

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday 7 March 2013

The **SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Atkinson)** took the chair at 10:30 and read prayers.

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

The **Hon. C.C. FOX (Bright—Minister for Transport Services, Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts) (10:31)**: I move:

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

Motion carried.

### ADOPTION (CONSENT TO PUBLICATION) AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (10:32)**: Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Adoption Act 1988. Read a first time.

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (10:32)**: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this bill this morning. Currently, parents in South Australia who have an adopted child are prohibited from identifying themselves or being identified in the media unless they first obtain permission from a court or from the chief executive of the department (in this case, Families SA). Failure to do so can result in fines of up to \$20,000.

While there is no doubt that protecting the privacy of a child and their adopted parents is crucial, the South Australian Liberals believe that it is parents and not government who are best placed to make decisions related to the welfare of their families. South Australia remains the only state in the nation where this gag rule remains in place, and if this private member's bill is unsuccessful, I can tell you that one of the first acts of a Marshall Liberal government in 2014 will be to remove this gag rule.

I know that members of the house have perfect knowledge of all legislation, but for those who are listening on our new internet site, or for those in the gallery who might not be aware of it, section 31 of the Adoption Act, which is what this bill seeks to amend, states that any person who publishes or causes to be published in the news media the name of a child—I am abbreviating the act slightly here—or the name of a parent or guardian, or the name of any party or material tending to identify any one of those people relating to proceedings under the Adoption Act is guilty of an offence with a maximum penalty of \$20,000.

Anybody who names or causes to be published the name of a child who is adopted, a parent, or a party relating to that adoption is guilty of an offence with a maximum penalty of \$20,000 under the South Australian Adoption Act. Section 31 goes on to state that this section does not prevent a publication made in pursuance of an authorisation granted by the court or the chief executive. So there is an exemption and this is the exemption that I am seeking to change.

The exemption currently rests on the decision of the chief executive of the department or of a court. Around Australia the courts are empowered to make these exemptions and I do not propose to change that. What we will be looking at is the exemption being able to be granted by the chief executive, as it is at the moment, and this bill will seek that that exemption be able to be provided by the parent or the child themselves, if they are over 18. That is the point: families are in the best place to make decisions relating to their welfare, not the chief executive of a department.

As to the practical application of this sort of measure, this was brought to my attention when last year members, you may remember, were seeking to enable Chinese adoptees to be able to be granted birth certificates which, up until last year, they had been unable to do in South Australia. Because those adoptions took place in China the Chinese government only provided the paperwork there, which was not acceptable in the way that birth certificates are used in South Australia; and the South Australian regulations did not allow South Australian birth certificates to be supplied because the adoption had taken place overseas.

We were successful in getting the government to change that measure but the parent community was unable to even talk about it in the media, first to advocate for that measure to take place or afterwards to talk about the impact that had on people's lives.

There is a little girl in the gallery who got her birth certificate last year on her birthday and was finally able to have a birth certificate that could be used at her school to enrol her in sports day events and other things. That was as a result of the changes that had been brought. However, her father, Nigel Holden—who I can name because he actually has permission today from the chief executive of the department—had worked for years to get that through. Her father was not able to talk in the media about it either to advocate for change or to talk about it afterwards because this \$20,000 fine and gag rule was in place.

We acknowledge that there has been a campaign for this matter, and I will quote from the South Australian Chinese Adoption Support Inc. website where it states:

The Government Case for Section 31

- It protects the privacy of people.
- It protects the privacy of children.
- It discourages unscrupulous media.

They may all be worthy goals but they are not doing it in the right way. The community case against section 31, as identified by the parents' adoption support group states the following: it restricts freedom of expression; it impacts on parental rights; it is inherently discriminatory; it is unnecessarily paternalistic; it limits transparency and accountability; it compromises the integrity of government; it instils fear in the community; it damages relationships; it does not protect enough from the media; and it has allegedly been misused in the past.

This alleged misuse in the past stems from 2005. Although this provision has been in place for more than 20 years, it only really came to light in the public arena in 2005 when the government took over the operation of all overseas adoption processes from a non-government private agency and brought it within the then department of families and communities. Outraged adoptive parents were told that if they spoke out against this and were identified then they faced a \$20,000 fine. I will mention an *Advertiser* article at the time on Friday, 18 February 2005 that stated:

Masked protestors gathered on the steps of Parliament yesterday to voice their concerns regarding proposed changes to adoption laws.

The threat of a \$20,000 fine for identifying parents or adopted children meant protestors had to cover their faces in front of the media. The crowd called on the State Government to overturn its proposals to incorporate adoption services into a government department.

The process is controlled by an independent, licensed company.

Or it was then. The article continued:

'The change aims to make the administration of adoption applications a smoother process,' Families and Communities Minister Jay Weatherill said.

He refused to elaborate on why the Government had made the decision.

That was in February 2005. The government made that decision, and that is fine. It is now AFIS (within the Department of Families SA) that deals with these matters. At that point the community became aware that they faced these \$20,000 fines and they started to advocate.

One of their advocates, who was then the chair of an organisation East Meets West Inc.—and I acknowledge that there is someone here who was involved with that who wishes to be a mentor for young adoptees—argued against it and wrote to the minister, the Hon. Jay Weatherill (as he was then Minister for Families and Communities, now the Premier). The Premier responded:

The recent House of Representatives Inquiry into the Adoption of Children from Overseas made a recommendation that all States and Territories address the media provisions in their adoption legislation. Recommendation 27 of that Inquiry states:

The Attorney-General in re-negotiating the Commonwealth-State Agreement include provisions to harmonise legislation covering the right of parents to publicly discuss their adopted family. The Committee recommends the Western Australian provisions be the model to be followed.

That being the one that gives the right of parents to decide. The Premier then went on to write, in December 2006:

One of the most significant recommendations of the Inquiry is that the Commonwealth-State agreement on the implementation of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption be re-negotiated. This process is to commence in the near future and the matter of media provisions will be discussed as part of the process.

So, that process commenced, starting in December 2006 through 2007. I can tell you that, on 26 May 2008, the signature of the minister for families and communities for South Australia—then the Hon. Jay Weatherill, now the Premier—was attached to this newly revised commonwealth-state agreement.

In that agreement, it was agreed that the community and disability services ministers would, and I quote from 20(c), conduct 'a review of legislation about the right of parties to the adoption to publicly discuss their adopted family.' That was in May 2008, approaching five years ago, when the Premier signed to an agreement with all of the other states in the commonwealth that they would deal with these laws.

What has happened since then? Every other state has done it. In New South Wales, section 180 of the Adoption Act says that if a person is a child less than 18 years of age, a reference to the consent of the person who has parental responsibility of that child is sufficient to avoid the fine.

In Queensland, section 315 says that you can have written consent to the publication for each identified person if the identified person, who is the adoptee, is an adult—that person—or, if the identified person who is a child, a parent of that child.

In Victoria, section 121 of the Adoption Act is similar, as is section 124 of the Western Australian Adoption Act. All of the other states have been able to deal with this in the last five years, as per the ministerial council agreement—it is just South Australia that has lagged behind.

This bill—the Adoption (Consent to Publication) Amendment Bill 2013—is very, very simple. It has got one effective clause. The clause that identifies the exemptions, currently granted to the chief executive of the department or a court, will be replaced with a new clause that reads:

- (2) This section does not apply to the publication of a person's name or other material tending to identify a person if—
  - (a) written consent to the publication has been given by—
    - (i) if the person is an adult—that person; or
    - (ii) if the person is a child—each parent or guardian of the child; or
  - (b) the publication has been authorised by the Court.

We are taking power away from the chief executive of the department to decide what an adoptive family may publish about themselves, what they may speak about and what they may have their images or names identified as and we are giving that power to the families themselves.

Why is this important? The community case, as stated on the website I identified before. It is a basic human right in a liberal democracy that one be able to comment on public policy without fear of having a \$20,000 fine imposed. It is a basic principle that, in a liberal democracy, you would expect that, if your child wins an award on a sports day, that could be published in the school newsletter without being at threat of a \$20,000 fine.

I will bring to the house's attention an example of another family, who is in Parliament House today, who wrote to the minister recently and forwarded that to other members of parliament. I bring this to the house's attention, although I am not going to mention any of the names involved because, whilst I am sure that parliamentary privilege would supersede the fine for me here, I am not sure how the law would apply to anybody who wanted to reprint it or anybody who might be listening to the publication over parliament's internet site, so I will redact it.

**The SPEAKER:** I would take advice on your first proposition.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you very much, sir. I will be redacting it anyway, so we should be safe. The member of the community wrote, and I thank them for coming in today, having tea and talking to a number of members who came along:

Dear Minister,

I object strongly to your inaction and the inability of your government to sort out a simple problem in 8 years. This has been on your agenda since my daughter was adopted.

My daughter [name redacted] is now 9 years old, and is adopted from China. She is in the running to be in the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang chorus, next month. If she gets this position, she will be in the media spotlight, and obviously my husband and I will be there to support her at all times. When asked if she is from China, adopted, or did I have a fling with the postman, I cannot answer the truth of the matter. It is illegal for me to mention that she is adopted as I will face a \$20,000 fine.

While it is imperative to have a media gag on all children without parental permission, regardless of race, or parents, I feel that we as adoptive parents, have an additional gag that is impossible to deal with. If I want to announce to the world that my daughter was born in China, I should be allowed to do so. She is proud of that fact and should be allowed to keep her pride.

As these children get older, this will become a more common event and it needs to be lifted now. I look forward to hearing from you and the department when the Private Members Bill is introduced this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Sincerely—

The names are redacted.

I think that that states the case pretty well. The fact of the matter is that this morning a number of adoptive parents and children and, indeed, adoptees, who are now adults, came in to the Terrace Room, and I thank them for coming and talking to members. There was representation from the government through the member for Ashford, and I thank her for coming along. A number of members of the opposition—the Hon. Tammy Franks, the Hon. Kelly Vincent and staff from the Hon. Ann Bressington's office—were there to speak to these families, and I thank them all for doing so.

I hope that other members will take very seriously the comments I have made in introducing this bill this morning and think very hard about whether there is any way that we can justify maintaining this onerous imposition and withholding freedom of speech from these families. One of the parents this morning made the comment that if they are out and about in public with their daughter, who is from China, clearly people can see that the mother and father are not the birth parents; yet, they are unable to explain it.

One father who came along talked about his utter disappointment, and I am being careful about how I phrase this. There is a significant community arts festival for which his daughter is pictured in publicity material, yet he is not allowed to be in that photo because the legislation is written in such a way that the publication of that photo would obviously identify him as the father, an adoptive father, and, therefore, he faces a fine because he did not get permission from the chief executive or a court before appearing in that photo. *The Advertiser* had to withdraw that photo. Thankfully, his daughter still appears in all of the publications, but they have to be very clear that in naming her, if they ever do, she is not named as an adoptive daughter.

This bill is long overdue. It has been sought since February 2005, and it has allegedly been under consideration by the government, according to the Premier's letter of December 2006. This bill is short and simple. It contains one significant clause for the government's consideration: removing the right for the chief executive to decide whether an individual should be allowed to speak out and granting that right to the individual and the family. I hope that the government will not take too long in considering it so that we may deal with this legislation and this appalling situation can be rectified. This bill is necessary. It will bring us into line with the rest of the country, and it will give back the right of free speech and public comment to a group of South Australians who have been denied that right for far too long. I commend the Adoption (Consent to Publication) Amendment Bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

#### **ELECTRICITY (EARLY TERMINATION) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 21 February 2013.)

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (10:49):** I move:

That this order of the day be discharged.

Motion carried; order of the day discharged.

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (ANTI-BULLYING) BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 November 2012.)

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (10:55):** I have had a look at the *Hansard* and where my speech was broken I was talking about the government being committed to tackling the problem of bullying. I will go on to say that the interagency round table on bullying in the workplace was

established in 2005 with the aim of drawing together the experience of non-government and government agencies currently involved in the provision of advocacy, information and advice, or investigation of workplace bullying. The resulting Stop Bullying in SA initiative provides practical advice to both employees and employers, and advocates on the stamping out of bullying in South Australian workplaces.

In early 2011, the then minister for education (the Hon. Jay Weatherill) commissioned Mr Bill Cossey AM to review aspects of Department of Education and Children's Services processes and procedures relating to bullying and violence in schools. The Cossey report delivered in May 2011 makes 14 recommendations in relation to DECS processes and procedures and raises six policy matters for DECS to note. All recommendations are supported or broadly supported. In general terms, they provide for: strengthening procedures where incidents of violence occur, both to ensure parents are involved at an early stage and that there is proper involvement of police; strengthening the role of the existing coalition to decrease bullying, harassment and violence in South Australian schools; raising the profile of bullying policies in schools; and greater monitoring of bullying behaviour.

The government agrees with much of the reasoning behind the honourable member for Fisher's bill. We admire his efforts to bring attention to this extremely important issue and agree that this is a problem deserving targeted legislation. We see a real need to target the growing trend of cyber bullying and we have put forward proposed new laws to address the need. However, we respectfully do not agree that the proposed amendments contained in this bill will make the necessary changes to provide justice to victims.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (10:58):** I believe we should vote on some of these measures if people do not want to talk on them in order to get them off the *Notice Paper*. I believe this is a good bill. I understand the government is saying, 'Look, we don't need it.' That is ironic, because this bill covers bullying in all situations: schools, factories—anywhere. It is ironic, because the federal government has been saying recently that the current bullying laws are not adequate or comprehensive enough, yet here we have a bill which seeks to do that, but on current indications I do not believe it will get support.

Bullying is a serious matter and, as I say, it occurs in a whole range of places—in community groups. I have had people come to me about it, and I will not refer to one that I think is currently before the court, but bullying can occur in groups such as community groups and amongst volunteers. It can occur anywhere. What I am seeking to do is address what I see as gaps in the system because I do not believe the current law deals with all areas where bullying can occur, and that is why I put this bill forward. It is obviously up to the house whether or not it wants to support it, but that was the intention.

Second reading negatived.

#### **SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION (PROPOSALS TO VARY REGULATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 November 2012.)

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (11:01):** The government has for a long time opposed attempts by members in this house and in other places to amend the Subordinate Legislation Act to allow either house of parliament to disallow part of a regulation or even to vary or substitute regulations. This is because, without proper understanding of the principal act under which the regulation is made or the policy reasons as to why particular wording was used in the regulation, the disallowance of one provision or a variation of a provision could fundamentally change the effects of the regulation.

The member for Fisher proposes an alternative approach in his bill, that is, it gives the Legislative Review Committee, as part of its inquiry into the regulation, or either house of parliament, by resolution, the opportunity to suggest one or more variation to a regulation. Although the minister is obliged to consider the suggestions and to advise the committee or the relevant house of his or her response via written report presented to the committee or tabled in the relevant house within nine sitting days, the minister is under no obligation to agree to the amendments.

Although the government understands the intention behind the bill, it does not support the bill. The bill imposes no limitations on how many amendments to the regulations may be suggested or that they be of any relevance to the policy issue that the regulation is trying to address. It is possible that the responsible minister could end up having to consider and respond to copious

amendments that may not be practical or even possible and the regulation could still end up being disallowed.

Further, although the proposed processes may allow minor issues to be resolved or unintended defects to be cured without resorting to disallowance of the entire regulation, it is already (as noted by the opposition) within the capacity of either house to suggest a variation to a regulation before moving a motion of disallowance. It is for those reasons that the government opposes the bill.

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:03):** From the opposition's point of view, the process proposed in this bill runs parallel to, rather than incorporating, the disallowance process. We are concerned that the proposed process is likely, potentially, to be confused, therefore, with the disallowance process. I fear that members may pursue the new process, receive a response beyond the time for a motion for disallowance and lose the opportunity to disallow.

The proposed process is too time limited. Whereas a disallowance only needs to be moved within 14 sitting days of tabling, the proposed process requires that a motion is moved, debated and voted on within 14 sitting days of tabling. There are no consequences of the minister failing to comply with the duty to respond. It is already within the capacity of either house to suggest a variation to a regulation and to enforce it with the force of a threat of disallowance. In our view, the government is potentially failing to engage on disallowance motions until they pass, which increases the risk of unintended consequences.

We think it is better for the processes and practices of the parliament to evolve rather than amend this law. If a house is considering a disallowance, maybe a better practice would be to ask members to speak to a motion and indicate their positions a sitting week before the disallowance being taken so the government is aware of the likely outcome and would have the opportunity to take further advice before a final vote. There are many ways this could be dealt with which we feel would be preferable to this piece of legislation, much as we appreciate the member for Fisher's intent in introducing it, but on this occasion we will not be supporting the bill.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:05):** I thank the government and the opposition for their contributions. The intent of the bill was to get away from the sudden-death play-off that we currently have with regard to regulations and allow for a negotiated improvement or change to the regulation. When you have a sudden-death play-off I do not think that is necessarily the most rational or logical way to go about things, but if nothing else I hope that raising this issue might lead to some reform, and not just with regard to this process. I think a lot of the processes in this place and the other place need reform.

I was encouraged by the remarks of the opposition spokesperson that they believe there might be some other strategies and techniques that could be employed. So, if I have it on the radar for the government and the opposition, I think it is part of the wider requirement that we reform some of the ways in which we run this place because many of them, in my view, are not as efficient and effective as they could be and they are not all that rational. I still put this, and that is the reason I put it forward, to bring about a better and more rational way of dealing with issues in this place.

Second reading negatived.

#### **ADVERTISING FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED EMPLOYEES BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 November 2012.)

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide) (11:07):** The government opposes this bill. The member for Fisher tabled the Advertising for Publicly Funded Employees Bill 2012 on 5 April. The bill proposes that where the public sector seeks applications for employment by advertising vacancies such advertisements must disclose the remuneration or remuneration range for the particular vacancy. For the purposes of the bill, publicly funded employment is defined as:

- (a) a public sector employee within the meaning of the *Public Sector Act 2009*; or
- (b) an employee of a council under the *Local Government Act 1999*; or
- (c) an employee whose remuneration will be partly or wholly funded by the State government or by a council under the *Local Government Act 1999*,

The bill also proposes that where an employer fails to publish the remuneration or remuneration range for an employment vacancy then the employer will be guilty of an offence. Vacancies in the

South Australian public sector are generally filled by merit-based selection processes in accordance with regulation 16 of the Public Sector Regulations 2010. Regulation 16 specifies that applications are to be sought by notice published as required by the Commissioner of Public Sector Employment.

The notice of vacancies constitutes the notice for the purposes of Public Sector Regulations 2010 and is available in both online and hard copy formats. When advertising vacant positions it is generally the practice of South Australian government departments to indicate a remuneration level and/or salary range. Where remuneration level or salary range is not published, a practice generally restricted to senior executive/chief executive vacancies, such information may be ascertained upon inquiry. Public sector salaries are not kept hidden.

The remuneration levels of non-executive staff do not generally fall within an inordinately high range, and such remuneration levels are generally the subject of industrial agreements, such as awards and enterprise agreements, that specify the salaries of public sector staff. Such industrial agreements are publicly available on a number of websites at either the departmental level or at an Industrial Relations Commission website.

The senior executive and chief executive roles have a range in which total remuneration packages may be negotiated. A South Australian government department may discuss indicative packages with intending applications. However, the total remuneration package negotiated with senior executives will depend on the particular experience and capabilities of the individual and, to some extent, the market. It is also the policy of the South Australian government that the contracts of senior executive employees are subject to public disclosure processes, with the personal details of the individual being removed.

The remuneration packages of senior executive employees are also reported in departmental annual reports. It is understood that council employees are employed pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999 and adopt a similar practice to that of state public sector employment, although the Minister for State/Local Government Relations may seek to provide additional information. Local councils are empowered to employ staff in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and their own specific recruitment policies.

Like their public sector counterparts, vacancies are advertised with remuneration determined by the relevant industrial instruments, and senior executive advertisements do not specify the total remuneration package value. This enables an appropriate package to be negotiated with the suitable candidate in accordance with their experience and capabilities. Furthermore, section 105 of the Local Government Act 1999 mandates that the chief executive officer of a local council must ensure that a register of remuneration, salaries and benefits is maintained.

This register will include the title of each position, the remuneration level and associated salary scales, and the details of any allowances or benefits paid or provided to employees as part of the remuneration package. Any interested party is entitled to inspect the register at the principal office of the council during ordinary business hours.

The current policy and practice regarding the recruitment and employment of both state and local government employees adequately addresses the concerns raised by the member for Fisher, and the proposed bill does little to enhance existing accountability and disclosure mechanisms.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:11):** I do not think the intention of this is unreasonable: when the taxpayer or ratepayer is paying someone's salary, I think they are entitled to know the salary being offered for that particular position. As MPs, we often get caned when people trot out our magic salary figure—it is not a secret; anyone can look it up and find out. While I know there is no exact comparable position, I think if people looked at what others are being paid in the public service, councils and so on, they would put the whole issue into context.

I did not put forward the bill for that purpose, but I think there is a fundamental entitlement. If you are a taxpayer or ratepayer, you are entitled to know the salary being offered for a publicly-funded position; I do not think that is unreasonable at all. I would have thought it would be a basic principle in the context of an open and transparent government.

I will not be too specific, as people can draw their own inference, but the person I challenged back in 1989 who lost his seat actually came out on top because, as far as I know, he

went on into the Public Service to earn quite a lot more than what I currently earn. I do not begrudge him that, nor am I saying anything about that in any other way; I just point out that—

**The Hon. I.F. Evans:** He doesn't get to sit through private members' time though.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** He does not hear the 'adjournment' word as often. We all know we do not do much work for the pay we get, but, seriously, the general public has no idea. People who ring talkback radio—I feel for a lot of them; they may be on pensions, have low incomes, or receive disability pensions—are just not in touch with what is being paid. I think a lot of them would be surprised to find out that a lot of people in local government, for example, who are not even at the top level get more money than a backbencher in here.

Likewise, in the Public Service; the same thing applies. I think it is incumbent on government and councils to indicate a salary range when advertising a position that is paid by the taxpayer or ratepayer. You do not necessarily have to say, 'Mr or Ms X is getting this much,' but the salary range should be quite clear when the position is advertised. I think that would help demystify the whole process, and I think it should be fundamental in a democratic society. I understand that this is not going to get up, but, once again, I think it is an initiative that needs to be progressed down the track.

Second reading negatived.

#### **ROAD TRAFFIC (TRAFFIC SPEED ANALYSERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 April 2012.)

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (11:15):** Once again, I think this is a reasonable, responsible measure. Just to refresh the memory of members, what this required of police was that hand-held lasers (in particular the lasers; not radar) had to comply with certain standards. The police say they meet certain standards—yes; but when you go to court, because they do not have to meet the standards, a person challenging does not have a leg to stand on literally.

I had a young lad come in today who was allegedly pulled over by a traffic officer at Brighton. The police officer was using a laser but he said there were multiple cars in the area. These devices do not have a photographic capability. The police will not buy the ones with a photographic capability so it is purely a subjective assessment by the police officer. How do you know that the car that was pulled over was the one that was the offending vehicle?

The other point is that if you challenge it in court you are not allowed to get your hands on one of these devices. You are not allowed to have them independently tested. You cannot have an expert because the magistrate will say to the expert, 'Have you ever used one of these police lasers?' and the answer is no, because the police will not let anyone touch it, so you cannot have an expert witness.

What you have to do in court is to show that on the day in question the police device was inaccurate. All the police have to do is to get an inspector—who can sign on a piece of toilet paper if they like—saying that the device was accurate and that is it, end of story. I do not think that is fair and reasonable in our society and I think it should be changed. I do not think it is unreasonable that the police be required by law to meet proper standards in the way these machines are calibrated and operated.

I brought this bill in for that purpose, to try to address what I think is an injustice in our system because the motorist cannot really challenge an expiation that is given to him or her as a result of the police using one of these hand-held devices. I think this law is needed. I am not sure that it will get up today but I think change is necessary because what we have at the moment is the potential for a corruption of process.

Second reading negatived.

#### **ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT (EQUALITY OF ACCESS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2012.)

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide) (11:18):** I speak in favour of this bill. I do so because I recognise that one of the most painful experiences in life is an unrealised longing to have a child and that, from my perspective, the ideal is for children to grow up knowing that they are wanted and



loved, and having a parent or parents who care for them and will provide the home life that enables them to fulfil their potential.

If it was possible to legislate for this, no doubt many would want to. We cannot and, indeed, we should not. We have seen in the last century the terrible consequences of governments choosing who should and should not have children. The nearest we can get is to not prevent people who really want children from having them. Being wanted, being welcomed into the world is surely the best that a child can have. Arbitrarily deciding that some people are worthy of assistance in getting pregnant and others are not is an unwarranted intrusion into the private lives of our citizens, and suggests that there are second-class citizens and families who are not desirable.

Assisted reproduction is available to some—why not to all? To oppose this legislation is to presume that we in this house know more about who is going to be a good parent than the people making the choices do and, by implication, being a heterosexual couple puts you into the improved category and being in a same-sex relationship, or being single, excludes you.

For some in this house, the ideal they uphold is of a family with a mother and a father who have together produced children. I understand that, for this reason, they oppose this bill, as it threatens the circumstances they believe to be ideal for children. I accept that this view is genuinely held and that there is no malicious desire to cause harm; it may, however, do so.

Their view has two problems with it, from my perspective. Firstly, it is blind to the realities of many families in South Australia: products of separations and new partnerships, IVF, adoptions, fostering, large extended families and small nuclear families. It suggests that there is only one kind of family that is desirable and that everything else is a compromise.

Secondly, it fundamentally misunderstands what is important for children. Being loved, being nurtured and having adults you can depend on matters, so too does feeling that you are not part of a disenfranchised and despised minority. We are all alert to being different, and children, searching for their way and their place in the world, are often more conscious of being in or out of dominant groups and are often even more sensitive than adults to being regarded as not part of the norm.

What I fear is that opposition to this bill will be interpreted by people who do not come from a family of a mother, father and biological children as saying they do not live in the best kind of family and that there is something somehow undesirable about their family and, by this, I mean families headed by a single parent or children who are adopted and have no means of finding out about their parentage, or children conceived using donor-genetic material and children brought up by a same-sex couple.

None of these descriptors matter. None of them tell me how loved the child is, nor how supported and nurtured the child is. I will not be part of saying that some women do not get to have access to reproductive assistance. I will not be part of saying that there is only one kind of family that is worth having. I will always vote in favour of overturning discrimination.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

### **CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (LAWFUL SURRENDER OF NEWBORN CHILD) AMENDMENT BILL**

Second reading.

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (11:22):** I am very grateful that the Hon. Ann Bressington has given me the opportunity to progress this bill in the House of Assembly. I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill seeks to establish means by which women and young girls can safely, anonymously and legally relinquish their newborn babies up to 60 days old. The mother may either surrender her baby physically to a medical practitioner or nurse in a hospital or clinic, or a hospital may install a specially designed hatch into which a mother can place her child, setting off an alarm that will alert medical staff to the baby's presence.

The baby is then placed under the guardianship of the minister and the minister must, as soon as practicable, take action to enable the child to be adopted. The baby's birth parents may apply for the return of the child, subject to conditions, while the child is under the guardianship of the minister.

A review of the legislation is to be undertaken by the parliament's Social Development Committee within three years of its operation. Variants on the model provided in this bill are now in place in Canada, many states in the United States of America, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and the Czech Republic.

In 2011, the Victorian government agreed to undertake research on behalf of the Community and Disability Services Ministerial Council to identify options that are currently available to respond to the issue of abandoned and relinquish babies. That research has taken place.

This bill passed the second reading in the Legislative Council on 23 November, with the support of the Liberal Party, the Greens and Family First. The government indicated its opposition to the bill. That was in 2011. After the prorogation of the parliament, Ms Bressington reintroduced the bill and it passed the Legislative Council later last year.

The research paper prepared for the ministerial council was noted at its most recent meeting. It has not been publicly released, but a copy obviously must have fallen off the back of a truck because it made its way into debate in the Legislative Council. The paper included a literature review, an analysis of the current approach to child abandonment and provided some analysis of responses, such as baby safe havens. The paper concluded, and I quote:

While acknowledging the limited data and research available in the area of child abandonment, the paper has provided a discussion of three approaches taken internationally in response to the abandonment of children.

The current Australian approach to abandoned children is to fund services aimed at pregnancy education and support for parents. The limited reporting of child abandonment in Australia could be seen to demonstrate that a strong universal, secondary and specialist service system is effective in managing the incidence of child abandonment.

Anonymous birthing, where women are able to give birth anonymously in a hospital, is in place in a limited number of European States. There is, however, debate regarding the relative merits of this approach and the potential negative effects upon both women and children.

That is, I think, the basis on which the government has indicated its opposition. However, in discussing the lack of data in relation to the experience of baby safe havens, the paper did note, and I quote:

It is important to note...that while unsafe abandonment has continued in the US, some children were abandoned safely and without harm. This may not have been the case without the existence of the legislation. The baby safe haven can be seen to provide an option for some mothers in a time of great need. In addition, these children do find permanent homes with adoptive families.

Dr Lorana Bartels of the University of Canberra did an academic paper on this bill in 2012. Dr Bartels concluded:

The options discussed will never eliminate all instances of baby abandonment/neonaticide, and there are practical and theoretical problems associated with the introduction and use of such measures internationally. Any model will...need to be appropriately publicised if it is to have any effect, and data on its operation need to be maintained...to determine the effect, if not the effectiveness, of the initiative. The model should also provide counselling...

She went on to say:

Within this context, however, it is suggested that safe haven laws, baby hatches and/or anonymous birth may serve to empower women who find themselves dealing with an unwanted pregnancy. They may also, if carefully implemented and audited, have a beneficial, albeit probably limited, impact on the Australian child welfare and criminal justice landscape.

It is in that context that the opposition supports the bill of the Hon. Ann Bressington. It is in that context that the opposition hopes the government will reconsider its opposition in the Legislative Council. As the ministerial council paper concluded, and as Dr Lorana Bartels concluded (although she was more outwardly supportive), there is very little negative effect that this law could possibly have.

However, there is a possible positive effect that a young baby's life may be saved. There have been examples that have been all too regular—not that often, but even one is too regular—of babies being abandoned and dying. If those mothers had an option that would be provided by this legislation, those babies' lives may have been saved.

It has been identified in the United States and those other countries I have mentioned that there have been few—but some—children whose lives have definitely been saved through the advancement of this sort of legislation in those jurisdictions. If one child's life was saved and there were no negative consequences from a bill such as this, then surely it would be worth passing.

So, with that in mind, I commend this bill to the house. I thank the Hon. Ann Bressington for giving me the opportunity to lead the debate on this bill in the House of Assembly. I hope that all members will have an opportunity to reflect on this matter, although I suspect that, with one minute of private members' bills left, we may not get much further in the debate today.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Geraghty.

### COUNTRY SCHOOLS

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

That this house—

- (a) notes the importance of schools to country towns; and
- (b) recognises the extremely valuable contributions that the school staff make to both the education of local students and their communities more broadly.

This house knows that this is a topic very close to my heart, both in my electorate of Stuart and my interest in education and regional development more broadly. I will start by saying that I am really talking about, in my mind, the small schools and the small towns. This is not to exclude Port Augusta in any way—and I recognise that there are five primary schools, a secondary school, Caritas College, and also very importantly, School of the Air based in Port Augusta and Port Augusta Special School—but I am really focused on the small towns throughout the electorate of Stuart.

For the benefit of the house, let me just advise members that, in Stuart, towns that have both a primary and a high school or a combination of both in the same school are: Eudunda with an area school and also St John's Primary School; Jamestown with an area school and also St James Primary School; Peterborough with a primary and a high school and also St Joseph's; Burra has a district school; Booleroo Centre has a district school; Leigh Creek has an area school; Orroroo has an area school; and also Kapunda has a high school and a primary school. It is worth pointing out that Kapunda is an absolutely beautiful campus built around Sir Sidney Kidman's original home named Eringa. A beautiful place—

*The Hon. G. Portolesi interjecting:*

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Yes, it was a pleasure to be there for the unveiling of the upgrading of that facility with the former minister for education. It was fantastic. I will just delve down a little more deeply, because the real spirit of this motion is about the really small towns that have really small schools. Let me tell you, just in the electorate of Stuart alone, these towns have primary schools only: Cadell, Blanchetown, Morgan, Melrose, Wirrabara, Wilmington, Robertstown, Farrell Flat, Truro, Spalding, Booborowie, Marree, Port Germein and Yunta. Every one of those schools is exceptionally important to the life of those towns.

There are also, of course, very importantly, many pre-schools scattered around the electorate and scattered all around regional South Australia and they make an incredibly important contribution, as well. What I am really trying to get at here is the fact that there are obviously educational outcomes and benefits. That goes without saying. That is their primary purpose for being there, but these schools contribute so much more. They contribute so much more to the communities in which they are based.

When I talk about educational outcomes, I am talking about both academic—the straightforward reading, writing, arithmetic and other things that we would think of—and also trade training. An enormous number of high schools, obviously, do trade training. There is a lot of effort that goes into providing the right type of education to the range of students at these schools, and they are incredibly important.

A good example of that is the Booleroo District School, which is very close to Wilmington where I live. Two years ago, a student named Justin Clarke was an absolutely star student academically. He is actually up in Brisbane playing football with the Brisbane Lions at the moment. He is a genuine all-rounder, but very strong academically. Last year, a student named Alastair Keller was the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year. It is an extraordinary achievement for both lads, extraordinary for that school, and extraordinary to have one academic star one year and one Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year the next.

This is the sort of thing that schools throughout the electorate and throughout regional South Australia strive for. I think that is really important, but the benefits are far broader than just the academic or the trade training benefits. There are social benefits, health benefits, sport

benefits, local pride, community identity and economic benefits. These schools do much, much, more than just teach the students; they really are the lifeblood of the towns in which they are based.

I have a very simple view on that front, which can be described quite easily. If a town loses its school, it will very shortly lose its pub, its general store and its service station, because there is no reason for the community either in that town or surrounding that town to go into that town every single day to take the kids to school. What is even worse is if the school closes, guess what: not only will they not be going to that town, but they will actually be going to a different town to take their kids to school. The other town will benefit—and I never begrudge them that—but the first town is really going to suffer. So, these schools are incredibly important.

I bring to the attention of the house a report that was done for me by Ms Alexandra Grigg, an Adelaide University student doing an internship in the program that Professor Clem Macintyre runs. She did some excellent work for me. The work I asked her to do was very much on the basis of the contribution that state government facilities—like transport and education, sport and health facilities, etc.—make to regional South Australia over and above their primary purpose for being, like education, health, sport and transport. I will read something from Ms Grigg's report, specifically about educational facilities:

Educational facilities in rural South Australian communities have a number of social benefits including community contribution, the development of support networks, social interaction and the increased use of other local facilities and services. As a result, educational institutions provide regional towns with both economic and social welfare multipliers.

She goes on to say that, determined by educational facilities, the economic multiplier effects are increased job opportunities, increased economic opportunities and increased real median income. The social welfare multiplier effects include community identity, increased safety, increased support networks, increased volunteer participation and increased social interaction. These things would be incredibly important anywhere and I am sure are just as important in the city as in the country, but they are much harder to access in the country in small towns.

Ms Grigg goes on to say, 'Additionally, educational facilities in a regional South Australian town significantly decrease crime rates by 22 per cent.' That is a significant benefit directly related to having an educational facility in your regional town. One more statistic I would like to comment on here is that Ms Grigg identifies educational facilities as being the second most important facility contribution to community strength and capacity after transport facilities. So, after transport infrastructure and services comes education. I think that is very important as well. I share those things with the house because I think they are incredibly important.

I recognise that education and schools are just as important in the city and I have no hesitation about that whatsoever, but I say again that these benefits are much harder to come across in regional South Australia than they are in the city where you have a bigger pool of people to draw upon, a bigger pool of services and facilities to access and a far wider range of activities that people can participate in.

I say a very strong and loud thank you to the families who participate in these schools, the governing councils, the teachers, the principals, the other staff who get very involved in these schools in country towns and the friends of the schools. It is worth spending a little bit of time concentrating on that too, because there are many people who contribute to schools throughout our state who actually have no official role. They are certainly sanctioned by the school and by the school community, but they are people who just come and do some extra grounds maintenance or some extra contribution in a classroom, or they might just provide a one-off or even an annual or perpetual prize for a student who excels in a certain area. I can think of people throughout the electorate of Stuart who do that on a regular basis.

I will also comment on the role of Department for Education and Child Development staff in regions, because I think it is fair to say that they are probably under a bit more pressure than they would be in the city. In the city they can go to their job, do the work that they do within their department and within the education system and then they can go home and very quickly separate themselves from that work. However, if you live in a major regional centre or if you live in a small country town, as some people who work in DECD that I know do, they are under even more pressure, because they leave their office and their work and they go home, and they are in that school community immediately. They go to the pub and they are there with mothers and fathers, or children playing in the pub, or outside, as often happens. They go to the football and they are there

with that same community. It is worth recognising that they are under a bit of extra pressure when it comes to the roles that they play.

As I said previously, I recognise that these contributions would be made by people in the city. No doubt, there are people who contribute to the schools very significantly, but I say unashamedly that their contribution, I think, is far more valuable in the country because you have a far smaller pool of people to draw on and, also, you have an opportunity for your contribution to have far more impact in a small community as well. I genuinely say thank you to all of those people.

I would also like to say a few words about country towns and the interaction between children, adults, middle-aged people and elderly people and why these schools are so important. I lived in Adelaide before I moved to Pimba a long time ago—about 15 years ago. I lived there for seven years and then moved to Wilmington about eight years ago. One of the things that struck me immediately in Wilmington is that every single person in the community has an identity, and that includes a two-year-old child.

It includes a five-year-old child who might be walking down the street, perhaps going to school or to the shop, or from one house to another. When an adult passes that child, the adult says, 'Hello Bill', 'Hello Jenny,' or 'Hello Sarah,' whatever it happens to be, and, very often, that child says, 'Hello, Mr Johnson,' or, 'Hello Aunty Sally,' or whatever it might be. That does not happen to nearly the same extent in the city.

That is just one example of the benefits and opportunities that we have living in small country towns, but it does support why the schools are so important because, not only is the child an identity and a person in their own right at the school and on the school campus, but also the child is a person and an identify within the community more broadly. As that child grows up, that child retains that identity. It grows into it as it picks up more experience, a reputation and respect, no doubt, as time goes on; but that person retains that identity.

I remember going to the Wilmington pub shortly after moving there and seeing many families with three generations of people. The pub is just a small microcosm of the world in a country town, but they did not go there together. The grandson and daughter, the father or mother, and the grandfather or grandmother went there to see their own friends of their own generation and they were in different parts of the hotel, and they all acknowledged each other as friends just as they would anybody else.

But the issue is: if we lose these small schools in country towns, we will lose that fabric in country towns because, if the school is not there, the children are not there, the families are not there, the grandparents do not stay there and then all of these other things that I have talked about in country towns that make them so special, that make them interact so well and that make the people so supportive of each other, will not be there either.

We are incredibly lucky in small country towns in South Australia to have this sort of social makeup. It is not perfect. None of us is perfect. No town is without its problems. But, in this way, they are absolutely outstanding, in my opinion, and having a school in a town is incredibly important. It is fundamental to keeping together that social fabric and having that community adhere and interact the way they do.

For those reasons, and many others, including the economic multipliers and the research that Ms Grigg did for me which supports the theories and the things that I know and see and live and breathe every day anecdotally, I am incredibly supportive of these schools and I thank all the people—the teachers, the staff, the families and everybody involved—who support those schools and allows them to survive.

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (11:44):** I rise to support the member for Stuart's motion. In rising to do so, I will speak about the policy the Liberal Party announced in May of last year about giving those schools, whether they be in the metropolitan area or country towns and regional centres, much more choice through local decision-making and less direction from central office. The facts are that in South Australia we have a very centralised education system; that will become even more so when the department abolishes the regions, a process that I understand is to happen very soon where we will see more decisions being made at that central level and less support, particularly in the regions, through local regional offices.

My understanding is that all of the regional directors' and deputy directors' contracts are up for renewal at the end of June of this year, giving the department flexibility to move into other

areas. We are told by the department that those regional offices are not necessarily going to be going into central office, but we are certainly aware of some already that have been transferred into the central office from the regional office.

I want to get back to the policy that we have announced, that is, that we trust our local school communities, we trust our regional school communities and our country school communities. We trust their principals and we trust their staff to make the best decisions for educational outcomes in their schools. We do not believe that a one-size-fits-all management run out of central office is working. We do not believe that we will get educational outcomes that will improve without changing the way we operate our schools.

There is no doubt that what we have seen in other states in Australia, particularly in Western Australia with their independent public schools, is a dramatic improvement in school engagement. We have seen governing councils taking a much more active role, which of course means parents. All the research out there will tell you that if you engage parents in their children's education you will get better educational outcomes. All the research out there tells you that local management gets better educational outcomes. David Gonski referred to systems that were doing better, and they were the systems where decisions were made locally.

It is very important that there is support for our country and regional schools. I know that my colleagues on this side of the house, the members for Goyder, Stuart, Flinders, Hammond, Chaffey, Schubert and Kavel, are all passionate about their schools and they are all very involved in their schools. We want that involvement to move beyond the immediate school community.

What we have seen happen in Western Australia, for example, is that for schools in some of those tough areas in the suburbs and in regional areas where there may not necessarily be the parent cohort that you might have at a school, say, in my electorate of Unley where you may have a very professional base behind your governing council, they have opened up their governing councils to include community leaders, members of the community and even people representing local businesses, who do, of course, go on to employ the kids who are educated at those schools.

By doing so, they have brought innovation and targeted programs and planning into those schools. Another advantage the Western Australian independent public schools have is that they can re-scope their staff when they take the process on, and there are no questions asked. If a principal believes it is time to reshape the leadership level, staff options, subjects or mix of specialties within the school, they have the ability to do so.

I think another key factor for educational outcomes is a focus on teacher quality. There is no doubt that we are seeing a move around Australia (although, unfortunately, not in South Australia) to focus on teacher quality. The Prime Minister is talking about teacher quality. The New South Wales Liberal government has just released a whole new package focusing on teacher quality, where they are aiming for the top 10 per cent of students to move into teaching.

The New South Wales government have recognised that they need to do something about the fact that a career in teaching is no longer seen as the first choice for so many students. Time and time again, you will see that students will aim for other courses at university, and teaching will be a second or third choice.

I have had discussions with the Australian Education Union, and they are also very concerned at the low entrance marks for teachers. We know that there are thousands of teachers—particularly primary school teachers—trained around Australia every year, but there are no positions for them in schools.

Just getting back to the focus of the member for Stuart's motion: there is no doubt that, in the metropolitan area, we all have an affection for our primary and high schools. As alumni, there is always a sense of pride as we drive past our old schools. I think that sense is much stronger in the country because it represents so much more. I have particularly experienced this in my dealings with Clare High School, and I congratulate Rob Knight, the principal at Clare High School, for what he has brought to the school.

There is an enormous sense of pride and community that comes out of Clare High School. I know, through speaking to parents and other school members, that they would like to take that further and would like the school to be an even larger part of the community, but are obviously restrained by current government policies.

I support the member for Stuart's motion, and congratulate him on his passion for schools and education in his own electorate. I was very pleased when he presented this motion to the party

room for endorsement, because I think it underlines the commitment that the member for Stuart has for education and schools in his own electorate.

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (11:53):** I also rise to speak in support of this motion from the member for Stuart, and commend him on it, because it shows a commitment to the community which he is a part of, and indeed the communities which he has the opportunity to serve in parliament.

I will state for the record that I have 25 or 26 schools in my electorate—I apologise for not being entirely sure about that, but the boundaries are about to change, so that might cause some confusion. They are all wonderful places, and are reflective of the people who live in those towns, and of the communities that surround those towns.

For me, as someone who lives in a township of 1,000 people (which is the biggest town I have ever lived in), I completely respect how important schools are to the social environment of towns. I have been lucky enough in my time as an adult to serve on two governing councils: one at Rororo Area School, and one at Maitland Area School. I did so not because of the role that I then held in the community as a local government member, but as a concerned parent.

It was really emphasised to me that all people involved in governing councils do so not out of an egotistical drive, or anything like that, but they do so to ensure that they can contribute in some small way to the absolute best environment they can create for their children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews. Sometimes, the children of these parents have left school, but it shows an ongoing commitment.

As much as the motion is focused upon staff and their contribution to education, I think it is also important that we recognise the parents who make a contribution to education in rural communities.

My electorate has a mixture of primary schools, area schools, a district school and high schools, and recently there was the amalgamation of the Kadina Memorial High School and the Kadina Primary School, which are adjacent to each other. Mr Deputy Speaker, as a former teacher there, would have fond memories—as I know the community does of him—of his time in the Copper Coast and the Kadina area.

In each of those schools, when I have had the chance to go to school presentation days (or evenings, as they are predominantly at night), you see an innocence and an excitement from the kids who are there. As much as it becomes a bit of a struggle for them to sit quietly during presentation night and they get a bit restless after about an hour and a half (and the parents get a bit restless, too) in a hot hall quite often in December, they are excited by the opportunity to showcase to their parents and the parents of their friends and their grandparents, some of the things that they have learnt during the year.

It might become a bit of a chore eventually but, for me, it is still an exciting opportunity to attend between eight and 10 presentation days per year. It is exciting to be a part of it and have the chance to, in my small way, present a medallion that recognises the efforts of the child in that school, and to be on stage and look at the pride of the collection of people there. Their son, daughter, niece, nephew, grandchild might only have a small part but when they are up there you should see all the parents rush to the front to take photos. It really is continuous.

It shows me that no matter what the size of the town there is a pride that exists within the school facility. That is where our state, in 156 years or so of self-government, should be proud of the institution that it has created.

I know education faces a lot of challenges—there is no doubt about that—to ensure that the young people who graduate are ready for the life that confronts them. However, the absolute majority of professionals that I have met within the education system are focused on that. For most of them it is a lifelong commitment and is their chosen vocation in life. Many of them choose to live in that town for a long time. They become part of a community. They drive the initiatives that a community develops and works with to try to create a stable and strong future. Educational professionals are used because they have a talent in that area.

The intent of the motion from the member for Stuart about recognising the educational professionals is a very sound one. There are some areas where challenges exist. I know of one school in my electorate which only has 11 students this calendar year. About 10 years ago I visited there in a previous role with the governor when there were about 93 students. That shows the demographic change that occurred in that community and it shows the choices that some parents

have made. However, I know that the teachers, the SSOs and the governing council of that school still focus on trying to provide (especially as this is their centenary year) the absolute best teaching and educational institution that they can, so they will forever have my support.

I have had many discussions with parents and governing council members about the future of some schools because they are all, to some degree, looking at what it may be for them. The smaller towns that are facing some age profile changes have a bigger challenge than most. However, the towns that have seen the future and the opportunity that education provides are out there and they are putting a lot of effort into growing skills. In the majority of cases in my electorate it is the private school system that has done so and there have been some wonderful stories of efforts made in the last 10 or 15 years to develop private school opportunities.

I am leaving early this afternoon to attend the funeral service of a close friend and that memorial service is occurring in a private school in the electorate. She was a fine lady, a wonderful person who went far too early. However, it is reflective of the commitment made by that governing council to put in place a wonderful facility, and it is not just the private schools but the public school system too. There are a lot of words said about it sometimes but I just put on the record my appreciation for what they do.

I came from an area school, too. I attended for the first three years a single-class school where all seven grades were in one room, so there were three students in my year level. That school closed in about 1971, I think, six months or so after I had left to go to the neighbouring town's area school. I have been back there since and it has been leased by the local progress association and has been developed into a camping ground but the school history is still very proud and in the forefront of the local community in their efforts to use the building appropriately, and they have put some money into it to develop it, too.

It is an example of the history that all the schools have. When you read the history of the local community, you hear about schools that do not exist any more and that they paid a teacher thirty pounds, or something like that—an amazingly small amount of money—and the fact that the teacher stayed with families that operated in the area and the kids had to ride horses, at best, or had to walk. It shows what education has meant to us. For a society and, indeed, for a state that is facing some major challenges, it shows that we need to make sure that we put whatever resources we can into our school system to get the best possible outcomes.

I know some fund raising efforts for local schools have been nothing short of amazing too, and it shows what the community thinks of it. In one case, a library upgrade occurred in my electorate. Admittedly, this was about seven or eight years ago, but there was one family that put in \$20,000 to that—not because they had students in that school anymore, but because they had used that school in the past and they felt that the library upgrade was very important. That is an example of the commitment that has been shown to our schools. When they have working bees, it might not be every family that is involved, but there is a reasonable turnout of school community families at working bees to make sure that those things are done.

I put on the record that education and child development staff that I have contacted about issues have been quite approachable. I know there is a bureaucracy that has to be worked through but, when I have had issues in my schools, when I have approached either the principals or the next line of management that occurs in the Yorke region, they have been prepared to speak to me, so I thank them for that. It shows a willingness to ensure that issues are dealt with instead of having to go through a bureaucratic process of writing to the minister and it taking a long, long time for a response to occur—they want a result too. So, that is a symptomatic example of what exists in our schools.

I have no doubt there will be a lot of members from this side who will stand to speak in support of this. It is a very appropriate motion because it enforces what has become the backbone of the growth of South Australia in small schools and what they have done across all of South Australia. It reflects what a wonderful state we have lived in since 1836—long may it have a strong future.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:01):** I, too, rise to support the member for Stuart's motion. I think it is a great initiative. I know that the member for Stuart is very passionate about his electorate, as he always stands up for his constituents but, more importantly, this is about schools, which are the fabric of these small communities.

In my electorate of Chaffey, I have some 58 schools. Visiting the schools is quite a monumental task but, as I make my way around the schools in the electorate, they really do show



me the camaraderie that they provide. They are almost a conduit that connect to the communities. In many instances, it is through a school that people come together. It is almost a generational gathering because, in many of the regional communities, we have a population explosion and it seems to be through one reason or another that there is a surge of, I guess, people of a common age who come together in a lot of these small communities.

I think it has already been noted that the small schools and the medium schools in these small regional towns are really the fabric of that community. I think it also shows the diversity that these schools have to provide to accommodate the small communities. I say 'small communities' and, in some cases, people come into the towns from far and wide. I know the member for Stuart has said that it is a reason for people to come to town, a social outing, whether it is mother or father dropping children off at school in the morning or putting kids on the bus.

I think something that perhaps has not been stated is that the network of buses that bring the students to school is a huge element and is a huge support base for students to get to schools. I know that in some cases on the Eyre Peninsula some children hop onto the school bus in the dark and they get off the bus almost in the dark at night. That is a huge cultural shock to many who have never experienced it. It is all about what we do to get to school, it is all about what we do to be part of a school community, and it is all about what we accept to make sure our children are educated, but also about social inclusion and what it means to be going to one of those small regional schools.

I would also like to talk about the involvement that parents have to play, not just want to play, not just do play, but about parents' interaction with not only the schools, students, and other parents, but also about how they contribute to keeping those schools viable and ongoing. My association with the Renmark West school, with my three children attending, was not just about dropping our children off at school. It was about getting to school and then each going our own separate ways. So, for me, it was following my son into his classroom to see how I could help and following one of my two daughters into their classrooms to see how I could help.

It is not about reading with them, it is not about helping out in the classroom, but it is about the engagement with other parents before school, out in the gardens, out there upgrading playgrounds. It is about making the ovals better, it is about doing some painting where it needs to be done, and it is about engaging in the school socials, the fairs, and the Christmas occasions that all come with it. It creates another environment of excitement. It is about the communities having input into their school. It is not just about 'our' school or 'the' school that your children go to, it is about having some ownership. I think that is a reflection on many of the small schools.

In the electorate of Chaffey I have some very small schools. The smallest school that I had was at Lyrup, with six students. Sadly, that school closed this year—and understanding the social implications, the cost implications on keeping a very small school going. I attended the Lyrup primary school on a number of occasions, as it was very close to my home. They had tree planting programs and they picked produce from their working garden and had a chook house. It is giving the kids an opportunity to make their lunches out of what they are growing in the garden. It is giving them an opportunity to look at having little livestock paddocks and gardens. It really gives them a sense of ownership.

Sadly, when my two young daughters came to school in Adelaide, they would come to me and say, 'Dad, some of my friends think that milk comes out of a carton and eggs come out of a carton.' They were absolutely horrified to learn that a lot of kids do not have that grassroots understanding of what the smaller schools, these regional schools, offer and how they take it for granted that some of these other metropolitan schools do not have that opportunity to deal with some of the beliefs and ownership, which is a great thing, of some of these small regional schools.

It is also about some of the sporting programs, some of the ownership that these small country schools have. Sporting programs are another element to the school. It is about nurturing some of our state's sports stars, and many of them have come out of those country schools. I think from some of the Mallee schools, some of the Riverland schools, we have seen Olympians come out—Sophie Edington and Hayden Stoeckel—as great swimmers. There are South Australian football legends, including Neil Kerley, Russell Ebert and Bruce Light, just to name a few, who have come out into the SANFL, and there are also AFL players.

I think some of the best AFL players of all time have come out of the Riverland, with Mark Ricciuto out of Waikerie, the Fielkes, the Lindners, the Schammers and, of course, the ever-flamboyant Modra, who came out of Renmark and then later out of Loxton. That just highlights

some of the sporting stars that have come out of regional schools. I think it typifies, without being too parochial, that country schools always feel as though they have to work a bit harder, try a bit harder, but they always get a result on the board. I think that is a great attribute.

As I have said, sadly we have seen one school close in the region this year due to numbers and another school has been flagged to close at the end of this year. That was through consultation, through the parents realising that they needed to broaden their horizons for better social skills and to give their children more opportunities. So, I think that natural attrition has been accepted with declining numbers in the regions, and sadly that seems to be a fact of what we face today with centralised services, government beliefs and the hardship that attending a small school can bring to communities.

I will touch on some of the issues that I have with some regional schools, and one is the school pools. A number of schools that have pool facilities have been closed because of maintenance budgetary restraints. I think that the government of the day needs to look at that, because it is a huge part of the school fabric. So, that is something that will be touched on at another time.

Again, the Cadell ferry closure—that was done without any consultation. It had a huge impact on schools, with students travelling across the river to Cadell and students travelling across the river to Morgan. It had an impact, and the government coming out and reversing that decision was a great thing. So, I commend the member for Stuart's motion.

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (12:12):** I have pleasure in supporting the motion, as I would suggest every other member in this place would, I hope. I have no doubt that government members will support this and that, when it is put to the vote, it will pass overwhelmingly.

I have some 13 schools in my electorate, 10 of them public schools and three private. In particular, three campuses would fit the small school category, and I would like to talk about a couple of those. I will start with Rapid Bay Primary, a little school nestled into the hills of Rapid Bay with around 40 students—it varies, going up a bit and down a bit. It is one of the most pleasurable jobs I have: I visit my schools every year, usually once but, if there is something on, I will go again or, if there is a function, I will try to get to it, like many other members in this place, I would suggest.

Rapid Bay is an absolute delight; it is a fantastic little school. It has outstanding parental support, outstanding staff and outstanding students. I guess that is exemplified by no better example than the case of young Jessie, who goes to school down there—I cannot think of her surname off the top of my head—who is blind. She had one eye removed I think at birth and she had the other eye removed a few years ago.

Rapid Bay Primary School is the only school that she knows. She knows her way around the school from just before she lost the sight in her remaining eye. It is a joy to behold the way she gets around, but it is more of a joy to behold when the students perform the annual school play, performance or concert (call it what you may), which is held in the hall at Second Valley. Jessie is in every performance.

She is led up onto the stage by her friends in hand. She goes through all the dance routines and whatever is happening and she gets a great deal of pleasure out of it, but she is not excluded. The beauty of this small school is that she is entirely included. The challenge for Jessie will be when she has to move on to secondary education, which I do not know but more than likely will be in a specialised school in the metropolitan area, and I am sure she will cope with that well.

I regard it as a privilege to have Rapid Bay Primary School in my electorate. As I said, you wind your way down the hills, duck up around the oval and you come to this tiny little school nestled under these huge hills behind it. It is a terrific feeling to go down there and get the spirit of the school. They battle for resources. They work very hard to give their kids the best of everything, which they do. As I said, the parental support is fantastic, none better than through the governing council.

I have another couple of small campuses in my electorate. There is the Penneshaw campus of KI Community Education, which in round figures has around 70 children, but that varies too from time to time. I had the pleasure of visiting that campus just recently and met with school staff. Once again, they exuded positive vibes. What they are doing in the school is wonderful. I know many schools have community support, which is closely tied to the support they get from the parents and friends of the school, and Penneshaw is another example of that. They are very ably

led by the head of campus, Leanne Woods, who is an outstanding individual, and I thoroughly enjoyed going around that school the other day.

Of course, that school struggles for resources, but KI Community Education, as I quickly alluded to yesterday, gives kids across Kangaroo Island the opportunity to participate through the three campuses. A number of the children from Penneshaw travel to Kingscote campus and Parndana campus for their senior secondary education, and the buses go back and forward and they are all brought together. The friendliness and the respect that is shown in that school is terrific. I went into some of the classrooms and the kids were all polite and attentive, and I think that is something that really gels in a small school community.

Likewise, there is the Parndana campus. In my heyday at school when the soldier settlement scheme was in full swing, from memory I think that campus had some 400 or 500 kids. Now it has just over 100. That is a sign of the times and a sign of blue gums also, which have been a disaster for the centre and west of Kangaroo Island. However, once again, the Parndana campus has made do.

They have in place a barramundi production operation, which is part of the agricultural side of the school. They are upgrading all their agricultural pursuits out there. They are re-fencing and they have a couple of very keen staff who support that side of it. It is a training centre, but it does give the kids a great deal of pleasure. The fish are fantastic, incidentally, and they actually supply Southern Ocean Lodge, the six-star lodge at Hanson Bay. All their barramundi comes from the Parndana campus.

The Parndana campus has also been very clever. With all of the buildings that were put up from when the school numbers were great, they have turned that into a camp that is used by visiting schools from the mainland, who come over and hire or rent that facility out. It is also used in the event of bushfires by CFS personnel. They stayed there the other day. This is another example of a small school that is going well outside its boundaries and capacity in many respects to achieve great things.

I think the efforts of the principal of KI Community Education, Mr Ian Kent, have been outstanding in keeping these things happening. One thing that does impact on small schools is bureaucracy from Adelaide. I think that stifles education in many areas, and centralised control is not a good thing. Attempts to push budget savings on some of these schools does them no good whatsoever.

I heard the member for Chaffey talk about the closure of the Lyrup school, which is unfortunate. I will be fighting like blazes to make sure that, while I am member, none of my schools or campuses close. They are absolutely critical to the future of their communities. They are a vital, central community asset and in many small towns things revolve around the schools. That is what they are there for. They are the centre of activity and people move into those communities around them.

That is probably exemplified, I would suggest, by yet another small school in my electorate, and that is Myponga. Myponga Primary School has around 140 students and takes in the catchment from Sellicks Beach. Sellicks Beach people have the opportunity to send their children north (as the member for Kaurana knows, from his time as member there) or they have the opportunity to send their children up the hill to Myponga. Half the students at Myponga come from Sellicks Beach. It has been a great success. Around 70 students come from Sellicks each day to Myponga. It is very ably managed by the principal, Annette Slater, whom I knew in another life under another name, and when I went to meet—

*Mr Venning interjecting:*

**Mr PENGILLY:** No, Ivan. When I went to meet the new principal last year, I walked in the door to meet Annette Slater and I saw this person, I said, 'You!', and she said, 'You!' back. She was Annette Black in another life and I had no idea she had remarried, so that has been a happy reunion.

**The Hon. R.B. Such:** Any other old girlfriends?

**Mr PENGILLY:** No, she's not an old girlfriend at all, member for Fisher. The fact of the matter is that these schools are critical and, I repeat, increasing amounts of centralised bureaucracy do no good at all. I hope that, on achieving government, the Liberal Party will seek to further enhance the direction of these small schools—all schools, for that matter, not just small

schools. I thank the member for Stuart for putting forward this motion. I am very much in support of it and hope that the house votes in favour of it.

**Mr VENNING (Schubert) (12:22):** I also want to speak on this motion, and congratulate my colleague for highlighting the importance of schools in our country towns. I could not agree more. In my 22 years-plus in this place I have had firsthand experience of what can happen. As a rural member and having grown up in the country, I have experienced and seen firsthand how important these schools are to the local towns. There are 20 schools in my electorate. Six are private and three I would put in the larger category. How many have you got, Dan?

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Forty-two.

**Mr VENNING:** That's rather large.

**Mr Whetstone:** I've got 58.

**Mr VENNING:** And 58 in Chaffey. So I've got 20, and that was a quick count. Can I say, the list is growing in my area. Schools are not closing so much, although we have lost a couple recently. Country schools give people a reason to travel to the town each day. Country schools act as a central hub for the local community. They bring the community together and create a sense of pride and ownership. School employees are not just educators: they are an integral part of those little communities. Employees join local sporting clubs, committees and service clubs.

If you close these schools, it is just the beginning of the end. First, the school goes, then the local hotel closes down, then the post office and the general store. People simply stop coming to the town because there are no longer services for them to access. They are taking their children to another school and that is usually where they get their bread and groceries and everything else. So that town closes down and the other town gains. Before long, we have got a town that resembles a ghost town. I have witnessed this firsthand. It is always risky to give examples but, not far from where I grew up, is a little township of Yacka.

**Mr Brock:** A beautiful town.

**Mr VENNING:** You would know this. It is in the member for Frome's electorate. When I first represented, I represented this school and, when I went there, I was very proud of it. But the school closed down, I think because of a dispute within the school community, and some of the families took their children away. Then the school closed because it got down to a level where it was not viable to keep it open. It should not have happened because, when you go to that town today, it is quite a large town, with lovely houses and lovely streets. The school closed down and, of course, it was not long after that that the hotel closed. The lovely Broughton Arms Hotel closed. Then the shop, at which I used to stop and have a coke on the way past, closed. Now there are no services left in Yacka. It is on the highway and it is a fair—

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** The shop re-opened.

**Mr VENNING:** It is open again now, is it?

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

**Mr VENNING:** On weekends. It is a long way for those people to get their services. It is Georgetown to the north or Clare to the south. It is a fair drive, so I feel for the community in Yacka. The member has just told me that they do have services on the weekend, so I must call in. That is an example of what happens. The same thing happened many years ago in other little communities like Narridy, Sedan, which is in my current electorate, the school there closed down four or five years ago, but it battles on, and Wandearah, which of course is very close to my old days, Wandearah East and West, all gone. If you go to those communities now you can see the ruins of these places. It is sad.

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Start talking about your own electorate.

**Mr VENNING:** I am talking about years ago, you see. Moculta has now closed, that is in my current electorate as is Rosedale. Rosedale has gone as well and Keyneton is now under threat, historic Keyneton with its lovely wine areas. I urge the government to acknowledge the importance of these small schools and their tireless contributions to the larger community. I know that people vote with their feet and often there is no option, particularly when the school size gets down to a very low number of students and it is common sense to close them, but I think that wherever possible if the government can it should promote them, particularly in relation to Yacka. I believe that if the government had intervened, if I had been able to get through the family disputes

that were happening within that school, it would probably still be there and the Broughton Arms would still be open and I could still get my Coke in the main street of Yacka. I support the motion and the member.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (12:26):** I likewise support this motion. I think it is important to remember that in this place we represent all of the people of South Australia. We are the parliament of and for South Australia, so it is important that we take note and take an interest and recognise what happens in rural and regional South Australia. I have within my electorate a small school at Clarendon. It is a wonderful school. At the moment it has, I think, about 70 students, but sometimes that number can vary. I went to their recent annual general meeting. I cannot get to all council meetings of schools but I try to get to as many of them as possible. I went to their graduation last December. I go to all the school graduations. Last year, they had about 11 students graduating (normally, it is probably a few less than that).

People bring their children from the member for Kaurna's electorate to attend the school. It has a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen, it has its own poultry, it has a strawberry farm (a little area for growing strawberries and other produce), and it is a wonderful school. It is like a big family. The new principal—he looks pretty young to me; anyone under 40 looks young these days—is Josh Anderson. It is a wonderful school. It is a pity that a lot of the smaller schools have disappeared. I went to one myself, when it was more rural, and that was Coromandel Valley Primary School. We had 70 students in total, with seven in year 7. It was a great experience. It was a fantastic little school.

It is a pity, as I say, that many of the smaller schools have disappeared. If my memory is correct, Dr Dean Jaensch attended a 1 to 7 school himself; I think he taught in one. It is ironical because you often hear parents say, 'I don't want my child in a composite class', as they call them (4, 5, 6 and 7), and yet for many years a lot of people grew up and attended a 1 to 7 school where the older children helped educate the younger ones and looked after them and the people who went to those schools had a fantastic education.

In my previous life, I was involved in training teachers for 18 years. I have trained quite a few, hopefully appropriately, and many of those teachers went out into country areas, as did people when I attended teachers' college. There was always a joke about being posted to Nunjikipita; the in-joke was that one of us would end up at Nunjikipita. I never—

**Mr Treloar:** There's nothing wrong with that.

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH:** There's nothing wrong with that, no, but it was like the threat of going to the other end of the earth. I ended up being posted to Whyalla, which was an interesting experience in itself. A friend of mine named Phil—I will only use his first name—was posted to Moculta, which I just heard has now been closed. When Phil arrived there he thought he could match the locals in consuming port. He regretted that; he told me the following morning that he wished he could have died, because you cannot outdrink the port drinkers from that part of the Barossa. He lived to regret his bravado because I do not think his body was used to consuming the same amount of port.

As I have said, this is an important motion—and other members have made this point—because schools are the lifeblood of local communities, and it is sad and unfortunate that we are seeing this drift away from country living. If you go out to parts of the Mallee, you will see a lot of places with signs that read, 'Former school site'. On the road between Karoonda and Lameroo, I think it is, there is a little town with a very nice community hall. Hardly anyone lives there now, but there would have been a bustling school there many years ago.

What we are seeing is this continual drift away from the country, which is not good. I do not believe there is an easy answer to address this issue. I think a lot of people, particularly in their retirement years, might like to think about moving out to country towns, whether those country towns are small, medium-sized or larger. That may not add to the school population, but it would help maintain the viability of some of these areas. I support this motion and acknowledge that—as the old saying goes—from little things, big things grow; that is certainly the case with small country schools.

**Mr BROCK (Frome) (12:32):** I would also like to speak on this motion, and congratulate the member for Stuart for bringing it to the attention of the house. I do not know whether everyone realises the importance of schools to the existence of small country communities. As the member for Stuart has rightly indicated, regional schools provide not only education for students in rural areas, but also an opportunity for general stores, cafes, service stations and workshops. Without

those schools, opportunities for regional employment in these industries will cease or go to another location.

We need to understand the importance of maintaining these small community schools, not only for education but also for the emergency services because, whilst people are still living within those communities, they become involved with the CFS, SES and other organisations. This, in turn, can help other people from metropolitan areas who may have an accident or get stuck while travelling through these regional communities. They are also vital in providing assistance if there are fires within those regions.

The member for Schubert indicated that he attended Wandearah. I went to the Wandearah North primary school, which consisted of one classroom for grades 1 to 7—I note the member for Goyder indicated he went to a similar school—and I also attended Pirie East primary school. I was there until year 7 and then had to go to a secondary school in Port Pirie.

**Mr Pengilly:** Did you get expelled?

**Mr BROCK:** I did not get expelled, I was promoted through the system, member for Finniss. At the small community schools, like Wandearah North and Pirie East Primary School, you learnt far more than if you were at a bigger school in the metropolitan area or the city, because once you got to year 3 or year 4 you were expected to go down and tutor or read primers (in those days) or readers to the year 1s and year 2s. That gave you a far better opportunity to be able to expand on your knowledge.

One of the biggest things in the small rural areas is the lifestyle. There is a far more meaningful life than in a bigger community in a big city or township. I then went to Risdon Park Primary School to finish year 7 and the culture shock was tremendous. There was not the same camaraderie and it was a bit different but we had to move in. Those schools, unfortunately, have now closed. The member for Schubert has indicated that they are now being utilised for halls or people are living in them.

The other thing we need to look at is that governments of the day look at the cost factor and that is one issue, but we also need to look at providing a good education for kids in rural areas. The member for Stuart covers an area that I used to cover when I was an area manager for BP Australia. It is a great area and there are some beautiful communities that have lost some of their schools. We do not want to lose any more schools, and I certainly did not want to lose any more primary schools or small schools in my electorate of Frome. I am sure that everybody on this side and, hopefully, on the other side of the house will ensure that we do not have any more closures.

I have visited some of these smaller schools, after obtaining permission from the relevant authority to enter, including Tarlee Primary School, Snowtown school, and also private schools. I was also at Brinkworth the other day for the SRCs. Students show great excitement when somebody goes there as they are not only showcasing to their parents and grandparents but they are also showcasing what they have done and what they are achieving to myself, as a member of parliament, or anybody else who may go there as a guest. That is very good, because it gives the young students an opportunity to interact with people from outside. They explain what they are doing and they can get guidance from people, whether it is a member of parliament, the mayor of the community, a counsellor or somebody going through.

I have a mixture of schools in my electorate, both state public and secondary schools, Catholic schools and a couple of Lutheran schools. In smaller communities the cooperation between the state public schools and the private schools is something to be believed. They all work together to ensure that they are covering each other and make sure that all the kids, whether they elect to go to a public school or a private school, have the best educational facilities.

One of the things we also have to be very aware of is that the government—whether it is this government or whether it is any government of the day, as I said earlier—is always looking at cost saving. One of the issues that we are having challenges with is the provision of school buses in rural areas. The decision for a child's education is being made by the parents. We have to ensure that, because a school might be getting below the qualified number for the DECS policy, we do not eliminate the school bus. Once a school bus has been eliminated it puts more onus on the parents to be able to get in there and some of these parents are working, so it is a cost factor.

I have a notice of motion later on to look at reviewing the local council concessions and also to completely review the PAT scheme. People in rural areas are finding it very challenging not only to maintain their farms and their existence but also with the ever-increasing utility costs.

The other thing I will mention is that one of the students at the Georgetown Primary School wrote me a letter, with the approval of the principal there at the time. When I got permission to go to that school and actually talk to that student, the student and the other students were so elated to be able to write to a member of parliament and for me to be able to go there. They are looking for a flagpole for the Aboriginal flag. I will be exploring opportunities to be able to get that flag through some means or other.

**The Hon. I.F. Evans:** Federal member.

**Mr BROCK:** The federal member—I have already spoken to Mr Ramsey and he knows about that. We also have to be very aware that we ensure that we do not look at anymore amalgamations in schools and their communities because smaller schools are the best way to learn.

I hear that in the city here there is a new school amalgamation that has got about 1,400 or 1,500 students in it. I am not too sure how that relates to their existence and them getting their education. I find that there is a lot of potential bullying in schools and, the more that you have in there, the harder it will be to control or get camaraderie there with the students. I think the member for Finnis indicated that he will fight in every way to ensure that no more schools are closed in his electorate. I will certainly be fighting very strongly and reinforcing my support to maintain the existing schools in my electorate of Frome.

I thank very sincerely the governing school councils, all the staff, all the SOs and also the general public of these small communities. As the member for Stuart said, they get in there, they maintain the activities, they maintain the schools, they maintain the grounds. I also thank the parents and friends association. It is very, very important that we acknowledge those people out there because they and a lot of the teachers do far in excess of what they actually get paid for.

Just in closing, the other thing I am finding is that some parents have a very hard existence out there. Just in my electorate of Frome, I support four breakfast clubs. There are clubs there where, basically, the parents are providing a breakfast for the students coming in because, believe it or not, there are some students who go to school with no breakfast and do not have a lunch. It is a poor state of affairs, not only for the state of South Australia but Australia, when we have got that happening, but I am very, very proud of the schools in my electorate—both the private and the state—and I am there to reinforce my support for everybody.

**Mr PEGLER (Mount Gambier) (12:42):** It is becoming a very learned day today, talking about schools. I actually went to a small school called Mil Lel. I started there when I was—

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

**Mr PEGLER:** Yes, they are also famous for their cheese. I went there at the age of eight—I did correspondence before that—and, when I went there, I think there were about 60 pupils, and I had not known that there were so many kids in the world. The other small schools in my electorate, outside of Mount Gambier, are Glenburnie, Yahl, Moorak, Kongorong, Suttontown, Compton and Allendale East.

Unfortunately, in recent years, we have lost O.B. Flat. I did not have a problem with that school closing so much because there were two other schools fairly close to them, but the saddest school to lose was the one at Tarpeena. That small town not only lost their school, but they lost their football club about four or five years ago and the town, as a community, struggles now because they do not have either the football club or the school to gather around.

I do not think that any of us recognise well enough what the impact of our schools and footy clubs, etc., in these small communities is on the social fabric of those communities. It is also a great way for the people within those communities, and particularly when new people move into those communities, to get to know each other. The children will all go to school there together and the parents meet each other at the working bees and various other functions around the school. I think that whenever we are looking at some of these small schools, we should also take very much into consideration the social impact that those schools have on those communities.

I would also like to say that the staff of those small schools do a hell of a lot of work outside school hours in those communities. They join in community functions and certainly become part of

the community, so my thanks and congratulations also go to them. I indicate that I will be supporting this motion.

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:45):** I too rise to support the motion from the member for Stuart. It has gained overwhelming support from this side of the house today, at least, all of us recognising the importance of schools to country towns. Most members who have spoken today are from country areas and many of us are the product of schools in country towns.

Large electorates mean that there are a high number of schools. A quick tally up, just prior to standing up, indicates that I have about 25 schools in the electorate of Flinders. It is a combination of some primary schools—some only go up to year 5, so they are very small schools—about 10 or a dozen areas schools, which are scattered right across the agricultural areas of the electorate, one large high school in the city of Port Lincoln, and three private schools, one in Ceduna and two in Port Lincoln.

I really do believe that nothing is more important than the education of a child. I have long held that belief. A good education lays the foundation not just for further education but also for life. Just as important as a good education to a child is a good education to a country child. I attended the Cummins Area School for the first part of my school life and enjoyed it immensely. It was a new area school in those days, a brand-new building. I started in the late sixties as the baby boomers were in school, and there were large numbers of students. New schools were being built in my hometown of Cummins.

We had outgrown the old school buildings. The old area school came into being in 1942 when a lot of the smaller schools in the district closed and students began to come into the local towns by school buses. Of course, this was, in the first instance, often privately run, but later the Education Department itself took over the role of providing school bus services to country kids. So, country kids were brought in from farms, often from many miles away, half an hour or three-quarters of an hour drive every morning and every night on the bus. They came in and were provided with an excellent education.

Often the school teachers were boarded out with farming families and drove the buses. I think part of the motion recognises the extremely valuable contribution that school staff make to both the education of local students and their communities more broadly. My first recollection of school teachers in our country town was that they were driving school buses and bringing us all to school for the day, and also that they were involved with the local community. Many of them played sport, of course, and sport is so important in these country areas. That was good way to have staff involved. They enjoyed it and took part in community life.

It was a long-held and standing joke that, at the beginning of each school year—and I do not mind discussing this because everybody recognises that it was a true fact—young teachers would be sent out in the country, particularly female teachers, who were warned by their parents, family and friends that they would never return, that they were destined to stay wherever their first posting was, and they would scoff. However, that was often the case.

In fact, many of the young female teachers who taught me when I was a primary school student did in fact marry local farmers and made lives for themselves in the country town, bringing up their own children. Many of them are still teaching today in that same school community. So, they have made a big contribution to not just the school but also the broader community.

I think country schools provide a fundamental service, not just to the town, but to the whole community. They help hold the community together and they provide a focus. Often, the school, particularly if it is an area school, is the biggest employer in town and is so valuable and so important. It is paramount, the importance of these schools in the local community.

Good country schools—and they are all good, I am sure—can actually help attract families to a town or area and help to maintain a strong local economy. The fact that a good school and a good education can be provided in a town sort of fosters the economic prosperity of that town, I have no doubt about that. So, they are very much a part of the fabric of the community, providing a vital service to future generations of country people.

As I said, I spent part of my schooling at least at the Cummins Area School, as did my parents and at least one set of grandparents before me. My own children, who were here just earlier today, who incidentally have started university, also spent a big part of their school life at the local area school. As I said, there are about 25 schools in the electorate of Flinders. I try to maintain involvement with all of them; we have dialogue with all of them.



One of the initiatives I have taken is to provide on an annual basis a parliamentary medallion. I offer to all of the schools a medallion on behalf of myself to be offered as an end-of-year prize to be used for whatever reason the school sees fit to bestow. Many of them recognise academic excellence, but many also recognise a contribution to school life more generally. I am very supportive of that. I get along to those end-of-year celebrations as I can. Obviously with large distances and a high number of schools, it is not possible to get to every school for every end-of-year presentation day, but we certainly do our best, as do other members of parliament in this place I know.

I am also involved in particular with the Mentoring EP program, which has been fostered in the Port Lincoln High School. It is the initiative of one of the teachers there, Mr Garry Downey. He has set up an excellent program which provides a mentor to quite a large number of students—between 20 and 30 students each year. I am particularly proud of Garry and his work and would dearly love to talk about it.

I have taken on the role of patron of this particular program—it is called Mentoring EP. We all know that some students are challenged by school life and do not always have the ability or opportunity to finish their schooling. This mentoring program draws on the broader community to provide mentoring to some of these students, and not just to those students who are challenged, but also those students who are really doing well and want to achieve to their very best. Mentors are provided for those, as well. So, it has been a really successful program. I think the success is measured by the number of participants. Just this year we are looking to roll that program out into the second largest school in the electorate of Flinders up at Ceduna.

As I said, our schools are spread right from Penong to Port Lincoln to Cowell and everywhere in between. A lot of our rural schools provide trade training. Of particular note is the agricultural course at the Cleve Area School. That is renowned around the state, and students attend the Cleve Area School from right around the regional areas of South Australia just to take part in that agricultural course. Cowell is undertaking an aquaculture training course and specialises in aquaculture because Cowell, of course, is so important for its oysters.

Streaky Bay, I understand, is also offering aquaculture. Interestingly, Streaky Bay Area School is certainly the only school I have come across that has its own vineyard. I have tasted the produce of Blanche Port Estate—truly excellent. It just gives students once again the opportunity to get their hands dirty, to undertake a task that has real relevance to the broader world. The Cummins Area School, which I spoke about earlier, has a led steer program, and each year the students undertake cattle husbandry and bring their steers across to the Royal Adelaide Show.

Some of these courses and extracurricular activities are really character building and I congratulate the schools involved and the education department for supporting them. This is a fantastic motion from the member for Stuart. He has received overwhelming support from this side of the house at least. I certainly hope that the government also decide to support both this motion and education in our regional areas.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:55):** I too rise to support the motion by the member for Stuart, that this house notes the importance of schools to country towns and recognises the extremely valuable contributions that the school staff make to both the education of local students and their communities more broadly. I will declare a small interest: my wife worked a few hours at the local Coomandook Area School last year and is doing so again this year, which I believe is very handy for her work-life balance and also for the education of our children.

There are many smaller schools in the electorate of Hammond, including: East Murray, Geranium, the award-winning Mypolonga school, Langhorne Creek, Milang, Jervois, Goolwa, Coonalpyn—which is a school just outside my electorate but many of my constituents' children attend—and Taillem Bend, which is a larger primary school in the area. There are also area schools, including Coomandook, Lameroo and Karoonda, and a range of public and private schools at Murray Bridge giving a broad range of education outcomes for students.

The contribution of schools to communities is undeniable. As the member for Flinders indicated, over time young teachers have come out to country areas and a lot have not gone back to the city, and it has been fantastic. Some of these newly-qualified teachers especially do not realise how good it is out in the country areas. It has been great to see, from a long way back when I was at school in the late 1960s through to the 1970s, people still teaching today who were there when I was a student. They may only be doing contract work or filling in as needed, but it is just fantastic.

I note that this tradition is still ongoing. Several young female teachers especially that have come into my local area at Coomandook have found partners on the land. I was talking to one teacher the other night at a local function and I said how fantastic it was that she had made her home in the local area and was making great advances in educating our children, along with the other teachers.

This has been going on for a long time. It used to be a bit simpler sometimes for local farmers to meet young teachers because they used to board with the families. For instance, my next door neighbour (I won't put his name in) not that many years ago—and sadly the teacher has since passed away—essentially just had to slide up the breakfast bench to meet his future partner in life, and I think that was a great outcome.

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Well chaperoned at the time.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Absolutely well chaperoned at the time, member for Stuart. That is a great outcome for country communities. When you are a small community and you have people come in like this—and I know I have concentrated on the female teachers, but certainly there have been some male teachers as well who have done the same thing and have stayed in communities for a long, long time. It is so pleasing to see that this has happened. Sadly, it is not as simple as that any more. People all have houses and that is fair enough, or different teachers share a house together locally, but they do make a great contribution to society.

The contribution that schools make is undeniable. The economic contribution is huge. When I look at a local school like mine at Coomandook, we have the only functioning small store between Taillem Bend and Tintinara, apart from roadhouses. It is undeniable that the economic impact of these schools on a community runs into many millions of dollars right throughout the regional areas.

Debate adjourned.

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

#### **MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS (LIFETIME SUPPORT SCHEME) BILL**

His Excellency the Governor, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as may be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

#### **ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (14:03):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Today, I can announce that South Australia has appointed commissioners under state law to the commonwealth royal commission to investigate institutional responses to child sexual abuse. This step ensures that the royal commission has all of the powers that it needs to fully perform its functions. It fulfils the promise we made at the Council of Australian Governments meeting on 7 December 2012 to set up this royal commission.

The establishment of this royal commission was announced by the Prime Minister late last year and has been broadly welcomed across Australia. The royal commission will investigate where systems have failed to protect young people and make recommendations how to improve laws, policies and practices to prevent and better respond to child sexual abuse in institutions. The commission will provide an important opportunity for victims and their families to come forward and share their stories. It is hoped that the royal commission will help in some way to assist in the healing process the victims of child abuse and their families are going through.

South Australia has already taken significant steps in addressing this issue. The Mullighan inquiry into children in state care was a landmark moment for this state, and the work of the late Justice Ted Mullighan in delivering his inquiry will not be forgotten by this parliament nor by the children and families whose lives were devastated by these abhorrent actions in our state's history. Significantly, in establishing the royal commission, governments have been informed by the way in which the Mullighan inquiry allowed a safe and supportive place for people to tell their stories and so contributed to their healing, and have tried to replicate some of those processes.

The royal commission will also be a thorough and exhaustive one. I understand that the commission's findings may take some considerable time to finalise, however, I am informed that the commission will prepare an interim report by no later than 30 June 2014. The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM has been appointed chair of the commission. The other five commissioners are: Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM, a former Queensland police commissioner; Justice Jennifer Coate, Family Court judge and former Victorian coroner; Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM, Productivity Commissioner; Professor Helen Milroy, consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist; and former senator for Western Australia, Mr Andrew Murray.

I am sure all members on both sides will welcome today's announcement and agree that every opportunity should be taken to shine a light on the evil of child sexual abuse in our community.

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:06):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** SAICORP, the state government's insurer, has, under instructions from the Minister for Finance, settled a claim for \$3.7 million and \$600,000 costs against the state by a former public sector employee and the former head of the cardiothoracic surgical unit at Flinders Medical Centre, Mr John Knight. Mr Knight's claim was commenced last year about events that first arose four years ago at the Flinders Medical Centre.

Mr Knight was suspended from public duties and remained suspended pending the finalisation of a long-running Coroner's inquest following the death of patient Vera Allan, which resulted in no adverse finding relating to Mr Knight's conduct and a subsequent decision that no disciplinary action would be taken.

The Coroner found that the cause of death was 'Severe cardiogenic shock complicating cardiac surgery'. He also made several recommendations in connection to the Flinders Medical Centre in particular about procedures around the intensive care unit. SA Health has advised me that it has accepted all the recommendations of the Coroner and is implementing those recommendations.

Mr Knight's claim was for alleged losses in excess of \$5 million, principally associated with the impact of his suspension and the subsequent non-renewal of his contract. SAICORP has now reached a final resolution of this matter with Mr Knight, and Mr Knight has agreed to discontinue his claims. Under the terms of SA Health's insurance arrangements, the department is liable for only the first \$1 million of the claim.

Today, following this settlement and the earlier coronial inquest, I announce that I have approached Mr Warren McCann, Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, to carry out an independent review of the circumstances in which it is appropriate for a suspension of a clinician or health care worker to be made. Mr McCann will be reporting directly to me on this review.

The review will also consider the efficacy and appropriateness of any policies, procedures and processes in SA Health around suspensions. It will recommend any changes to policies, procedures or processes that should be in place to ensure that our patients continue to receive safe and appropriate care, while balancing the interests of the clinicians and health care workers involved.

SA Health has a duty of care to its patients. On occasion, this may require the organisation to take appropriate, conservative action to ensure the wellbeing of our patients and staff. This review will provide further advice on how this should occur, whilst also ensuring the rights of clinicians and health care workers are adequately protected. I have also requested that SA Health provide an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Coroner.

**The SPEAKER:** Questions—the leader.

*Members interjecting:*

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Kaurna) (14:09):** I seek leave to make a personal explanation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Just by way of interjection across the chamber, the member for Morphett claimed that I personally attacked Dr John Knight in this chamber. This is completely inaccurate, and I just draw to the house's attention what I in fact did say on 27 October 2009, page 4419 of *Hansard*. I made a ministerial statement. I will not read it all, as members can look it up for themselves, but this is what I said:

Yesterday, the Director of the Cardiac and Thoracic Surgical Unit at the Flinders Medical Centre, Associate Professor John Knight, was suspended from his employment by the Chief Executive Officer of Southern Adelaide Health Service. The suspension relates to the circumstances surrounding cardiac surgery provided to an elderly patient on 25 November last year. The patient died a day after extensive surgery.

There are three other paragraphs. Towards the end, I said that I would not make any comment about it until various processes had been conducted. I put it to you, Mr Speaker, that there is no way in that at all that there was a personal attack on that person.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I shall hear what the member for Kaurna has to say.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was making the point that there is nothing there that could be taken to be a personal attack on Dr Knight. I was very careful in the words that I used on that—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** Point of order, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** What?

**Mr WILLIAMS:** The member has been given leave of the house to make a personal explanation, and he is now going well beyond that; he is now debating—

**The SPEAKER:** If—

**Mr WILLIAMS:** He is now debating.

**The SPEAKER:** If the member for Kaurna—would you be seated, member for MacKillop. I am listening carefully to the member for Kaurna. I will pull him up if he engages in debate. In my judgement, he is not engaging in debate and, if any further member of the opposition takes a point of order and I judge there to be no debate, I will warn the member of the opposition who does so for obstructing the house. The member for Kaurna.

**The Hon. J.D. HILL:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I think my words speak for themselves: there was no attempt by me to attack the gentleman on that occasion. I thought it my duty, as the minister for health, to inform the house and the public that these actions had been taken, because they involved the suspension of a doctor following the death of a patient.

It was my view that this would become a matter of public comment, and I thought it was of importance, as is generally the case when these sorts of things arise, that the public should be given the facts. It is certainly something that I tried to do as a minister, particularly as it involved a surgeon from Queensland. At the time, if you recall, there was a lot of concern about issues to do with surgery coming from the Queensland health service.

### QUESTION TIME

**The SPEAKER:** We will reset the clock so we have the full 60 minutes. The leader.

### MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13):** Can the Premier advise why the government used a consultant who had a clear conflict of interest through their involvement with developers in Mount Barker to prepare strategic government planning documents as discussed in the Ombudsman's report?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:13):** This is now the third day running that substantially the same questions have been asked, this time by the leader and not the deputy leader, and I will give again the same answer that I have given before: I will be making a statement to the parliament about this matter when I have had an opportunity to consider it properly.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRAND

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide) (14:13):** My question is to the Premier. Following the launch of the new state brand last evening, can the Premier advise the house of organisations that have indicated their support for the brand?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (14:14):** I thank the honourable member for her question. The launch of the new state brand last night marked an important milestone in the state's continuing economic development. The process of developing this brand—the careful research, the accumulation of views and opinions from across the state—has done more than just lead to the development of a new brand. It has brought South Australians together to create our state's future, or at least approach it with a new sense of purpose and confidence.

Last night we saw the promise of the new brand being embraced by some of the state's most successful businesses and organisations which have undertaken to be champions of the new brand. They include: Coopers, Codan, Yalumba, Michell Wool, Adelaide Airport, T&R Pastoral, University of South Australia, Festivals Adelaide, People's Choice Credit Union, the Adelaide City Council, Clipsal 500, Adelaide University, the South Australian Wine Industry Association, the Sarin Group, Flinders University and Defence SA.

These organisations compete in the global marketplace. They understand the challenge of cutting through. They endorse the intention and purpose of the brand and they can see its potential. They represent government, business, education and other sectors. They are organisations that appreciate that our economic future lies in adding value and in providing premium products and services. These brand champions also represent a diverse range of industries that will help drive a strong economic future, an economy that draws heavily on our state's capacity for creativity, industriousness and innovation—these are the things that are going to make us globally competitive.

I am confident that it will grow in stature over time and become an invaluable asset to the state. I want to thank the brand champions for their support. They are great ambassadors for our state. The truth is that around the world it is a very crowded marketplace and the capacity for a small state to cut through is a challenge. That challenge can only be met if we create awareness, and that awareness will then lead to preference for our goods, our services, people visiting here and an exchange of information, goods and ideas. That is the purpose of this brand.

I am very grateful to the ambassadors who have seen this purpose. I am grateful to Darren Thomas and the Economic Development Board not only for their leadership of the project and the creative people they put together but also for the enormous amount of unpaid time they put into this. I am also grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for his support for the brand and the bipartisan approach he has brought to this issue.

For every South Australian who is yet to see the state's new brand identity or, more importantly, the story behind it, I would encourage you to find your way to Elder Park. It will be showing an amazing light show that is projected onto the Festival Theatre every night up to and including Sunday night.

This brand will tell our story. I know there are some people who do not see in it everything that they imagine South Australia is, and that is because the brand is not for that purpose. The brand is not seeking to represent everything that we are; it is seeking to identify to the world where we are and send a very clear message of openness, a welcoming place where we want a free exchange of ideas, people and resources. I think that our brand has successfully achieved that.

### MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Premier. When was cabinet first made aware that the government used a consultant who had a clear conflict of interest through involvement with developers in Mount Barker to prepare strategic government planning documents?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:17):** As I understand it, the question is about a discussion about what is going on in cabinet. If the—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** No, I'm sorry. The question was: when was cabinet first made aware. That was the question. Deputy Premier.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Exactly. I think it is fairly clear what happens in this place with questions about what goes on in cabinet, Mr Speaker.

### CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES

**Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (14:18):** My question is to the Minister for Business Services and Consumers. Can the minister please inform the house how the collections for charitable purposes code of conduct will promote further public confidence in the charity sector in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:18):** I thank the honourable member for her question. The Consumer and Business Services Centre has opened a one-stop shop for consumer, licence and tenancy matters. The new centre is located on Grenfell Street and it provides face-to-face advice and a range of services. The launch of the centre demonstrates our dedication to streamlining services, cutting red tape and delivering improved services that are more accessible to the community.

Previously, people had to go to different places to access many of the services that are now conveniently offered in the one place. The centre provides a central point where consumers, licensees, renters and landlords can go for CBS services. Services provided through the customer service centre include:

- licence application, renewal payments and inquiries;
- applications for birth, death and marriage certificates and related inquiries;
- change of name applications;
- bond lodgements and refunds; and
- tenancies and consumer affairs advice.

During the official launch of the customer service centre, I was joined by a local plumber who had previously visited the centre during its initial set-up stages. She was overwhelmed by the fantastic customer service she received while renewing her registration, noting that the whole experience was efficient and effective.

Overall, CBS provides advice and services that are essential to the operation of local businesses and personal matters, creating a high demand on the department's resources. The creation of the new centre has provided the opportunity for staff to be trained across multiple services, saving individuals and businesses time and money. The CSC provides more than a front counter operation. Staff in the back office are also making significant contributions to improve the operation and efficiency of existing processes including:

- receipting applications for birth, death and marriage certificates, licences and association matters;
- answering around 900 phone calls a week on liquor, gaming, plumbing, gas fitting and electrical licences and association, cooperative and limited partnership matters; and
- granting of selective occupational licences and liquor and gaming personal approval applications.

The CSC has provided face-to-face service for over 11,000 customers since its commencement date in December of last year. There has also been a lot of work to make more consumer and business services available online. In mid-2012, online renewals for occupational licences were introduced. Currently, almost one-quarter of the renewals processed in total are done online.

The CBS customer service centre is located at street level, Chesser House, 91 Grenfell Street. The operating hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. I would encourage every member to get down to Chesser House and experience the fantastic service that the centre offers. Information and advice may also be sought online at [www.cbs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cbs.sa.gov.au) or by calling 131 882.

**MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr MARSHALL (Norwood—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier believe there is a conflict of interest for the Attorney-General to continue as both the Attorney-General and planning minister while the Ombudsman's report is under consideration?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (14:22):** I am struggling to actually even understand how one could frame a question like that, but I think the answer is no.

**CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

**Mr SIBBONS (Mitchell) (14:22):** My question is to the Minister for Business Services and Consumers. Can the minister please inform the house about how Consumer and Business Services has streamlined services and made them more efficient and accessible?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:22):** I think I might have already covered that matter.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I think you—

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

**The SPEAKER:** Yes.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** That question was asked two questions ago by the government. The government has asked itself the same Dorothy Dixier twice. I think the question is out of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I don't know that it's out of order, it's just odd. The deputy leader.

**MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:23):** My question is to the Minister for Planning. Did the government receive a payment from the Mount Barker Consortium or a related party to progress a development plan application to expand Mount Barker?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:23):** I am not sure exactly what sort of payment the honourable member is referring to but, if she wants to provide some detail about that, I will get advice.

**PARENT INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION GRANTS**

**Mr BROCK (Frome) (14:23):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister please advise what the government is doing about assisting and helping parents be more involved with their children and their schools?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:24):** I thank the member for Frome for his question. I know that he is very heavily involved in the schools in his electorate, many of which I am particularly familiar with, having my children attend those schools in their early years.

Parents and carers are the most important influence on a child's life and, together with teachers, their support forms the foundation from which our children grow, develop and ultimately succeed in life. This is why it is so important that parents are involved in their child's education and they have a strong and positive connection with their school.

The Parent Initiatives in Education (PIE) grants provide funding to encourage parents' involvement in school and preschool communities. Once again this year, we received a great response from school and preschool communities, with over 87 applications. The panel recommended 42 applicants from 41 different school and preschool communities. I take this opportunity to thank the panel for providing their recommendations.

The projects funded through PIE grants are many and varied. I note that the member for Frome received a large slice of the PIE this year. Schools and preschools in his electorate received four PIE grants. Blyth Primary School received funding for their Welcome to Blyth Primary School project to assist with ensuring its reception students and their parents make a smooth transition from kindergarten to school.

Bute and District Kindergarten and Rural Care Centre received funding for their relational learning project. This proposal aims to foster whole community involvement in the care and education of children. Professor John Hasley, Sidney Myer Chair in Rural Education and Communities at Flinders University will facilitate two interactive seminars at Bute. Clare Valley Children's Centre received funding for Family Fun Time with Andrew Mickan to encourage families to improve play at home, involving all family members and therefore strengthening family relationships.

Port Broughton Kindergarten secured funding for their interactive behaviour guidance parent talk. The parent talk is an interactive session that explores the significance of relationships in understanding and guiding positive behaviour. I am also pleased to inform the house that 19 South Australian Catholic schools received grants in this round of PIE grants.

Catholic school projects that received funding included strategies to help parents support their children to manage change and build resilience; help for parents to better understand speech pathology, psychology and occupational therapy; and a dad's day, an event dedicated to encouraging fathers to get more involved in their child's learning. Success in education depends on strong partnerships between teachers, parents and students. PIE grants foster these connections to give South Australia's young people the best chance to gain confidence, reach their goals, and be happy.

### MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:27):** My question again is to the Minister for Planning. Now that two days have passed since the Ombudsman published his report on Mount Barker, has the minister checked government records to confirm whether or not organisations or individuals who are making concerted representations to the minister on behalf of developers were commissioned to inform the development of the 30-year plan?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:28):** Can I have the last part of that question again, please?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Has the minister checked the government records to confirm whether or not organisations or individuals who are making concerted representations to the minister on behalf of developers were commissioned to inform the development of the 30-year plan?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Again, as I said, I am going to be bringing something back when I have had an opportunity to properly examine this material and have a look at it. However, if I understand—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Wait a minute. Can you just wait? If I am understanding the question correctly, what I am being asked is: does the statement which is contained in the report and which is to the effect that Connor Holmes had some relationship—

**Ms Chapman:** No, I'm not asking that at all. I asked if you checked the records.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Sorry; I am answering to the best of my ability presently. If the question is: did Connor Holmes have some role in relation to the investigation of the growth boundary, and did they have some association with people who are proponents of particular developments, I think that is very much what the Ombudsman said. I have read it too.

### MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** Supplementary?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** My question, Mr Attorney, given that you have responded in respect of checking on what findings have been made in respect of Connor Holmes in the government, specifically related to whether you checked the government records as to whether any other persons or organisations who had made representations had in fact been commissioned. There were a number of other areas commissioned. That is what we are asking.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:29):** No.



### EYE BANK OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (14:30):** My question is directed to the Minister for Health and Ageing. Minister, could you please update the house on the important work carried out by the organ donation area, in particular the Eye Bank of South Australia and DonateLife awareness campaign?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:30):** Can I thank the member for Ashford for the question. Last night, I had the honour of attending an event marking 30 years of the Eye Bank of South Australia. The Eye Bank of South Australia has played a very important role in improving the quality of life of thousands of South Australians since it was established by Professor Doug Coster 30 years ago. At that time, it was the first of its kind in Australasia.

The Eye Bank was set up to reduce the shortage of eye tissue available for grafting and to shorten delays for patients requiring a corneal transplant. The Eye Bank collects more than 150 corneas each year from across the metropolitan Adelaide region, Fleurieu Peninsula and Mount Gambier for transplantation, and their work ensures that there is no waiting list for patients in need of a transplant. During its 30 years, the Eye Bank, together with the corneal transplant unit in the Department of Ophthalmology at Flinders Medical Centre, has been at the forefront of innovative research to help protect corneal grafts from rejection.

In many cases, patients who have lost all or some of their vision due to eye disease are again able to see. They are able to maintain their independence, continue to work, enjoy their hobbies and appreciate precious moments with their families and friends. None of this would be possible without the amazing gifts that are given by the donors and their families. Although corneal donation often comes at a time of great sadness, it is a selfless act that can greatly improve the lives of others.

The annual DonateLife Week awareness campaign was recently held from 24 February to 3 March. It was designed to prompt discussion about organ donation with our families, so we know each other's final wishes. I attended the campaign launch rose planting ceremony at the Gift of Life Garden in Bonython Park. It was a very moving event in honour of the contribution of many people who have saved and transformed lives and donor families and their friends. Their decision to make their loved one's wish count cannot be overstated. Can I pay tribute to the Hon. Julian Stefani for his part in establishing this garden.

DonateLife Week is designed to remind us of the importance of this gift. I have indicated my willingness to be an organ donor and urge all members who have not yet done so to consider this important decision. Last year, 354 Australians gave others the gift of life or a better quality of life through their donation of organs and tissues, and 29 of those generous people were South Australians. In terms of its population, the figures show South Australia to be a generous state.

During 2012, a further 15,000 South Australians registered their intent to become organ donors if their families were asked. Across Australia, there has been a steady increase in the organ donor rate. This means that life has been brought to more transplant recipients, but there is still much to be done.

The government has looked to increase donation and transplantation rates through the state's high quality intensive care, emergency, transplant and tissue typing facilities. Increasing community awareness is crucial to increasing the number of organ and tissue donors. I commend DonateLife and their community partners for their valuable work in this area.

### MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:33):** My question again is to the Minister for Planning. Was the government lobbied by developers to fast-track a ministerial DPA for the Mount Barker area in 2008?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:34):** I think I have made it plain several times here that I was not involved in the matter at that time by reason of not being—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** I do not know the answer to that without doing the inquiry that I have been telling you I am trying to do now. When I have done it, you can ask me whatever you like. But, at the moment, you are asking me to answer a question about a time that I was not present and I am unable to answer that question.

#### **MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:34):** Supplementary: has the Attorney read the report?

**The SPEAKER:** That is not a supplementary, it is a separate question. The planning minister.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:34):** Yes.

#### **INNOVATION VOUCHER PROGRAM**

**The Hon. J.D. HILL (Karna) (14:35):** My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade. Can the minister inform the house of state government support for research and development undertaken by South Australian manufacturers?

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland—Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Small Business) (14:35):** I hope the member for Karna's leg is progressing well and recovering.

**The Hon. J.D. Hill:** It is, thank you.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** The state government is committed to supporting South Australian businesses undertaking research and development. The Weatherill government's \$1 million Innovation Voucher Program was a recommendation of former manufacturing thinker in residence Professor Göran Roos and is a joint initiative with the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology and the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy.

This program is designed to foster closer links between small to medium enterprises and research providers, as well as driving innovation. The Innovation Voucher Program will provide funding of between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for research and development projects by small and medium enterprises with an annual turnover below \$20 million. Funding of up to \$50,000 will be considered on a special case basis. Importantly, a financial contribution will be required from participating small and medium enterprises.

Small and medium enterprises with a turnover of up to \$5 million will be required to contribute \$1 for every \$2 of funding, while those enterprises with a turnover of between \$5 million and \$20 million will be required to provide dollar for dollar matching funds. Eligible research and development businesses include public research organisations and companies that provide services for research and development.

Members may recall that last month we announced the first four recipients of the voucher program. Today I am pleased to be able to inform the house about a further two recipients of the Innovation Voucher Program. They are Trident Plastics for a project with Martelli Sons Pty Ltd to develop, prototype and test an innovative plastic mesh for concrete reinforcement applications to replace existing steel mesh; and Associated Electronic Services Pty Ltd for a project with Laragon Pty Ltd to design and build equipment for an automated and objective analysis of almonds for quality control and classification.

This is great news for South Australian businesses. I congratulate them on their successful applications and look forward to seeing the results of their research. Further information about this program, including guidelines and application information, is available at [www.dfeest.sa.gov.au/ivp](http://www.dfeest.sa.gov.au/ivp). I encourage all eligible small to medium enterprises and research providers to investigate applications to the Innovation Voucher Program.

#### **MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:37):** My question again is to the Minister for Planning. Do records exist of meetings between the former minister for planning and the developers of Mount Barker and/or their lobbyists; and in the event that the minister is not personally aware of that, will he make that inquiry and report back to the house?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:38):** Can I just explain again that I have to ascertain a response and an understanding of this matter after reading the material. There is an unknown amount of material involved and I am asking the people in the department to provide me with the material and briefings so that I can respond, as I have indicated I will.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** For goodness sake. I am not going to give a half-considered response to you or to this parliament, because that would not be reasonable.

#### **GROWTH INVESTIGATION AREAS REPORT**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:38):** My question again is to the Minister for Planning. Notwithstanding that it is two days since this report has been presented to the parliament, my question is this: when you have had the opportunity to consider it—whenever you deem that to be appropriate—will you agree to report back your consideration to release the GIA report, as recommended in it?

**The SPEAKER:** I call the deputy leader to order. The manner of asking that question was, as she knows, a breach of the standing orders. The Deputy Premier.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:39):** I think I answered this question the first time on Tuesday, the second time on Wednesday and I will answer it again today. I will consider all of those matters when I have had a look at the material.

#### **EDUCATION SYSTEM**

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister indicate what the government is doing to address the gender gap in academic achievement within our schools?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:39):** I thank the member for Fisher for his question. I know he is a former teacher and I know this subject is very close to his heart. It is important for the education system to meet the particular needs of boys in our education system. The retention rate for boys is improving, but they still have some way to go to reach a similar level to that of girls.

In 2012, the FTE retention rate of boys was 81.6 per cent; for girls, it was 98.4 per cent. Teaching and learning relationships are critical for boys in the school setting. Creating a supportive learning environment that addresses their learning needs is critical so that they can achieve to their full potential. Anecdotal evidence suggests that boys' learning, particularly in literacy, is maximised when they are able to be both mentally and physically active and have choices in the way they learn.

Boys are often engaged by communications media, like online communities, that are focused on sharing practical information to get things done. Particular programs already used by schools to target boys' literacy capabilities include using popular novels, magazines, movies and blogs as resources, and the use of new media like iPads and iPods in the classroom.

Although there are particular concerns about the education of boys, current research suggests that the differences across groups of students rather than across genders are more significant. This is dependent on a number of factors, including low SES backgrounds, Aboriginality and disability. Given the range of factors that can influence student learning, recent evidence has increasingly emphasised the need to focus on the individual learning needs of each student.

The Department for Education and Child Development is using international, national and local research to personalise teaching and learning for students. For example, the South Australian Teaching for Effective Learning Framework is the result of more than a decade of local and international research referenced against teacher practice and academic research. This program currently supports school leaders and teachers to personalise and connect the learning for all students, create safe conditions for rigorous learning and develop expert learners.

The learning principles that underpin this program form the basis for developing a whole school approach to improving student achievement. Vocational education and training provides an

example of the benefits to be gained from this individualised approach for both male and female senior secondary students. These industry pathways provide relevance and context for both boys and girls and have impacted positively on other learning areas, including numeracy and literacy. In 2012, there were over 10,500 students across the state enrolled in VET certificates.

Further work is being done during this year on the research project so that it better meets the learning needs of boys as well as Aboriginal students, new arrivals to Australia and students wishing to pursue further training and employment. This work will be ready for the 2014 school year. I want the best possible education for all students, regardless of gender, and I am working hard to make this a reality.

#### **MOUNT BARKER DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Planning. Will the \$2 million integrated transport and land use strategy take into consideration the growth in Mount Barker, given the significant transport problems associated with the expanding population in that area?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (14:44):** I thank the honourable member for that question. Yes; the idea of this is to actually coordinate land use changes, land use development, transport requirements and transport planning and, yes, of course, to the extent that we are dealing with changes in the land use pattern at Mount Barker, amongst other places, it will be necessary for us to consider the future transport requirements of that area, and that will be something that will be part of the process.

#### **FOLEY ADVISORY**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:44):** My question is to the Premier. Now that the Premier has had three months to check, can he advise whether former treasurer Hon. Kevin Foley complied with the lobbyist code of conduct since leaving the cabinet? On 14 and 15 November last year, the Premier advised the house that he would bring back answers to my questions on whether Mr Foley had meetings with government representatives to discuss matters on which he had had official dealings during his last 18 months of office.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (14:45):** I thank the honourable member for her question. I apologise if I haven't brought back an answer to that. I understood that we had checked that and the answer was: no, there was no breach. But I will check that, and I thought we had done that at the time. I thought we may have even supplied an answer at the time, but I will check that as well.

#### **WOMAD**

**Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (14:45):** My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister advise the house about the world music festival taking place in Adelaide this weekend?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport) (14:46):** I thank the member for Little Para for his question. Mad March continues this weekend with the world music festival in Botanic Park, and I am sure many people here, like many across South Australia, are looking forward to what is going to be a fun-filled four days and nights of international music from 29 different countries. I am particularly looking forward to The Cat Empire tomorrow night and Jimmy Cliff on Sunday night, and I am sure everyone here will have their own favourites they want to get along and see.

Ticket sales at this stage are ahead of any other WOMAD festival in the history of the event, and we have a 12 per cent increase on the ticket sales figure at this time last year, so I encourage anyone who has not got their tickets to get in and book to avoid disappointment—as we saw last week at the Clipsal race when the full house signs went up once we reached 95,000. I can see the member for Hammond looking at me. I can confirm Kiss will not be playing at WOMAD this year, but there will be face painting and other great activities for the kids to get involved in. There is something for everyone at WOMAD—great food, great art and, of course, the thing that underlies it all, fantastic music.

WOMAD last year contributed \$11 million to the state's economy and, as I said, ticket sales are well ahead on this time last year, so we are looking for an even bigger contribution to the South Australian economy. Ten-and-a-half thousand visitors came from interstate to visit WOMAD last

year and, again, we are hoping the figures track at the same levels. As I said, Mad March continues, and we look forward to everyone welcoming visitors to South Australia and getting along and enjoying visitors from around the world who are going to play some fantastic music.

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ageing. In addition to the \$3.7 million settlement for the former director of the Cardiac and Thoracic Surgical Unit at Flinders Medical Centre, Professor John Knight, what were the costs incurred for private legal counsel and what were the costs for the Crown Solicitor's Office to fight the case?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:48):** It would have been funded through SAICORP, so it is probably a question better directed to the Minister for Finance, but I am happy to get an answer to the question.

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:48):** Supplementary, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** If it is a supplementary.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** As well as seeking a monetary settlement, did Professor Knight's counsel seek an apology to Professor Knight as part of his settlement and, if so, will the government now apologise to Professor Knight?

**The SPEAKER:** That is, emphatically, not a supplementary—in fact, not even near one—but, if the Minister for Health would care to answer, he may.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:49):** I have said everything I have to say on this matter in my ministerial statement, sir.

#### **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**The Hon. L.R. BREUER (Giles) (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills. Can the minister inform the house about how the state government is working with South Australian business and industry to improve opportunities for Aboriginal people in obtaining jobs and training?

**The Hon. G. PORTOLESI (Hartley—Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:49):** I would like to thank the member for this very important question and acknowledge the work that she does locally and in this place to advance the cause of Aboriginal people. Members in this place, in particular the member for Giles, are well aware that there are very low numbers of Aboriginal people represented as employees in a number of industries and sectors.

While the state government is very committed to closing these gaps and having Aboriginal people represented in all of our sectors, we also recognise that governments alone cannot make the difference. It is absolutely critical that this be a partnership, a collaboration, between industry, business and communities. That is why I was very pleased to join His Excellency the Governor at a recent event which was hosted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. I would like to acknowledge and thank Mark Jones, who is the regional manager of the South Australian and Northern Territory branch.

The event was designed to showcase our Aboriginal employment industry clusters to prominent members of the financial and professional services industry and to talk about the role they can play in involving more Aboriginal people in their sector. I have to say that my impression is that these sectors are working very well. The aim is to get both employers to think about ways in which they can engage more effectively with Aboriginal people and to provide more opportunities for Aboriginal people to gain rewarding and sustainable jobs, particularly in industries where they are unrepresented.

I am pleased to advise that there are seven of these clusters in South Australia which are increasing training and employment opportunities in the areas of advanced manufacturing, community services, energy and water, hospitality, professional services, retail and in the South Australian public sector.

I learnt at this event that when leaders in the finance industry first got together as the professional services cluster, a survey found that there were no Aboriginal people in jobs in any of the top or mid-tier accounting firms in South Australia, and I acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Mark Butcher, who is chairing that cluster. He is doing a first-class job.

However, this cluster is working to change that, and they are changing that. I can report that across all of the clusters to date, 114 Aboriginal people have gained employment and 363 Aboriginal people are being supported into training. An additional 370 people will participate in the program during 2012-13 (so, that will conclude shortly).

Change will take time but this partnership approach is making a difference. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud and acknowledge our business leaders, Mark Butcher and Mark Jones, the Aboriginal communities, individuals who are involved and, of course, the organisations that are supporting those individuals. I wish them all the very best.

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:53):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister now inform the house of the number of schools the teacher who was arrested for child rape and producing pornography last Thursday has been employed at since the year 2000?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:53):** As a result of this particular teacher's suspension in November, police assessed there was no immediate risk to children currently at that school. Therefore, at this point the integrity of the investigation and the judicial process needs to be upheld. That is a direct quote from a police statement that was issued last week in relation to the arrest of—

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Unley to order.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —this circumstance. The police in South Australia do not take the decision to withhold information lightly, but they did ask for patience in relation to this investigation. My concern is around any victims that we need to protect, that has to be paramount, and ensuring that we get a successful prosecution of anyone who has abused a child. I am not about to breach any instruction that we have received from SAPOL that we are to say nothing further in relation to this investigation until they give us the clearance to do so.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Supplementary?

**The SPEAKER:** If indeed it is one—not like the member for Morphett's supplementary, I trust?

### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:55):** Is the minister then saying that she has received a direct instruction from the Commissioner of Police not to enquire as to whether the offender had, in fact, been in any other schools?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:55):** No.

**Ms Chapman:** Then you should've done it.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Fisher.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Point of clarification, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I'm sorry; the minister wishes—

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Point of clarification, sir: the member for Bragg interjected, indicating that I should have checked what employment this person had. Her question did not ask me that, her question was: had I received direction from the police commissioner?

**Ms Chapman:** Why didn't you check? Why didn't you check?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I warn the member for Unley for the first time, I warn the deputy leader for the first time, I call the member for Davenport and the Leader of the Opposition to order, and I call the Minister for Education to order. The member for Fisher.

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRAND**

**The Hon. R.B. SUCH (Fisher) (14:56):** My question is to the Premier. Is there a new slogan to go with the branding of the state, and what logo and/or slogan will be on new car numberplates?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (14:56):** Well, I can tell you it won't be 'Going all the way', and I can tell you that for sure. In fact, the—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** It is actually a good question, because the whole question of a logo was considered as part of this exercise. The reality is logos do quickly date. Just to take you through the chain of reasoning that was used by the people who actually came up with this—and I think it is a very clever chain of reasoning: in the past, what was often put against South Australia is that it just morphed into Australia, so people would say, 'Where in southern Australia?'

The idea of a separate identity for South Australia was actually one of our key challenges. 'SA' of course often morphs into South Africa and all of the other places that can be abbreviated as 'SA', so the question of actually trying to identify this state was very much about locating our place in the world. Instead of seeing Australia as a disadvantage—in being found as part of that—if you looked at our geographical position, it actually presented an opportunity, and that opportunity was to be the hub, the gateway. I think the doorway motif is a very clever way of actually communicating that we should be the entry point into this nation.

So, I think that is the sense in which we are trying to communicate a value. Instead of actually trying to land on one thing, like the Wine State, or the Festival State, as have traditionally been some of the other naming propositions—

**The SPEAKER:** The Defence State.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Or the Defence State. Every time you—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** Every time you do that, you actually exclude, and I think the wonderful thing about this particular motif is that it does not exclude, it includes. In fact, you can read just about anything you like into it. The notion—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL:** It is actually a very welcoming proposition, and I think that motif of openness is something which is a quintessentially South Australian proposition. I am very proud of the fact that we are open: open to people who come here, and, in fact, also open to people to leave and then come back. So, it is a two-way door; it is one that opens to the world and also comes back. I think you can make a lot of it. Essentially, it is something that should be recognised almost automatically by people when they are actually seeing this overseas, and immediately they can work out our place in the world, and something about an invitation to come here.

### **CHILD PROTECTION**

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:59):** My question is for the Minister for Education and Child Development. Did the education department implement any of the recommendations from the KPMG report prepared when the Premier was the education minister into the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:59):** I thank the member for Unley for asking this question, and giving me the opportunity to actually talk about the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. It was an initiative of this government developed between 2003 and 2007. During that time something like 18,000 teachers were trained to deliver this particular program. It teaches students about personal safety, it teaches them about wellbeing and it teaches them about their right to be

safe and how to seek help and protect themselves. An extensive statewide professional learning program to support staff was delivered, and an additional program was put in place to engage with teachers who were returning to teaching and new teachers after that point in time. The KPSC report, as I understand it—

**Mr Pisoni:** KPMG.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** KPMG, sorry—that was conducted, demonstrated that it was a well-regarded program and seen as best practice by educators. It was seen as having a positive impact and as being flexible and capable of being used in a range of different contexts. It is so highly regarded that we have had agreements with other jurisdictions, including the Northern Territory, Catholic Education and Queensland.

As part of the review, a new agreement has been developed for the provision of training for staff. The Principals Australia Institute has been contracted as the service provider, and a summary of the service provisions includes the development and implementation of a child protection teacher training course; organise and administer at least four child protection teacher trainer sessions per school year; organise and administer additional child protection teacher training sessions in both metropolitan and regional areas; develop a communications strategy for the promotion and publishing of the child protection teacher training course; create and maintain a registration database of participants; and develop an agreed evaluation measure and evaluation report.

During this current year there will be work with HR & Workforce Development to explore applying a requirement that all teachers complete the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum training as a condition of employment, publishing the refresher training course and reviewed curriculum online, providing access to teacher training status data on the employee kiosk (the online kiosk) and clarifying accountability structures with regional directors and assistant directors for verifying child protection curriculum implementation. It is my very strong expectation that children in our schools will be taught this curriculum. We need to ensure that our schools are safe places for children and that our children feel safe and have the skills they need.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (15:02):** My question is again to the Minister for Education. Can the minister explain why her department did not institute the recommendations of the KPMG report and from her own department's report at the recommended time of the start of the school year 2011?

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (15:03):** The member for Unley refers to a report from my own department. He put that out in a media release yesterday and, not surprisingly, the department had some difficulty in finding that report. I am advised that the report is unnamed and undated. That would surprise people in this house—that the member for Unley would be referring to a document in that condition.

**An honourable member:** Someone put it in his pigeonhole.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** I understand that it has been identified as a working draft by someone in the department who is no longer an employee, and there is no record of that document progressing past that particular person. However, I can tell you some of the initiatives that were put in place. The child protection policy was updated, site leaders are reminded annually of their obligations to deliver curriculum and provide their implementation plans as part of their site improvement plans, and the Office for Schools is working with regional directors to ensure that sites are aware of their obligations.

We expect that children are taught this in our schools. It's an important part of keeping our children safe here in South Australia. Can I go back to some of the really important issues. When we came into office, there had been questions around teachers' registration and criminal history checks around teachers. When we took office, teachers only needed to be police checked or have their criminal histories checked on employment on registration. There were no three-year consecutive checks.

**Ms Chapman:** That's worked—not.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** Well, you did nothing.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, unfortunately the clock was not started. I just have this feeling that it's been four minutes.



*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I will call the member for Morialta to order—he needn't approach me over that—and warn the member for Davenport for the first time and the member for Unley. The member for Stuart.

#### **ANTI-GANG TASK FORCE**

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:05):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise whether he advocated to have one of the federal government's anti-gang task force strike teams established in Adelaide, given that South Australia has the highest rate of shootings per capita in the nation, and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (15:06):** This is an announcement of the commonwealth government that, no doubt, we will have the opportunity to have further discussions with the Prime Minister about. This is an initiative that we very much welcome. I am certainly very pleased to be engaged with the commonwealth on this particular issue.

We do accept the analysis that the commonwealth has made about this matter; that is, gangs of this sort do extend their activities beyond jurisdictions and so it is a proper matter for the commonwealth. I know that we have been regularly promoting collaboration between the commonwealth and the states on this important question and we will continue to advance South Australia's cause in discussions with our Prime Minister.

#### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (15:07):** My question is to the Minister for Disabilities. Can the Minister for Disabilities inform the house of the achievements of people involved in Special Olympics South Australia?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers) (15:07):** I would like to thank the honourable member for the question and just acknowledge her ongoing commitment to people with a disability. Special Olympics is a worldwide movement that inspires people with an intellectual disability to achieve their personal best through regular sport and competition. It's not a single event and it's not just for the elite.

Special Olympics provides opportunity for all people with an intellectual disability, regardless of their skill level. While some Special Olympics athletes strive to win medals, others enjoy the chance to get active, have fun, make friends and be part of a sporting family. Much like mainstream sport, the Special Olympics competition structure offers athletes the chance to progress from local through to international competition. At events, athletes are placed in divisions so they can compete against people of similar ability.

Sadly, people with an intellectual disability are at times ridiculed, misunderstood, isolated or simply ignored, yet, with the understanding and support of organisations such as Special Olympics, they discover the skills that allow them to improve their health, develop self-confidence and bring fulfilment to themselves, their families and their community.

With the Special Olympics South Australia patron—our state Governor—I recently had the pleasure of being invited to the annual Special Olympics South Australia awards night. The ceremony recognised athletes and coaches for their commitment and outstanding effort over the past 12 months in their respective fields. Importantly, the ceremony gave particular recognition to the work of volunteers and the crucial work they do behind the scenes. This year's award winners in their respective categories were:

- Lisa Niblett, who won the Bill Bowden Encouragement Award;
- Igor Negrão, who was awarded the Coach of the Year;
- Liz Kinross, winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award;
- the Junior Athlete of the Year was won by Charlie Wilkins;
- the Female Athlete of the Year, Katie Williams;
- the Male Athlete of the Year, Toby Sutherland; and

- Nathan Balkwill was the winner of the Special Olympics Athlete of the Year

Athletes who represented South Australia in the 2012 Trans-Tasman and National Junior Games were also recognised on the night. Behind every one of these awards there is an inspiring story of courage, commitment and an unflinching desire to live life to the fullest. I wish to congratulate all of the athletes who were nominated, all of the participants and their families, and all the volunteers who are so vital to the ongoing success of Special Olympics South Australia.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:10):** My question is again to the Premier. As the Premier has now had 24 hours to look into the matter, will he confirm whether or not he has received the budget bid for the neighbourhood policing teams?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (15:10):** I thought I had confirmed it yesterday, but I have no doubt that my office would have, given that I chair a particular committee; but I do not comment on the fact or otherwise of budget bids that come into my office. The reason we do not do that is that they are budget processes that are auspiced by cabinet, and we do not traverse the discussions that go on in the cabinet process.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:10):** My question is again for the Premier. I did hear him when he said he does not comment on the budget process or budget bids, but does the Premier agree with police commissioner Gary Burns that additional funding for the five new neighbourhood policing teams is necessary to achieve the government's Safe Communities, Healthy Neighbourhoods target?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (15:11):** Well, what I do agree with is that we have had an almost 40 per cent reduction in victim reported crime here in South Australia over the period since the government's election. I also agree with the proposition that we have more operational police per capita than any other state in the mainland. I also agree with the proposition that just about every piece of significant infrastructure that has been asked for by the police, including new police headquarters, a new training academy, and a countless number of police stations, has been delivered to the police force in South Australia. We have an excellent police force.

**The Hon. I.F. EVANS:** Point of order: the question was not about that. The question was whether he agreed with the police commissioner—

**The SPEAKER:** Oh, no! Actually, I listened to that question very carefully. There is no merit in the point of order. I call the Premier. Has the Premier finished?

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

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:12):** Supplementary: given that the Premier has explained to us a range of things that he agrees with, will he please tell me whether he agrees with police commissioner Gary Burns that funding of the five new neighbourhood policing teams is necessary to achieve the government's Safe Communities, Healthy Neighbourhoods target?

*The Hon. T.R. Kenyon interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the Premier, I call the Minister for Manufacturing to order and I warn him for the first time. I believe he has been doing it all day. The Premier.

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier, Treasurer, Minister for State Development, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for the Arts) (15:13):** I am not going to be drawn into a public discussion about individual agencies' funding bids. It is simply not appropriate to be traversing those matters in public. There is a reason for it. For those opposite it has been a long time since they have occupied the Treasury benches, but there is an orderly process of ensuring that we are able to look at all the priorities of government and assess them so that we can make an appropriate judgement in the context of a budget.

## GRIEVANCE DEBATE

**KNIGHT, PROF. J.**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:13):** Today we saw South Australian taxpayers paying out \$1 million towards a \$4.3 million payout to Professor John Knight, the former head of the Flinders Medical Centre cardiac and thoracic unit. Added to this cost, what are the costs of the Crown Solicitor's fees, what were the costs of the coronial inquiry, and what are all the other costs that are being added on to the long-suffering taxpayers having to pay out, having to repair damage that has been done by this government? We understand that it will be well in the \$6 million figure. The people of South Australia should be asking questions about what is going on in the health department, what is going on in this government.

Professor Knight was exonerated by the Coroner. He won his legal claim against the government, but now we would like to see the trifecta. We would like to see the fact that Professor Knight is going to get an apology from this government. We saw that today, when I asked the question: will this government apologise to Professor Knight for the damage that has been done to his reputation over the claims and accusations and his being stood aside from his position as a prominent surgeon in our public health system? No, we are not getting an apology at all.

This government is happy to name the man in parliament here, to say that he has been suspended from a public position, a man who is well known in the medical profession throughout South Australia and I should say nationally and internationally, who is an exceptionally fine surgeon and who was exonerated by the Coroner when there were accusations made against him about a particular case that he was involved in. The Coroner cleared Professor Knight and what do we see now? We see that the government has continued to battle with Dr Knight, has continued to make the South Australian taxpayers pay out for their incompetence and their mismanagement.

The most important thing this government could do is make sure this never ever happens again. I am very pleased to see that the Minister for Health today has said that the Commissioner for Public Employment, Mr Warren McCann, will carry out an independent review of the circumstances in which it is appropriate for a suspension of a clinician or healthcare worker to be made. In other words, they are admitting the fact that mistakes were made in the past, but they will not come back, they will not correct those mistakes and they will not apologise to Professor Knight for the damage that was done.

They named Professor Knight in parliament here, and everybody in this place knows—lawyers know it, doctors know it, vets know it and any professional knows that your reputation is absolutely paramount. So, to be publicly named—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Tell that to Luigi. Remember Luigi?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —is to be publicly shamed, isn't it, Patrick? To be publicly named is to be publicly shamed, and that is what happened to Professor Knight in this place. The damage that was done can be partly repaired by some financial payout, but the damage will never ever be completely repaired unless this government comes back into this place and says to Professor Knight, 'What we did was wrong'. There were issues that need to be investigated, sure, but do not name the man, do not shame the man publicly in here and then we all know what has happened since then.

The Coroner found that the professor was completely above board. All of his actions were completely professional. He was exonerated of all claims against him. We know that the government was offered to negotiate with Dr Knight and his legal team a long time ago, and it could have settled for a much lesser figure, but we have seen now a figure of \$1 million for the health department, millions of dollars from the insurance company and how much from crown law for these many years? This started in October 2009, so we are talking years and years of legal expenses, legal costs and particularly professional hurt to Dr Knight.

It is a disappointing thing to see in this place that people do not have the courage of their convictions or the moral courage to stand up in this place and do the right thing, not only to ensure that it never happens again, as we are seeing with Mr McCann's investigation, but to recognise the hurt that has been done in the past. This is something that should never ever have happened. Naming people in this place is something that we should be very, very careful about, particularly when the facts are yet to be proved.

That was the case here and, by Professor Knight being named in this place, his reputation was severely damaged, and we have seen that in the monetary payout today. Let's have an apology from this government to Dr Knight and let's make sure it never happens again, because your reputation, whether you are a vet, a lawyer or a doctor, is the most paramount thing you can have. It is your credibility that is at stake and we should never ever risk that in coward's castle by naming people.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The ever popular member for West Torrens.

#### **PARK TERRACE DEVELOPMENT**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (15:18):** I rise to talk about yesterday's reckless actions by the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition went to 45 Park Terrace, Gilberton yesterday. Now, in the member for Norwood's rush to score political points, he recklessly and needlessly damaged an aspiring business and the reputation of a developer who has acted in good faith as a good corporate citizen.

We know that the housing industry is experiencing difficulties. The government is doing as much as it possibly can to stimulate the sector through a range of grants and tax relief policies—policies that the developer at 45 Park Terrace is extremely supportive of. However, because the Leader of the Opposition could not give that businessman the courtesy of a phone call, he would not know that.

The Leader of the Opposition has also potentially set back the project with his blatantly wrong comment, which he splashed across the head of his news release: 'Gilberton Development Scrapped'. Not only is that headline factually incorrect but surely an allegedly 'business-minded' person—as he claims he is—would know that attacking developments does not stimulate our economy. The developer of the project was visibly upset at being used as a cheap point-scoring opportunity by Mr Marshall and he explained as much to the journalists who attended.

After watching the news last night, what also became clear was the sneaky and not honest way in which the Leader of the Opposition and his office came to arrange their ill-fated press conference yesterday. It has been confirmed, through the director that confronted Mr Marshall during his press conference yesterday, who was upset that he was not even told he was about to be used as a political point-scoring opportunity, that the company about which Mr Marshall held the press conference received two phone calls yesterday. One was from a purported buyer of an apartment and one from someone who had an inquiry about an apartment.

The person who had the inquiry about the apartment left their details and asked to have a return phone call. The purported buyer did not leave any details and simply asked details of the development. Mr Marshall was then asked in the press conference if his office had identified themselves when they called the developer, and on TV Mr Marshall said they had not.

Now, what is wrong with the Leader of the Opposition ringing up a developer and saying, 'I am disappointed that you have re-scoped your project from the way it was advertised and I would like to come down to your site and hold a press conference'? Not this man. This man had his office ring up, not identify themselves as being from the Liberal Party or the Leader of the Opposition's office, and say that they were an interested buyer.

**Mr Whetstone:** Who got the dirt on the Marshall business?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I don't know. Apparently there is dirt on the Marshall business.

**Mr Whetstone:** Who was looking for the dirt on that?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** We know already of one staffer from the opposition who established fake Twitter sites. If there is a member of the opposition leader's staff who is making phone calls to businesses on behalf of the Liberal Party and the Leader of the Opposition and not identifying themselves—

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Claiming to be a buyer.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Claiming to be a buyer—you have to ask yourself what their motive is. Is their motive good governance? Is their motive good policies? Or is it underhanded deceit? If it is underhanded deceit, you have to ask yourself what kind of person is that? The Liberal Party claims to be the party of business, yet they turned up yesterday on a developer's site and talked down that development. Why? To score a cheap political point.

This Leader of the Opposition reminds me of a leader we used to have: a guy called Mark Latham. He is reckless. He doesn't think. He goes to Mount Lofty for a meeting, and then he stands in front of someone who has put their own livelihood at risk to develop a property and to do something for the future of South Australia, and the best a man who has had everything handed to him on a plate can do is get one of his staff to anonymously call that office and pretend to be a buyer. That is the future that the Liberal Party has for South Australia. That is how they operate. That is who they are. It is dishonest.

#### **SMITH, DIANE AND BRYAN**

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:23):** Just to lighten the tone of the afternoon, I thought I would welcome today to the Speaker's gallery Bryan and Di Smith of Coorabie. Di, I welcome you to Parliament House to work in the office here today.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** Is that near Curramulka?

**Mr TRELOAR:** No, it's not near Curramulka; wrong peninsula. Coorabie is about 150 kilometres west of Ceduna. I welcome Di here today to work in the office. She normally works Thursdays and Fridays in the Ceduna office in the electorate of Flinders. Di and her husband Bryan farm at Coorabie, near Nundroo, on the Eyre Highway. As you head west from Ceduna, go through Penong, and continue west to Nundroo, the last paddock on the left-hand side, as you leave the cropping belt of South Australia, belongs to the Smiths.

**The Hon. P.F. Conlon:** How many wombats?

**Mr TRELOAR:** There are 50,000 acres, Patrick, so your guess is as good as mine as to the number of wombats.

**The Hon. L.R. Breuer:** About 10,000.

**Mr TRELOAR:** Many wombats. Bryan in fact has just come from the Hart Mid North field days, where he was invited to speak on his topic of the day—'Farming on the edge'. What makes the Smith family unique is that they very much are on the edge of the wheat belt. In a 300 millimetre rainfall and a high pH soil area, they grow wheat, barley and canola and keep sheep.

There are many challenges, obviously, to farming out there and Bryan went through a number of them in his presentation. I have seen the presentation and it consists of many excellent slides of their farming operation. It is highly mechanised; it is sophisticated. They use the latest technology, the latest machinery and the latest soil science to make their business profitable on the West Coast. The challenges include not just the distance and the logistics of operating 150 ks west of Ceduna but also the feral animals. One of the members has alluded to the number of wombats—

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** An overabundant native species.

**Mr TRELOAR:** An overabundant native species that they need to deal with. One of the really time-consuming and expensive tasks of farmers out west is dealing with the wombats. Of course, the environment and the landscape have changed somewhat since settlement and have actually encouraged the wombats to breed up and reach plague proportions in some regions. They go a long way towards destroying much of the countryside. It makes it a very difficult proposition and, in fact, some of the country has been destroyed completely. A big part of the paddock preparation for the year revolves around the ridding of wombats from the paddock that is proposed for wheat.

I spoke in here last week of the incursion of the camels into the agricultural areas. Of course, they are running wild in great numbers in the wilderness areas to the north of the dog fence. They put pressure on the dog fence. In fact, in some places they knock the dog fence down in their efforts to come inside, get a drink and have something to eat and, of course, this then lets in the dingoes and compounds the problem. The dingoes of course target the sheep that are run by the farmers.

But all is not lost! It is a wonderful place to live and the farmers on the Far West Coast are prepared to meet the challenge of their environment and their business structures. I think one of the real success stories of South Australian agriculture is that not just the Smiths but many families right across the agricultural zone in South Australia have managed to run profitable businesses in a really—and I am reluctant to use this word—marginal environment. It is a low rainfall area, but in fact their businesses are not marginal; they are strong businesses.

For 150 years, South Australia led the world in agricultural development technology. I think that is at risk now; our leadership is at risk. I do not think there has been appropriate government investment in the agricultural industry and I also think that our competitiveness is being undermined by a massive amount of regulation—red tape and what we are beginning to see more of and calling 'green tape'.

We compete in a global market; we must be competitive. Much of the rest of the world can also grow wheat, barley and canola and keep sheep. In a global marketplace, competitiveness is necessary and, as I said, the farmers do a very good job of it. Bryan Smith is also a member of the EPARF committee at the Minnipa Research Centre, and that also is an icon of dryland agricultural research in South Australia. Welcome to the Smiths, and congratulations on your efforts out west.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

### **PORT PIRIE PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

**Mr BROCK (Frome) (15:28):** Today I would like to talk about the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Port Pirie Prostate Cancer Support Group, which I had the pleasure of attending this week. A public men's health evening was held at the Port Pirie sporting club early in 2003 and among the guest speakers were Dr Landers—a urologist from Adelaide, talking about prostate cancer—a nurse, and a prostate cancer survivor, who spoke about his prostate cancer journey.

At this meeting, Nicola Champion, a palliative care nurse, addressed those present and asked if any of the public would be interested in forming a prostate cancer support group in Port Pirie. Colin Lang, who had just finished treatment for prostate cancer, spoke to Nicola that night and made arrangements to meet later at his home. Nicola Champion and Colin Lang met together and decided to attempt to start a prostate cancer support group in Port Pirie.

Another prostate cancer sufferer, Barry Scarman, indicated he was prepared to take on the role of convenor for the group. Adelaide Prostate Cancer Support Group was notified and the meeting was advertised in the local newspaper. A grant of \$250 was received from the Cancer Council of South Australia to help establish this group. The first support group meeting was held on 3 March 2003 at the BHAS Bowling Club and was chaired by Barry Scarman, with approximately 12 members from the public attending, along with three Adelaide Prostate Cancer Support Group members travelling from Adelaide to support the newly-formed group.

Prostate cancer support groups in South Australia at March 2003 were: Adelaide, North East and Barossa-Gawler, and the fourth group to be formed was the Port Pirie group. The Port Pirie Prostate Cancer Support Group was also the 50<sup>th</sup> support group formed in Australia. At the start of the group, only three members had prostate cancer, with another five men and four women who supported the group. In the early days, there was very little information available about prostate cancer to pass on to any of the newly diagnosed men, and there was also a lack of financial assistance. Over the next few years, the group went from strength to strength and, at one stage, had about 20 members regularly attending meetings.

However, by 2008, with the loss of several group members to prostate cancer and others just feeling they did not need the support of the group any more, membership had declined and at that particular point the Port Pirie Prostate Cancer Support Group looked very like possibly folding. Colin Lang approached Mr Allan Manfield and asked if he would like to be the new convenor to replace Barry. Allan Manfield has been the convenor since 2008.

Around this point in time Colin and his wife Lorraine and Allan and Joan Manfield travelled to Adelaide for a meeting to form the Central Australia Chapter. This chapter is under the umbrella of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and was formed to coordinate and support groups in South Australia and the Northern Territory and also to supply groups with current information and resources. Since the formation of the Central Australia Chapter and with the assistance of the PCFA, they are now provided with a lot more information about prostate cancer, financial assistance and equipment, which has greatly helped their support group operate successfully.

Since the support group has been keeping a record of attendances at their meetings, they have recorded an average attendance of 18 in 2009, 22 in 2010 and now up to 35 in 2012. Over the past 10 years, they have had many prostate cancer awareness stalls, assisted at awareness stalls in other towns (including attending the launch of the Be a Man campaign held in Adelaide's Rundle Mall), enjoyed several different social groups, and have had great guest speakers to enlighten them on many topics at their meetings. The group has had many members speak about their prostate cancer journeys and has viewed DVDs on various health issues.

Men diagnosed with prostate cancer, prostate problems, etc., can now use the resource library, which contains many books, booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets and DVDs relating to prostate cancer and its side effects. This has enabled the group to help many men and their partners with their prostate journey. The support group is approached at various times to comment in issues and provide information about prostate cancer for television, radio and newspapers, and also participate in research surveys.

The Port Pirie Prostate Cancer Support Group had their first member, Joan Manfield, appointed for a three-year period to the Central Australia Chapter Council from 1 January 2013. In the first 10 years of this support group, sadly, nine of their members have passed away. The purpose of the group has always been to give support, help and information to any person diagnosed with prostate cancer or prostate problems, and will continue to assist men and their partners into the future. Without the foresight and driving force of Nicola Champion, together with Colin Lang and Barry Scarman, Port Pirie may not have had the prostate cancer support group. Congratulations to all involved.

#### DESERT FRINGE FESTIVAL

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:34):** I rise today to talk about the vibrant arts scene in Port Augusta.

**The Hon. L.R. Breuer:** That wonderful display along the road, along the highway.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** The member for Giles is laughing.

**The Hon. L.R. Breuer:** That wonderful work of art!

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** The member for Giles, from one of Port Augusta's outer suburbs, Whyalla, is laughing about the vibrant art scene at Port Augusta. Let me inform the house about the fringe festival that is coming to Port Augusta on 15 and 16 March. We are all aware of what is going on in Adelaide at the moment—we have got the Fringe and the Festival of Arts. Let me inform the house that the fringe festival is coming to Port Augusta as well and, as is often said, 'coming to a desert near you'. It is called the Desert Fringe.

There will be numerous events for the local community to participate in. I welcome this. It is an annual event that has been coming to Port Augusta for quite a while and I think it is absolutely fantastic. On the evening of Friday 15 March, there will be street performers, roving artists, South Australian Indigenous band THE MERRg, plus uplifting tunes from the Corey Theatre, and of course, as I am sure even happens in Whyalla, there will be a free sausage sizzle because nothing can happen without a free sausage sizzle. That is very important.

Let me say quite genuinely that it is absolutely wonderful for Port Augusta and the district to have the Fringe coming. Saturday will be a big day as well. Saturday will feature cheeky cabaret acts from international darling Miss Behave, favourites Mr Spin and Pandora Pink from the UK, Desert Fringe first-timers Corey Theatre and Til The Break, Port Augusta's Desert Voices Choir, which I have been fortunate enough to hear many times, a choir of local people, and also a ukulele club, hilarious feats from Les Vitamines, which is a Canadian group, and dance and physical theatre company Polytoxic from Queensland. They will all be playing over the two-day event.

Then, on Saturday night, bring a picnic rug, sit back, grab a bite to enjoy and enjoy the show at sunset. Hosted by internationally acclaimed Miss Behave, enjoy a waterfront concert. I do not think that is something the member for Giles will have ever done in Whyalla: enjoy a waterfront concert, as we can do in Port Augusta. It will be an absolutely fantastic event.

This is one part of a very vibrant arts scene in Port Augusta. I congratulate Ms Eleanor Day, who is the local coordinator for Country Arts SA and who does an absolutely fantastic job. Most of the arts events that occur in Port Augusta revolve around the cultural arts centre, locally known as Yarta Purtli, which is right near Gladstone Square. That exhibition space and the institute

on the other side of the barracks is absolutely wonderful. It was part of an upgrade of that area, I think, in 2008 when Port Augusta was South Australia's regional cultural arts centre.

We have had arts going on in our district for thousands of years through our very important Aboriginal culture, but it really got a big step-up and kick-off in 2008. Let me acknowledge the enormous number of volunteers who contribute to this, as well as the artists who make their work (in all sorts of different ways) available. It is almost always volunteers who support with regard to administration, the showing, the protection, the interpretation, the serving (often) of food and drinks and things like that in Port Augusta to make this happen.

When people think of art in Port Augusta they certainly think of Aboriginal art, which is very important. As I said, Aboriginal art has been in Port Augusta for thousands of years, but it is not only Aboriginal art these days. There is a proud culture in Port Augusta of recognising our past, drawing on the strengths of our past, but certainly working currently and into the future to develop arts in this part of the world. I am very proud to have two paintings in my office in Port Augusta, one by an Aboriginal artist, Mr Tim Hampton, and one by a local non-Indigenous artist, Mr Joel Plevin, both of whom are fantastic local artists and represent their cultures, our region and the past, present and future exceptionally well in Port Augusta.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**The Hon. L.R. BREUER (Giles) (15:38):** I do congratulate Port Augusta on its art—whatever is happening there—they deserve it, particularly with that wonderful structure along the highway, their art piece there. Tomorrow is International Women's Day and I rise today to reflect on where we have come in my life time. I am a feminist and I have always been proud to say so. I am one of those ageing feminists—

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Sorry; point of clarification.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Point of clarification.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** What are you talking about, 'that wonderful structure along the highway'?

**The Hon. L.R. BREUER:** Along the pipeline, piles of gravel.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Giles has the call.

**The Hon. L.R. BREUER:** I am one of those ageing feminists who have been the butt of much derision and negativity for many years, but in spite of this I am very passionate about the cause. I am not a man-hater, I do not believe women should have preference when merit is involved, and I am certainly not a militant proponent of the cause, but I have always believed in the issues, and have tried in my own way to better the lives of women and their families.

One my proudest achievements is my daughter, who is a 26-year-old young woman who is not afraid to call herself a feminist, despite the complications that can arise, particularly in her peer groups. She was raised in a single-parent household and has had the opportunity in her lifetime to be with and influenced by good, strong, likeminded women, and I believe she has reaped the benefits of this.

My daughter is a sassy, intelligent, caring young woman who has done much already in her life to support women's lives both here and overseas, and wants to spend her life working in fields which will benefit women who do not have the opportunities, and her confidence to do what she believes is best for her and for humanity. She will make, and indeed already has made, her mark on the world, and I am very proud of her. I know she will change the world in some way, big or small, because she has that choice.

Feminism is often defined as giving women a choice in their lives. It is about believing that gender should not determine a person's life and opportunities, and that is what my generation of women fought for and, to a large extent, we succeeded in many ways. In Australia and much of the Western world, young women take for granted that they now have the same opportunities as their brothers in employment, education and lifestyle.

The right to choose is an unarguable right for all women and works for many, but I do wonder about the single mother with young children and limited education, with few opportunities to get out of the poverty rut. Have we really achieved a choice for them, despite the numerous education possibilities now out there for all, despite the availability of child care and of income support? I think there are very brave women who do manage to overcome all the obstacles in



place. Some manage, but we need to give them a lot more support, or it is a big, gaping chasm between the hype and the reality of their situations.

The women in domestic violence situations, the young girl who is under the guardianship of the minister, the young Aboriginal girls in remote communities: is there real tangible opportunity for them to overcome the mind frame they are in and the binds that hold them down?

I have spent time overseas with women in many patriarchal societies who have none of the choice of opportunities that we have in Australia: where prostitution may be the only way to support your family, where being the second or third daughter in the family means you have no way to pull yourself out of your circumstances.

I am totally confused by modern young women who are caught up in all this fantasy that female liberation is about total sexual freedom, and that the sexier you are and look, the more successful you are. I was one of those who believed that we should burn our bras and be accepted on our merits, not on our boobs. Thank goodness I did not literally burn my bra, or I would have an even worse gravity problem than I currently have.

I believe young women should look attractive and should be free to dress as they choose, but I fail to see how they will ever be taken seriously by men when their tops and bottoms are hanging out of their clothes. We can change society but we can't change human nature, and if it is there to look at, men will look and not think about much else—certainly not your IQ.

This seems to be connected by this more distressing trend of young women—and, indeed, very young women—to use social media to send around pictures of their bodies and very explicit sex messages. I shudder to think of the regret and problems that will cause them later on.

I think we have done very well with feminism, and I see many women whose lives have been changed by that. But, as I said, there are many women out there who do not have the opportunities that we have in Australia and the Western world. Sadly, when the best-selling and most discussed book of the last year or two is about a silly young woman who allows herself to be totally dominated by a misogynistic, arrogant, sadistic, abusive male (*50 Shades of Grey*), then I do wonder how far we have gone. I wish all my sisters the best for tomorrow, and I look forward to the world changing.

**POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND AGENCY (INTERSTATE POWERS OF ATTORNEY)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (GPS TRACKING FOR CHILD SEX OFFENDERS) AMENDMENT  
BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (LONG-TERM REMOVAL REVIEW PANEL) AMENDMENT BILL**

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**SECURITY AND INVESTIGATION AGENTS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 6 February 2013.)

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:46):** I rise to speak on this bill. This bill was tabled a few weeks ago by the Attorney-General and officers from the Attorney-General's Department from memory—there may have been a representative from Consumer and Business Services—or representatives of the government provided a briefing a week or two ago in order for us to have some further understanding of the history of this bill. I thank the advisers in that regard.

The genesis of the reform in this area arises from an agreement of the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008 when it agreed to adopt a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of the private security industry. There has not really been any explanation as to why we are dealing with this matter five years down the track but, nevertheless, the reform purports to do a number of things.

I should place on record what industry we are talking about and, in particular, what the private security industry actually does. Both individuals and businesses provide guarding and

technical security services and, as members will be aware, that includes protecting property, buildings, factories and the like, and providing security at various events and venues. Some specialty services are also provided for individual, close, personal protection and escorts and, of course, protecting valuable items when in transit.

With the development of very significant public events in this state, this is particularly important. We have not just concerts and events and suchlike but we have major state events, including car races and bike races—some of which we are enjoying during this month of March—where the security industry provides those services. However, there are also many areas of protection required when cash is being transferred from one premises to another, particularly banks and the like, and the protection of property whether it is valuable jewellery or a substantial building. I do not think we have any protection of property for valuable crops anymore because I think tobacco is no longer grown in Australia, but I imagine security industries personnel were very active in that, most and last in Victoria, when that was kept under guard.

The growing demand that has contributed to the increased competition and cost cutting has been identified by the government, and possibly other members who attended the COAG meeting, as resulting in some problems, particularly with the standard of training of personnel and some complaint of poor service delivery. We are not privy to the detail of that, but it is not unrealistic to expect that, in a competitive industry, there needs to be some check on the standards that are applied. This is not just a question of the training of personnel to undertake the surveillance and guarding work but it also needs to be understood that sometimes the personnel are utilising firearms or trained protective dogs, for example, and therefore the standard of training needs to be quite high.

The areas of licensable activities include general guarding, crowd or venue control, guarding with a dog, guarding with a firearm, monitoring centre operations, body guarding and training. There are also to be areas of reform in the provision of minimal criminal exclusions in determining a person's suitability to hold a security licence and also minimum standards for identification and probity checks. Additionally, there is to be agreed competency and skills requirements and the introduction of provisional and temporary licences.

My understanding is that, in South Australia, we already have quite a robust system of both probity standards and training obligations, which means that we are probably the least deserving of attention in being swept up into a federal system. However, consistent with what seems to be almost uniform practice now at these COAG meetings, some bright spark around the table identifies that the panacea of improvement rests in harmonious uniform legislation around the country and everyone seems to dust their hands off, go home and then, some years later, implement it.

We on this side of the house are not convinced that that is necessarily the answer, especially as we have such a good track record in South Australia, but there seem to be two areas in which there will be some improvement in the strengthening of the applicability of this new national system. The first is that the person or institution that is to train the security personnel also needs to be registered or licensed, which means that each of those institutions has to be accredited as such and the trainers then have licences.

So, expanding the fit and proper person rules to those who are in the training world is probably of benefit. The COAG meeting, in any event, agreed that that would be appropriate. Those on this side of the house accept that expansion of application, and that will also include directors of a body corporate that holds a licence under the bill.

The other areas in which there is some expansion are the offences that would disqualify someone from holding a licence. In South Australia, under our existing law, there are already six offences identified which would disqualify someone from holding a licence, but signing up to this national scheme would add two other additional offences, and they are dishonesty offences and terrorism offences.

The other aspect that is expanded here but which I place in a similar category is that, apart from expanding the types of offences, it will also reform the current position to ensure that disqualification would be effective if that person who either had the licence or sought to have one were found guilty of an offence even if that conviction were not recorded. Some members in this house would be aware that it is not an uncommon practice for there to be a finding in a court that someone has been found to have committed an offence, but for reasons which are allowed under

our law the magistrate or judge can, in all of the circumstances presented to them, agree not to record a conviction.

That application is often made by the offender or their representative sometimes to give consideration to what might be a first offence, but sometimes it is also to ensure that the offender is not inflicted with too strict a penalty, or almost like a double penalty, if it were in some way to adversely affect their capacity to continue to be employed. That is a discretion that is left usually with the judge or magistrate. However, for the purposes of someone who wanted to obtain or retain a licence as a security agent, that finding would still be sufficient to disqualify them, and that is something that the opposition agrees to support.

Apart from the training personnel and agencies having to be accredited and their trainers licensed, and apart from the expansion of offences, there is also one further aspect which is currently not provided for in South Australia, and that is the application of a provisional licence.

COAG took the view that it was reasonable in certain circumstances for provisional licences to be issued subject to the completion of training, which I assume to be in some way conditional upon that provisional licence being allocated. In other words, there would be a process upon which someone could seek a licence for a short time, presumably to be able to cover a certain event, activity or function that would be over a short time and for which extra security may be needed. Perhaps the most common would be a sporting or some cultural event, concert or something of the like, but I could think of other situations, like the visit of a member of the Royal Family, for example, where extra security might be required.

As members would know, when we have special visitors such as the Queen visit South Australia, we welcome a rather large entourage of people to provide security services who are no doubt personally trained in England. However, it is important that we supplement that to provide for not just the security of the royal entourage but also the security of others who might come into the presence of a royal visitor in those circumstances.

So, it is not uncommon and it would not be unreasonable in these situations for there to be a number of things. Firstly, a mutual recognition of those who might come across the border to supplement that service in South Australia for a special event and, secondly, for those who it would be unreasonable to expect to undertake a full application process for a full licence for an annual period. Accordingly, that is allowed.

It does seem a little inconsistent with the concept that there needs to be a high standard for those who are allowed into the industry and a high level of training to then say, on the other hand, 'Well, it's not so significant that we will allow short-term applications for these provisional licences.' I think if the conditions imposed by COAG, which is that there be a completion of training, are carried out, then that would seem, on the face of it, to be acceptable.

I note that the consultation on the draft bill was undertaken, I am advised, with a number of training providers in addition to Business SA and the National Security Association SA branch. I understand there are a number of other persons who are directly involved in this industry who were consulted, and we are advised that there had been an indication that these amendments are in line with their views. To the best of my knowledge, there had not been any relevant stakeholders who had ultimately expressed any disapproval of the proposal.

As I say, that is probably because South Australia was in the enviable position of already having very robust security and investigation agent regulations, and I am pleased that that has been the case. It gives recognition to the fact that our current legislation has in fact been well developed. The Security and Investigations Act was passed in 1995. For those who were in the parliament at that stage, I commend them for having one of the more advanced and effective regimes in this area. I will not be seeking to go into committee.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:05):** I too rise to speak to the Security and Investigation Agents (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2013. I note that this is a bill to amend the Security and Investigation Agents Act 1995. The background to this bill is that each state and territory government is responsible for the regulation of the private security industry within its own jurisdiction. As indicated by our lead speaker, the member for Bragg, the Council of Australian Governments agreed in July 2008 to accept a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of the private security industry to improve the probity, competence and skills of security personnel and the mobility of security licensees across jurisdictions.

Under the COAG proposal, COAG agreed that licensed activities include general guarding, crowd or venue control, operating with a dog, guarding with a firearm, monitoring centre operations, body guarding and security training. There was also general agreement to reform the minimum criminal exclusions in determining a person's suitability to hold a security licence, minimum standards for identification and probity checks, agreed competency and skills requirements, and obviously there was agreement to the introduction of provisional and temporary licences.

It is understood that the Labor government agreed in July 2008 to the COAG reforms and to regulating the industry, and this bill is being considered almost five years later and two years after the reforms were announced. It is also appropriate that the reforms will require that a person who personally provides security industry training must hold the appropriate security trainer's licence. There is also the expanded concept of a fit and proper person to hold a licence or be the director of a body corporate that holds a licence under the bill, and we on this side of the house certainly support that.

As the member for Bragg already indicated, under South Australia's existing scheme, South Australia already provides for six of the eight offences which COAG decided would disqualify someone from holding a licence. The additional offences are dishonesty offences and terrorism offences. It is also intended that a person will be disqualified from holding a licence even if they are found guilty of an offence and a conviction is not recorded. It is interesting to note that the Security Providers Association of Australia Ltd has indicated that the amendments are totally in line with the COAG reforms and that they are more than happy with the bill.

As was indicated earlier, security guards are used in a wide range of instances. They could be involved in protecting factories, workplaces and a whole range of premises that are looked after. I know a lot of car yards hire security personnel, whether they are on site or tour the vicinity looking after several yards. I am also aware of some that are hired privately. Even in the agriculture industry I have witnessed where people who are developing specialty crops, where they have a new seed of an exotic plant, will have a private security guard guarding their seed store to make sure that no-one gets hold of it. Also, we see that during March in this state, there are a lot of community events. Even last night, with the launch of the state logo, there were security personnel involved to keep us all in check. They do provide a valuable service across the community.

I have been involved in community events for many years and some of these have been rather large events with 1,000 or 1,200 people and the security personnel provide a very valuable service to those functions. Generally everything goes according to plan without too much trouble. The beauty of it is, though, that these people are in place in case there are any situations that come up.

Nationalising this legislation will make sure that these people can work across borders. With distances seeming to be able to be covered so much more quickly these days—such as, with flight—or people maybe living close to a border, they can work across borders under very similar legislation and they can be licensed as I see it under this national legislation to work in all the states of Australia, as the legislation is passed across the country.

There is a whole range of things that are put in place for these agents. The security agents may be required to undertake drug testing. There are all sorts of controls around whether they hold a firearms licence, and there can be a temporary suspension, a cancellation or a variation of a firearms licence while they are employed as a security agent. Obviously, the security agents, the industry trainers and the directors may be required to provide fingerprints and photographs so they can work in the service.

As I said, whether they are looking after premises or are involved in crowd control, I think all the security personnel do a great job, and sometimes unexpected things can happen. In the main, these people provide a very valuable service to the community to make sure that people who have a business have their goods looked after and secured and people who are out at a venue or a function can go out and enjoy the amenity of that event and go home safely. I commend the bill. I think it is a step forward with national legislation and I commend its smooth passage through the house.

**Ms BETTISON (Ramsay) (16:13):** I rise to speak in support of this bill. The private security industry plays a pivotal role in protecting both businesses and individuals across South Australia. For example, their guarding services include protection of property, infrastructure, events and venues, close personal protection and escort, and carriage and protection of valuable commodities.

In the midst of Mad March festivities, it is clear that high-quality security is crucial for people to be able to enjoy all the events on offer. Additionally, technical security services provide advice regarding hire or supply, installation and maintenance of electronic security alarm or surveillance systems.

In July 2008, the Council of Australian Governments decided to work towards a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of the private security industry. As a result, this government has agreed to adopt a set of reforms that are consistent with the COAG approach. That is where we have the introduction of this bill. The following reforms will be implemented:

- introducing seven classifications harmonised across Australia of licensable activity. These are general guarding, crowd or venue control, guarding with a dog, guarding with a firearm, monitoring centre operations, body guarding and training;
- implementing the agreed minimum list of disqualifying offences, most of which are already prescribed in South Australia. (I understand we have been a lead player in improvements in this industry.) These offences will be prescribed in the regulations;
- requiring individual trainers to comply with the same probity requirements as members of the private security industry;
- requiring a person who carries on a business of providing security industry training to be approved; and
- providing for the issuing of temporary and provisional licences in future, with the number of applicants dependent on further consultation with SA Police and industry on temporary licences and timing of changes to operational and ICT systems.

These reforms are important for the improvement of two areas of the private security industry: first, the probity, competence and skills of security personnel; and, secondly, the mobility of security industry licensees across jurisdictions. This bill will help strengthen the regulation and standard of the private security industry and, potentially, help foster safer South Australian communities. I commend the bill to the house.

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (16:16):** I, too, rise in support of this bill. In a move to improve the private security industry, the Council of Australian Governments agreed to adopt a nationally consistent approach to the regulation of the industry on 3 July 2008. This type of regulation is important, as demand for security services has been steadily increasing since the mid-1980s, which is attributed to an increased perception of threats to security. This government is committed to keeping South Australians safe in whatever way we can, and this bill plays a part in that.

The growing demand for security services has contributed to increased competition and cost cutting, leading to problems such as inadequate training, poor service delivery and a lack of consumer confidence. The bill is a response to the concerns of the industry. The agreed reforms include:

- a list of seven activities;
- minimum criminal exclusions in determining a person's suitability to hold a security licence (which, obviously, is exceptionally important);
- minimum standards for identification and probity checks;
- agreed competency and skills requirements; and
- introduction of provisional and temporary licences.

While South Australia already covers most aspects of these reforms, the implementation of this bill will create clarity and further understanding for both the industry and the community, particularly about the activities performed by licensed security agents. Further to these reforms, the bill will implement three reforms relating to the guarding and technical sectors of the security industry, and these are:

- a requirement that a person who personally provides security industry training must hold an appropriate security industry trainer's licence;
- a requirement that a person must not carry on a business of providing security industry training unless the person has been approved by the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs; and

- probity requirements (that is, fingerprinting and criminal history checks) for the security training sector to the same standard as those imposed on security agents.

The quality of training organisations and trainers within the private security industry is essential to see industry-wide improvements. It is these training requirements and probity checks that will strengthen the regulations of this industry, which is important for increased public confidence and safety for all South Australians. I commend this bill to members.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (16:19):** I thank all of those who have contributed to the debate on this matter. I think there is one little thing which was possibly raised by the member for Bragg in the context of her remarks that I should possibly briefly address. I understand that she was puzzled about the question of the delay between the COAG decision and the introduction of the bill, and I just wanted to give this bit of information to the house in relation to that matter.

South Australia already meets many of the agreed elements of the reforms. Given that the vast majority of the agreed licensing requirements, such as fingerprinting, disqualifying offences, national and local criminal history checks and such like, are already in place in South Australia the extent of procedural changes required for South Australian businesses is considerably less than that for businesses in most other jurisdictions. Delays have also occurred, given the need to integrate the ICT changes necessary for the security reforms to work on alterations to CBS's IT licensing infrastructure. With those few remarks, I am done.

Bill read a second time.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Business Services and Consumers) (16:21):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### **SUMMARY OFFENCES (FILMING OFFENCES) AMENDMENT BILL**

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

### **ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

#### **VICTOR HARBOR AQUATIC CENTRE**

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (16:22):** I am happy to avail myself of the opportunity for a brief adjournment grievance. There are two issues I would like to talk about this afternoon. Victor Harbor's *The Times*, out today, has comprehensive coverage on the proposal for an aquatic centre on the South Coast. This has been going on for many years. The need for a swimming pool has been pushed ad infinitum and various promises and commitments have been made over many years. However, the Wright family of Victor Harbor have made available some land on Waterport Road, a very generous offer of around \$700,000, I think it is, worth of land for an aquatic centre. The two local councils, the Alexandrina Council and the City of Victor Harbor, have had a project committee working toward this project for some time.

If I have been lobbied on two things in my electorate very heavily, particularly on the South Coast, one is euthanasia, which will take its course in here ultimately, and the other is for a swimming pool. The demand for a swimming pool is great, particularly hydrotherapy. The need for a hydrotherapy pool has continued to grow with the number of retired people down there and the number of people who need rehabilitation, and a number of those who just generally need rehabilitation and a hydrotherapy pool.

I am very supportive of the idea for a pool. Of course, it is bigger than putting a hole in the ground, it needs to be an aquatic centre with various other things attached to it. I am looking forward to the day when it commences but I am looking forward even more to the day when it is completed, but that is a fair way off. I know *The Times* is very supportive of it, but I caution that although the two councils are committed to putting in funding it is very dependent on getting outside funding and also on being some sort of business structure that will actually work.

It is good news, and I congratulate the councils for getting it this far. It has been put up before and has fallen over, and this time it is a step closer. However, I think we need to be very

careful that people's hopes are not built up too much just in case it falls over once again due to lack of funding.

The other thing that I would like to bring to the house's attention is the bizarre happenings with the national parks in relation to the destruction of Ligurian bees on Kangaroo Island. This was brought to my attention by a beekeeper two or three weeks ago, and I shook my head in disbelief. For the benefit of the house: the Ligurian bees on Kangaroo Island are the purest strain of those types of bees in the world. Indeed, the queen bees are exported around the world, and the honey created by those bees is of a fine quality. They are a tame bee, as far as bees can be, and they are found right across the island.

It has been brought to my attention that the national parks on Kangaroo Island have instigated a program of annihilation of the Ligurian bee in their parks. From what I understand, either a visitor or employee was stung by a bee, and instead of using a bit of common sense and calling on the local beekeepers to come in and remove the odd swarm as it was found, they have decided to have the 'final solution' in relation to the bee population across their parks.

I am informed they are allegedly using a chemical which I think is called Neosporin, but I am not 100 per cent certain, so I will have to check up on that. If they are indeed using this chemical, I am very concerned. It just seems to me to be taking a sledgehammer to a small problem. It is alleged that the issue is to do with occupational health and safety. I am also informed that the staff who have been told to put this into place are not at all happy about poisoning the bees. They cannot speak for fear of retribution, as I understand it.

The beekeepers on the island are not happy. The spots people go to on the island are well known, and I do not think I have to go into that, but it seems like it is taking a sledgehammer to a small problem that may or may not happen, in an effort to put ridiculous occupational health and safety conditions into something which is just not required.

The Ligurian bees are amazing insects, and they are the purest strain in the world. So, to me, it seems to be a crying shame that this government department has allegedly set out on this program of annihilating Ligurian bees wherever they may be in the parks system, whether it be Flinders Chase, Kelly Hill Coves or Seal Bay—I am not sure. But, I believe that it should be matter the government picks up immediately, if they are not aware of it. It is foolhardy in the extreme.

I am sure that when the message gets out about what is going on there will be public uproar about it. It is simply not good enough. If this is indeed happening, the department should be called to account on it. The minister should take immediate action on this to find out what is going on. I understand that the matter was briefly raised in another place today, but there was the opportunity to put a bit more detail in front of our house this afternoon. It concerns me, and I look forward to some speedy answers to what I view as a foolhardy exercise by the national parks on Kangaroo Island.

## WORLD TB DAY

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Torrens; she should always know we leave the best until last.

**Mrs GERAGHTY (Torrens) (16:28):** Thank you; how very kind of you. I am sure many people know that Sunday 24 March is World TB Day. World TB day commemorates the discovery of the tuberculosis bacterium in 1882 by German physician, Robert Koch. At this time, tuberculosis was the cause of approximately one in every seven deaths in Western countries, and before Koch's discovery, it was widely believed to be a hereditary disease.

While tuberculosis gradually declined in the Western world over the ensuing decades, in much of the world today it still infects millions and causes millions of deaths, mainly in developing countries. For example, in 2011, 8.7 million people fell ill with TB and 1.4 million died. All countries are affected by tuberculosis but 55 per cent of cases occur in Asia, 30 per cent in Africa and 35 per cent in India and China. World TB Day is, therefore, aimed at raising public awareness that tuberculosis is still an epidemic disease.

In 1998, a United Nations ad hoc committee on the tuberculosis epidemic established a global partnership to stop TB. The Stop TB partnership which operates through a secretariat hosted by the World Health Organisation in Geneva, includes hundreds of government and non-government organisations across the globe. Its goal is to accelerate social and political action to stop the spread of TB. Strategies include programs for proper diagnosis and detection, regular supplies of anti-tuberculosis drugs, supervision of patients to ensure a full course of drug treatment

is taken, new vaccines and promoting financial and political commitment to the struggle against the disease.

I wanted to bring the house's attention to World TB Day not only to highlight the ongoing global struggle against this terrible disease but also to talk about one of the many political and governmental firsts achieved in South Australia. At the end of 1898, the South Australian parliament was the first in Australia and among the first jurisdictions in the world to pass legislation making tuberculosis compulsorily notifiable to health authorities as a contagious disease. This was quite an achievement because even though tuberculosis was largely accepted as a contagious disease by this time, some doubts about its contagiousness still lingered.

The South Australian Legislative Council was fortunate in having as one of its members, Dr Alan Campbell, a prominent South Australian physician who was very active in matters of public health. He first proposed making tuberculosis notifiable in 1896 when the parliament considered a public health amendment bill dealing primarily with the control of infectious diseases. The Central Board of Health, however, disagreed with Campbell on the need to put this disease in the contagious category. The bill lapsed because the parliament determined that the colony needed a new consolidated public health act.

The parliament considered a redraft of the bill in 1897. This new bill proposed extending public health powers in the area of managing infectious diseases through notification and supervision of sufferers but tuberculosis was not included. On the advice of Horatio Whittell, the president of the Central Board of Health, management of TB was to be limited to regulation of the milk and meat industry. Whittell believed, erroneously, that the ingestion of infected food and milk was the primary form of transmission of TB rather than infected airborne particles. Campbell, however, pursued his proposal pressing the point that the main source of contagion was human to human.

Opponents of Campbell's proposal fell into two categories: some questioned the veracity of the medical science and others simply believed it was too difficult to implement. Ebenezer Ward did not believe the scientific evidence that tuberculosis was contagious, declaring that Campbell's proposal would make the colony a laughing stock. More pragmatic opposition from the Central Board of Health and supported by James O'Loughlin, the chief secretary, centred on the expense and complexity of notifying and then managing such a pervasive disease, a disease that could last for many years. Other infectious diseases such as diphtheria were acute and short-lived by comparison.

Despite these objections, Campbell garnered enough support from his parliamentary colleagues to have tuberculosis inserted into the bill as a notifiable disease under a separate clause. The clause passed 10 votes to six in the council and was carried in the House of Assembly. The act was assented to in January 1899 producing another Australian first for South Australia.

Moving forward 114 years, Australia is part of a global fight against tuberculosis. Our near neighbour, Papua New Guinea, has the highest level of tuberculosis in the Pacific region and AusAID supports the Papuan government in its struggle against tuberculosis. Australia contributes to the global fund to fight diseases such as tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria. Days such as World TB Day remind us that much of the world does not enjoy the same level of health that we enjoy in Australia.

I think it is worthwhile for everyone to remember that vaccination is not something that should be taken lightly. We do not have things like polio. I have a brother-in-law, who is slightly younger than me. He had polio as a youngster and he is now suffering from post-polio syndrome. It is exceptionally painful and, at some stages, he finds it somewhat debilitating.

While we do not have polio outbreaks these days, as we did when he was a youngster, if we do not vaccinate, we will again have that to contend with and more children will suffer. As for tuberculosis and those diseases, we need to be very mindful, and I must say that Campbell was quite a remarkable fellow.

At 16:36 the house adjourned until Tuesday 19 March 2013 at 11:00.