed children, whether Indigenous, white Australian or the British children who travelled to Australia in imperial forced migration schemes well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century had a profound impact on public perceptions of adoption. The notion of 'coming home', mobilised with great effect by Indigenous Australians to account for their experience of separation from family into institutions or adoption, came to stand for the adoptive experience generally. This concept stigmatised adoptions in general as entailing

loss, removal from roots and pain, while at the same time idealising the birth family, minimising if not shutting out the role and experiences of the adoptive family.

Recognition of the damaging effects of previous adoption policies had burgeoned in the 1970s and the 1980s. Beginning in the mid-1970s all Australian states and territories reviewed adoption legislation and embarked on initially cautious reversals of previous secretive practices throughout the 1980s. National adoption conferences, convened in Australia in 1976, 1978 and 1982, brought together people affected by adoption with professionals and researchers. These conferences served as important for the activism and the agitation on adoption law reform.

Workers in the field began to tend towards the view that children should be with their biological parents where possible. Sociologist Rosemary Pringle suggested as late as 2002 that adoption in Australia had lost virtually all of its social policy credibility. Then in 2005 and again in 2007, in two significant reports from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services, adoption appeared to re-emerge on the political agenda as a viable social policy.

The 2005 report endorsed not only intercountry adoption but suggested that adoption rather than foster care and other out-of-home care might also be in the best interests of many Australian-born children. It also reversed the Australian tendency towards non-interventionism in family matters. The standing committee emerged from its investigations, by its own admission, 'unequivocally in support of intercountry adoptions as a legitimate way to give a loving family environment to children from overseas who may have been abandoned or given up for adoption'. This is contrasted with the negative attitudes to adoption found within the state and territory welfare departments responsible for processing adoption applications at the time. These attitudes ranged from indifference to hostility.

The fact is that adoption in past and current circumstances still does, in many cases, perform a very valuable role within our society, helping many children who would otherwise have no-one there to love and care for them. What is best for the children is what stands out as being the prime and foremost consideration. There are so many who cannot have children who desperately want them. As we look overseas in particular so many unwanted children are growing up on the streets of countries near and far with no-one to love and care for them. I think we need to signal to parents who adopt children in such circumstances that what they are doing is a great endeavour of love and commitment and something they should be forever proud of and extraordinarily welcomed by the children who might otherwise have no-one to love and care for them.

The other group that I want to refer to are the fathers. I had an interesting conversation with one of the families affected by all of this when we first moved this motion in a special sitting. I must say it really knocked me over with a feather, because in essence the story was that these two very young teenagers got together and conceived a child. Pressure from both families and from the system ordained that the child would be adopted. I think it was a 17-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl who pleaded with their parents and pleaded with everyone involved to be allowed to marry and to have the child and keep the child but who were not allowed to do that as a result of pressures from within their own families, as well as from professionals and the system of the day.

Amazingly, the child was adopted and lost to both of them. A year or two later they both married and went on to have several other children naturally themselves and remained happily married for the rest of their lives. Only many years later, they were able to reconnect with the child they had naturally as teenagers. You think, 'This is mad; this is the world gone mad,' because the fathers have also, in many cases, been victims of this whole arrangement of the past. The perception that in every case, the fathers were just fly-by-night fathers who then vanished into the ether, leaving the mother with the child, was not in all cases the case. In many cases, the fathers themselves were emotionally and in many other respects traumatised by the whole experience. So, this is not just an issue for women; this is very much an issue for women and men—for couples and for families as a whole.

The other group that have been caught up in this and have no doubt found the entire notion and process very reflective are the parents of the pregnant mothers and the fathers involved in these unwanted pregnancies of the day. It has become apparent that, in many cases, extraordinary pressure was brought to bear on pregnant mothers and on the fathers by their own parents and their own families to relinquish the children.

In noting that, we recognise that the values of the time (the 1940s, 1950s and the 1960s) were very different from today. We have to be very careful before being judgemental of the parents of the 1950s and 1960s who may have pressured their children to relinquish unwanted babies. These were different times with different values and different systems.

I have heard of cases explained to me where, within years of the unwanted child having been given up, it has essentially busted families apart through the guilt, the shame and the emotional distress of feeling that a mother had been pressured by her own parents to give up a grandchild, etc. It is just an absolute and utter mess, this entire saga. So, to the adoptive parents, to the fathers and to the natural parents of the pregnant mothers, I say, 'The house remembers you, too.'

Looking back in time is a very easy thing to do. Being judgemental of the actions of others, using the values of today to place a template over the actions of yesterday, is something of which we are all often guilty from time to time. In this particular case, it is worth putting oneself in the shoes of the people who were caught up in these tragic affairs and to try to see it as they saw it, in the context of the day. No-one can really do that except for the people who were involved, but for those of us who stand here today, 20, 30 or 40 years later, we need to remember what they were going through.

The other thing I draw from this entire debate is the remarkable gift of contraception and, indeed, 'the pill', must surely stand out as the greatest scientific advance of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. If you could put your finger on one innovation that changed the face of the world, it would have to be the contraceptive pill because it has acted to intercept so many tragic decisions that might otherwise have followed had it not been gifted to humanity.

The other great message in it all to me is the recognition and the rise of women to their full and proper place. We often talk about when women were first given the right to vote, when women were first given the right to be members of parliament, when women first achieved the right to do this or to do that, but surely all of this tells a story of women gaining control over their own life and their own body and over their own future, which I think is a great and grand story that we need to tell our children and our grandchildren in the years ahead.

In all of this, there are two things that we can take away from the debate and from this motion: one is the absolute primacy of children and their best interests and why they must always be considered first and foremost ahead of the parents and ahead of any other considerations. What is best for them must be the decision we make.

The other overwhelming point that rises from all of this is the primacy of love and the fact that love conquers all and that, with love, we can all go forward together as a family, no matter what tragedy has struck us, and succeed in life. With that, I commend the motion.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (16:15):** This apology is for the around 415,000 natural mothers who, in the fifties and sixties, faced such a terrible experience at a time when they were most vulnerable. Government and churches were involved in a practice we have now come to recognise as the worst possible action that could have been taken in the circumstances. The apology is for state-sanctioned legislative processes that separated mothers from their children. Adoptions were forced and mothers who lost their babies to adoption had no support from families, from society or from the state.

Mothers loved their babies. They did not have unwanted babies. Like all mothers, they had very much loved and wanted their babies. Mothers had no choice but to sign consent forms and there was no support for the mothers as the society norms of the day had dictated what would happen. Mothers suffered profound trauma and grief over the loss of their children. It was a grief that was not recognised by most. They had to do their grieving in isolation and without anywhere to turn for understanding. This disenfranchised grief has had a profound effect on all aspects of their lives and relationships, especially with subsequent partners and children.

Studies have demonstrated that the grief suffered by natural mothers increases over time rather than lessens. About 40 per cent of mothers who lose children to adoption suffer from secondary infertility and have no further children. The reasons for this are not well known and, I believe, not yet studied so we can actually learn why.

My understanding of this issue and the need for an apology comes from my friendship with a woman I worked with and greatly admire, even before I became aware of her personal experiences. I owe her a great debt for it is in listening to her and her story and the stories of other

women with whom she was in contact that I better understand the impact of society's actions and the lessons we can all learn in caring for each other.

Reunions look lovely on TV; they do not, however, negate the loss and grief felt by the natural mother. Reunions are an opportunity for the mother and an adult child to perhaps forge a new relationship but do not render null and void the lack of relationship in the past. Not all reunions are a happily ever after scenario and may or may not provide some peace for the mother. To all mothers so cruelly affected, I add my apology and heartfelt desire that they will find some peace from the recognition of their hurt.

**Mr PICCOLO (Light) (16:18):** I would like to speak briefly on this matter. I will not cover all of the ground that has been covered by those speakers who spoke very eloquently about this topic, but there are a couple of things I would like to raise and I would also just like to highlight a case that has come to my attention of a person who lived in my electorate and speak about her experience.

The pain caused to parents whose children were forcibly adopted cannot be underestimated. Particularly for the mothers who were, in many cases, not able to see their child, I would not even pretend to understand what that pain is like because I just do not know. So, I am not going to pretend to say that I understand that but, as a parent, I can understand and appreciate what it could be like to lose a child or fear to lose a child.

A couple of things spoken about by both the Premier and also the minister really caught my eye, and this is from the child's perspective. Quite rightly we have discussed in this place the experiences of those adults, the people who actually gave birth, but I think that one of the areas we need to focus on just as much are the children. I would like to quote from what the Premier said (and I know that the comments were supported by the minister), because I think that there are some powerful messages in what the Premier said on the day. I would like to quote specifically:

Children who are separated from their mothers and placed for adoption have, as adults, shared their experiences of being separated from their family of origin and of learning that this had not been voluntary. This wrong practice denied them the opportunity to be cared for by the parents who brought them into the world—and the opportunity to be loved by them and attached to them...They were denied access which they might otherwise have had to their identity and their history. They were deprived of contact with their heritage.

It is this particular issue I would like to talk about because giving birth to a child or being a child is more than just who you are today. You are really a person made up of your histories. Your identity is formed by your culture, your understanding of your culture, where you come from, etc. In my case, I am the product of Italy—the people who were born in Italy and who lived in Italy, yet I have lived very little time in Italy.

Those sorts of things are very important to children. We form our opinions of ourselves, we form our understanding of who we are in society by who our parents are. Our parents provide us with a direct link to our history, and this adoption practice stopped that. It intervened. It cruelly took away a whole generation of young children and their ability to have a direct link to their past, their history and their cultural values, and we should not underestimate how important that is. Often when children find out they are adopted one of the first things they seek out is their true lineage, where they come from, what were the circumstances of their parents, their grandparents, their aunts, etc.

The Premier made another very important point, and I quote from his speech:

Many fathers were denied access to their children. Too often, as a result of pressure, the father was not even recognised on the child's birth certificate. This is a source of anger for children who now know their fathers and want their heritage acknowledged—

again, that issue of heritage, of knowing, of linking to your past—

But some fathers will perhaps never know the son or daughter who was adopted. We acknowledge the wrongs that led to the loss of these relationships. We recognise that fathers also lost their children.

The reason that I raise those two quotes out of that speech is because it is important that we understand that. It is important in any future legislation which comes before this house that we do not forget that—that we do not deny a future generation of children that link to their heritage, that link to their parents, that link to their grandparents, etc., because it is very important.

I would just like to briefly mention an experience—and I can only do it briefly, and perhaps not do it full justice—of a woman in my electorate, whose name is Heather Taylor, and she was forced to give up her child. Her story reflects many of the things which the Premier, the minister

and members opposite spoke about on the day. The one thing she told me about her experience when she came to see me once (which really moved me) was that, when she was giving birth to her child, a pillow was put across her stomach so that she could have no contact whatsoever with her child. I just think that is a horrible thing to do.

This story has a reasonably happy ending. She actually met her daughter years later. She put her name on the register. Her daughter did come looking for her mother, and it has been a story which has ended well. Fortunately, the child was put into a good family, and Heather actually thanks the adoptive parents who looked after her daughter. It is interesting, also, to note that, despite the harshness of her experience, Heather has no bitterness towards her father who pressured her to give up the child, and to society at large. What she does want to say is that people need to understand that this happened.

That is what this motion is about. It is about acknowledging what happened so that those people can have their pain and their experience recognised and that it is not just something that is gone, passed through history, but to say, 'This did happen.' As I said, the message I would like to provide is that, whenever again we think about legislation or practices or policy in this place, let us not forget the impact that we have on those children.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Minister for State Development) (16:24):** I thank all honourable members for their contributions. The way in which members have come together on this apology motion has been to the great credit of this parliament. The descriptions of the experiences of mothers that have been set out in these contributions have been harrowing indeed. As I indicated in my contribution, these mothers were held to be wrong to have become pregnant, then wrong to have wanted to keep their own child, then wrong for having given way in the face of all the forces pressing them to be separated.

Since this debate began I have been contacted by a number of mothers and other family members who have been touched by these forced adoptions. They have passed on to me, to pass on to the parliament, their gratitude for the acknowledgement and recognition that this parliament has given them.

I would like to thank everyone who has made this resolution, and the ceremonies that attended it, a success. In particular, I acknowledge the Minister for Education and Child Development, the member for Morialta, and all the officers of the minister's agency—and indeed our ministerial office—who played a role in ensuring that this particular apology, and the ceremony attached to it, were successful.

It required some careful management and handling, because emotions are raw in this matter. It is still the case that for some people the apology aroused feelings of hurt and loss, which made people feel angry. There is no doubt about that. To some people this has not been of benefit; but for the overwhelming majority of the people who have been touched by this, I think they have now seen that it is an acknowledgement of their pain and loss.

For many people it has allowed them to retell the story of their life not as being one of wrong and of being a victim, but rather of being someone who has been subjected to a wrong and who was strong enough to have survived. This is very powerful in the healing process for the people have been affected by grief and loss, to allow them to retell the story of their life. The parliament, in the way in which it expresses community norms about what is right and wrong, can allow a person to heal in a much more constructive and effective way than if they are left to suffer the guilt and loss that so many of the people touched by these affairs have suffered.

We have done a good thing here in passing this resolution, and I want to thank all those members who have played a role in it for their thoughtful contributions. I commend the motion to house.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Motion carried.

## ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

### ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK

**Mr PICCOLO (Light) (16:28):** I would like to take this opportunity to very briefly talk about, as part of this adjournment debate, something that the Minister for Education spoke about earlier this week: that is, Adult Learners' Week. My view is that Adult Learners' Week is very important,

and there are a number of organisations in my electorate of Light that offer opportunities for adults to learn and progress ongoing or lifelong learning. We are very fortunate in our electorate to have a TAFE, a university, a regional development association, a number of not-for-profit organisations and the Gawler Community House. We also have two more organisations, which I would like to talk about in more detail, that provide a number of programs for adults.

The first organisation I would like to talk about is the University of the Third Age Gawler Branch. The branch was founded in 1988, and it provides a wide range of low-cost physically and mentally challenging social activities for citizens who are retired or semi-retired. The health benefits and positive ageing of members accrue through achievement and social engagement. Leaders for all the activities are volunteer members who give their time freely.

They rely almost entirely on funding from members' subscriptions, which cost approximately \$20 per annum. None of the members receive any payment for their contributions. They rely mainly on grants for purchase of new and replacement of old equipment. Currently the University of the Third Age Gawler Branch has over 230 members and offers a wide range of about 30 different activities each term, during school hours. These activities range from painting to dancing, language classes and a whole range of other programs.

Some of the groups freely offer their services to the local community, performing regularly at many venues including nursing homes, Every Generation events, Christmas parties, etc. So, the opportunity to give adults an opportunity to learn is very beneficial, and I congratulate the University of the Third Age Gawler Branch on the range of programs they offer.

That is a very informal program in terms of adult learning. In relation to a more formal program, I would now like to discuss the success of the Para West Adult Campus, which is a Department for Education and Child Development adult re-entry school in the southern part of my electorate that delivers SACE to students over the age of 16 who live in Adelaide's north and who have been out of formal schooling for six months or more.

Students over the age of 21 may be enrolled, as long as they are undertaking SACE subjects, or VET certificates that are credited within the SACE program. This year, the campus expects around 31 adult learners to complete their SACE. Alongside the SACE, Para West provides a range of foundation and bridging programs for young people under the age of 21. Many of these students are enrolled under the Flexible Learning Options program. Many of these students actually would not be in education or training if it was not for the flexible learning options available.

One of the programs which has become quite significant is the Young Mothers program—which is quite appropriate, given the discussion we have just had. Since changes made to the commonwealth's income support arrangements for women with children who are at least six months old, the number of young mothers (that is, under 24 years) re-engaging with learning at the school has grown from around 40 in 2011 to around 80 in 2012. It is great to see young mums finalising or improving their education qualifications, and therefore improving their ability not only for work but also in engaging in the community more generally.

I am advised that Para West Adult Campus is very grateful for the state government's support of the proposed relocation of the school to the Elizabeth TAFE site. They believe this relocation is critical to enable a greater number of adults in Adelaide's north to engage with learning and build a qualifications profile that will enable them to benefit from the economic growth in Adelaide's north. The school anxiously awaits the outcome of the feasibility study which is now underway.

The objective of the school through the relocation is to build an educational precinct in Elizabeth that promotes a physically and operationally seamless approach to education and training provisions for adults in Adelaide's north. The proposal has been based on the premise that TAFE SA North (Elizabeth Campus) and Para West Adult Campus can achieve better qualification outcomes—in other words, get more people to actually finalise the formal programs—for adult students by providing a collaborative response to their education and training needs.

They also advise me that the Skills for All program, along with the Training Guarantee for SACE students, are both very significant and welcome developments in assisting adults to gain work. Given that this week is Adult Learners' Week, I would just like to congratulate all those organisations who provide opportunities for adults to learn, and also to celebrate their success.

### OUTER HARBOR GRAIN TERMINAL

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (16:35):** I raise a matter of very serious concern today and that is the damaged shiploader at Outer Harbor. I declare upfront that I have an interest in this matter because I am a state MP and farmer and, as a farmer, I am therefore a shareholder in Viterra. Apparently there was a malfunction of the unloader on 16 July. It was repaired but six days later on 22 July it broke, collapsed, destroyed itself—I am not sure what, as this whole issue has been subject to total secrecy with no photos and no detail.

This \$150 million state-of-the-art deep sea grain terminal is only 30 months old and has had significant government support over many years, so to realise it is badly damaged and rumours are telling us it will be out of order until at least after Christmas is very concerning indeed. I am amazed we are not hearing more about this from the government. I note the answer the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries gave to the question from the Hon. Jing Lee in the other place yesterday. It highlighted the problems more than it actually answered and there were no real assurances there. The Hon. Minister Gago said that Viterra has reported that the breakdown is not expected to impact on grain growers. Well, we know that it already has.

Apparently 6,000 tonnes of grain has had to be moved by road from Gladstone to Port Giles; that is 120 large trucks at least going down the already poor road—and the member for Goyder would know—on the eastern side of Yorke Peninsula which is not designed for or expected to take such loads as this. The minister also stated that Viterra will revert to managing grain exports and use two-port loading. We really do have a problem in that the only two ports that we can top up ships that are part-loaded apart from Port Adelaide (Inner Harbor) are Port Giles and Port Lincoln and neither have a rail link on them, or at least a link that would allow grain transfer from the east, in Port Lincoln's case. There is little or no grain at Giles so they would have to cart it there, and the situation at Lincoln is not clear as to the amount of grain or whether they have the type or quality to top up the cargo from the eastern part of our state.

Also the extra cost of two-port loading is immense. Who will pay the bill? Will insurance cover this or will it come back to farmers as an extra charge? Who will repair the road? Much more grain will have to be trucked to Port Giles. Who pays this extra freight at \$30 to \$40 per tonne? The 6,000 tonnes that have already been lifted have a freight bill of a quarter of a million dollars. There is great concern at the amount of last season's grain that is still in our silos, near the highest demand, at Gladstone, Port Pirie and especially Wallaroo where I am told it is still three-quarters full.

As a farmer of longstanding, it is always good assurance to know that there is maximum space available the week before harvest starts, as the member for Flinders would know. It is likely to begin in one month from now, peaking in mid-November, and we should hopefully have a good year. In two months it will be peaking. There will be no time to do too much but we really want answers to these questions. Apparently SafeWork have been involved with this. Are they causing delays? Can we get access to their report? What happened? Did someone lose the remote control and overfill the vessel and block it all up? Is it as simple as that?

As members know, my brother Max is a director of Viterra. I contacted him as soon as I heard about this and he knows no more than the rest of us. It is an operational matter, no management, he said. He then expressed concern at SafeWork's involvement. Can you as an MP get a copy of their report? Apparently not. Any photos? No. Any explanations? No. End of discussion. It has been very difficult for him as a farmer to be silenced because he is a director on a matter like this. All I know is rumour and hearsay. I wonder if Mr Vincent Tremaine of Flinders Ports would know more.

This highlights a strategic problem we have in South Australia. We only have one deep sea port east of the Gulf. We really do need a second—say, Wallaroo North, Tickera or, more importantly, Myponie Point where the deep water is. The extra costs and heartache this breakdown is causing would go a long way towards building a new deep sea facility at Myponie Point and link it to the rail system. It is a greenfield site and has been purchased for this reason by person or persons and bodies unknown.

This single piece of machinery controls the single most important income earner for South Australia. It is broken and we do not have any palatable or economical options. This issue is urgent and the government is silent. We want at least three of the ministers involved to make comment and assure all South Australians this is all in hand and manageable. Is Viterra really doing enough? Is it allowed to do enough? How many ships have been diverted away from South Australian ports?

So many questions, no answers, nothing. Where are the new owners, Glencore, in all this? Not a sound.

As a state MP, a farmer and a shareholder, I declare we want more answers. I raise this as a matter of great concern. I also hope that before we come back on 18 September we will have good rain across our state; the north and west of our state are very dry. The crops are crying out for good rain. In the meantime, the South Australian government must provide the people of South Australia with a timetable for the completion of repairs for the shiploader at Outer Harbor.

### MURRAY-DARLING BASIN PLAN

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:40):** The Premier's ministerial statement about the Murray-Darling Basin plan is an admission of the government's complete failure to make South Australia's voice heard in a debate that is vital to the future of this state. This is an admission the Premier's so-called Fight for the Murray campaign is a waste of taxpayers' dollars. It is a 'Fight for Jay Weatherill' campaign. There can only be one reason for this campaign, and that is to get votes for Jay Weatherill. It is a smokescreen for failure.

I quote from the notice of disagreement by South Australia's member on the Murray-Darling Basin ministerial council under section 43A of the Water Act 2007 on 9 July 2012:

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) has yet to fully address the 71 recommendations provided by the South Australian Government in its submission to the MDBA on the draft Basin Plan.

There has been little change from the draft Basin Plan (28 November 2011 version) on most of the matters outlined in the South Australian submission.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority must consider and address the remaining South Australian Government recommendations...

In another section the minister says:

The Basin Plan sustainable diversion limits which deliver a proposed water recovery target of 2750 GL fail to meet key environmental outcomes...and meet the requirements of the Water Act 2007.

The authority's response in August is utterly dismissive:

The Authority is satisfied that the proposed Basin Plan complies with the Water Act.

This is another admission of the government's failure. The authority obviously is not listening to this government. The government cannot even get its facts straight with its Labor colleagues in Canberra. I quote from the federal environment minister's statement on 28 August 2012 in reference to the latest version of the basin plan:

This latest agreed document gets us closer still to a genuine consensus position to reform of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Yet today we have heard the Premier say there are unresolved matters on which he will not compromise. The federal environment minister obviously is not listening to this government either. The authority said on that same day that:

any suggestions or directions about further changes can only come from the Commonwealth minister.

So why is this government wasting \$2 million of South Australian taxpayers' money on a campaign that is preaching to the converted here in South Australia? The Premier and his River Murray minister should be camped outside Tony Burke's office, not appealing to the obvious political campaign and preaching to the converted.

Despite this blatant vote-grabbing exercise, I appreciate this government is working in what it perceives to be the state's best interests. That is what the other basin states are doing as well. This government has failed because it did not present the other states, the authority or the commonwealth with a solution-based approach to water reform. All this government wanted was a number based on science that is untested against the social, economic and environmental realities of the Murray-Darling Basin. It is a number; it is not a solution.

A solution lies with obtaining the water needed for the environment without compromising food production, the economic activity it generates, and the regional communities which rely on it. This is a solution the Liberal Party has been advocating from day one. This government did not listen, because it does not want meaningful, balanced water reform in the basin. It wants to derail water reform with a challenge in the High Court that is very likely to fail and will certainly cost the state many more millions of dollars, not putting one more drop back into the river.

## TELEHEALTH

**Mr BIGNELL (Mawson) (16:45):** I rise today to talk about telehealth. I have travelled around the country hospitals in South Australia, and I have been to just over 40 in the past 12 months or so, and I plan to get out and see even more in the next few weeks. I will be down in Murray Bridge and Mannum on Monday and then Strathalbyn and Mount Barker on Tuesday, and then over to the member for Flinders' electorate in Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Tumby Bay, Port Lincoln and his hometown of Cummins. I am looking forward to that in October.

Where I have been going around the state it has been fantastic to see widescreen televisions and cameras installed in country hospitals. It allows people to consult a specialist or a doctor in Adelaide to get some reassurance or advice. It is saving people in country South Australia many, many hours and a lot of upheaval in their lives to be able to consultation for simple things like having a wound checked by specialist.

I was in Ceduna last year and heard the case of a woman who just needed a wound checked. She turned up and presented her wound to the camera. A specialist in Adelaide looked at it and said, 'Yes, that's fine. Come back and do that again next week.' That saved the woman a trip to Adelaide. When you are coming from Ceduna there is only one flight over and back each day, and depending on when the specialist can fit you in, often you have to spend the night in Adelaide. That saved her from having to spend the night in Adelaide, having to get someone to look after the children, pick them up from school, and all that sort of stuff.

Not only is it convenient for the patient but it is also saving taxpayers a lot of money in helping transport people across this great state. We have one million square kilometres in South Australia and vast distances to travel, so the more we can deliver health services to people in country areas the better, and that is what telehealth is all about.

I joined with Senator Conroy a couple of weeks ago to launch the mental telehealth plan as well. The federal government is chipping in \$5 million to help with that plan to provide, again, televisions and cameras around South Australia, so that if you have a patient with a mental health issue they can get on the camera, get online, and talk directly with a specialist here in Adelaide at Glenside or wherever that person might be.

John Hill and I did a trial of this and spoke to a specialist in Glenside last year from Port Lincoln Hospital. The clarity at both ends was superb. We have been waiting for the technology and the broad bandwidth to catch up so that specialists can look at the facial features of people they are trying to diagnose. It is very important in the area of mental health that a specialist can see someone's eyes and without a lag in voice sync that we used to get with the old system.

It's great leap forward, and I want to commend everyone in the health system. The patients are only too keen to take up this new technology, but sometimes when you bring in change it is hard for people to adapt. Sometimes there is a reluctance of people to adapt, but from every hospital I have been to in Orroroo, Boolaroo, Wallaroo, Pinnaroo, Lameroo, wherever I have been in our state, there has been widespread acceptance of this from not only the patients but also from health professionals who help deliver these great services. Also to the specialists here in Adelaide, my thanks to them. As I said, change is not always easy, but they have been quick adapters and very keen to adapt to this new technology. Thanks to the technical people who have made it all possible as well; it is not always easy.

Senator Conroy and I were very relieved at the media conference when we pushed the button and there we had a patient in Murray Bridge speaking to us directly with his doctor. To everyone involved in the telehealth program, I offer my congratulations and look forward to getting out and about in other areas of the state in the next 12 months.

## PAST ADOPTION PRACTICES

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:49):** In the brief time left in the adjournment I wanted to reflect briefly on the apology motion that was concluded at the end of government business this afternoon, and particularly thank the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Education, the members for Bragg, Reynell, Waite, Florey and Light for the contributions they made.

This is a bipartisan apology that has been made in this house and in the Legislative Council. I note that the New South Wales and Victorian governments, and the Western Australia government that was there before us, will be joining with us in making these apologies to the victims of forced adoption practices that occurred over the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In commenting briefly, the response by many of those at the morning tea after the formal apology was moved—and, indeed, through correspondence before and after the apology—has been overwhelming. Many people were indeed touched. I want to particularly make note of one correspondent who got in touch with me to say that they had found confronting some words that I used in my contribution to that apology. As I did at the time, I want to apologise to them for that. I think it was a tremendous opportunity, which made many people feel a great deal better about their own situation—the fact that the state acknowledged that wrong was done to them and their family.

I think it is a salient reminder to all of us to be careful in our use of language. The things we say in this place are recorded for posterity and for all time. I think it does us all credit when we are thoughtful in what we say and careful in the way in which we express ourselves, and I hope that all members will continue to do so.

At 16:50 the house adjourned until Tuesday 18 September 2012 at 11:00.