

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7 May 2015

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

Bills

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (VOLUNTEER CHARTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 March 2015.)

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (10:33): I rise today to speak about the Fire and Emergency Services (Volunteer Charters) Amendment Bill 2015. At the outset, I would like to thank the member for Davenport for giving me the opportunity to speak first on this bill and once again welcome him to this house and the strong responsibilities that come with being a member of the team in this house. I thank him for allowing me, at very short notice, to go first on this bill.

This is not a new piece of legislation to this place. In 2012, the member for Morphett brought this bill to the parliament. The reason that he brought this bill to the parliament was that the South Australian CFS Volunteers Association was extremely unhappy at the government's lack of consultation on this and other issues—we are talking about the community safety directorate—and stated that the government had breached the South Australian CFS volunteer charter that had originally been signed in 2008. So it seems that today over the course of my speech there may be a sense of *deja vu*.

The government at that stage had committed itself to consultation on all matters that might reasonably be expected to affect the CFS volunteers and to consider their views when adopting new practices and policies and reviewing current practices and policies.

The Labor government signed the volunteer charter in 2008, but since that time has completely disregarded it and that is why it was important in 2012, and why it is important today, that we bring this to the house so that we incorporate it into the emergency services bill. Proposed section 58A includes the following provisions:

- (2) (b) requires that the Government of South Australia, the Commission and SACFS recognise, value, respect and promote the contribution of volunteer officers and members to the well-being and safety of the community; and
- (c) requires that the Government of South Australia, the Commission and SACFS commit to consulting with the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association on behalf of volunteer officers and members on any matter that might reasonably be expected to affect them...
- (4) SACFS has a responsibility to develop policy and organisational arrangements that encourage, maintain and strengthen the capacity of volunteer officers and members to provide SACFS services.

What this bill seeks to do, and what the charter sought to do in the first place, was for me something where we have 13,500 volunteers across the state who say, 'Look, we want to help. We value our communities. We want to be part of our communities. Fire is through the fire season—and as we saw the other day, not through the fire season—a constant threat to the future of our communities and we want to help. We do not want to get paid.' In fact, it is one of the policies of the CFS volunteers that they do not want to be paid. They want to be volunteers and they want to maintain that volunteer spirit.

All these 13,500 people—which I might remind the government they cannot afford to replace—are asking for is a seat at the table. All they are asking is, 'Look, please do not muck us around. Help us with equipment. Help us with an organisational structure that allows us to do our job. We are the ones on the ground who have the practical knowledge and experience of how to fight fires, so please do not muck us around.'

In 2008, the government signed a charter committing the government to not muck the service volunteers around, but unfortunately in 2012 this bill was introduced because the volunteers were not being consulted properly and, lo and behold, here we are in 2015 and we have exactly the same situation. In fact, this amendment the member for Morphett brings today is probably more important today than it was back in 2012, and why is it more important? It is because the current reform process that the member for Light and the Minister for Emergency Services is undertaking once again fails to consult those who it will affect.

We had a rally on the steps of Parliament House which the minister was invited to, but he did not come. Can I say that many of those SES and CFS volunteers were from my electorate. Brigades from Nuriootpa and Lyndoch were there, and I think I saw a few people from Angaston. There were many region 2 groups and trucks and they were from my electorate. They were white hot with outrage. There is nothing in it for them. There is nothing in it except for the satisfaction of looking after their communities and the minister does not even have the stomach to come out and face these volunteers on what are some fairly legitimate grounds.

The CFS volunteers used that rally as an opportunity to make a point to the minister and send a message to the minister, but unfortunately the minister did not listen. So what various groups have done is they have had to take what I think are fairly unprecedented steps to get their message across. The Public Service Association here in South Australia passed a motion of no confidence in the emergency services minister. The Public Service Association has members from SAFECOM, the SES, the CFS and the MFS and they moved a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Emergency Services for failing to appropriately progress the reform of the sector in an open and transparent way.

The motion referred specifically to the unilateral decision by the minister to change the previously proposed model without further conversation. Members also expressed strong concerns that the current path being undertaken by the minister has the potential to impact the safety of the people of South Australia and will not meet the objectives of the reform. The motion also continued to call for an immediate return to meaningful consultation and dialogue.

The minister said in a statement that he was pleased that the PSA support in principle an efficient and effective emergency services sector, which is one of the key aims of the reform. I find that that statement from the minister really misses the entire point. Nobody along this discussion, along this reform process, has said anything other than there needs to be reform. Everybody agrees that there needs to be reform, but it is the way the minister has gone about it that has really put people off guard.

I made a speech previously in this place where I talked about the fact that the volunteers have reasonable cause to be upset with this minister and this government when it comes to cancer compensation for CFS volunteers, when it comes to emergency services levy increases, and when it comes to some of the incidents that surrounded the Sampson Flat bushfire and the actions of the minister to sue *The Advertiser* and, by doing so, try to uncover those volunteers who decided to speak out against what they saw was an injustice and a waste of resources in the midst of a real crisis.

But further than that, the PSA moved a motion of no confidence, and that came off the back of the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association branch unanimously passing a motion of no confidence in the minister at a meeting. The motion was moved on the basis that the minister 'continues to progress a flawed sector reform process, lacking in clarity, transparency and with no definable outcomes'. It goes on to say that 'the Minister has demonstrated a lack of respect for volunteers and community safety and has the potential to impact on the safety of SA communities'. The CFS Volunteers Association at that time called for, and continues to call for, an immediate halt to the sector reform process until such time as an open and transparent analysis of the current system is undertaken and efficiencies and future direction clearly identified.

The motions passed by the CFSVA and also the PSA are very similar in nature. I find it quite interesting that, in a process where every part of the sector is committed to reform, where every part of the sector is committing to consult in an open and transparent way and find ways to do things better and find ways to do things more efficiently, a minister who started out with a group of people with goodwill could end up in a situation where all of that goodwill is gone and all of that goodwill is broken.

I echo the calls of the member for Morphett at the time of these no-confidence motions. I believe that the only way that we are going to get this reform process back on track is for there to be a different minister in charge. I think that the relationship between the minister and the associations involved with the emergency services has broken down to such an extent that only by a new minister being installed and a process brought back to the very beginning are we going to get to an outcome where everybody is on board and everybody is willing to work together towards a better emergency services sector, and we can actually move forward and get some resolution on these issues.

Indeed, it was exposed yesterday. It was exposed yesterday by questioning from the member for Morphett to the emergency services minister on specific areas within the proposed reforms to do with employment contracts and enterprise bargaining contracts. It shows that the minister is not across his brief. The minister was not able to answer the questions. The minister is wildly out of his depth, and what that means is that we have a situation where we need to get on and start fixing a job, but we are not going to be able to. Until we see a change of minister, I do not see that changing.

Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (10:43): I am pleased to make some comments in support of the legislation that the member for Morphett has brought to the house in relation to the fire and emergency services volunteer charter. If there was ever a need for this, it is now. We all know the crucially valuable role that every CFS volunteer plays in this state, so if there was ever a need for this formal recognition in the act, it is now, and I will expand on the reasons for that.

No doubt, the member for Morphett highlighted this in his contribution. He has been working away on this issue very well, and the member for Schubert also made a strong contribution in relation to this. This is focused absolutely at the appalling and abysmal manner in which the minister has been dealing with the emergency services sector, particularly the volunteer sector in the CFS and the SES. As the member for Schubert pointed out, the PSA moved and successfully voted a no-confidence motion in the minister, as has the SES. If there is ever an indication of the lack of confidence that the sector has in the minister, there it is.

I do not think the minister understands what he is doing in relation to this. Again, the member for Schubert spoke about this: the minister is destroying any goodwill that volunteers in the CFS and SES have towards this government and the role that they play in the community. We witnessed their work during the Sampson Flat fires in January. There were some fires in the Hills on Monday afternoon; one was out the back of our property out towards Gorge Road. Quite a number of CFS units were patrolling the neighbouring paddocks to put this fire out, around in the gully that heads down to Gorge Road in Castambul from the back of our property.

Everybody in this place, particularly those who have rural electorates, understands the key role that CFS volunteers play in our community. They keep our communities safe and secure. They protect people's property and they save human life. I do not know what greater benefit a volunteer (or anybody in the community, whether paid or unpaid) has in society than to save a life. That is why we so greatly value the skills of our medical profession, and that is why they are paid at the level they are paid for the skill and expertise they bring to their profession.

I do not mind sharing this with the house: my father has just been in hospital for quite a period of time, where he was receiving treatment from medical specialists. I think that if the care was not as good as it was, we might be faced with a different situation; we may have been having a condolence motion in the house. I think the care and the skill level of the medical profession actually kept him alive, and he is now recovering. Anyway, that is a digression, I know, but that is just an illustration of the value that we place on human life and the medical profession, and as a comparison, the value that we place on our CFS, because they do save lives and protect property.

The way the minister has treated the CFS and SES in the supposed restructure has been appalling. It is actually a lesson in how not to go about reform and restructure. As I said, if there has ever been a need for legislative requirement, this is it. The bill talks about parliamentary recognition of the SA CFS Volunteer Charter and the SA SES Volunteer Charter, and there are a number of clauses in the bill which outline that.

We cannot get away from the fact that there are other influences affecting the reason for this restructure. The member for Morphett has spoken about this before: it is the influence of the UFU in

this whole business. I am aware, and others are aware, that the UFU are keen on this restructure. They are keen on this restructure because—and I may be wrong, but this is my take—it gives them the opportunity to increase their membership or it starts the process to work along a line that enables them to increase their membership.

We know that that is what some of the union bosses are very keen on. They are keen on increasing their membership because it means more money in the union coffers for them to do what they want to do with the union funds. And we have seen what they use the union funds for: they use them for election campaigns for ALP candidates. We do not really have to be geniuses to join the dots in what the motivation could be in relation to this.

I also want to touch on the minister's involvement in relation to some issues concerning the Mount Barker CFS Brigade. He is very sensitive about this matter. The member for Morphett raises issues from time to time concerning the Mount Barker brigade and I have had discussions with the minister about what the brigade is trying to achieve in meeting the demands and the needs of the local community. There is significant expansion of the residential area in and around Mount Barker, and the brigade is concerned that it has not had the resources and the training to deal with incidents.

That is the level of representation I have made, but the minister tries to legitimise his responses to the issues that the member for Morphett raises by saying to the media, 'Well, the member for Kavel and the member for Heysen have made representation.' Somehow, he is trying to link in my conversations with him about meeting the needs of the brigade with MFS trucks—I have not mentioned anything to him about MFS trucks or anything like that. That is something that he and, supposedly, SAFECOM and the bureaucratic structure have worked through. Until he advised me of it, and until I had spoken to the brigade about it, I have not made any representation about MFS trucks.

With that contribution, I am certainly pleased to support the bill that the member for Morphett has brought to the house.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (10:53): I rise to support the member for Morphett wholeheartedly in the Fire and Emergency Services (Volunteer Charters) Amendment Bill and I refer members of this house, and others who might be interested, to a contribution I made on Thursday 2 May 2013. Many of the issues that we are dealing with are the same, but there are many more issues we are dealing with now that were not on the table back at that point in time.

For the benefit of the house and others who may not be fully aware, the charter that the member for Morphett refers to was originally signed in 2008. The charter is signed by the Premier, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Volunteers, the commissioner of fire and emergencies, the SACFS Chief Officer and the President of the CFS Volunteers Association. That agreement was actually required to be reviewed by all parties at the end of four years from the date of commencement, so that would then have been in 2012.

The government committed itself to consultation on 'all matters that might reasonably be expected to affect [the CFS], and [consider] their views when adopting or approving new practices and policies or reviewing current practices or policies'. That just has not happened. The review did not happen, as far as I am aware, unless it was a secret review. It did not happen. I can give you my very strong opinion that the consultation with the CFS on all issues which might reasonably be expected to affect them certainly did not happen either.

So, what the member for Morphett is trying to do is actually formalise that relationship in legislation, because we already have an agreement signed by the Premier and two ministers, yet it has not been kept. What the member for Morphett wants to do is say, 'Clearly a signed document has not been respected and abided by, so let's put it into legislation.' That is what he is trying to do, and let me say clearly: the member for Morphett is an absolutely outstanding ambassador and supporter of the CFS and emergency services more broadly. He is a life member of the Country Fire Service. His bona fides as a participant and as a doer are unquestionable, as are his bona fides as a representative and a leader of their cause, but not just the CFS but of emergency services now more broadly.

I said before that, when the member for Morphett brought forward this bill back in May last year, it was incredibly important, and it still is, but there is actually new information. It is even more

important now, because since then we have seen the absolute debacle by this government of its attempt to reform, as it sees necessary, the emergency services sector. Nobody has been more penalised by that attempted reform than the CFS. There are other members of the emergency services sector who are not happy with it either, like ambulance and SES for example, but the CFS has really borne the brunt of it.

As the member for Kavel mentioned before and the member for Schubert before him, we have seen protest after protest from completely dissatisfied CFS members. While other professionals involved in the emergency services sector have not participated in those protests, I can assure you that an overwhelming number of them are also dissatisfied with the way the process has occurred.

A startling example of that was the resignation of the MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton. Presumably, under the government's plan, the MFS would have been the agency to benefit most out of all of the emergency services sector agencies, and even Grant Lupton, their chief officer, was so completely dissatisfied with the way the government was handling the whole process that he packed up and left. Unfortunately, we have lost him to a very important, highly responsible and no doubt (hopefully for him) high-paying job overseas. South Australia has lost his expertise. So, you can only imagine how incredibly frustrated the people who lead the other emergency services agencies are.

This situation has got so far as to a public show of lack of support by the emergency services sector for the current minister. I have met with the current minister in various places talking about these various issues. I have been very forthright with him about my views and, to his credit, he has been forthright with me about his views. We can agree to disagree and, do you know what, Deputy Speaker? The reality is that he is the minister and he is in government so he gets to make decisions. We are in opposition so we get to comment on them; we do not get to make decisions, and I respect that.

The other people who are commenting on it are all from the other emergency services sectors, and they are completely dissatisfied with what the government is trying to do. The foundation of their lack of support is based on a lack of consultation, and that brings us right back to what the member for Morphett is trying to achieve through this bill. There is already a charter in place; there is already a signed document between the CFS and three ministers and other important players in this space, but the government has not respected that agreement. The government has not honoured or fulfilled that agreement, so we need something in law.

Is it not a great shame that the member for Morphett has to bring a bill like this to this parliament and, simultaneously, the emergency services workers from around the state are saying very publicly that they have lost confidence in the minister because of—guess what—lack of consultation? There is nobody out there saying that things cannot be improved. There is nobody saying that there is no better way, that there could not be a way of doing some sort of restructure or some sort of reform that would provide a better and more efficient service for the public of South Australia. As the member for Kavel said, this is all about serving the public, giving emergency service support to the public of South Australia.

None of the people involved in this is saying, 'No, we're perfect, don't change us, nothing can be better' because it is not true, and they know it. What they are saying is that the government and the minister have been derelict in their consultation with us about how to seek improvement, and that is the reason the member for Morphett has to bring this bill forward, and that is the reason the member for Morphett is doing this. He did it last year for very good reason—and we supported him on that. He is doing it this year for the same good reason, but not only is the opposition and a few people from the emergency services sector supporting him but they are all now supporting the member for Morphett. They all recognise that the government has not consulted properly.

Let me be very clear: I do not say that the government or the minister has not consulted at all because the minister will tell us, quite accurately, that he has travelled this state far and wide and been to an enormous number of meetings with emergency services representatives, and it is true. But that in itself is not consultation, that in itself is not what constitutes genuine consultation and taking the views of people onboard. The reason people are so dreadfully frustrated across the length and breadth of our state—from metropolitan Adelaide, to Mount Gambier, to Marla, to Port Lincoln—is that, while they have attended those meetings, they do not believe their views have been heard.

They do not believe their views have been genuinely taken onboard with regard to the government's intentions.

Let me say again: back when the charter was put in place in 2008, the government committed itself to consultation on all matters that might reasonably be expected to affect the CFS and consider their views when adopting or approving new practices or policies. That is not what has happened. There has been consultation with regard to attending meetings and talking with people, but there has not been consultation with regard to respecting their views and bringing their views into the decision-making process of the government.

So, I wholeheartedly support the emergency services people who have put forward those views, I wholeheartedly support the member for Morphett and, privately, as a CFS member and professionally, as a member for parliament, I endorse this bill.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (11:03): I indicate my support for the bill put forward by the member for Morphett. I do not need to go through the process of reading it out, as I think everyone is aware of it. As a long-term CFS volunteer, indeed, having been on the roll since around 1968—

Mr Whetstone: Are you that old?

Mr PENGILLY: Yes, I am that old—and having also been a former member of the CFS board and a presiding member, I do have a bit of knowledge on the subject. I am still actively involved in the CFS as a volunteer; indeed, I did my fire duty last Sunday morning. I am seriously shaking my head at what this Weatherill Labor government is doing to emergency services. To me, it is a complete joke and ridiculous. All they are seemingly doing is making more enemies out in the community amongst these people involved, in this case, with the CFS and the SES.

It is a sad indictment on this government that it has been completely done over by the UFU, the firefighters union. What is more interesting, and it has been mentioned here this morning, is that the PSA has come out and said that it has no confidence in the Minister for Emergency Services. For the PSA to do that is something of an achievement—to come out and belt a Labor minister.

The member for Stuart referred to the consultation. Interestingly enough, I went to the first consultation meeting held by the Minister for Emergency Services (the member for Light), which was in Kingscote, and it was a joke, a complete joke. They put on several tables and had everybody there, including all the kingpins from the union, a succession of bureaucrats and heads of services, and it was just a snow job, a complete snow job. It was not consultation.

As the member for Stuart correctly said, the minister says that he has been all around the state. Well, he might indeed have been all around the state preaching but not listening, and that has come out in the last few months, as the CFS volunteers organisation and others have come out heavily critical of the minister. We saw the absolute sham that occurred at the Sampson Flat fire, where the minister had a set-up picture with—

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: The member for Kavel is agreeing. I know that there were members of my brigade who were dragged from the fire scene on that day to go and put on an impromptu set-up for the minister to get his photo taken so that he could pop it on Facebook and Twitter, whatever. I was told within about five minutes because my people rang me to tell me. I said, 'Oh, no, a Labor minister setting himself up for a promotional photo? I find that a bit hard to believe!'

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

Mr PENGILLY: Shame, shame, shame! My understanding from what is floating around parliament is that the minister's head is on the chopping block politically and that he has to about the end of the year and then he will be replaced by somebody else. We will wait and see how that plays out within the government.

The member for Morphett, in putting up his bill, is attempting to fix up what is a mess. I have absolutely no confidence whatsoever in this government's ability to run a chook raffle let alone to run the SES and the CFS. It is just a disgrace and a disappointment. It is a disappointment to those people who have volunteered in emergency services organisations for so many years. It is greatly disappointing to see those people now shaking their head and saying, 'I really don't want to be

involved in it anymore; there's no satisfaction in it. It's just going to be a takeover. In due course, we'll just walk away from it.' I feel that attitude pervading. It has just got too bureaucratic and, if the government has its way, and if the current Minister for Emergency Services has his way, it will become even worse.

As I think once again mentioned by the member for Stuart and possibly others (I did not hear all of the debate), the fact that Mr Grant Lupton walked away from the MFS says it all, I think. These people who are put in a position of authority to run organisations are getting white-anted by an insipid government and an insipid minister. I just wanted to have a few words to say on this matter. It is disappointing for me that we have to do this, but I think that, as long the member for Light is the Minister for Emergency Services, it is going to be in turmoil.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of a group of nurses it says, so I presume you all are nurses, who are guests of the member for Elder. We welcome you to parliament and hope that you enjoy your time with us today, and we thank you for all that you do. The member for Chaffey.

Mr Pengilly: My wife's a nurse.

Mr WHETSTONE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr Pengilly: She does a lot for me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not sure why they are laughing about that. Member for Chaffey.

Mr WHETSTONE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I don't have a wife, she's not a nurse, but I have dated a number of nurses.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I think that comes under the heading of too much information. Yes; unparliamentary.

Mr WHETSTONE: Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Let's impress the members of the gallery—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Let's impress the members of the gallery with our good behaviour. Member for Chaffey.

Bills

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (VOLUNTEER CHARTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:10): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I am finding it hard to concentrate with all those women up there. I too rise to support the member for Morphett's bill changes. What I would like to do is acknowledge his good work within the CFS. Many members on this side are members of the CFS, and I think that is demonstrated by the very good contributions we have heard today from a number of members on this side. I myself am a CFS volunteer and I am very proud to be a part of that volunteer organisation—we do a lot of training along the way to, in times of need, either save property or save life—but to be a great contributor in the volunteer sector is something that is often overlooked and it has been very evident that the current emergency services minister has done just that.

We have seen a number of speeches by the minister, a number of press releases by him and he has conducted roundtables around the state. As other members have said, he is doing a lot of fronting up to these meetings but he is obviously not doing a lot of listening. I think he needs to

understand that he has two ears and one mouth: twice as much listening, half as much talking. That is obviously not the case with what his charter has been.

The member for Morphett has introduced the bill as a CFS volunteer. What is clear is that the member for Morphett has been out and consulted with the CFS. He understands the impacts of the minister's decision to announce and defend. He has demonstrated, by listening, that he has a good understanding of what a CFS volunteer means, the way it should work and the support that is needed.

Behind those volunteers, behind that support, there are a lot of businesses. Those businesses are, in many cases, small businesses that run on a skeleton staff, but they are prepared to let their staff be volunteers, be a part of the community, be a part of that much-needed CFS, particularly in times of need. When the pager goes off, in many cases, and in some cases in a lot of country towns when the siren goes off, they know their role. The community and the volunteers who sit alongside them understand that for them to give up their time, to put their expertise, to put their training, but also, in many instances, to put their life on the line to serve a great duty, a great volunteer exercise is critically important.

The bill seeks to formalise a relationship that should abide by the charter. We note that the government has obviously ignored it, particularly the minister, by amending part 2 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act. Also, by inserting in section 58A parliamentary recognition of the South Australian CFS Volunteer Charter and that:

The Parliament recognises that SACFS is first and foremost a volunteer-based organisation in which volunteer officers and members are supported by employees...

As I have said, it is supported by those employees. In many cases, small businesses are trying to run efficient businesses and to remain competitive and yet they are prepared to allow their staff, and in many cases, particularly in regional areas, many of their workforce, many of the men that are either at the shopfront or on the floor, whether it is sitting in a tractor or sitting in a truck, they are prepared to give up those valuable hours of those workplace people to go out and fight the fires, to go out and address the emergency that arises.

What I would also like to acknowledge with the member for Morphett's bill changes is that the bill seeks to recognise formally the CFS Volunteer Charter as well as the principles and relationships between volunteers, the government, the CFS and the CFS Volunteers Association. What the member for Morphett has demonstrated here today is that he has the capacity to go out and consult, but he has a greater capacity to go out and listen and understand what he is listening to and understand what the needs are. That is why we are here making a contribution on this bill today.

I would also like to acknowledge a friend of mine, Grant Lupton. I think his contribution to the MFS here in South Australia has been outstanding. He has moved on because he is frustrated. He has moved on because obviously this minister has ignored him. I think it is a bold decision for a long serving—

Dr McFetridge: The longest serving MFS chief.

Mr WHETSTONE: There you go; he is the longest serving MFS chief. I had quite a conversation with him and he was sad about the decision he had made. He decided that you can only bang your head against the wall for so long, so it was time to move on. I wish him good luck. That decision was not made lightly, but what it has also shown is that while he moves on, the United Firefighters Union (UFU) and the PSA have also shown no confidence in this current minister. I think it speaks volumes that one of your own has been given a vote of no confidence. I would suggest that his time as minister for emergency services is short lived.

Mr Pengilly: It's not long at all.

Mr WHETSTONE: Not long at all. Without going on, I fully support the member for Morphett's private member's bill. I think that members on the government side of this chamber need to look very seriously at supporting it. If they really look at the worth of this bill it should get support on both sides of the house.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:17): I too rise to support my good friend the member for Morphett's amendment bill, which is the Fire and Emergency Services (Volunteer Charters) Amendment Bill 2015. I would just like to acknowledge my colleagues who are members of the CFS: the members for Morphett, Stuart, Finniss, MacKillop and Chaffey. My apologies if I have missed anyone.

Certainly I have been a long-term member of the CFS, the Country Fire Service, and their volunteers. They do great work in this state. Certainly in the time that I have to be away from home, which is obviously quite often in this job, my local CFS unit, the Coomandook CFS, do a fantastic job. They have a 3,000 litre fire truck, a four-wheel drive of course, and also a 9,000 litre tanker sitting in the shed, so we are very well resourced to assist not just in fires and bushfires but also road accidents, where Coonalpyn and Tailem Bend are the lead units. Certainly Coomandook plays its part in either traffic management or other work around incidents on the Dukes Highway especially, where sadly there are too many. I salute all of my colleagues in the whole of the CFS, all 13,000-odd, but especially my friends and colleagues at Coomandook.

My farming property is dissected by both a railway line and a highway, so it is vital to have that protection and to know that those people are there if anything happens. Certainly one thing that has come into use that I really commend is the CFS app. It goes off too many times, I must say, which means there is another callout, one of probably 300,000 callouts annually I think it is, telling you when things are on. It was especially alarming when, on the southern island of Australia, Tasmania, as I was over the Christmas period, the CFS app lit up that there was a fire at Coomandook. Thankfully it was only a small shed fire and they had that out fairly quickly.

Getting back to the issue around having a property dissected by a railway line and a highway, off the highway there is plenty of opportunity for wheel bearings to collapse, whether it be on light trailers or semitrailers. We had one recently in the past few months. Thankfully, because of the close proximity of our property to the CFS shed and volunteers—I was not home at the time—that was contained very quickly and only burnt about 150 metres of fence line and just a little bit of the growth on the property, so I salute the CFS everywhere for what they do.

Where I really take my hat off to all the Country Fire Service volunteers is the teamwork that is displayed. When everyone was called to help in 2007 on Kangaroo Island, in the member for Finniss's electorate, either to fight the fire or mop up the big fire that was there, I went over as a volunteer for a couple of days and it was a massive effort through all the agencies with that incident.

With respect to fires closer to home, when I see the strike teams either come down from northern areas closer to the River Murray or further north or the South-East brigades come up, even when you see a South-East brigade member, the leading figure at this time—and I remember one which was first thing in the morning with a gentleman from Avenue Range. The fire had burnt through some of our property, and I am glad I caught up with him because I think they were about to cut a fence to let a bulldozer through. I said, 'If you do not cut straight through to the scrub and you come down to this other fence line for about half a kilometre, there is a double gate.' In the light of day we managed to effect that.

They do so much great work, and so do our State Emergency Service volunteers, and there is plenty of that work in my electorate. Whether it is in a coastal town like Goolwa, an end-of-the-river town, or in Murray Bridge, there are water rescues, cleaning up after storms. We have had some significant storms over the years, and, talking of storms, even before I got elected, in Karoonda there was a massive storm that tore the place apart, and there was one at Pinnaroo not long after I came to this place.

I was trying to get some extra money to assist the local council, the Southern Mallee District Council, with some of the clean-up costs. I must say that Kevin Foley, former member for Port Adelaide, did not do me too many favours in my time here, but he did me one then. I approached him one day to see about getting the \$70,000 needed for a one-off grant to the local council and, true to his word, he came up with the money. I certainly thanked him the next time I saw him in this chamber. With the hard politics that Labor plays, generally they did not have to do that, so I certainly thought that was a great contribution to a local council.

In regard to this bill, which is to see parliamentary recognition of the South Australian CFS volunteer charter and the SES charter, the CFS clauses include that the parliament recognises that the SA CFS is first and foremost a volunteer based organisation in which volunteer officers and members are supported by employees in a fully integrated manner, and the parliament recognises that the SA CFS volunteer charter is a statement of the commitment of principles that apply to the relationship between the government of South Australia, the commission, SA CFS and volunteer officers and members, and requires that the government of South Australia, the commission and SA CFS recognise, value, respect and promote the contribution of volunteer officers and members to the wellbeing and safety of the community, and there are some extra clauses there. Certainly in regard to the SES, there are similar clauses that include that:

- (1) The Parliament recognises that SASES is first and foremost a volunteer-based organisation, in which volunteer officers and members are supported by employees in a fully integrated manner—

and that—

- (2) The Parliament recognises that the SASES Volunteer Charter—
 - (a) is a statement of the commitment and principles that apply to the relationship between the Government of South Australia, the Commission, the SASES and volunteer officers and members;

and there are some other clauses supporting that.

In regard to the restructure, I think the only genesis in this restructure was just the fact that the current Minister for Emergency Services needed to get his name up in lights because, certainly, my information is he was not first in line for that ministry and someone else was more than pencilled in, but the heavy eraser came out at the last minute and he was given the job and he had better prove himself. He has proved himself to be completely incapable of getting anyone onside. Anyone who has commented on this (whether it was someone from the United Firefighters Union in the MFS or members of the CFS or, certainly the SES) has absolutely no confidence in this minister.

Losing a man like Grant Lupton from the Metropolitan Fire Service and the fire services of this state is a real tragedy. He sat with me at an awards ceremony in Murray Bridge not long before his time was up and he presented some awards to local firefighters, and Riverland firefighters from the seat of Chaffey. We had a very good discussion about where things were going, and he was not a happy man. He was accepting his fate. His fate was determined by other people further up the chain, people who do not recognise the true talents we have in this state and the opportunities we have had.

I think the main thing we want here, and the principle of the Volunteer Charter, is that we do not see what some of us, or most of us (if not all of us, I think, on this side) think is going on with this so-called reform of the emergency services in this state, that is, the minister wants everyone to join the United Firefighters Union. I think that is where he really wants to go. That certainly will not happen. It certainly did not happen when I was back in the shearing shed days and the AWU was trying to get me to buy a ticket. I agree with this bill of the member for Morphett and fully support it. Let us hope the government gets right behind this bill that supports our many thousands of volunteers in this state.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:27): I also rise today to support the Fire and Emergency Services (Volunteer Charters) Amendment Bill 2015. I absolutely commend the member for Morphett for the strong interest he takes in this area and the strong advocate that he has been for many years for the volunteer community.

There would not be more worthy people who are due for our praise than volunteers—also nurses. Volunteers are the backbone of our community. It is wonderful that the member for Morphett has taken it upon himself to introduce a bill of this nature. He is a gentleman who has been in the CFS longer than I have been alive, who takes these things to heart and is a very strong advocate for the community. I would encourage all members on both sides of the chamber to consider supporting this bill. It is about their dignity and their respect, so do it for the volunteers.

The member for Light, with all respect, probably has not had the best few months. I would also send a clear message to probably the next minister in this area. My mail says it will be the member for Little Para. If he is listening, he should also be aware of how to handle such issues. The

way it has been handled has not been good. It has not been good for the government. It is hurting the government. I only acknowledged the extent to which it was hurting just through reading the newspapers and hearing from the volunteers themselves.

At my weekly coffee meeting—most Mondays at 9am, residents can come and see me at Cafe Va Bene at Campbelltown (supplied by Cafe Va Bene)—a member of the Labor Party one morning rocked up and exclaimed her sincere discontent with the way that this issue was being handled. She threatened to actually resign from the party because of the way this issue is being handled—true facts.

This issue has not been handled well, and I commend the member for Morphett for bringing the government to account. This bill goes to the strong opposition to the proposed restructure that the government has considered. This is an opportune time to reintroduce a bill which demonstrates our strong support for all our emergency services volunteers. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Motions

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (11:30): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Nurses Day celebrated annually on 12 May 2015;
- (b) acknowledges this year's theme, Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective; and
- (c) congratulates South Australian nurses for their dedication and professionalism and the pivotal role they play in the advancement of all South Australians' health.

Today I am pleased to recognise International Nurses Day, which is celebrated annually on 12 May. I welcome to parliament some special guests—nurses. These are nurses from diverse backgrounds of many and varied areas of the profession. This group shares experience amassing over 1,000 years of practice and expertise.

In the public gallery are nurses from so many places: The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where I trained to become both a registered nurse and midwife; Flinders Medical Centre; Royal Adelaide Hospital; Lyell McEwin Hospital; Repatriation General Hospital; Modbury, Noarlunga and Mount Barker hospitals; Western Hospital; Keith hospital; Mental Health Services; Southern Adelaide Local Health Network; CaFHS; CAMHS; ASEPS nursing agency; Flinders University; Noarlunga TAFE; SA Health; ANMF; South Australian School Nurses Association; SA Prison Health Service; community, private and country work places. Welcome to you all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who is minding the shop?

Ms DIGANCE: I would also like to recognise my fellow parliamentary colleagues from the profession of nursing, minister Gail Gago from the other place and the member for Fisher of this place, who has been a wonderful addition to our side of government. For over three decades, International Nurses Day has been celebrated on the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale—

There being a disturbance in the strangers' gallery:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If I could ask that there be no flash in the gallery. If you could turn the flash off on your cameras, that is fine, and no photos of people in the gallery. Thank you.

Ms DIGANCE: —a courageous and visionary woman and nurse, who is widely considered the founder and pioneer of the profession of modern nursing. I am sure it is no surprise to us all when the United Nations reports that the cost of health care is rising rapidly, presenting a worrying responsibility for budgets, communities and consumers at large. This cost increase is driven by a number of factors, including the rapidly growing burden of disease, such as mental health conditions, obesity and diabetes, to name a few. It is also exacerbated by an ageing society, with its increasing frequency of associated multiple morbidity chronic health problems. Innovations and expensive

lifesaving treatments and techniques, and an increasingly raised expectation by outpatients and clients, is also adding budgetary stress.

This year, as International Nurses Day acknowledges the importance of nurses, the International Council of Nurses has nominated the theme as Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective in response to these pressures which are occurring globally on healthcare systems. Healthcare systems are under financial strain to deliver high-quality care within the boundaries of limited and shrinking budgets. This is our profession's call to arms. It is our call for a commitment to action. The tension of better health outcomes, increased costs and increased expectations sees the need for nurses to advocate, innovate and challenge the status quo.

In South Australia this pressure is amplified with the abandonment of the national health agreements and the associated slashing of our state's healthcare funding. To be blunt, although the South Australian Weatherill government continues to lobby, it is an unyielding federal government that sees South Australia facing financial budgetary pain in the health budget.

Nurses are the single largest cohort of the healthcare workforce, and the International Council of Nurses recommends them as being ideally positioned to make major contributions to shape and drive health policy, policy that is underpinned by equity, quality and cost effectiveness and that is based on foundations of professionalism, patient advocacy and patient care expertise, all while focusing on healthier communities. Close interaction with healthcare consumers in a variety of settings gives nurses expert understanding of health needs—how factors in the environment impact the health of clients and their families, and how people respond to different services and interventions—yet nurses often lack support and understanding from policymakers to introduce these innovations in care.

As nurses we must take charge of our profession to directly influence government and policymakers, management and economists on health care and the needs of those who use our healthcare system. Achieving quality care at reduced cost requires leadership by nurses to ensure this change is cost effective, care effective and safe. Knowledge and understanding by nurses of the processes and mechanisms of health financing is fundamental to our leadership and advocacy for health equity and universal health coverage. I urge us all to acquire knowledge in this area.

In South Australia we are in the process of a groundbreaking healthcare system change, marked by Transforming Health. Transformation is not an endgame but a continual process, a process I encourage you all to be part of. It is a process that is understandably frightening for many but exciting and exhilarating for some. The principles of Transforming Health are sound, based on patient-centred, safe, effective, accessible, efficient and equitable care first time, every time. For this strategy to succeed patient care must be at the heart of all we do.

Being involved is paramount and, recently, with my experience as a registered nurse and registered midwife and my expertise in child, maternal and infant health, I was hesitant about the proposed relocation of the Level 6 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Flinders Medical Centre to the Women's and Children's Hospital. However, before closing my mind to the proposition I invited those recommending the plan to convince me of its merits. I was not convinced, and gladly note that, with lobbying, that plan is now off the table and the Level 6 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Flinders Medical Centre stays.

Today, in the gallery, I draw attention not only to the collective professionalism of nursing but also to the diversity and innovation of nurses. First, and in the interest of demonstrating the diversity of the profession, I recognise Ali, who is a registered nurse working in the prison system as a prison nurse. Prison nursing presents a very different experience within a very different environment, and nursing staff work closely alongside many other services in a multidisciplinary approach. As patients, prisoners are a group at their most vulnerable and fragile, often being emotional, volatile and, in many cases, withdrawing from substance abuse.

Many prisoners are flagged as high risk, presenting with acute medical and mental health issues and, increasingly, more prisoners present with drug-related crimes and illnesses. Prescribed medications are a highly sought-after commodity with the associated increased dangers of prisoners selling their medications or being stood over for them. Prison health nursing is varied, interesting and

challenging, and I am told that while nurses may never receive chocolates and flowers from their clients, they can always expect the unexpected.

Today I will highlight but two innovative projects driven by fellow professionals in their pursuit of seeking improvements in care while achieving financial savings. First, I recognise school nurses Petria, Liz, Anne and Sonya who work in the independent school system. In South Australia school nurses are currently employed only in the independent school sector with no nurses in government schools. These four nurses are so passionate about their roles and about student wellbeing that they set themselves a goal to promote their model of care to the wider community.

The wellbeing of the student is paramount. The role of the school nurse is extensive and varied, from first aid, counselling on all matters (such as bullying and eating disorders, to name but a few), management of chronic and acute illness, education of teachers and students alike, infection control and immunisation. I know this list could go on for quite some length.

After hearing Premier Weatherill speak at a conference on education and health budget challenges, this group of four presented a proposal demonstrating the benefits of implementing school nurse programs to South Australian government schools. The plan highlighted opportunities for improved healthcare outcomes for school students through primary healthcare strategies with associated predicted cost savings.

As a result of their passion and lobbying, a 90-day project to explore the benefits of this service is now being trialled and underway to test if it is applicable for government schools. The project will conclude in June. I look forward to the evaluation of this project, and I am hopeful that we will see the implementation and rollout of school nurses in government schools. I applaud their initiative and wish them well with the venture.

The second program of innovation was initiated by registered nurse Rebecca Pearl, who, after winning a Premier's Nursing and Midwifery Scholarship in 2013, visited St Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada, and brought back a unique best practice program that she had witnessed firsthand. The program empowered ward level nurses to lead the best practice changes as opposed to having them led by those in administration.

Back in her workplace, Rebecca, along with other colleagues, including Vanessa Owen, found that the promotion of ownership, along with the celebration of success, rewarded and motivated the staff as they gained increased job satisfaction. This in turn continued to drive them to achieve even better outcomes. She focused on client-centred care and compliance of care, significantly improving outcomes for both. Also, incidence of mechanical restraint became almost non-existent. These improved care outcomes led not only to a decrease in length of stay but also to associated cost savings.

As I recognise and applaud the great work of all nurses, I pose the challenge to all of us: what can we as nurses do to improve the health system through nurse-driven efficiencies and evidence-based practice within finite budgets? Nursing is our profession, and we are close to the needs of patients and our community. I urge and encourage all of us to take ownership and drive our areas of care. It is easy to be sceptical. The following quote from a nurse of 40 years sums up how many of us have felt and still may feel about the system we work in. She says:

I've been a nurse for 40 years in ICU and I'm a damned good nurse. To me nursing hasn't really changed that much from the day I started doing it. Sure we have new technology and a few new and better meds but that is about it. In the early 80s there was a mad rush by MBAs into the hospitals because they could not find jobs anywhere else and things haven't been the same since. Suddenly, profits and productivity were everything. Management measured this and that and almost everything they came up with didn't fit the practice of nursing... We are no longer in control of our profession or our work environment. We have lost our voice. People who are telling us how to do our jobs can't do our jobs.

However, we know from community surveys that nurses rate number one as the most trustworthy and valuable profession in our community. Nurses are not defined by their workplaces alone. Nurses are always on call, always on duty. A free consultation for a family member, a quick fill-in as a first aider at an event, and what should be a quick Saturday morning shop can turn into a four or five or six-hour community consult, as everyone you come across is pleased to give you an update on their health status since you saw them last.

In contrast, I do not recall the last time I saw my bank manager—and apologies to the member for Davenport—in the supermarket running a quick community update on the price of the Aussie dollar, current home loan deals and the status on terms of trade. Nurses are the rare profession who can be with life as it comes into the world with the first breath and at the final end with the last breath—overwhelming or inspiring, confronting, emotional and privileged. So, be proud of who you are, be proud you are a nurse, stand up and be heard, make that difference, embrace progress, drive change, and be the change you want to see, and on 12 May know that you are important.

To you all, I am pleased you are here today for this historic event in the South Australian parliament. On 12 May I invite my colleagues and all South Australians to take time to pay tribute to all our hardworking and dedicated nurses and wish you all happy International Nurses Day.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Ms COOK (Fisher) (11:45): I apologise for my back but I have been in trouble before for turning around and speaking to the audience so I will have to face the front.

An honourable member interjecting:

Ms COOK: Very naughty, thank you. I rise to speak in support of the member for Elder's motion recognising the work of our nurses. I am a very proud nurse and I feel extremely honoured to be able to recognise my profession and, indeed, my colleagues in this house. Welcome to my nursing colleagues in the gallery today. I would by no means consider myself old, but as I reflect on my career which spans 29 years, I realise just how much has changed in the nursing world during this time.

Nursing is not just a job; it is a lifestyle. My husband has always been amazed by the tenacity, the intestinal fortitude and perhaps the strength of stomach of my nursing friends. Nurses are one of the only groups of people who can savour the taste of fine food and wine while talking about the size, shape, colour and, of course, the smell of each bowel action that they have encountered during their last shift. Not to be put off by these conversations, they usually then ease their way into a colourful comparative of the best vomit that they have seen or the craziest trauma or surgery witnessed.

Very soon after finishing year 12—and this may give you a little understanding as to how we are very tenacious—I secured a job in a nursing home while waiting to begin my hospital-based training at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Woodville. My actual introduction to nursing at this fine western suburbs institution was during our first study block, and some of the members in the gallery may remember study block. These blocks were a crash course in theory where your best study was done staying up until 4am in the nurses' quarters between short-shift changeovers and usually a quick trip into the city.

During study block we would venture to the hospital and attach to a more senior student nurse. I was placed for two hours on the vascular ward with people whose blood supply was letting them down, particularly in their extremities, so they were admitted for either grafting of their vessels or amputation. I was sent behind closed curtains, alone with a bowl of water, soap and towels—and I am sure people can relate to this. It was terrifying. I was 17 and he, the patient—well, he was older—of course, seemed incredibly old, but he may well have only been what my age is now.

Of course, he asked me to wash his feet. He had none. I did not know what to say. I must have looked horrified as I pulled back the sheets. He just laughed, I laughed, we made a connection and instantly there was trust. This was a patient without underpants—nobody was allowed to wear underpants back in those days—without legs. Patients are vulnerable, there is trust, an instant rapport. My next patient had a terrible respiratory condition and his cup of mucus ended up in my shiny new nursing shoes. It was not a good day. I did tell my mother I lost those shoes, but I was not going to touch them again.

Each and every nurse has a story. These stories are shaped by bravery, and the will and tenacity of their patients. The spirit of a nurse is built by the relationships they form with their peers also. I can honestly say that every day of nursing would bring me new knowledge. I have not worked a day without learning something new. There are not many careers that can attest to this.

Our nurses must be cared for also. The life of a nurse is difficult emotionally as well as physically and often confronting. If the hours are not draining enough, then the sights seen certainly

are. In spite of this, nurses are there when people are at their time of most need. They are there when people are afraid and uncomfortable. Nurses can ease the pain, if not totally, then at least a little, and that in itself is vital. We must care for them.

Nurses must constantly challenge themselves and care for people who are faced with unthinkable choices without judgement. Nurses are the most progressive people I know, whether it is during the arrival of a new life, while the most difficult choices are being made, or as they support the terminally-ill patient as they take control of their final journey, nurses embrace differences and they embrace change.

It will be nurses at the coalface who lead us through Transforming Health reforms with vision and leadership. I will be here, as will my colleagues in this house and the other place, for nurses as a voice to help them through contemporary challenges facing our profession. I will be here to ensure that excellent health outcomes are achieved because our work force is supported in its delivery. My friends, my colleagues, I thank you and commend the motion to the house.

There being a disturbance in the strangers' gallery:

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (11:50): I hope that I get applause when I finish my speech as well because, as members of this house would know, it is very unusual for that sort of behaviour to occur in the gallery. I will only be making a few brief remarks this morning on this item, which I support very deeply. I am not using notes, so members of the gallery will note that it comes straight from the heart.

My wife is a nurse. She recently graduated in nursing from Flinders University, and she has taken up a graduate year placement at Flinders Private Medical Centre, working in the intensive care unit there, which is a phenomenal opportunity for her to learn the skills of critical care, which is a passion of hers. I am continually exposed to the challenge she faces. We often say in our household that I attend events for a living and she keeps people alive.

It is quite a stark difference; we both have important jobs, of course (all members of parliament have important jobs), but it really comes home to me each night when we sit down for a cup of tea and I ask, within the bounds of patient confidentiality of course, what her day involved. I am continually taken aback and continually amazed, and my respect is continually stretched, at the work she and her colleagues do at the Flinders medical precinct at Bedford Park.

My respect for nurses and the nursing profession is very deep and eternal in many ways. I know how difficult the nursing profession is with the practical hands-on activities that have to be undertaken. As the member for Fisher eloquently put it—regarding bowel movements and things like that, vomit, blood and all manner of substances ending up on nurses' clothes and bodies—it is a job which is at the absolute coalface of public service. I believe it is one of the best forms of public service, and we in this house continually should remember the people we are to serve, the members of the public, and the members of the public who actually serve us in positions like police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers—people who are at the front line of public service.

Here we work in public service as well, but we do not often get our hands dirty, for better or worse. I pay tribute to my wife, Hannah, for her involvement in the nursing profession as something she has wanted to do since she was a five or six year old, following in the footsteps of her hero, her Auntie Cheryl, who has now passed away. I respect hugely people involved in the nursing profession. I thank the members for Elder and Fisher for their contributions.

It is very important that, when it comes to professions and people who work in public service, we try to be bipartisan in our approach to maintaining their working conditions and to maintaining the quality of the workplaces. It disappoints me when political jibes and comments drift into debate about front-line public service. We should steer away from that and look to protect and enhance the industry whenever we can. Thank you for your service, and I wish you all the best in your ongoing careers and also in the marking of the 2015 International Nurses Day.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (11:54): If you save one life you are a hero, if you save 100 lives then you are a nurse, as the saying goes. I also rise today to commend this motion to the house which recognises International Nurses Day, which is celebrated annually on 12 May, and which acknowledges this year's theme, Nurses: a Force For Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective, and

congratulates all South Australian nurses on their dedication, professionalism and the pivotal role they play in the advancement of the health of all South Australians.

My sister, Therese, is a nurse at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Like many members in the chamber who have members of their families who are nurses, I too can share in some of the tales and the experiences and the empathy that is required by nurses in doing the fantastic job they do in the community every single day, as well as the compassion they need to deliver in their jobs and their professionalism. The job they do is not always rosy, as has been alluded to, and I have heard that firsthand from my sister. Nurses are wonderful people and we could not do without their great work in our community.

There has been a little bit of political talk here, but I will try to keep it apolitical. One thing I will ask is that with Transforming Health, which the government is putting in place, the government considers the submissions that nurses have made. We are kidding ourselves if we think that everyone is content out there in the nursing industry because they are not. There are nurses who are not happy with the fact that they are being forced to work longer hours than they have in the past.

Nurses' conditions in Australia are not the best that they can be. We need to continually strive to make sure that nurses have the best conditions reasonably possible to do the fantastic work they do. I encourage and implore the government in its Transforming Health strategy to take that into consideration and make sure that nurses get what they deserve because they play such a fundamental role in our society.

I also want to pay tribute to some of the areas in my own electorate of Hartley that employ nurses. The North Eastern Community Hospital in Campbelltown is a wonderful little hospital that does fantastic work in the community and provides a fundamental service. Of course, we need to accept that the state government cannot absorb the whole strain on the health system; it needs the public system and the private system to work hand in hand with each other where they can. It is the same with education: we would be silly to think that the state could absorb the whole thing.

It is important that we also acknowledge the private health providers, and I have one in my electorate of Hartley. They play a fantastic role in the community, and I really do pay tribute to the great work they do, as well. Do not forget that there are also many retirement villages and nursing homes in our electorates that have on-call nurses and sometimes permanent nursing staff, and I also acknowledge the wonderful work they do. It is fantastic to see the care, the professionalism, the empathy and the compassion of the nurses in my electorate in those roles.

I was told that 12 May was Florence Nightingale's birthday, and I think that is where this date comes from. We should absolutely acknowledge the wonderful work she did and pay tribute to her on this special day. I understand that the Australian Nurse of the Year is also announced at a ceremony at one of the state's capital cities each year. I also understand that each of the Australian states and territories conduct various nursing ceremonies, as the member for Elder drew to our attention.

All in all, it is an absolute pleasure to see so many nurses here in the gallery today. I applaud the work they do and congratulate them on their wonderful efforts, and I commend this motion to the house today.

There being a disturbance in the strangers' gallery:

The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (11:59): Thank you very much—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: And you haven't done anything yet!

The Hon. P. CAICA: —for that very kind introduction. I am going to be very brief, but I am absolutely compelled to stand here today, firstly, to congratulate the member for Elder on bringing this motion to the house, and to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Fisher and also to acknowledge those other speakers.

I want to congratulate and recognise the role that nurses play in our community. I think the member for Elder talked about the length and breadth of their duties and the roles that are undertaken by nurses in very many areas. Of course, it almost goes without saying—but I am going to say it anyway—that the most effective person at any birth is a midwife. Not that the little children coming

out can recognise it, but certainly the parents who are in the room recognise the role that midwives play.

It is a wonder, in fact, that the kids do not start following them around because they are the first person they see. That is not true either because what we know is that we see doctors come in and take the credit for the birth, when in reality, in my experiences at childbirth (the birth of our two children), it is the outstanding role and the function and the professional service that is provided by midwives during those births, and then the doctor comes in on the grounder and takes the credit for it at the end. I recognise the work done by midwives, but across all the—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: I remember my wife just telling me to back off and get the midwife in there. We still have contact with those midwives from time to time, and that is a bond that continues to exist. As was mentioned, I think, by one of the members opposite, there are other areas where nurses work. My mum passed away two years ago, and the role of the nurses there during the palliative stage—and that is another debate, about what happens at the end of life—was absolutely incredible, and I thank them very much for that.

I am not married to a nurse; I am married to a schoolteacher, but my wife, Annabel, her mother was a nurse. I remember going through the pictures of her time as a nurse (she has passed away as well), and she finished up becoming a matron, but you don't call it that any more—pretty scary, sometimes, too—but she did not forget where she came from. I think they transitioned to 'directors of nursing' or something like that later on. She never forgot where she came from, never forgot the profession, and some of her friends, up until her dying days, were those she had worked in the hospitals with.

As a firefighter, I remember one of the best calls that most of the firefighters enjoyed going to was when we got a call from the nurses' residence, when they lived on site.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. P. CAICA: No, I can just say that some of my colleagues were a little bit more anxious, but we enjoyed a very good relationship with nurses, I will say that. The only time we were ever probably a little bit disappointed was when the paper brought out the most trusted professions, because each and every year, and it was certainly justified, the No. 1 most trusted profession was nurses. We would rank third or fourth, behind ambulance officers. We were still up there, but we were never able to get to the pinnacle. It is so sad, that there I was in a profession that was so highly regarded, but it was not as highly regarded as nurses, and of course today I am down here now, along with—not that I disrespect them—dog catchers or car salesmen, at the bottom end of the spectrum.

On a more serious note, the member for Bright made a very good contribution, and he spoke about his wife, saying that he goes to functions and she keeps people alive. The serious point of this contribution is that we can be responsible as members of parliament and members of government in making sure that we contribute to keeping people alive. We do that by making sure that as a government, as a parliament, as a community, we continue to provide the level of support that is required for nurses to be able to do their jobs the best and most effective way they can. That comes from the commitment of government to make sure that the terms and conditions of employment and the resources that are provided to nurses are more than adequate at the top end for you to be able to do the job as best you can.

The other point that I would like to make is that I see great opportunities in Transforming Health. I think it was a comment made by the member for Hartley who talked about submissions of nurses and I think that it is very important that nurses continue to make submissions on Transforming Health. It provides great opportunities. I was not being flippant about the role that is played in midwifery, but I think there is an abundance of roles that are held by other people within the medical profession that can easily be discharged expertly and professionally by our nursing personnel.

I would say that the government will only ignore submissions made by nurses at their peril because they will be part of the way in which we do successfully prosecute Transforming Health,

which will be the most significant reformation of the health system in this state. Nurses, and the role that nurses play, are central to the transformation of health.

With those few words, I want to finish off by again congratulating, thanking and showing my respect for the role of nurses in this state. Long may you prosper and long may you keep up the very good work.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (12:06): It is a pleasure to support the member for Elder and bring this fantastic motion forward that we recognise International Nurses Day and that we recognise this year's theme—Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective—and that we congratulate South Australian nurses for their dedication and professionalism and the pivotal role that they play in the advancement of all South Australians' health. This is a fantastic example of a very genuine heartfelt motion being brought to parliament by a person who knows firsthand what she is talking about and it is fantastic to listen to all of the contributions from both sides of this house because it is genuinely heartfelt from our own particular perspectives.

I do not have the perspective of the member for Colton; I have never been inside nurses' quarters anywhere, but I am pleased, as others have been, to brag about the fact that I am married to a nurse. The theme for this year—Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective—is the way Rebecca contributes to our household and in many other ways as well. It really is a very apt description, not just about nurses and not just about the way they go about their work and about the profession overall, but about the people as individuals.

In my electorate of Stuart—which runs from Kapunda, through the Mid North, a little bit of the Riverland, and all the way up to the Northern Territory/Queensland/New South Wales borders—nurses are contributing absolutely everywhere. Whether it is the largest hospital in our electorate at Port Augusta or whether it is essentially a medical centre at Oodnadatta, nurses are the backbone of those establishments and so I thank them. I thank the ones who do that in our electorate and I thank nurses across the state for their contribution to our state's health. It is a very important thing that you do and it is appropriate that it is recognised by this house so, again, thanks to the member for Elder for bringing it forward.

Of course, as others have said, there is a very wide range of nursing that can be done. My wife, Rebecca, is a theatre nurse and works in cardiac, orthopaedic, and major accident and emergency nursing. She assures me that there is no blood and guts at all in those things. She actually says, 'If you see blood, there is a problem.' It is generally a very clean, very well organised, very thorough area of work and she thoroughly loves it. But, of course, there are lots of enormously wide areas that people can work as a nurse. One of the great attractions of the profession is that there is a huge range of directions that a person—man or woman—can take their career if they want to embark upon a nursing career. They could stay in all sorts of mainstream health. They could end up in administration. There is an enormous array of choices and I think that is very important.

Rebecca tells me that hospital-trained nurses are much better than the current tertiary-trained nurses. Those in the room who know about these things will have their preferences. Those in the room who know about these things will also know that that gives her age away as well, but she has a strong view that that is the case. I also have a view that the work that has evolved over the last several years with nurse practitioners is something that could be developed further and used more for the benefit of our community.

There being a disturbance in the strangers' gallery:

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The sound of one hand clapping.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: I am sure the others agree; they are just very polite. Particularly from my perspective in a country electorate where it has become harder and harder to find GPs and other doctors who want to come and visit or live and work in our electorate, I think there is a huge role for nurse practitioners that could be expanded to help us, but I am sure it is true in metropolitan Adelaide as well.

I get back to something that the member for Colton discussed about trust. Nurses are extremely well trusted. It is very normal for a patient, after the doctor has left, to want the nurse to

actually explain what was really said, what they were really told. 'What does it really mean? Can you get away from the strict medicine and the technicalities of it, put it into layman's language and, perhaps more importantly, tell me what it means for me, my life, my family, and what I am going to do for the next five minutes, five hours, five weeks or five years?' That is the sort of thing that people go to nurses for probably more than they do to doctors, on average.

A bit has been spoken about nurses' hands-on work. I think it is a two-way street. I think that people who are attracted to the nursing profession are typically caring, nurturing, practical, hands-on people, but then of course people who stay with that career, by definition, must be caring, nurturing, practical, hands-on people.

If you then add to that the realities of shift work and what that brings for lots and lots of people, you have got to be a practical person to be prepared to work all day, all night, start early in the morning, start early in the afternoon—whatever it happens to be. You need to be a hands-on, down-to-earth sort of a person to be dealing with patients, dealing with the practicalities of the work and dealing with the time constraints that the work can put on you.

The trust that comes out of those types of people doing that work very well means that not only does the community trust nurses about their own personal and their own immediate family's health needs, they actually trust nurses about their views on health and health policy. The member for Elder touched on the fact that for some nurses it is very hard to go to the supermarket without having to interpret, diagnose or share personal views, and that must be very hard at times.

I would just like to add to that the fact that the broader community trusts nurses with regard to their views on health policy. I think it is well and truly in line to remind this house that the health minister, Jack Snelling, said here in parliament that any SA Health professional was welcome to share their personal view on health policy without any fear of retribution from him or from the department.

I give him great credit for having said that. I think that is a very important statement, and I think it is a statement that needs to be shared far and wide across metropolitan Adelaide and across our entire state. From Mount Gambier to Marla to Port Lincoln, people need to know that the health minister has said that government employees, public servant health professionals, are entitled to share their views on government policy. I think it is particularly important that nurses do that because they are probably the most trusted of all the people who work in health.

Again, it is a great pleasure to support the member for Elder and others. The member for Fisher has a personal nursing background. I do not think we have a nurse on our side, but I think you will find that we have an enormous number of people who are immediately connected with nurses, as I am with my wife, Rebecca. I will just finish by again saying thank you to those present, and thank you to those who are not present who work as nurses, because you are the ones, more than anyone else—not exclusively but more than anyone else—who keep all of us in South Australia healthy. Thank you.

Mr PICTON (Karna) (12:14): I would like to add some comments supporting the motion from the member for Elder. I congratulate her on moving this motion, mainly because she has invited this enormous number of fantastic, hardworking nurses to the house today, and not just because you are applauding every speech that is being made—and I hope to receive the same treatment—but also because it is an honour for us to have you here to see the parliament, and for us to be able to repay in our speeches our gratitude for the hard work you do.

I would just like to make a few comments about some of the policy issues around nursing—in particular, broadly looking at health policy generally. I think that we need to value the voice and opinion that nurses have in devising those policies. Nurses are the people on the coalface of our health system. I have nothing disparaging to say about some of the consultants in our hospitals, but sometimes they will go home at night and it will be the nurses who are actually there, running the ship and making sure that the patients are being looked after. You have a tremendous amount of expertise and value to add in all areas of planning in our health system, and the more that we can listen to you I think the better the outcome will be.

I know this from seeing it firsthand in our hospitals. Recently, I was with a family member at the Flinders Medical Centre emergency department. When you are there as a family member you instantly think, 'Oh, we had better wait to hear what the doctor has to say.' When the doctor eventually came around, the nurse was telling the doctor what instructions should be given for the patient, and the doctor said, 'Oh, yes; okay, let's do that.' I think that probably happens a lot more than people would realise. Given your experience and your in-depth clinical understanding, you really are the backbone of the whole system.

Likewise, I think it is really important that we, as people involved in the running, management and oversight of our health system, to look after your rights at work, in terms of your pay and conditions (which need to be protected) and also in terms of issues such as security at work and the resources that you need to carry out your work to the best of your abilities. That is something that I know we on this side of the house will always have in mind.

I would like to echo the words of some of my other colleagues in terms of how we can further the ability for nurses to provide a greater level of clinical expertise in the work that they do. We have seen in recent years more nurse practitioners, and I absolutely think that this is something that we can expand. I know that the health minister, in his work on Transforming Health, believes it is a key priority to expand the role of nurse practitioners.

We have seen a huge number of leaps forward in terms of prescribing rights for nurses, which is a fantastic thing. It used to be that the only way that nurses could progress their career was by going into management roles, but now there are good clinical pathways for you to progress your career, which is good for the system but also good for nurses.

I also wanted to quickly raise an issue in terms of workforce numbers for nursing, which is going to be very important over the coming years for us as a state and also as a country. As the population ages, we are going to need more and more nurses to look after the number of people who are going to be needing services in our hospitals, in the community and in aged care. That is also going to coincide with the fact that a large number of nurses will be retiring and will want to receive some of those services themselves. That is a critical problem that we need to grapple with as a country.

While we have seen a large increase in the number of nursing places at universities, that has not necessarily been able to keep up with the limitations on places for clinical placements or graduate positions at the moment. This is because we have not yet reached that period in which the large number of retirements are happening. I know that is something that the government here is well aware of. Federally, there was a lot of work being done with Health Workforce Australia to try to address some of those issues. Unfortunately, that body has now been scrapped, so I think there is more work that needs to happen federally on trying to address that.

Lastly, I would like to comment that I think nurses are very lucky to have a very strong union, both nationally and in South Australia—the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. I am always told not to say 'the ANF': it is the ANMF now. I see Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars up there in the chamber. It is great to see her. We did have the occasional sparring match when I was chief of staff to the health minister in South Australia—

An honourable member: Surely not!

Mr PICTON: Surely not—no. We had very cordial relations. I always knew that she was very in tune with what was happening on the ground for her members and always had her members' best interests at heart. I think we should also pay credit to Rob Bonner from the ANMF and the previous secretary, Lee Thomas, with whom I also had some dealings federally and who is also very well respected around the country. I congratulate the member for Elder and pay credit to the member for Fisher for her speech as well. I look forward to celebrating with you on International Nurses Day.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (12:20): I rise to say a few words in relation to the motion of the member for Elder, of which I am supportive. Let me put on the record that, as I indicated earlier, my wife is a nurse and has been for some 39 years. My daughter is also an RN, and they both boss me around, so there is a fair bit to be said for that.

I would also like to make a couple of other comments. Someone (I think it was the member for Stuart) talked about Florence Nightingale, but I would like to particularly put on the record the contribution the nurses made in World War I. I think that is important, given the events of a week or two ago. Particularly on the island of Lemnos and on the hospital ships off Gallipoli, I have read, the boys—and they were all boys—who were wounded badly used to cry for their mothers on the shoulders of the nurses when they were trying to recuperate. So many died and the last person who was holding them as they died was, more often than not, a nurse. I think it is really important to remember that. We have all been inundated with material lately on the Gallipoli centenary, but I put that on the record here.

The other thing I do not think any other member has talked about this morning is the increasing numbers of male nurses. When I was a boy in the bush and there were very few girls around, any new nurse or any new female schoolteacher was fair game. It is possibly still the case; I am not sure. They play an intrinsic role in the community. I mentioned World War I earlier. When I went to boarding school, the matron was a lady called Patsy Darke. She was a nurse in World War II who went overseas, and she still wore her Army nursing uniform to chapel in boarding school in those days back in the sixties.

I have fond memories of Patsy. Actually, we could not put one over her. If you wanted to get a day off school, the idea was to have breakfast and a hot cup of tea, keep your mouth shut and shoot down to Patsy and say that you were feeling unwell and had a temperature. She would put a thermometer in your mouth and say, 'Oh, yes, you have.' She would send you off to sit in a room and come back and test you. By that time, the cup of tea had worn off and it was back to school.

The member for Stuart also indicated what his wife thinks about training. My wife actually started off as an enrolled nurse and did all her training in a hospital. She went on, in her 40s, to study off campus and did her RN training. I have to say that she was pretty horrified working in a hospital with young nurses who had done very little training in hospitals. They had done all academic achievement and, for all practical purposes, in her words, were really not up to the job when they were put in a hospital situation. They had all the academic, but no practical, training.

I mention my wife because she used to keep our farm on the straight and narrow during the crashes in wool and so forth. She provided the income and, even when each of our three children were born, she always went back to work. I have never forgotten what happened before our first child was born. It was a Sunday night. My wife had to drive 30 kilometres to get home. She came home in absolute tears and sat on the end of the bed. It was midnight or something. A local pastor had been standing behind a car and another car, a drunken driver, came in and severed one leg, and it was hanging on by a lump of skin. She had to sit there with him for several hours. I think that was the most shattering experience she ever had.

My wife, Jan, has done an enormous job. She is now a practice nurse and she thoroughly enjoys that, sticking needles into people and everything else. Her days of hospital nursing are over as far as she is concerned. There are others who want to speak, but I am pleased to have made a small contribution in support of the motion.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (12:25): I do acknowledge the gallery today and I understand that our contributions are brief because lunch beckons. There are still a couple more members here who would like to make a contribution in support of this wonderful motion and I do need to declare an interest. In fact, I am wondering if there is anybody in this place who is not married to a nurse, because I too am married to a nurse and have been for the last 27 years. She has been a wonderful wife, mother and nurse.

She too trained in the old days, when you could train at the local hospital. In fact, my dear wife Annette trained at the hospital at Tumby Bay and spent one year training as an enrolled nurse. In fact, years later, when we had four very young children, she went back and did her degree and became a registered nurse, so my congratulations to her. She has worked the whole time we have been married: first as an enrolled nurse, then as a registered nurse, and now she has had enough of shiftwork and has actually gone into community nursing, which she is enjoying very much.

The point has been made that there are so many different roles that nurses undertake in our communities. In the electorate of Flinders, I think I counted up to eight hospitals, and of course there

are all of the associated nursing professionals who work in and around hospitals, not just providing the patient care but also the community care and aged care that is so necessary in all of these communities; and, of course, aged care is going to become much more a part of our health care in years to come.

I have always believed in my own mind that nursing is more than a profession, it is actually a vocation. It is a vocation in a way very few jobs are, and the dedication and professionalism that nurses bring to their vocation has been mentioned and recognised a number of times today. The caring contribution that they make to our society is extraordinary.

If I can just digress for a moment, in country areas, many nurses married farmers, of course, and farmers were able to keep those nurses in their community at their local hospitals, and many nurses kept the farm running as well. The member for Stuart—what was it that you said your wife does?

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: Theatre nurse.

Mr TRELOAR: She's a theatre nurse. I was going to say that not only does my wife keep the family functioning but she also keeps the farm running as well when I am not there—what a girl. They are very trusted, of course, and it is often said that the last words on this earth that many of us will utter are, 'Goodnight, nurse.' I make light of that because they almost certainly will be for me.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan: And he's probably said it many times before.

Mr TRELOAR: Indeed. Luckily, they have gone, member for Stuart. There will be challenges. Members have mentioned the challenges that arise from the development of healthcare policy and, of course, Transforming Health is underway at the moment. I too would recommend wholeheartedly that the government and the Minister for Health take on board and note very seriously the comments and the contribution that nurses will make to this discussion, because, after all, they are at the coalface, they are the ones who know what is going on, and they are the ones who know how the system works or does not work.

Congratulations to all those who have spoken. Congratulations to the member for Elder for moving this motion and to all of those who have dedicated their lives to the care of others. Today we recognise International Nurses Day and acknowledge this year's theme, Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective, and congratulate the South Australian nurses for their dedication and professionalism, and the pivotal role they play in the advancement of all areas of South Australian health.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:29): I rise to support the motion:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Nurses Day celebrated annually on 12 May 2015;
- (b) acknowledges this year's theme, Nurses: A Force for Change: Care Effective, Cost Effective; and
- (c) congratulates South Australian nurses for their dedication and professionalism and the pivotal role they play in the advancement of all South Australians' health.

With some members declaring their interest in nurses today, I can indicate that I have not had a personal interest—as far as a relationship goes—with a nurse for over 20 years because I have known my wife that long and she is not a nurse.

There has been some light made of whether someone had been in a nurses' home. In the early 1980s, I was doing on-farm training around Murray Bridge. We were going to train for a couple of days in Mount Gambier and we asked, 'Where are we staying?' 'Oh, you're going to stay in the nurses' quarters, but on a different floor.' I thought that was like putting the foxes in charge of the henhouse. Back then we had to be careful we got out on the right floor so that our studies were not diverted onto other things.

I would like to express appreciation for the work that nurses have always done, and the member for Finniss talked about the contribution of nurses on Lemnos Island and on the hospital ships during World War 1 off Gallipoli. Well before then, and over time, nurses have played and continue to play a great role in maintaining the health of this state and this country.

As you get older and as time goes on, you seem to run into more nurses, professionally. I was in Griffith Rehab at Hove having had surgery for an artificial left hip, and being a bit allergic to pain I hit the buzzer and the nurse came in and said, 'What would you like?' I said, 'I would like some more Endone please.' Of course, Endone is heavily regulated—it is morphine. She said, 'You've already had 95 milligrams today.' I said, 'Can I have some more?' She said, 'Yes'. I said, 'Well, okay, let's go.' As I said, it is heavily regulated, and for that very reason that it is morphine. When you have a tablet, there are two nurses: one recording and one watching you take it to make sure you are not storing it under your pillow (or something) for a later date. So that is a good thing. The professionalism there was just fantastic, as it has been in all the hospitals I have had to visit over my life.

I had reason to attend the Repat a few months ago for a couple of days and it was interesting talking to the nurses there. The government's aim is to shut down the Repat, essentially. And yes, it was in an older ward, but it was clean and well looked after, and the nurses and doctors and health professionals were fantastic. The discussion I had with one or two of the nurses about the EPAS—the electronic recording of all your data—was interesting. I did not tell them who I was or where I was from.

It is interesting just how much work goes into trying to make that work. I understand the government has spent \$400 million for a recording system that is really going nowhere. I think the intent is great, but I think we obviously have the wrong program. The EPAS is going to be rolled out in the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and I think we are up for major cost blowouts unless this is really tightened up. It is something that needs to be looked at, and an electronic monitoring system for all your health needs will never work unless it is connected to all GPs, all hospitals, and everyone, at least, has a handle on how to operate it.

In saying that, I again thank all nurses for their dedication, their work efforts and ethics over all the years not just in hospitals but in aged-care facilities and right across the board. If we did not have nurses, life just would not be the same.

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (12:34): I also want to put on the record some very brief comments, particularly about my mother, who was a nurse for 50 years. Nursing is something I grew up with; indeed, my earliest memory is of mum being a nurse. She retired only three years ago, after 50 years. She has aged a bit in the last three years, I must admit. I do not know how she managed to do it; she was working as a nurse seven days a fortnight up until the age of 69. I have the utmost respect for her.

I have had to use hospitals myself when illness has hit me, but every day I have ever talked to mum there has been a reference to what she dedicated her life to. I have been so impressed by the fact that she is an example of so many people, both men and women, who serve others, often with complete dedication, forsaking everything else, understanding that what they say and do can often make a difference to the longevity of a person or, indeed, make a difference to their last hours, moments and days. I support the motion, and I put on record the respect I hold for the profession, a profession that is more than just a job; it is an absolute commitment they make.

Growing up, as a young child I saw the impact it had on our family structure. My parents were divorced when I was only four years of age, so mum was my parent. I saw what she did as a nurse and the dedication she brought to it. I think the greatest honour I have ever had in my life was when a person on Yorke Peninsula said to me, 20 years after mum had moved from the peninsula and was working at the Flinders Medical Centre, in ward 5F, 'Your mother was exceptional because it was as though she was born to it. Her total commitment was to ensure that the patient was looked after, cared for and given the support they needed.' I think it is a wonderful thing that this motion has been brought forward, and I commend it—and 12 May will be a very special day indeed.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (12:36): On behalf of the member for Elder, I rise to close the debate and to mention my support for the motion and my gratitude for the work of nurses in this state. I thank all members for their contribution, and I urge the house to support the motion.

Motion carried.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:37): By leave, I move this motion in an amended form:

That this house—

- (a) recognises National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day;
- (b) remembers and honours those who have died and the ones left behind due to domestic and family violence; and
- (c) commits to do whatever we can to prevent domestic violence.

I rise to acknowledge that today is National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day, a day for every one of us here and every Australian to stop and reflect on the harm that people experience at the hands of those they are supposed to be able to trust in an environment that should be their safest place. It is a day to reflect and remember those who have tragically lost their life as a result of domestic violence. The dire toll of violence in homes in our communities is marked today with National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day. This day is held in conjunction with Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

Our statistics on domestic violence are appalling, shocking, completely and totally unacceptable and a glaring reminder of how much work we still need to do. One in three Australian women now experiences physical violence from the age of 15; this statistic is worse if you are an Aboriginal women or if you are a woman with a disability. Twenty-five women have died this year as a result of domestic violence, and an average of 27 children are killed by a parent each year.

Deep-seated gender inequality continues and continues to contribute to some men continuing to believe that it is okay to control women they are or have been in a relationship with through violence. I have spoken in many forums about, amongst other things, these shocking statistics about violence against women and a range of strategies that are employed in relation to ending domestic violence. Clearly, we must do more.

Earlier this year, in my own southern community, we mourned the death of a beautiful young woman, Jackie Ohide, who was found dead in her car by her beautiful young children on 15 March this year. I was at a function that morning, just a few hundred metres from where she was when this terrible tragedy happened, unseen and unheard. Like so many others in our community, I did not see the tragedy that had been going on, I did not hear this tragedy unfolding and I did not know until too late.

Our southern community gathered in the week following her tragic death to honour together this beautiful young woman, Jackie, to mourn together her tragic death and to say together that as a community we are committed to ensuring that there is not one more death in our community, not one more assault, not one more misuse of power to cause psychological, emotional, financial or mental harm as a result of domestic violence, not one more.

I found out a little more about Jackie in the week following her death and have met with her beautiful family. As well as seeing her lovely smiling face shining out from the newspaper, the TV screen and online, I discovered that Jackie was someone who many around her saw as a beautiful angel with a beautiful soul, that she was 27, that she was of South Sudanese descent, that she had two beautiful boys aged two and four, that she had lived in our community amongst us for four years and that she would often be seen walking with her two boys around our streets.

I discovered that some time during 2008 she did reach out to services for help. That call for help was seven years ago. For seven years a woman in our community had been suffering, so close, yet so far away behind closed doors. We can now only imagine what she was going through. As I know all of us would feel, and I know so many in our southern community feel, I wish I had known what was going on behind her door. I wish I had seen and that I had heard and I wish that we could have helped her, but we can help her boys.

I have a glimpse of what these children may have seen and heard, but I cannot imagine the horror of losing my mother through violence. But I can imagine and will imagine how we can wrap our big community family's arms around those boys and look out for them in the days, weeks, months, years and decades that they will now walk through their lives without their mother. Together as a community we did commit to being by their side, to walking alongside them and every member of Jackie's family as they walk that difficult journey.

Together today, on this national day of remembrance, we can commit ourselves here in this place to putting our big community family's arms around any other woman who we know, or we think, is experiencing violence or is at risk of experiencing violence in their home. Our collective community arms are big and strong and so is our community spirit. It is this community spirit that will enable us to think together and to act together to ensure that not one more woman goes through what beautiful Jackie Ohide has, that not one more child witnesses what her sons did and lives what they now have to live.

I ask everyone today in this place to say to yourself, to say to one another and to say collectively together: not one more. Not one more. To say that we will do everything we can to ensure that not one more woman is affected by domestic violence and not one more woman loses her life as a result of violence. Since the tragic murder of Zahra Abrahamzadeh in 2010, our government has taken a stronger stance on domestic violence, accepting many of the Coroner's recommendations following an inquest into her death and enacting many strategies, including recent changes to the current intervention order system introduced just two days ago and our changes around tenancy laws introduced just a few weeks ago.

Zahra was repeatedly stabbed by her estranged husband at a cultural event at the Adelaide Convention Centre in March 2010. She and her children had been physically and psychologically abused for many years. This crime and this abuse was horrific and it deeply shocked our state. Her children, Arman, Atena and Anita, are extraordinary. Through their profound grief they have found a way to speak out and to reach out to other families who have also lost loved ones through domestic violence. I am in awe of their resilience and their desire to join together and reach out to say to so many, 'Not one more.'

I do understand the effect that witnessing violence has on children and I cannot find words strong enough to honour their sheer courage and compassion. Thank you, Arman, Atena and Anita, you inspire us all to do better.

Arman, Atena and Anita Abrahamzadeh have worked closely with the amazingly dedicated workers of our DV services who have dedicated decades and decades to supporting women and children who are fleeing their homes to escape domestic violence. They have worked with the Central Domestic Violence Service and the extraordinary Maria Hagias, Sandra Dunn and Kylie O'Callaghan there; Gillian Cordell and all at the Domestic Violence Crisis Service; Milenka Vasekova and all at the Migrant Women's Support Service; Julie Felus and all at the Northern Domestic Violence Service; Megan Hughes, Sue Underhill and all at the Southern Domestic Violence Service; Sharon Potts and others at Yarredi Services in Port Lincoln; Rosney Snell and others at Nunga Mi:Minar; and the DV coalition, along with many others, to develop the Zahra Foundation, which aims to support women to live a life free of violence and to attain economic independence.

The Zahra Foundation will officially launch on 5 September at a dinner at the Convention Centre, in the place where Zahra was tragically killed five years ago. Their vision is to engender hope for women who have been subject to domestic violence and to economically empower them through a range of educational and financial opportunities. I urge everyone in this place to support the foundation however they can and to encourage organisations and businesses in their communities to support the foundation also.

Ending domestic violence and ensuring that there is not one more is every community member's responsibility, and as leaders in our communities we have a unique opportunity to connect everyone that we can to this issue and to this foundation. I do not want to mourn another woman. I do not want any other child to go through what so many do. Women, men and children flourish in a world free of violence. On this national day of remembrance, let us commit together to ensuring there is not one more. And let us all commit to gathering tonight at 5.30 at Elder Park to remember and honour those for whom our efforts are too late.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (12:46): I rise to very genuinely and enthusiastically support the member for Reynell in her motion that this house (a) recognises National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day; (b) remembers those who have died and the ones left behind due to domestic and family violence; and (c), added today, commits to do whatever we can to prevent domestic violence.

This motion is extremely similar to a motion that I moved here a year ago, and I think that is very positive. As members would know, I have spoken on this topic many, many times in my five years in this house and it is a pleasure to be joined by the member for Reynell. I know everybody in this house is united in their view on this topic, but I think I have found a kindred spirit in the member for Reynell on this particular topic and wanting to take some leadership. Although our personal experiences are different, I do not doubt at all that our desire to show some leadership and contribute where we can to this topic is wholehearted on both our parts. I will be at Elder Park this afternoon as well.

Thank you, member for Reynell, also for advising the house about the Zahra Foundation dinner on 5 September. I think that is very important information for all members of this house to have. I would also like to comment that while it is of course terribly sad, it is also very pleasing that the issue of domestic violence is getting greater and greater recognition at all levels of government: federal, state and local.

There have certainly been people who have been working on this issue for many, many years, for decades, but probably not enough. However, the understanding of the importance of this issue is growing, and more important than the understanding of the issue is putting resources and effort to addressing it. I think that is a very important development, which is, unfortunately, necessary, but fortunately it is being addressed more than it was in previous years. I think that is terrific.

Unfortunately it is an undeniable fact that overwhelmingly it is men who commit violence against women when it comes to domestic violence, and that is absolutely shameful, but it is also just a fact, so we have to deal with it. We have to address it and we have to get on with it.

I am a very proud ambassador for the White Ribbon Foundation which is based on that knowledge—the knowledge that it is men who need to solve this problem. Because domestic violence is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women, it does not mean that all men are bad and all men do it. It is a small fraction of the male population who participate, and there is a strength in that, because then it is the overwhelming majority of men who do not participate who can actually use their influence on the small proportion of men who do participate.

A lot of other things have to be done, numerous other things, by both men and women as individuals, families, organisations, governments, etc., but it is men who have to take responsibility for the fact that on average one woman dies per week in Australia and, as the member for Reynell said, 25 women have died so far this year and 27 children on average die from domestic violence every year. They are unacceptable figures.

It is not like the road toll. People have to drive, people should take fewer risks, people should take more responsibility, but it is very hard for the mainstream public not to participate in the business that ends up in creating unfortunately a high road toll. It is completely different with domestic violence. No-one has to participate in the business of violence; it is just not necessary. We have, I think, a far greater opportunity for success in this area. We have a far greater opportunity to significantly reduce the number of victims of domestic violence across our nation and across our state. As the member for Reynell said, the ambition, the target, the goal, the outcome that we must all strive for is not one more.

Mr DULUK (Davenport) (12:51): I also rise to support the motion by the member for Reynell, and a very worthy motion it is. This remembrance day is a time when we reflect on the women, children and families who have been killed in the context of domestic violence. The statistics on domestic violence are sobering and, to be honest, they are a blight on our state and our nation. It was not an understatement when our Prime Minister recently referred to domestic violence as a national emergency.

The vast majority of dangerous, abusive and violent behaviour that occurs in the privacy of people's homes and their everyday activities is committed by men against women. One woman is killed in Australia every week from domestic violence, as has already been put on the record today.

Some of the other statistics are equally confronting. Just under half a million Australian women have reported that they have experienced physical or sexual violence or sexual assault in the past 12 months. More than a million women have experienced physical or sexual assault by their male partner or ex-partner since the age of 15. Many women experience multiple abuse at the hands

of their partners; 37.8 per cent of women who experienced physical assault in the past 12 months indicate that the perpetrator was a previous male partner or was a male family member or friend. The vast majority of these incidents have been committed in the home.

It is a great sadness that the perpetrators of domestic violence are known to their victims and it really strikes at me that as men we have a great responsibility to do our bit to ensure domestic violence is stamped out of our society because it is a completely unacceptable statistic. Going on, 33 per cent of women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15 and 19.1 per cent of women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15.

Domestic violence is a crime and society should not tolerate this behaviour. I know we have come a long way in recent years, and this issue has been in the spotlight of late which is wonderful to highlight this, but too often there are too many cases where we know about it and too often people turn a blind eye to it and do not support their friends or partners when they know they have experienced it, which is a real shame.

The 2015 Australian of the Year, Ms Rosie Batty, received her honour for her advocacy against domestic violence. I would like to quote Rosie Batty's story as it was provided as part of the nomination for Australian of the Year because it is compelling and her campaign against domestic violence makes her a worthy holder of the title of Australian of the Year. I quote:

When a grieving mother spoke out calmly just hours after her son's murder, she gave voice to many thousands of victims of domestic violence who had until then remained unheard. Rosie Batty has risen above her personal tragedy and the great loss of her 11 year old son, Luke, who was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of his father in a very public assault. Rosie's story jolted Australia into recognising that family violence can happen to anyone.

Victorian Police Chief Commissioner, Ken Lay, praising Rosie as the most 'remarkable victim' he has ever met, says Rosie has put domestic violence on the national agenda. Rosie now champions efforts to fight domestic violence, making many media and public speaking appearances to shine a spotlight on the issue and call for systemic changes. Rosie's incredible strength and selfless efforts are an inspiration to many other victims of domestic violence and her courage and willingness to speak out will make Australia a far better place.

As I touched on before, it is imperative that men and young men alike ensure that they do not become perpetrators in domestic violence, whether by omission, act or consent. That is why organisations such as White Ribbon play such an important role in the campaign against domestic violence. For those who do not know, White Ribbon is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls.

I fully commend this motion of the member for Reynell and highlight that tonight there will be a candle vigil beginning at 5.30 in Elder Park which is being sponsored by the Coalition of Women's Domestic Violence Services, and I urge all members of the house to attend this evening.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:57): I rise to make a few brief comments in support of this motion that recognises National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day and honours those who have died as well as the ones left behind due to domestic and family violence; and doing all we can to stop this blight on society.

There is no excuse for domestic violence—no excuse at all. The memo out to everyone is: walk away. I am on the Social Development Committee and I know the member for Reynell brought up this reference and we are currently looking at a reference on domestic violence. Sadly, too many cases of domestic violence are being brought before us from around the state. We have made some regional trips as well as having hearings here in Parliament House and there are far too many tragic stories. As a society, we must all work to end this blight and get rid of it once and for all. With those few words, I commend the motion of the member for Reynell.

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (12:58): I rise quickly to support this motion. The issue of domestic violence is one of the tragedies, often hidden, in our society. It does none of us any good and I congratulate the member for Reynell for bringing this motion before the house. I remind members that, thanks to the cooperation of the Opposition Whip, the house will be rising at 5.30 tonight so that those who wish to attend that vigil can do so.

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:58): In closing very briefly, I wanted to thank all of the other members who have contributed to this debate and supported the motion. I am heartened by our

desire to work collectively to end violence against women and I look forward to seeing everybody tonight at 5.30 at the vigil.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Ministerial Statement

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:01): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: Today I was pleased to announce the decision of the Festival Board appointing the artistic directors of the Adelaide Festival of Arts from 2017-19, Neil Armfield AO and Rachel Healy.

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is called to order and warned a first time.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: It is a coup for Adelaide for our world-renowned festival to have secured these two highly regarded arts leaders, and it speaks of the high calibre of our national arts scene that, after an extensive global recruitment process, the Adelaide Festival Board could not go past the experience of these talented Australians.

Multi-award winning director Neil Armfield AO is widely acknowledged as one of Australia's greatest theatre and opera directors, and film makers. His artistic reputation both nationally and internationally comes from a 40-year career that includes 17 years as artistic director of Belvoir Street Theatre, where he and Rachel spent almost a decade together building Australia's prominent theatre production house. He recently won his 10th Helpmann Award as best director for Opera Australia's *Ring Cycle* and, relevant to this new role, his theatre and opera works have regularly featured in Adelaide Festival of Arts programs.

Rachel is one of the country's leading cultural professionals, with over 20 years' experience in multiple art forms, including theatre and ballet. Following her time at Belvoir, Rachel was Director of Performing Arts at the Sydney Opera House and, more recently, Executive Manager Culture at the City of Sydney, where she led the development of Sydney's first cultural policy and action plan, and was the driving force behind a comprehensive review of the live music scene.

Aside from her artistic credentials, I am pleased to inform the house that Rachel is an Adelaide girl—indeed, a St Dominic's girl—and I am sure that all of South Australia will be pleased to welcome her home. Neil also spent many years of his early career in Adelaide and it is fantastic to have him back here helping direct the Adelaide Festival of Arts. This will be the first time in the Festival's 55-year history that the role of artistic director will be shared. I am sure I speak for the house when I say I am eager to see what this dynamic duo will present for our annual premier arts and cultural event.

As I mentioned, the two will take up the reins from 2017, taking over from our current director, David Sefton, who is already well underway with planning next year's program. I would like to thank David for his time with us and look forward to finding out what he has up his sleeve for the 2016 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

COMPULSORY THIRD-PARTY INSURANCE

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:04): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I rise to inform the house of the latest progress in the government's continuing commitment to implement a market-based model for the private sector provision of compulsory third-party insurance. As part of the 2014-15 state budget, the government announced that from 1 July 2016 the Motor Accident Commission would cease its role as the sole provider of compulsory third-party insurance in South Australia. Since this time, considerable work has been undertaken to identify the best model for the future private sector provision of compulsory third-party premium insurance in South Australia.

Ms Redmond interjecting:

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Heysen to order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: We are working on the expert advice of the lead commercial adviser, PricewaterhouseCoopers, to develop an efficient and sustainable private sector CTP insurance market. The new private sector CTP insurance market model will continue to meet the needs of motorists and persons injured in a motor vehicle accident, while contributing to an efficient, competitive and viable CTP insurance industry in South Australia. The market design model is—

Ms Redmond interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Heysen is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —expected to maximise value to the government from CTP insurance reforms, allowing the Motor Accident Commission to run off its claims against insurance policies and remove the government's residual risk by its guarantee of the CTP fund. A sum of \$852.9 million has already been realised from the Motor Accident Commission's surplus assets and was paid into the Highways Fund in December 2014. A further \$300 million is scheduled to be returned to the government in 2016-17.

In establishing a private market for the provision of CTP insurance, the next steps are first to conduct market soundings and then undertake an expression of interest and a request for tender process.

Ms Redmond interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Heysen is warned a second and final time.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: This will then be followed by a licensing process to appoint the new private CTP insurance providers and prepare them to serve motorists from 1 July 2016. The proposed private sector model will include:

- a multi-provider market with a set number of eligible insurers for the first three years;
- premium prices will remain fixed for the first three years with CPI-like increases to ensure a smooth transition for both insurers and motorists;
- transition to a fully contestable market from year 4;
- an industry specific CTP regulator responsible for setting and controlling premiums and ensuring they remain reasonably priced; and
- the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure will continue to issue CTP insurance renewal notices and provide premium collection services as part of the vehicle registration process.

The government has met with our counterparts in Queensland and New South Wales to ensure that we learn from their experiences and adopt a model that will be best practice.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is called to order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: In line with the government's 2014-15 budget announcement, MAC will continue to fulfil its existing non-commercial roles for road safety and administering the nominal defendant arrangements. Importantly, the private sector provision of

CTP insurance will not affect the Lifetime Support Scheme, which was established on 1 July 2014 to cater for those who have been catastrophically injured as a result of a car accident.

As we continue down the path of CTP insurance reform, the government will continue to engage widely with key stakeholders to ensure a smooth transition with minimal impact on motorists. We are confident that the private sector provision of CTP insurance is in the best interests of the state, and our key focus remains on ensuring we have a scheme which is fair, efficient and affordable for South Australian motorists.

DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:08): I seek leave to make ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: I am pleased to inform the house that earlier this morning the Governor in Executive Council appointed Assistant Commissioner Linda Williams as South Australia's next Deputy Commissioner of Police. Ms Williams' appointment follows a recommendation by a selection panel comprising the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, Erma Ranieri, Tasmanian police commissioner, Darren Hine, and Deputy Commissioner Grant Stevens.

Ms Williams is a well respected member of South Australia Police and has extensive experience across many areas of SAPOL, making her an excellent choice to fill this important role. Ms Williams has been an assistant commissioner since November 2012, and has excelled in a position that provide strategic direction, leadership and management in some of SAPOL's key operational areas.

She joined SAPOL in 1980 and has worked in many important positions within the organisation throughout her 35-year career. From 2006-2008 she was the officer-in-charge of the Holden Hill Local Service Area before being promoted to superintendent of the State Crime Prevention Branch. Ms Williams was then promoted again to chief superintendent and while in this role was awarded the Australian Police Medal in 2011. I am certain that everyone in this place will join me in congratulating Assistant Commissioner Williams on her promotion. Ms Williams will start her new role on 21 July when the current Deputy Commissioner, Grant Stevens, becomes South Australia's new police commissioner.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. G.G. Brock)—

Local Council By-Laws—
Adelaide City Council—No. 13—Variation

Question Time

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to the 60,000 South Australians who are now looking for jobs in our state?

The SPEAKER: The Premier. That is a very open-ended question.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:10): It is indeed.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Don't vote Liberal.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's right. That this government is on their side and that it has committed itself to building a stronger South Australia and is committing itself—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, please be seated for a moment. The leader is called to order and so is the Minister for Health.

The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:

The SPEAKER: And so is the member for Colton.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned. Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are committing ourselves to the transformation of the South Australian economy in a way—

Mr Pisoni: More unemployed.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The truth is that the unemployment rate in this state has bounced around over a number of months now and the number of jobs that are being created in the South Australian economy are roughly equivalent to the number of jobs that are being lost.

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That has been the consistent position for a very significant period of time so what we are seeing is both—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —creation and destruction in the South Australian economy which is very unnerving for those people who have lost their jobs—exciting for those who are in the growing industries. The challenge that remains for us is how we grow those parts of the economy which are actually growing quickly, the parts of manufacturing which are growing quickly, to soak up those jobs that are being lost elsewhere. This is the challenge for us and it does not assist the challenge for those to mindlessly repeat the nature of the challenge. What would advance the cause is if they actually had a positive idea which would allow us to—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: There is a near-term event where they could make a positive contribution, that is, to persuade their federal colleagues in the federal budget to do three things: to restore the \$900 million of cuts to the Automotive Transformation Scheme after they drove the car industry out of this country—

Mr PEDERICK: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order, member for Hammond.

Mr PEDERICK: The Premier has got nothing to do with the responsibilities of the federal government.

The SPEAKER: First of all, the question was most open ended and rhetorical in nature. When the Premier resorts to debate I allow the opposition to interject at will and I propose to continue that policy.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Mr Speaker, I won't be debating that; I will be answering this question in its terms. What would I say to all of those unemployed people who are actually looking for a stronger future? I would ask them to speak to the federal government and make their voice known—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —raise their voice so it can be heard by the federal Liberal government as they frame this budget, restore the \$900 million you cut from the Automotive Transformation Scheme, keep your promise on the renewable energy target and unlock \$4.2 billion worth of investment in the renewable energy sector creating hundreds of jobs here in this state.

Keep your promise to build 12 new submarines here in South Australia which will create thousands of jobs and renew confidence in South Australia and, while you are at it, design an asset recycling scheme that does not punish South Australia because the lot over there flogged all of our assets when they were last in government. Design a fair scheme so we get a fair crack at the infrastructure spending of the state, and for good measure the federal government should also be requested to reverse its cuts to pensioner concessions to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are protected.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will not refer to Her Majesty's Opposition as 'that lot over there'.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15): Supplementary: can the Premier outline to the house how many more South Australians are looking for work since he became the Premier of this state?

The Hon. P. Caica: You don't do angry very well, Steven.

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:15): In the last month since the unemployment rates were published, the lion's share of the increase in the unemployment rate has been because more people are looking for work. More people have been attracted into the labour market—a 0.4 per cent increase in the labour force participation rate—to seek jobs and that is the—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The lion's share of the deterioration in the unemployment rate is because more people are looking for work, not that there are fewer jobs. That is the essential change that has occurred over the last period. I don't seek to hide the fact that there is a significant unemployment rate that we need to address. I don't hide the fact that there are traditional industries in decline and that we need to transform the South Australian economy, but bellowing from the opposition benches about the effect of that—

Mr Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: If the member for Unley moves his lips outside standing orders again, he will depart under the sessional order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: I freely admit that there are far too many people in our community seeking employment who are unable to find a job. That is a source of enormous concern to my party which has as its essential project the creation of jobs. We are a labour party. It is at the heart of our purpose. The dignity of work and the way in which that allows people to imagine a future for themselves and their families is our project, and we spend every day of our working life thinking of ways in which we can create employment. Our decision is to step up and take a lead and seek to transform the South Australian economy. I wasn't the one ducking for cover and disappearing into hallways and behind closed doors, avoiding questions—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: The point of order is?

Mr GARDNER: It is debate, sir. The question was—

The SPEAKER: Yes, I know what the question was. I would ask the Premier perhaps to return closer to the substance of the question. Is the Premier finished?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Yes.

The SPEAKER: I have allowed the leader to violate the standing orders at will for the last two questions. I hope he will now comply with the standing orders.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:18): Absolutely, sir. I always comply with any of your rulings. My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer explain to the house how the \$852.9 million realisation from the MAC will be treated in the budget? Will it, in fact, be a balance sheet item or will it diminish the deficit this financial year by \$852.9 million?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:18): The Leader of the Opposition will have to wait for the budget to see how the privatisation of the Motor Accident Commission will be treated. I note the conflict within the Liberal Party on this matter. The Leader of the Opposition has his policy platforms of marijuana-based medical trials and banning duck hunting but is opposed to privatisation of a compulsory third-party premiums policy.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order, member for Bragg.

Ms CHAPMAN: This was a simple question as to how certain proceeds are going to be treated. Nothing to do with medicinal cannabis or any other—

The SPEAKER: So, your point of order is that the Treasurer—

Ms CHAPMAN: Relevance: he's debating the matter and what he is debating is completely irrelevant.

The SPEAKER: I will listen carefully to what the Treasurer has to say in answer to this question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I'm surprised, and I say to the younger members of the Liberal Party: 'Retake your party. Your leader has abandoned all the principles.' And Tom Playford looks down upon you and asks, 'Why is it you're more interested in medicinal marijuana than you are in privatising assets?'

The SPEAKER: Point of order.

Ms CHAPMAN: A lecture to Her Majesty's Opposition is in defiance of your earlier ruling, and I ask the Treasurer to either answer the question—

The SPEAKER: But everyone's having so much fun.

Ms CHAPMAN: Well, that may be so. We just want to know how this amount is going to be treated. It's a pretty simple question. If he can't answer it, he can stay sitting down.

The SPEAKER: Has the Treasurer finished?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I have, sir.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20): Supplementary: does the Treasurer have any idea how this money is going to be treated or is he just not going to tell us?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:20): The budget will be handed down in June, and in June all of the opposition's questions will be answered. But I do point out that I find it amazing that the modern Liberal Party would be opposed to privatising compulsory third-party premiums and think that the government can

do it better than the private sector. I am stunned that the one policy position they have is medical marijuana trials, but they won't privatise assets.

The SPEAKER: Point of order, member—

Mr PISONI: The Treasurer is moving away from the substance of the question.

The SPEAKER: If the opposition can't wear a bit of standard argy-bargy about the budget, they are somewhat thin skinned. You've finished? Thank you very much. Leader.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): Does the motor accident board unanimously support the government's decision regarding the winding-up of the Motor Accident Commission?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:21): That is not relevant to the government's decision. Whether they do or don't is not pertinent to the decision the government has taken. We are not winding up the Motor Accident Commission. They will still have a role and responsibility to play, but again this is a question of ideology for the Liberal Party: do they believe that it is better for the government to run an insurance company or the private sector? And what I'm hearing from members opposite is that they think that the private sector can't do it.

The SPEAKER: Point of order. If the point of order is debate and relevance—

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: The Treasurer continually defies your ruling. He is debating the substance of the question rather than answering it.

The SPEAKER: Oh, I'm sure he would never defy my rulings but, yes, I do uphold a point of order about prohibition on debate and relevance. And I think the Treasurer has made that point in answer to the last three questions.

Mr Pisoni: He doesn't know.

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is on very thin ice. Leader.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): Supplementary: did the Motor Accident Commission board make a specific recommendation to the government regarding the winding-up of the Motor Accident Commission?

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Newland is called to order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:23): When the government announced its plans to privatise the Motor Accident Commission and allow a competitive process to allow the private sector—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, after the election—to offer this service—because we feel they can do it more efficiently than the government; obviously my socialist friends opposite don't believe that—through the Motor Accident Commission chair, Mr Roger Cook, I allowed them to put to the government an alternative proposal. We put that alternative proposal to our commercial advisers and, quite frankly, that alternative proposal did not bear what we thought would be a better outcome for the people of this state.

Whatever the views of the board members are, what matters is what the view of the government of South Australia is, and our view is that the private sector is better at issuing insurance premiums than a government monopoly, but if the socialist members opposite think they can do it better, that's a matter for them and their ideologies.

MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Supplementary: does the government's plan require any legislative changes?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:24): That will depend on the advice of the commercial advisers. I am very keen to have an independent regulator established, an independent regulator that is industry specific, to make sure we can protect motorists.

That may require legislation, or we may be able to do that with existing legislation. Once crown law have given us the appropriate advice, the commercial advisers will give us what we think would be the appropriate course of action. What is important is that we are sending the signal to the private sector that this state is open for business, that this state wants the private sector—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: What I find amazing is every time I meet with federal treasurer Hockey, given the interjections of the Leader of the Opposition, federal treasurer Hockey keeps on telling me, 'Why won't you privatise more assets? Why won't you privatise SA Water? Why won't you privatise more assets?' In fact, I have just received correspondence from the federal Treasurer congratulating me, the government, on its privatisation of the Motor Accident Commission and saying that he will accept it for the process of asset recycling. That puts him in stark contrast with his colleagues— but, then again, the South Australian division of the Liberal Party stands alone amongst other Liberal divisions across the country.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before the leader asks another supplementary question, I welcome to this marvellous spectacle students from the Mount Barker Waldorf School, who are guests of the member for Kavel, and students from Glenunga International High School, who have seen some of the exemplary behaviour of their host, the member for Unley.

Question Time

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:26): My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Will the government immediately move to introduce legislation for a commissioner for children and young people with investigative powers, as demanded by Belinda Valentine this morning?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:26): I think we canvassed the recent history of that bill fairly extensively yesterday, so I won't go over that again. I also had the opportunity to have a chat to Belinda this morning when I bumped into her around the corner from my office. What we discussed was that, given that we have slightly different emphases on what the commissioner might look like and the fact that I had—I believed with the concurrence of the opposition spokesperson—decided that it was a wiser path to refer this to the royal commissioner, who has expressed a view that she is likely to come up with recommendations that would influence the structure of such an institution, we agreed that for that reason, and probably for many others, it would be useful for her to meet with Margaret Nyland and to offer to make representation to her on her views.

I am going to facilitate; I will make sure that's facilitated in the sense of making sure that Ms Valentine has access to the contact details that are required in order to allow that to happen. I think that will mean that the commissioner, in her consideration that will guide our views on the bill, will have full possession of information, including from Ms Valentine.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): Can the minister advise the house when we are likely to receive Margaret Nyland's royal commission report?

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Ask Margaret Nyland.

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order. Minister.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: If this continues, I will have to intervene in the quarrel between the Treasurer and the leader and remove them both. Minister.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:28): My recollection is that the commissioner indicated that she would be winding up her considerations towards the end of this year, but I will have to check the date.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary; the leader.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): Will the minister give some consideration to asking Margaret Nyland to bring down an interim recommendation regarding the commissioner for children and young people?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:28): No, the reason I won't do that is that, although I'm sure there are incidences where there is a very particular question that can be asked that could be answered in the absence of the full context of the royal commissioner's report, my understanding and expectation is that what she will contribute that will guide us in our consideration in this place of the appropriate institution will be an understanding of a way in which to manage the child protection system. I would not expect her to wish to detach a particular institution from the rest of her considerations, and I certainly won't be asking her to turn her mind that way.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:29): Supplementary, sir: why did the government fail to meet its commitment to introduce legislation for a commissioner for children and young people by the end of 2013, as promised by the previous minister?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:29): I understand the bill was introduced in the other place.

Mr Marshall: No, actually it was never introduced.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am happy to be corrected on that.

The SPEAKER: The leader will be quiet.

The Hon. J.M. Rankine interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: No, but it was introduced.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am responding to too many interjections, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The member for Wright is called to order.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: I am hearing a number of different dates and houses being shouted at me from various locations and, given that I was not responsible at the time, what I will do is make sure that I provide accurate information to the house.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): Given that the government has already made a commitment to the people of South Australia to introduce a bill before the end of 2013 which was not met, can the minister update the house now as to what her commitment will be to introduce another bill for the commissioner for children and young people?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (14:31): I can commit to the house that I will bear in mind the existing commitment to have a commissioner and I will take on board the response from the royal commission, and I will take that to cabinet for consideration.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Was that the member for Mount Gambier's mobile phone going off?

Mr Bell: No, sir.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): My question is to the Attorney-General. Did the Attorney-General seek the advice of Commissioner Margaret Nyland regarding the child protection legislation proposals that he introduced yesterday?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:31): I thank the honourable member for her question. I guess it depends a little bit on what you mean by seeking advice. My recollection is that there had been communications between me and my office and Commissioner Nyland indicating that the government would be responding to the report from the Coroner in the way that the cabinet determined, and so it is my recollection that that at least was formally communicated to her, and that of course indicated that we would be moving quickly to introduce legislation to give effect to the recommendations made by the Coroner. As to whether I have actually sat down with her with the bill, or amending bill, and taken her through each provision and asked her about those, no, I have not.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:32): Supplementary: was Commissioner Nyland provided with a copy of the bill and, if so, have you had any response from her in respect of her approval or otherwise or recommendation for amendment?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:33): Look, I would have to check as to whether she has actually got or has seen a copy of the bill. I imagine she has. I am not aware of her having made any particular recommendation about the bill, but of course were she to say something about it we would obviously take it into consideration. There is plenty of opportunity. The bill is now before this house and will not be debated for another—

The Hon. J.J. Snelling: I don't know. At least not until next week.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: Yes, not for a while, so there is plenty of time.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: For goodness sake! They seem to find my reference to the fact that the bill would not be debated for a while in some way humorous, but I can say to them that if they would be prepared to join with us in suspending so much of standing orders as would enable it to be dealt with immediately following question time and passed through all stages, I would be entirely happy to accept that offer.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No: I make the offer to the people of South Australia that the government is prepared, immediately upon the end of question time, or grieves, to move to suspend standing orders insomuch as they interfere with the possibility of the passage through all stages in this house of our bill so that it be finished this afternoon and then the bill can sit between here and the other place and those who wish to comment can make their comments then. If that was an offer being made by the opposition, we warmly welcome that, thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The member for Hartley is warned for a second and final time. Deputy leader.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): Supplementary: again my question is to the Attorney-General as the Minister for Child Protection Reform. Can the minister explain to the house why it is appropriate that he would progress recommended amendments to the Children's Protection Act in respect of child protection reform as emanated from the Coroner but not progress recommendations in respect of child protection and the appointment of a commissioner for children as recommended by Robyn Layton QC?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:35): It is pretty simple, really. My responsibility is to deal with matters arising from the Coroner's report and matters arising from Commissioner Nyland's report, and suchlike. The children's commissioner is not a matter touched upon by either the terms of reference, as I understand it, of the Nyland inquiry—

Ms Chapman: That's not according to her. She said she was considering it.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: She may have, in which case, why are you asking me why we aren't dealing with it?

Ms Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: This children's commissioner thing is, I know, something the Minister for Education has answered many questions about—both the current Minister for Education and the former minister for education and, quite probably, the one before that have been asked. My father's father and my father's father's father's father. It has been going on for a long time, and the proposition has been the same. There is an impasse between the government and the opposition about whether or not there will be inquisitorial powers or investigative powers vested in this—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is called to order.

The Hon. J.R. RAU: —commissioner, and this bill would have been history—in other words, passed and operational—a long time ago—

Mr Marshall: Rubbish. We haven't introduced it. You've completely forgotten the chronology of this. You're just making it up.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is provoking the member for Wright and is leading to disorder. Deputy leader.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:37): Supplementary, again to the Minister for Child Protection Reform: is the minister seriously telling the house that he is not aware that Commissioner Nyland has not only been asked about but, according to his own colleague in the cabinet, is now considering the issue of the appointment of a commissioner and what powers he or she should have?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:37): I think we are going to have to do this the long way. Mr Speaker, three weeks—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Yes, that's right. Three weeks after coming into government, this government commenced the Layton review, the most thoroughgoing review of child protection in the history of this state. That is because we had, in the lead-up to the election, a government that refused to accept that there was a crisis in child protection. Indeed, they sought to censor key advisers that were seeking to send them that message. That was the starting point we had—an impoverished child protection system.

Ms CHAPMAN: Point of order: I asked a specific question.

The Hon. J.W. Weatherill interjecting:

Ms CHAPMAN: Can you just sit down while I make the point of order, thank you?

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader is already on two warnings. Will she state the point of order succinctly?

Ms CHAPMAN: Yes, sir.

The SPEAKER: And what is the standing order?

Ms CHAPMAN: The question was very specific.

The SPEAKER: No, what is the standing order?

Ms CHAPMAN: 98. The question was very specific as to what was the knowledge of the Attorney-General in respect of the terms of reference for the royal commission, not the historical contribution that the Premier is now outlining. It was nothing to do with the—

The SPEAKER: I will wait to hear what the Premier has to say. Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: In her report, one of Robyn Layton's recommendations was the creation of a children's commissioner, specifically excluding the powers of investigation, because a further recommendation of hers was the creation of a health and community services ombudsman, which scoped in child protection complaints. So that was the place we went to investigate complaints concerning child protection. Of course, we adopted that measure.

Also, instead of including the children's commissioner, we changed the role of two bodies: the Child Protection Advisory Council and also the Children's Interest Bureau. We collapsed them down into one body called the Council for the Care and Protection of Children, which had advocacy powers on behalf of children very similar to the sorts of things recommended by Robyn Layton. In effect we created a very similar body which did many of the things that Robyn Layton suggested that a children's commissioner should do.

However, we have been persuaded to introduce a separate children's commissioner à la the Robyn Layton model. The reason it is not law is because those opposite resisted it, and they have introduced a model—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, will you be seated. For almost half of question time I have allowed the leader to interject almost constantly. I would like to ask him to stop, because standing order 131 states that a member may not interrupt another member who is speaking. Standing order 142 states that when a member is speaking no-one may make a noise or disturbance or converse aloud.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: My tolerance is at an end. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The model we have proposed differs materially in that the investigative powers are not included, and I note that other states and territories have not adopted this investigative model for the commissioner for children. Then, of course, fast forward to the conversations the current minister has had with her counterpart in the upper house, and she puts a

sensible proposition—which was not cavilled with—that we should await the outcome of the commissioner's recommendations, because these matters can be put before the commissioner and a sensible recommendation made.

Why on earth would you not accept that proposition? I will tell why you would not: if someone who was deeply affected by these matters decides to approach you and says that this should be advanced, the children's commissioner should be advanced with investigative powers, and you decide to stand up next to them at a news conference to get a cheap, political point. That is where we are today. It is a disgrace —

Mr GARDNER: Point of order. The minister is clearly straying a long way from the historical chronology that you previously allowed, and is clearly debating the issue by characterising other members' conduct.

The SPEAKER: Yes; there is an element of debate in the Premier's utterances. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Can I say that there is no way forward in this difficult issue of child protection without a measure of bipartisanship and a measure of calm, sensible reasoning. That is why we have a royal commission. We can all resist the opportunity to make cheap, political points in this incredibly vexed area of child protection, where all there is—

Mr Pengilly: Will you please answer the question?

The SPEAKER: The member for Finniss is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —is a morass of very difficult decisions that are made by conscientious public servants. What we want them to be doing is making brave, conscientious decisions and not worrying that every time they actually make a judgement they might be hauled up and ridiculed in the public sphere. These are incredibly difficult issues, and we need people to make fine judgements and we need to back them then. We also need to attract the best and brightest to these roles in seeking to make what are incredibly difficult and vexed decisions.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:43): A supplementary, if I may, sir.

The SPEAKER: The member for Bragg will not tap her glass as if time is up when time is not up.

Ms CHAPMAN: I apologise for that, sir.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms CHAPMAN: I can indicate that it was certainly not my intention to even touch my glass. My supplementary, to the Attorney-General, is: did the Attorney-General seek and/or obtain advice from Commissioner Nyland about changes he proposes to the Youth Court by legislation?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:44): I believe I did have a discussion with Commissioner Nyland at some stage about matters relating to the Youth Court, and I believe I took her through what the proposals were. I think that was done on a reasonably informal basis.

WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE CENTRE

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:44): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house about the recent launch of the SAHMRI Wellbeing and Resilience Centre and the work the centre will undertake?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:44): I thank the honourable member for her question. The Wellbeing and Resilience Centre at SAHMRI is an important part of our state's ambitious goal to be the first political unit in the world to measure and build wellbeing and

resilience at scale, and really to immunise people against the scourge of mental illness. This is one of the great challenges of our modern community. As the general level of stress and pressure raises in our community, it begins to affect more and more people, and this is having a massive effect on our health and wellbeing.

Mental illness is touching us all. One in five Australian adults and one in four young people are experiencing mental illness in a given year. What we need to do as a society is anticipate and prevent mental illness, rather than wait for it to emerge and then have to deal with its damaging effects. The work in South Australia began to crystallise a few years ago with the arrival of Professor Martin Seligman, which arose out of a stint as Thinker in Residence. During his time here, Martin boldly proposed that South Australia become the first place in the world to measure and build wellbeing. It fits nicely with what we like to think of ourselves as a state, which is having this extraordinary commitment to livability.

One project is the provision of resilience training to staff at two companies facing closure as a result of the imminent Holden close-down. It is a perfect example of what we are looking for: identifying a mental health dimension to something that we know is coming rather than waiting for it to come upon us. Another is the launch of a centre last week called Resilient Futures, a mentor-based program that will measure and build the resilience and wellbeing of 850 disadvantaged young people in Adelaide. These young people are disengaged. They are not in school, work or training and, as a group, they are often hard to reach, but we cannot give up on them. We must keep trying to help them move forward positively with their lives.

Also encouraging is the outstanding level of support that is coming from private donors. The Wyatt Trust, the James & Diana Ramsay Foundation and Margaret Stewart have together invested more than \$1.3 million in a three-year period. It is also wonderful to see the young people who are coming forward and participating in this. Mount Barker school and St Peter's school are participating in this initiative. The work that is being undertaken there has the potential to not only change the trajectory of the lives of the young people it is touching but also raise the general level of wellbeing and resilience in our community. Thriving, not merely surviving, is the name of the game in the 21st century. I am confident that the new Wellbeing and Resilience Centre will be at the forefront of further advances in this vital field of study.

DISABILITY JUSTICE PLAN

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:47): My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General inform the house of the measures the state government is undertaking to assist South Australians with a disability to interact with the justice system?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform) (14:48): I thank the honourable member for her question. In 2014, the government released the Disability Justice Plan, with a view to making the criminal justice system more accessible to vulnerable people. As a part of the plan, the Legal Services Commission has been running the Law4All program. Law4All assists people with a disability to know their rights and to understand their responsibilities when navigating through the legal system.

As a part of the Law4All program, training has been delivered to community workers and personnel in criminal justice agencies so that they are better equipped to deal with clients with a disability. Funding for the Law4All program came out of the Disability Justice Plan. The Law4All program and the Disability Justice Plan is in addition to recent government legislation that aims to protect the most vulnerable in our community. Last year, the government passed the 'sexual offences—cognitive impairment' legislation in parliament, which protects the rights of people with cognitive impairment.

Yesterday, I introduced the 'vulnerable witnesses' bill. This legislation will ensure that the justice system is responsive to vulnerable people within our community. In a society that supports those who need assistance, a disability should not be a barrier to being able to interact with the legal system. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Helen Wighton, the deputy director of the Law Reform Institute of South Australia and former legal officer in the Attorney-

General's Department. Helen sadly passed away in 2014. She was a tireless campaigner and worker for law reform in this and many other areas of the law and she started this important legislative project when she was at the Attorney-General's Department.

This government is committed to supporting vulnerable people within our community. There is no reason that vulnerable people and people with disability cannot properly interact with the justice system. The Disability Justice Plan, together with the government's legislative program, is assisting vulnerable people by providing a fair and accessible justice system.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (14:50): My question is to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Can the minister update the house on the progress of implementing the government's economic objective to unlock the full potential of South Australia's resources, energy and renewable assets?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (14:50): I want to thank the member for his question and for his continued support for the mineral resources and energy sectors as a long-term growth engine for our economy. Unlocking the full potential of South Australia's resources, energy and renewable assets is one of our top economic priorities set out by the Premier in his vision for our state.

On this side of the chamber, we are striving to make South Australia a place where people in business thrive. We have set a bold agenda that takes stock of what we are doing now in this state to achieve that priority, as well as setting out in a clear and transparent manner what we expect to achieve in the next stage. By setting a priority and then providing objectives, the government is able to develop a policy agenda that supports those goals. That is because we are a government that believes in providing the South Australian public with policies and not platitudes. It is also because we understand that investors crave certainty when making business decisions. They want to know that the government isn't just there during the good times, but is able to articulate a policy that looks beyond the cycle to the long-term outlook.

Developing and then announcing policies are only the first steps in this process. Standing accountable for the progress of its implementation is a critical element in building public and business confidence. So, when I am asked to provide an update on the implementation of our economic policies and objectives, I am delighted to point to solid progress in just a few short months. This government committed to building a world-class resource precinct at Tonsley, with the relocated State Drill Core Reference Library the centrepiece of this proposal. I am delighted to say that a managing contractor has been appointed, and land preparation site works have been completed. Construction began in January on this \$32.2 million project, and I look forward to its official opening early next year.

The government has committed a further \$4 million over four years to expand and modernise our globally recognised Plan for Accelerating Exploration. PACE funding has helped support major geophysical surveys, including mapping the southern Eucla Basin and the Coompana anomaly. PACE has also funded the latest round of the Discovery Drilling Program. At the recent South Australian Resources & Energy Investment Conference, I announced that 27 resource exploration projects will share \$2 million in grants as part of that program. The Discovery Drilling Program co-funds drilling projects to support the next crop of greenfield discoveries in this state that allows us to share in the financial and technical risk of exploration.

Last December, we ran the first pilot training program for the industry-developed curriculum of the new Onshore Petroleum Centre of Excellence. I am happy to say that the centre opened this year, and its first group of trainees began the inaugural training course in February. These are only a few of the milestones that we have passed on the road to achieving this economic priority of unlocking our resource assets, and I look forward to further updating the house of progress in the months and years ahead.

CHILD PROTECTION

Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (14:53): My question is to Minister for Education and Child Development. Why should South Australians have any faith that the government will improve the situation in our child protection system following the Chloe Valentine inquest, given we have had four previous major inquiries, including the Layton report, two Mullighan reports, the Debelle report and previous coroners' recommendations, yet we are still experiencing serious issues?

The SPEAKER: The difficulty I have with a question like that is that it is not a question seeking information, it's just a rhetorical question, but the opposition have chosen to ask it. The Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:54): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Because we are committed to the care and protection of children, that's why, and we have demonstrated that over—

Mr Williams interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for MacKillop is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —every single year of the period that we have held office— every single year of the period that we have held office. The child protection system that we found was criminally underfunded when we came into government, criminally underfunded.

Ms Sanderson: The money has made no difference.

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Agencies that were charged with the responsibility of providing advice to government had their reports rewritten so that they—

Ms Sanderson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —could not use the word 'crisis' because they did not want—

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is called to order.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —it revealed—

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —in the public sphere the depths to which this child protection system had fallen in this state—utterly and completely criminally underfunded.

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The former minister, the current member for Ashford, persuaded this government within three weeks of coming into office to put in place the most far-reaching view of our child protection system that has ever been seen in this country, the Layton review, and we acted on each of the recommendations—

Mr Gardner interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned for the second and final time.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: —and over the period of time I think the funding that we arrived at when we came into office was in the order of about \$90 million per annum, and I think it is now in excess of \$300 million per annum. Over that period of time, we found ourselves with an act of parliament when we came into office which put at the centre of it the preservation of the family unit.

The overarching principle contained within that piece of legislation was not the care and protection of children but the preservation of the family, responding to some old values about the way in which our child protection should look. We changed that and made safety an important consideration in that act, and we are taking further steps to actually even strengthen further that imperative. We also found a system—

Mr Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Schubert is warned for the second time.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: We also found a system that didn't give proper regard to the permanency of placement of children. We elevated strongly that proposition. We also found a system where kinship care—that is, relatives caring for children—was almost non-existent and so we re-created a strong system of relative care in our child protection system. We also found foster care workers who were appallingly under-remunerated for the volunteer work that they did and we dramatically increased foster care payments to ensure that those foster families, those incredibly generous people who give of their own family and lives to take in these most vulnerable children, are protected. We put in place a range of checks and balances for the first time.

Ms Sanderson: It's not working.

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is on very thin ice.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: For the first time, we created a Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee. For the first time, we created an expanded jurisdiction so that complaints could be made. For the first time, we created a guardian for the care and protection of children to ensure that those children who are entrusted to our care had an independent advocate who could make representations on their part.

This is the work of our government. I'm proud of the work that we have done over these years. Is this difficult work? Is the job done? Of course there is much more that can be done, much more that can be done in the area of child protection. Is every jurisdiction around this nation and around the world grappling with the same challenges? Of course they are, and there is a special place in hell reserved for those who play politics with child abuse.

PREMIUM FOOD AND WINE

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (14:58): My question is directed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Minister, can you inform the house about funding to help market South Australia's unique food and wine regions?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (14:59): I thank the member for her question. Premium food and wine from our clean environment and exported to the world is one of our government's key economic priorities, as set out by the Premier, and it is something that we all in this house, I am sure, are very proud of—the produce we have from our many regions right throughout this state. One of the good things about having all that great food is that we know all about it here in South Australia, but we need to tell the story more and more to people interstate and overseas.

As an election commitment, we put up \$380,000 for the regions to come to us with ideas so that we can help co-market the unique food and wine that so many of our regions produce. I am pleased to inform the house today that we have a number of regions and entities that have been successful in getting some of this \$380,000 in government marketing money.

Adelaide Hills Wine Region Incorporated has received \$40,000 to produce a video highlighting the Adelaide Hills as a desirable food and wine region. I am sure members who represent the Adelaide Hills will be very pleased with that.

Ms Redmond: Where has it been shown?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That's a different promotional video. The member for Heysen is interjecting saying it has already been shown. That's money we have spent out of the tourism portfolio to promote the Adelaide Hills, so thank you very much for thanking us for all the hard work

we are doing to promote your region. It is very rare for you to say thanks for anything, but we really appreciate it. The Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance—

Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Kavel is called to order. He is being most disruptive.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The member for Finniss might be interested in this one. The Kangaroo Island Industry and Brand Alliance has received \$40,000 to develop a social media strategy—

Mr Pengilly interjecting:

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They are all saying thanks today. They love the fact that we are in there, backing the regions, backing the fantastic food and wine. This is \$40,000 to develop a social media strategy to promote Brand Kangaroo Island. The Barossa Trust Mark, which we helped the people in the Barossa establish, is a fantastic—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The member for Schubert is happy about this one—\$40,000—

Mr Duluk interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Davenport is called to order. He must not follow the member for Finniss's bad example.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: —to contract a marketing agency to launch the Barossa Trust Mark, so let's really get the word out there about what a wonderful scheme that is. The member for Schubert and I joined together in launching that last year. Let's hope we see it really take off around the country.

Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland—here we go, the Riverland; are you happy, member for Chaffey?—has two grants, not one: \$40,000 to build a website and develop social media to promote the region's food and wine and \$20,000 (a good one here for you, member for Hammond) towards building the brand and digital strategy of the Murray River Lakes and Coorong.

Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North, the member for Goyder—there is something for everyone here; I will keep going—received \$40,000 to promote the region's food products and help producers access new markets, and that is terrific news for the people of Goyder.

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula—so, to the member for Giles and to the member for Flinders, some money here for you; it's like being Father Christmas—received \$40,000 to expand and strengthen marketing the region's agricultural sector.

I have to go really quickly as there is not much time on the clock unless you want to give me an extension—Langhorne Creek, \$40,000; McLaren Vale Grape and Wine Tourism, \$40,000; Clare Valley Winemakers, \$31,000; and Fleurieu Peninsula Tourism, \$15,000 to create a digital marketing campaign, including website and increased brand awareness to the region's tourism, food and wine.

VENICE BIENNALE

Ms VLAHOS (Taylor) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for the Arts. How is South Australia being represented at the 2015 Venice Biennale?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:03): Thank you to the member for Taylor for her important question. The 56th international art exhibition, the Venice Biennale 2015, will officially open to the public on Saturday. For members who are not aware, the Venice Biennale is the most prestigious art and cultural event in the world, as well as being the oldest biennale, with the first event taking place in 1895. What makes the Venice Biennale so unique, and I know the Treasurer will be very excited by this, is its mixture of both curated art exhibitions and national pavilions, where countries are invited to submit work by an artist that represents their cultural and artistic identity at its very best.

Australia has been included in the Venice Biennale since 1954, with 36 artists selected across this time to represent our nation. Since 1988, Australia has held one of just 29 permanent national pavilion sites in the exhibition gardens, with South Australian artists, such as Trevor Nickolls and Ngarrindjeri artist Yvonne Koolmatrie, previously being featured. On Tuesday, the new permanent pavilion designed by Australian architects Denton Corker Marshall was launched by the federal minister (Hon. George Brandis) and Australian icon Cate Blanchett.

Mr Marshall: George Brandis is a national icon? Hear, hear!

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: He might consider himself a national icon, but—

Mr Marshall: That's what you just said!

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: No—Australian icon, Cate Blanchett. The new pavilion, the first to be built in this century, is dedicated in 2015 to the display of work by Adelaide's very own Fiona Hall AO. Fiona is one of the Australia's leading contemporary artists, taking everyday objects to create sculptures that comment on society, globalisation and consumerism.

Fiona was celebrated in the 2014 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia, where the launch of the Venice project also took place. In fact, the first Adelaide Biennial in 1990 also included her work. It seems that Adelaide has for some time supported and enjoyed the work of this South Australian artist. It is now time for a celebration on the world stage.

She is a wonderfully ingenious artist and her recognition as Australia's representative at the Biennale is truly deserved. Her exhibition, titled *Wrong Way Time*, presents hundreds of objects meticulously crafted by the artist. One component of the installation is a collaborative work with Anangu women from the Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

To have Fiona Hall as not only our national but also our state representative is the highest honour, and the importance of her contribution as the first artist to exhibit work in the new Australian Pavilion can't be overstated. All South Australians should be proud to see such a great local artist being promoted at such a prestigious event as the Venice Biennale. I'm glad that I recently had the chance to meet Fiona and, on behalf of the government, I would like to wish her all the best with the exhibition.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:06): My question is for the Minister for Police and Road Safety. Can the minister inform the house how many drink or drug drivers have been caught driving in school zones this year?

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:06): I thank the honourable member for his question. I don't have those figures before me. However, I can say that it doesn't matter whether you are in front of a school or anywhere, on any roads. To drink-drive or have drugs is a serious offence and, of course, where police identify those persons, the law will be enforced.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:07): Supplementary: could the minister update the house as to what the figure was for last year, if he doesn't have this year's figures in front of him?

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:07): I thank the honourable member for his question. Again, I don't have those figures before me. I will get them for him and for the house. I am happy to do that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is called to order and so is the member for Mount Gambier.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:07): My next question is for the Minister for Education and Child Development. Can the minister inform the house whether any of the parents arrested for driving their children to school this week while drug affected are known to Families SA?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:07): I don't have that information and I'm not sure whether it will even be appropriate to bring that to the house, given confidentiality considerations, but I will take it on notice.

ROAD SAFETY

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:08): Supplementary: can the minister inform the house as to whether or not any of these people who were arrested are on Families SA drug plans?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:08): I think that's essentially the same question, so clearly—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: Sorry, my answer is essentially the same. I appreciate that it's a slightly separate question. I will investigate about the appropriateness of bringing an answer with all due consideration to confidentiality.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:08): My question is to the Minister for Health. Have any general inpatient or specialist beds become unavailable at either the Royal Adelaide Hospital or The Queen Elizabeth Hospital within the last week, and, if so, why?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:08): No; there was an error on the dashboard, which indicated that beds had been taken away when they hadn't.

HEALTH FUNDING

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (15:09): My question is again to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that the \$3 million for the Transforming Health promotion includes all costs of the project including the cost of advertising on bus shelters, Messenger Press wrappers and via social media?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:09): Yes, I can. That includes all the communications aspects of Transforming Health for this financial year, from memory. It includes the cost of having the summit, printing documentation, bus shelters and other information that has been provided. Yes; it's an all-inclusive number.

ADELAIDE LIGHTNING WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:09): My question is to the Minister for Sport. Will the minister guarantee the future of the Lightning women's basketball team in Adelaide by providing them with enough funding to assist them while they wait for corporate sponsorship?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing) (15:10): I thank the member for Chaffey for the question. There has been no approach made to government to provide money to the Adelaide Lightning—

Mr Marshall: That wasn't the question.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Well, usually if you're going to give money to someone, someone asks for money in the first place. That's usually how it goes. No-one has actually—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No-one has actually—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is warned.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No-one has come to us and asked for any money for Adelaide Lightning, but I might point out that in the past, governments have not been in the business of providing funding to elite-level sporting clubs. We're all about funding the grassroots and providing things like \$50 sports vouchers for primary school students to make sure we have widespread participation.

Adelaide Lightning have won five WNBL championships. They're one of the most successful clubs in this state's history, and I sincerely—like most South Australians, I'm sure—wish them every success for the future both on the court and off the court.

Grievance Debate

UPPER SPENCER GULF EMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:11): We have had some dreadfully disappointing unemployment figures come out today showing that South Australian unemployment is at 7.1 per cent, compared to 6.2 per cent nationally. However, what I really want to talk about is unemployment in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

The latest figures I have broken down for the Upper Spencer Gulf region and the Upper Spencer Gulf cities are from December 2014—so they are a few months out of date. Unfortunately, I would have to say they have probably worsened since then, and I thank Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf and their Executive Officer, Mr Mark Malcolm, for providing me with these figures.

As of December last year, unemployment for the Upper Spencer Gulf cities was 11.1 per cent, and we are all dreadfully concerned about that 7.1 per cent across our state announced today. It is 11.1 per cent in the Upper Spencer Gulf cities, but probably worse than that by now.

At the end of last year, Whyalla had an unemployment figure of 10 per cent which is, no doubt, worse by now; Port Pirie and districts, 13.2 per cent; and Port Augusta, my base, 10.3 per cent. Again, while we are very worried about the fact that South Australia is battling it out to have the worst unemployment figures in the nation along with Tasmania—which traditionally has a dreadful economy, but over the last 13 years of Labor, our government has been doing everything it possibly can to catch them—in the Upper Spencer Gulf our unemployment figures are much, much worse.

It is important to point out that the Upper Spencer Gulf cities are all completely interrelated. Whilst at sporting and some other levels there is good, friendly rivalry, our economies are very closely linked to each other, so we are all extremely concerned about this. People in our part of the world often work in another Upper Spencer Gulf city or in the outback. So, our problem in one city is our problem in another city, and it is really very concerning to see that all of these cities are suffering from dreadfully high unemployment.

After 13 years of being in government, the current Labor state government has clearly done nothing to address this issue. I say again: the figures I am reporting now are a few months out of date because the latest I have are broken into city and regional levels, so they are continually getting worse. The government promised 100,000 extra jobs for our state but, unfortunately, since Premier Weatherill came into power, we have actually lost 17,000 jobs. The government has also promised an extra 5,000 jobs in the mineral resources sector, but unfortunately since that time we have actually lost 4,400 jobs in that sector. That sector is incredibly important for the Upper Spencer Gulf. Jobs in mining, as you would expect, affect our region positively when they are there, negatively when they are not. It is extremely hard. People from Port Augusta, Whyalla, Port Pirie and surrounding areas have benefited previously from growth in mining, but at the moment it is a very sad situation.

We are very concerned about the future closure of the Port Augusta power station. Alinta have made it very clear that they have no intention to operate the power station or the Leigh Creek coalmine after 2030, which is only 15 years away, so we are looking at 10 to 13 per cent unemployment at the moment. We know that more jobs will go in mining, we know that over time jobs will go from the power station. Unfortunately we have lost jobs in the railways as well. So, while

this government speaks about caring for regions, we are actually seeing results that take us in the exact opposite direction.

We need support for the people of the Upper Spencer Gulf, we need support for the businesses and, as I regularly say in this house, we do not want support for businesses to be successful and for that to be the end goal; rather, we want support for businesses to be successful because successful businesses can employ people and, importantly, successful businesses can offer people secure employment. For us to be looking at the moment at unemployment rates of 10 per cent in Whyalla, 13 per cent in Port Pirie and 10 per cent in Port Augusta when people are concerned about a rate of 7 per cent across our state, we need to do even more work to support the people of the Upper Spencer Gulf.

Time expired

AL SALAM FESTIVAL

Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:16): I rise today to speak about the inaugural Al Salam Festival, the Festival of Peace, which was recently held at Rymill Park. I want to begin by congratulating the local Muslim community, including the Islamic Society of South Australia, which is based in my electorate of Elder, for putting on such a wonderful event on 26 April. The historic day marked the realisation of a bold vision on behalf of the organisers.

When the leaders of the Islamic Society from the Park Holme mosque came to me as their local member of parliament some time back with their dream of hosting this festival, I could barely have wished it would come to fruition in such a spectacularly successful fashion. From the idea of fostering inclusion, community and shared understanding arose a truly amazing event. It was a festival of welcome, a festival of community, a festival of peace, and I was honoured to be part of the day, along with a number of colleagues from both sides of this house and those from the other place.

It was pleasing to see and mix with the many community leaders from different sectors who were there to demonstrate their support. The afternoon offered a remarkable array of activities and culinary delights and brought together a diverse crowd of people with a wide range of heritages and backgrounds. Doves were released into the grey threatening skies above Rymill Park as a traditional sign of peace. While the weather was somewhat fickle and chilly, the welcome was sincere and warm for those who gathered.

I wholeheartedly commend and thank the Muslim community for having the courage, will and faith to press ahead with organising such an ambitious and impressive occasion. I recognise the tireless hours in pursuit of this bold vision by this group, all planned and progressed in their own time, as they are all volunteers driven by a passion for peace and a desire to share. Along with the Weatherill state government, I am proud to support this festival—a festival that I am sure will become an annual event.

I also acknowledge the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Zoe Bettison MP, and would like to thank her for her assistance and support in making the Al Salam Festival a reality. The organisers' faith that the wider public would embrace this gesture of peace and inclusiveness was rewarded by all who attended. What a wonderful demonstration of unity with our brothers and sisters of the Muslim faith.

The day was all about replacing stereotypes with the truth that no matter what our creed, colour or culture, we are all part of one community, we all have something to contribute. On the same weekend as the Al Salam Festival, like many of you here, I attended events that remembered the sacrifices of those in our armed services a century ago at Gallipoli and in many other conflicts across the globe and across the generations. Such reflections starkly remind us of the tragedies of war. The concept of the Al Salam Festival, in contrast to looking back, is about looking forward to a future we all hope is a future not of war, hostility or hatred, but one of peace, tolerance, harmony and mutual understanding. Through the prism of this ideal, we look forward to a future in which we value our common humanity and respect and celebrate one another's differences. Once again, congratulations to all who made the Al Salam Festival possible.

I recently attended another excellent festival, one which also recognises the importance of community diversity and commemorating culture: Marion Celebrates—the Many Cultures, One Earth

Festival on 29 March. It was a fantastic day, showcasing the talents and cultural identities of the Marion community at the beautiful Warriparinga Wetlands and Living Kaurna Cultural Centre in Bedford Park.

This free biennial event, which in 2013 won the Governor's Multicultural Award for Art and Culture, brings together thousands of people for a family-friendly day of dancers, musicians, stalls, displays, children's activities, art, food and much, much more. All of these come from so many different backgrounds and cultures. Congratulations to the City of Marion and to all who, once again, made this day a day to remember.

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:21): I rise today to speak about the Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program South Australia, and I would like to quote from the Murray-Darling Basin Plan South Australian Implementation Strategy, which is signed off by the Premier and the minister in the other place (Hon. Ian Hunter). I quote from under the heading Regional Development:

The Australian and South Australian Governments have committed significant funding for regional development projects that will stimulate employment and economic growth in South Australia's river communities.

The Australian Government has committed \$265 million to projects in South Australia's River Murray region that will further improve business capacity for innovation, research and development. \$240 million of this funding will support the Water Industry Alliance River Murray Improvements Program, with the remaining \$25 million funding for complementary research and regional development projects in the region.

Communities will also have the opportunity to access funding from the Basin-wide \$100 million Australian Government Murray-Darling Basin Economic Diversification Program.

I want to quote the 21 projects that were picked by the former federal government under Catherine King as the relevant minister at the time. They are:

1. Paringa accommodation facility project
2. Flinders University telecommunications infrastructure project
3. Accommodation and amenities upgrade to Renmark Golf and Country Club
4. Destination Riverland—Accelerating tourism growth in the Riverland
5. Wilkadene tourist venue expansion project
6. Kingston Estate Wines—expansion project
7. Salena Estate Wines—organic focus expansion project
8. Woolenook Fruits—Specialised Citrus 'Easy peel' processing project
9. Water for Nature—Living Water Trails
10. Southern Fishermen's Association & Pipi Harvesters Association—Pipi processing and marketing project
11. Renmark Airport opportunity analysis
12. Lower Murray Flood Plain Project Stage 2: Implementation of the Lower Murray Flood Plain Land Use Study and Development Plan Review
13. McLean's Loxton—Pork Farm Development and Feed Manufacturing Complex
14. Morgan Riverfront Redevelopment
15. Thomas Foods International—Expansion of Beef Processing Facilities at Murray Bridge
16. Barmera function centre and accommodation upgrade
17. Murray Bridge Conference/Convention Centre
18. Renmark Paringa Council and Destination Riverland—Great River Walks

19. Murray Bridge Town Centre Revitalisation
20. Murray-Darling Basin Interpretive and Resource Centre
21. Swan Reach Town Hall Redevelopment

It is a fine list of projects but the problem we have in this state is that this government is turning its back on the \$25 million that the federal government allocated three years ago for these very worthwhile projects because the Treasurer and the Premier keep arguing the case, under horizontal fiscal equalisation, that they will lose \$21 million of this money under the GST spread through that process.

That is just ridiculous and it is a furphy and they should not be allowed to get away with it. In fact, I have never seen such political bastardry in this place. These regional communities are going to miss out on this money that has been allocated by the federal government. It is there to give, yet this government is turning its back on it. The reason this Labor government is turning its back on these Riverland communities is because it does not care. It cared when the former member for Chaffey was in the Riverland, when she was a minister in the Labor government, but it does not care when these constituencies are now blue. That is a simple fact. It is an absolute disgrace.

I quote from a letter that the Hon. Jamie Briggs, the federal Assistant Minister for Regional Development, wrote to the member for Frome, the Minister for Regional Development. He said:

Dear Geoff,

I write regarding the South Australian Project Agreement under the Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program (MDBREDP). As discussed, the Australian government remains committed to providing \$25 million in funding for the benefit of South Australian Murray-Darling Basin communities.

Despite numerous attempts to negotiate the funding agreement, the South Australian government appears intent on playing political games, rather than delivering vital funding for basin communities. If the South Australian government does not negotiate and sign the funding agreement by this year's federal budget, we will have no choice but to reallocate the funding so it can be delivered to those communities in South Australia that need it most.

Members of the state Labor government should hang their head in shame, from the Premier down, for stopping this money reaching our regional communities. Take up the fight in the caucus. This is a huge shame, from the Premier down. It is \$25 million in federal money. There is \$75 million that has been allocated across the other three basin states and they are spending that money on projects, yet the South Australian Riverland and Murraylands miss out. It is an absolute disgrace.

Time expired.

CENTENARY OF ANZAC

Mr GEE (Napier) (15:26): I rise today to speak about the centenary of ANZAC. On 25 April 2015 millions of people across our country stopped to remember the men who gave their lives that morning on those Turkish cliffs 100 years ago. As I stood amongst the thousands of people at Smithfield, I thought of those men on that morning, full of life and a sense of adventure. I thought of the 102,804 other Australians who have given their life for our nation, a nation of promise, opportunity and safety, the great nation that they helped create. I thought of the Australian men and women who have served in all the wars across the last hundred or so years; whether on the front line in hand-to-hand combat or in nursing or communications, whether on land or sea or in the air, they have done this nation proud and they continue to do so.

At Smithfield the commemoration started on ANZAC eve with the overnight vigil opening, featuring the Fremont-Elizabeth City High School choir. It was bleak, wet and stormy as the flag-raising and hat-placing ceremonies were observed, along with the laying of the cross by the mayor in a field of crosses made by local schoolchildren. After the formalities the first guard of the night mounted the memorial, with guard changes every 30 minutes through until dawn.

The duty to maintain this vigil was shared by our local young people from Edinburgh Park Scouts, Playford District Girl Guides, St John Ambulance Playford Cadet Division and the Legion of Frontiersmen Cadets. I thank and pay respect to all these young people, who braved the very cold, wet and wintry night. It was a fantastic effort. I also want to thank Suzanne McHale and Rebecca Reid from the City of Playford, Brett Kallin and Darrell Morcom from Scouts, Heather Barnes from

Guides, Alex Coates, Karina Jones, Arron Jones and Daniel Starkey from St John, as well as Alvin Warren and Gil Wise from the Legion, plus all other leaders who gave their time to assist.

The vigil is in its third year and is organised by the volunteer leaders in conjunction with the City of Playford. I thank the Smithfield Sports and Social Club for supporting the vigil. The dawn service at Smithfield was led by Pastor Bryan Sellers with more music from the Fremont choir. It was a moving event attended by about 3,000 people, a significant rise from last year. I also thank the TS *Stuart* Navy Cadets for their participation in the dawn service.

The service at One Tree Hill was also a solemn event, with over 1,000 people braving the cold to attend the service led by Wing Commander Pat Woods from the RAAF. Reverend Brian Polkinghorne from the One Tree Hill Uniting Church was also presiding. I also thank the RAAF and the Royal Australian Navy and Army personnel who assisted the One Tree Hill Progress Association. I must also thank June Owens and Pat Jones and the whole One Tree Hill Progress Association team for their efforts.

The One Tree Hill service concludes with a breakfast prepared by the One Tree Hill cubs and scouts, which is very much appreciated by everyone. After breakfast, attendees can view a comprehensive display of memorabilia from the war years. The collection is all donated by local residents and of a very high standard.

A large crowd also gathered at our Elizabeth RSL, where the president, Tony Thompson, and his team ensured that the day will long be remembered. I also acknowledge and thank all the Playford residents who sewed handmade poppies as part of the centenary of ANZAC. A special thank you goes to Scott Pridham who made and presented to me my very own handmade poppy. I am proud of all the military personnel who serve our great nation, as all Australians should be proud of their country and ready to serve.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:30): Yesterday, on 6 May, the member for Bragg and I hosted a delightful Adelaide couple in Parliament House for morning tea, Jim and Joy Brooks, and their great nephew Andrew Brooks of Ceduna. Jim is a qualified geophysicist and was a member of the Australian expedition to Antarctica in the summer of 1953-54. He came in to talk to us about that expedition and to present a copy of a book about the expedition to the parliamentary library. I will get to that later, Deputy Speaker, because I know that, as a friend of the library, like the member for Bragg and myself, you have great interest in this.

In 1948, the US Navy began to take aerial photographs of the Antarctic coastline, and some six years later these photographs formed the basis of a decision by Phillip Law, who was the director of the Antarctic division of Australia's department of external affairs, to take a ship to the Antarctic coast in the summer of 1953-54. On the strength of a promise of government funding for just one year, he aimed to set up a permanent Australian Antarctic settlement, the first by any country south of the Antarctic Circle.

The whole enterprise was little more than a calculated gamble, but it was a gamble that paid off. The station built on these shores possessed the only natural rocky harbour in thousands of kilometres of icy coastline and gave Australia its first vital foothold on the Antarctic continent. To get there, the Australian government had chartered the *Kista Dan*, a 65-metre ice-strengthened Danish-built ship. Calling at Heard and Kerguelen islands on the way down to collect men, sledge dogs and supplies, Law's expedition headed into the ice. It was the first Australian foray to this part of Antarctica since Mawson's last Antarctic journey nearly a quarter of a century earlier.

The ship's besetment, storm damage to the two support aircraft and the near loss of an oversnow vehicle which broke through thin sea ice failed to daunt Law and his party. On Thursday 11 February, Petersen, the captain, gingerly steered the *Kista Dan* into Horseshoe Harbour to begin an Antarctic adventure that continues to this day. The Royal Australian Air Force aircraft mechanics on board made one aircraft out of the remains of two and the aerial coastal surveys went ahead as planned.

The ground party got to work erecting the wooden hut, the aluminium-clad work hut, the wooden engine room and workshop, and the galvanised iron store. After less than two weeks, the

essentials were in place and the *Kista Dan* sailed out of Horseshoe Harbour on 23 February, leaving the shore party behind. Of course, Dr James Brooks left Antarctica at that stage to make his way back with the rest of the crew to Australia.

The 1954 landing by Law's *Kista Dan* expedition at Horseshoe Harbour was the culmination of momentous achievements. It can be argued that it was the single most important event in the long history of Australia's association with the Antarctic. The establishment of the station named for Australia's Antarctic pioneer was the beginning of an Australian presence on the continent that has lasted to this day.

It was particularly enjoyable yesterday to meet Dr Brooks, his wife, Joy, and their nephew. The link to the west coast, of course, is that his father grew up on a farm at Point Bell, which is near Ceduna, and his great nephew Andrew, who I know is a constituent, still lives and works in the Ceduna area. Dr Brooks has kindly donated his copy of a book entitled *Antarctic Odyssey* by Phillip Law, who led that expedition. It is in pristine condition and has been written and designed to become a classic of Antarctic literature. I look forward to reading the book. It is complete with maps and photographs from the expedition.

I noticed that on page 5, at the beginning of the book, there is a note from the author which states, 'To my wife, Nel, and the other wives who waited and worried.' I did ask Joy about that, and she said that they heard nothing while they were away. There was very little communication and no mobile phone or satellite phone, obviously, just an occasional Morse code message. She did not know that her husband was well and safe and would arrive home until he did; in fact, even that was doubtful for a time because Jim said that they were beset by a gale that lasted 12 hours and that at one point the *Kista Dan* was leaning at a 70° list. We should recognise always our great explorers and adventurers.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Ms COOK (Fisher) (15:35): I rise today to speak on the fantastic work being done by the Happy Valley Meals on Wheels branch in my electorate of Fisher, as well as the work being done across the entire state. Meals on Wheels provides low-cost and nutritious food to those who have difficulties shopping or preparing food for themselves, and it is especially helpful to our older residents. More than just food, the organisation also provides contact and communication for people who may have difficulty finding it—those who live alone, have lost a partner, or those whose family has moved away or is not available. More than just a meal, every day they see a happy face and have a conversation about their day.

The volunteers do amazing work while out in the community. I had the opportunity also to speak to residents and get their outlook on Meals on Wheels. They all said the same thing: it is a fantastic service and it makes them feel safer and cared for as well as valued. Not only are they getting their meals prepared but they also have someone who makes the effort to speak to them. Independence is something that we all value but totally underestimate; it is really disempowering to lose it. The fabulous volunteers do a marvellous job of delivering the service, and the lucky clients who receive it benefit enormously. It actually gives them energy to spend on other daily activities that can be so exhausting, and hence it promotes independence and keeps people in their homes for longer.

Meals on Wheels has been serving our community in South Australia for the last 60 years. Since then, it has grown to become a driving force of care in our community. In the course of one year, Meals on Wheels, incredibly, makes over 14.8 million meals, which are delivered by more than 78,700 volunteers each day to about 53,000 recipients Australiawide in cities and regional and rural areas. I was honoured to have the opportunity to make a number of visits with the Happy Valley Meals on Wheels. I accompanied them, as they made a number of visits to constituents in Woodcroft, Happy Valley and Reynella East. It was really fantastic to visit these community members, but it was also a privilege to spend time with some of my constituents who are doing so much amazing work out of the goodness of their hearts and because of their commitment to the community.

Working in the kitchen, firstly, it was like a well-oiled machine. The Happy Valley group does not prepare meals, but they do heat and distribute them. Some people also have frozen meals delivered once a week, so it is quite complicated. Most people opt for three courses and try to save

the soup and sweets for their dinner, which is a bit of a habit across the state. The volunteers then have to check fridges diligently for food that might be stored for too long and also remind their clients that they need to add bread and extra calories if they are splitting their meal, as only enough nourishment for one meal is provided.

Handing out meals, I met a lady whose mental health has been deteriorating lately; it is quite sad. The volunteers have been particularly concerned about her. Following this, we contacted the manager of the village in which she lives, and we have offered some support to ensure more services are put in place and also that a plan for future care is commenced. I also watched as one of the volunteers assisted another client to plan for the care of his ageing cockatoo. It was a big worry for this man who has a terminal condition. The volunteers are full of compassion and go above and beyond.

I recommend that if any members here today have an opportunity to make a visit with their local Meals on Wheels they take that opportunity. It is not only a fantastic chance for members to connect with their constituents but it is also an opportunity for members of parliament to roll up their sleeves and help out some of their constituents in a practical way. It was fantastic to see the work that the Happy Valley Meals on Wheels is doing. I commend them and all the Meals on Wheels branches across South Australia for their hard work and dedication to our fellow South Australians.

Mr GARDNER: Deputy Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2015

Supply Grievances

Adjourned debate on motion to note grievances.

(Continued from 6 May 2015.)

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:41): It is my pleasure to speak on the beautiful electorate of Bragg and how the budget for this year has applied to it and to make some comment in relation to what should get bouquets and what should get brickbats from this government in respect of the services provided. Let me start with police stations. I do not have any, so closing them or opening them would be of no consequence to me because, firstly, they would not apply and I am not likely to get any, so I will briefly get over that.

Schools: I have excellent schools in my electorate, both public and private. They are so popular that we have waiting lists in nearly every school. Most of them are zoned in the public arena. They provide excellent education and development of our children. The bouquet this year goes to the leadership of the Linden Park Primary School who are now battling with enrolments of over 1,000 students, so many that they have to use the library for classrooms before and after school, and they have three separate lunchtimes so that they can fit each of the lots of children in the playground each day.

We are desperate for a new school in the eastern area and I would ask that the government seriously looks at the zoning issue. There are claims of exploitation and abuse by parents who are moving into the area in an attempt to enrol their children but who are not genuinely remaining resident in the area. It must be addressed, and I take my hat off to those who are struggling with this situation in my schools, and ask the government for its urgent attention in this year's budget.

As for hospitals, well, again, I do not have any public hospitals in my electorate. I have the Burnside War Memorial Hospital which does a sterling job. Just outside the electorate is the Glenside Hospital, which of course has the first brickbat, and that is the government's proposal to sell 40 per cent of it, a disgusting policy and one I will continue to fight against. It is a blight on the government's claim that they have any social conscience in this state.

The other one just outside my electorate, of course, is the Royal Adelaide Hospital which is about to be closed down and some of the services relocated to the other end of the city. I do not doubt for one moment that that will be exploited by the government for every opportunity of medical

tourism it can find and not service the people who need it, that is, to be given assistance and surgery and training as it should be done.

Emergency services: lots of bouquets to the Burnside CFS and the Glen Osmond MFS. They cheerfully undertake their work, they are competent, and they continue to provide and protect our region. Also the CFS, both at Summertown, which covers Uraidla, and also at Crafers: I thank them again for all the work they do, particularly covering the South Eastern Freeway where we have truck crashes all too frequently, and other motor vehicle accidents, and they are also there managing cold burns across to raging bushfires. I thank them for their continued work and again urge the government to give them a decent amount of money to make sure that we properly clear vegetation regularly each year in hotspots to make sure that we protect our citizens and our wildlife.

SA Water, well, they might be surprised to hear that this year I give them a bouquet for finally resolving the mains water supply issue to the residents of Skye who have been waiting for, really, over a decade of disputes about how we could possibly provide them with a reliable water service. They have had unpotable water from five private bores now for some decades at an agreed cost of \$18,500, with an opportunity for instalment payments over 15 years. These members of the community will finally get mains water by the end of this year. This will clearly help the health of our residents, assist protection in bushfire circumstances, and enhance the value and resale of properties. I would only qualify that by asking SA Water to ensure that they have that in situ and operational before the high-risk season for bushfires after November this year.

There is a bit of a brickbat for them, though. There are continued sewage inundations in homes, particularly in the St Georges region. The response is unfortunately piecemeal and inadequate. There is a response in emergencies to clean out root intrusions in the aged, really antique, pipes that underlie and provide for the sewerage system in the east, and the provision of a rebate for insurance excess payments. There is sometimes an allowance for an amount of water to be used to clean up the mess when sewage infiltrates houses. The obvious risk in relation to health and wellbeing endures. It is completely unacceptable in a civilised urban environment.

As to pest management, I will also say that I am very pleased with SA Water. On SA Water land in my electorate there has been vigilant attention to fox baiting, and weed eradication and spraying. Good on you, you get a bouquet for that.

Now to the state's magnificent parks, such as Cleland national park, where visitors are plentiful in my area, the local botanical gardens, and the like. This year Cleland donated four koalas to a private park in Hong Kong. I understand they are alive and doing well and obviously entertaining the visitors in their park.

The expansion and use of prisoners from city correctional facilities to assist in weed management and control has been occurring. It is a project that I have strongly supported for a number of years. It is win-win for both prisoners and also the parks, which need to be cleaned up and kept under control, so well done. Recently I attended the local Burnside Rotary Club parks night where we award a parks ranger in the state and a volunteer from Friends of Parks in the state. I am pleased to see that areas in my location are frequently represented in the finals. Our parks people are doing a good job. They are also doing a fair bit of their own managed cold burns, which is excellent.

The Department of Environment get a real brickbat. Three years after the inquiry in this parliament, fox control on a regional basis has still not been implemented. When the mothers are in their breeding period in July, which is only just around the corner, there will not be a program in place to deal with it. I am appalled at this delay. It seems to oscillate between the Natural Resources Management Board and the Department of Environment, which is really all the same thing these days. I am very disappointed that every time I go to meetings it is still on the agenda but nothing is done.

The brickbat this time for that department goes to minister Hunter in respect of the Chambers Gully reserve and the inadequate number of car parks. Members would know that over 400,000 people a year from all over the state and other places in the country go to Waterfall Gully for the walks there, and to try and relieve that situation there will be a few extra car parks put up there. That is fine, but I wrote to the minister last year asking for 17 extra angle car parks at the

opening of the Chambers Gully reserve, which is a state asset under the responsibility of the minister. A year later, after agreeing that there would be some negotiation with the council and suggesting that they were negotiating, he then advised that it would not be going ahead and that they were doing some work in Waterfall Gully which we had already advised him about in any event.

They are just totally insincere when it comes to dealing with it. My understanding is the real situation is that the government refused to put any money into car park expansions on council land, even though it is to service a state-owned asset. It is just complete lunacy and the stupidity is breathtaking in their resistance to making provision there.

Regarding the Constable Hyde park at Leabrook—a memorial to a brave member of our police force who, over 100 years ago, died trying to run down some robbers out of the Marrayville Hotel—the government promised before the election that that would be saved and would not be sold off. It sits on some old state government land. Subsequent to the election, the Burnside council agreed to enter into some negotiations to exchange, on a win-win basis, some land that might be surplus to requirements for each. No problem about that; I was happy to support that concept.

Renewal SA, on behalf of the government, have now demanded that they have a scout hall which is on community land on Gurney Road adjacent to the Rose Park Primary School, again on community land. That is not negotiable for our community. We are not going to have one part of the area and sacrifice another.

If there is a fair exchange of land and the scout hall and Gurney Road can remain on community land with access to it for state services, i.e., as playing fields for the local school, that is fine, but if any exchange is not on a win-win basis, then that negotiation should come off the table. I firmly believe that the people of my area should not be asked to pay the price if the government wants to try to backflip on the Constable Hyde memorial park. We will have a big fight over that.

The prize for utter stupidity this year goes to minister Mullighan for the bike lanes that he insists on putting down Portrush Road. Over 3,000 trucks a day go along this road. It is a very dangerous, major piece of infrastructure which simply cannot accommodate a bike lane. I have said to him, 'Look, when you've got rid of the trucks and you've finished South Road, great, we'll talk about this. It might be a sensible thing to do, but at the moment it will be carnage.' It is just not acceptable that we have that risk in our electorate.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (15:51): Today I want to use the time I am allowed to bring to the attention of the house a nonsensical outcome of our development law and, particularly, our fire regulations as they are written and, certainly, as they are being promulgated by the local authorities in some parts of my electorate.

Parts of my electorate are designated as medium and high fire danger risk. Fire is obviously something I know a little bit about, but it does provide certain risks in our area. The way the Development Act, particularly with regard to building laws, is being utilised in parts of my electorate just beggars the imagination. It is bringing home untold costs to various parties, and I want to talk first of all about the Kybybolite football club.

The Kyby football club is situated in the small township of Kybybolite. The football ground and the footy club are isolated from any other building. It is out in a rural area. The Kyby football club has a significant building, which has been there for about 40 years. It consists of a double-storey building with a nice dining room or function area on the upper floor. On the outside, there is a grandstand. Underneath are both male and female change rooms and toilets for football and netball which are played there on alternate Saturdays during the winter sports months of the year.

About 12 months ago, or maybe a little bit less than that, the club completed a project of some quarter of a million dollars principally upgrading the female toilets and change rooms but also undertaking a few other minor works around the club and the rooms. As a part of that, when the development application went through the council for the alterations to their building, the planning officer in the local council, the Naracoorte Lucindale Council, in their wisdom submitted this project to the CFS for their approval of the requirements under the fire regulations.

The CFS sent somebody out to the Kyby football club. They made an assessment and said they had to do lots of things. They had to hardwire in smoke alarms; they had to put in exit signs;

they had to change all the hinges on their doors such that the doors open outwards rather than inwards throughout the building, and a few other minor things. The club was able to fulfil most of those requirements.

On top of that, the club has to install a static water supply of some hundreds of thousands of litres. They must have a water supply under the regulations which will allow a fire truck to pump at the rate of 20 litres a second for four hours. For the life of me, I cannot understand what sensible purpose this would fulfil, given that representatives from the football club have told me they have costed this particular proposal and it would cost about \$100,000.

I have mentioned the project costing about \$250,000, which included a \$96,000 state Sport and Rec grant and about \$120,000 in cash raised by the club over a period of about 15 years, and now they have the imposition of at least another cost of \$100,000 to put in what is just a tank and some plumbing such that a fire truck can sit there and squirt water on a building for four hours, a building which would cause nobody any harm, even if it was burning to the ground. This is the sort of nonsense we are facing.

I thought that was bad enough, but since then it has come to my attention that a business premises within the township of Naracoorte has been subject to a similar imposition. It came to the attention of a businessman who was renting a premises that a premises about three or four doors up the road was on the market. He purchased that premises and wanted to move his business, which was a panel shop, a car-repair business, into this new shed. He went to the council and said, 'I want to build a little office block in the corner and put a bit of a lean-to verandah out the front because of the often inclement weather in that area.' Lo and behold, it was the same process, except the CFS do what they call a pump test because there are SA Water mains running down the street.

Of course, the SA Water mains will not provide the water flow to allow this 20 litres a second (or whatever it is) for four a hours—which is a fair bit of water—so they have said to him, 'You have to supplement that by putting in a tank.' Because the SA Water mains are there and there is some water, he does not have to put in quite as big a tank as the Kyby football club. His tank and plumbing is only going to cost about \$70,000, according to the quotes he has received. Again, it is a nonsense.

All along this area there are similar-sized buildings and, under the regulations, the local Building Fire Safety Committee—if it is doing its work to the letter of the law—should go and knock on the door of everyone of those business premises, do an audit, and lo and behold they would all be required to do the same thing. We would have every premises along that piece of road where the building was over 500 square metres in size—and most of them are—install a \$70,000 or \$80,000 tank and plumbing. To what end, I do not know.

More recently, it came to my attention that the basketball people who are doing some small upgrade work in the basketball stadium in Naracoorte have experienced exactly the same thing. This is another sporting facility which is used fairly regularly but is a very low risk that is up for—I am not quite sure of the total cost of this one—tens of thousands of dollars. At the football club at Lucindale, which is another small country community, the same thing again.

I bring this matter to the attention of the house because the people involved in applying these regulations and the law under the Development Act are doing what they can do. I would suggest that they do not have to do what they are doing, but they are certainly within the law in doing what they are doing, and they would argue they are doing what they need to do. It is a nonsense. Just in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council area, I would suggest that we could spend millions of dollars complying with the Development Act and the development regulations and the building fire safety regulations to bring these buildings up to standard.

There is no benefit because, if a fire breaks out in one of these buildings, to my understanding, we would try to have the building such that any occupants of the building at the time of the outbreak of a fire could get out of the building. I would suggest that they would do that well before the fire truck arrived and connected to the static water supply. I would suggest that that would have already occurred. If it had not already occurred, I would suggest the occupants would be in very serious trouble. Very rarely is the fire truck going to arrive within the first couple of minutes. I do not think we are going to save any lives by insisting on spending all this money.

Secondly, I can understand that we should ensure that, if a fire does occur in a building, we protect the neighbouring buildings. In the case of the Kybybolite footy club, there are no neighbouring buildings because it is out in the middle of a paddock for all intents and purposes. There are no neighbours who would be in need of protection by having a fire truck pumping water at 20 litres a second for four hours. Again, it is nonsense.

I can assure you that the good folk of Kybybolite and the members of that sporting club would sit there and lament that their building had burnt to the ground, but the reality is that by the time the fire trucks with the capacity to put out the fire arrived, it would all be over. It is absolute nonsense that this parliament has promulgated law and regulations imposing these sorts of costs. We talk about trying to get rid of red tape, well, here is somewhere we can start. We can go back and have a look at the Development Act and we can apply some good old-fashioned common sense, some risk analysis, and remove this burden from sporting clubs and businesses which do not need this sort of aggravation. This is just one of the things that is causing this state to continue to go backwards.

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (16:01): It is a pleasure for me to contribute to the grievance debate on the Supply Bill. I will note some of the things that are coming from forward expenditure items, so that is what I will focus on, but I also want to talk about some issues within my electorate in my 10 minutes.

A significant one in the shadow portfolio I have responsibility for is the planning review. The minister has flagged the intention to bring in legislation in July, with debate in September. There is no doubt that there has been a lot of discussion since February 2013, when the Hayes team was first brought together to review the planning and development act across South Australia. Twenty-two recommendations were presented in a final report by the Hayes review. The government has responded to them.

There are quite strong positions taken by the development group on what they would like to see occur, and there are also some quite strong positions taken by community groups with whom I have had contact which are concerned about the suggestion of the removal of elected local government councillors from the council development assessment panels. It will be a lengthy debate, I must admit. We will be in here for some time talking about what will be a completely new bill which will have an impact on communities, local government and development.

I respect, though, that the focus is upon improving the system and making it efficient to ensure that community engagement occurs very early and that surety is provided to proposals so that there is a very strong basis of what is intended to be supported and what are the complying or the noncomplying versions of development opportunities, so that we get things happening, and that is what the key is. I look forward to when the minister introduces that legislation in the house.

I also want to raise the point again of pensioner concessions for local government council rates because I sincerely hope this is part of the budget for the 2015-16 financial year to ensure that the 160,000 property owners who are older residents, who by virtue of being on a pension or as a self-funded retiree are eligible for it, continue to receive up to the \$190 per year for pensioners and the up to \$100 per year for self-funded retirees. Collectively, it is worth close to \$34 million per year and it is legislatively very much a state responsibility. My hope is that when the Treasurer comes into this chamber and presents the budget for the 15-16 year, he gives surety not just to the property owners but, importantly, to the local government authorities who need to administer it.

To give them the surety, because of the timing of the issue of rate notices (and I am sure the minister will be interested in this), there need to be some commitments given before that to remove an opportunity for a crazy situation where a bill is issued based on what the councils believe the Treasurer intends to bring down and then the situation may change, either by the Treasurer's own action or by the action of the opposition and the minor parties in the upper house to prevent legislative changes, when a new bill will have to be issued and the madness occurs when the political argy-bargy occurs. I just ask that the statement is made and that it is a positive one.

The Minister for Local Government has had some discussions with me about the introduction of a local government bill that will be coming in soon. I believe the minister has referred to June as the likely date, or a little bit after. I think the minister and I recognise that it is a little bit at the lower

level sort of stuff. It is about some things that were consulted on quite some time ago, well before the minister's time as minister and predates the 2014 election.

There is a very strong level of support for that, so I think it might have a swifter passage than other pieces of legislation. The bigger picture issues that local government will have to deal with as part of its next generation of representation and the service provision that it does will form part of a review of the Local Government Act that the minister has talked about quite often, which will be either late this year or early in 2016. That is the one I do look forward to. That is where I think the parliament will involve itself in the debate for quite some time. I know I have started collecting thoughts and information on things.

The Hon. G.G. Brock: Share it with us?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes, the minister asks: will I share it with him? I certainly assure the minister that I will because we have a relationship that allows for discussions to occur. They are not always reported, but there is an understanding of things between us. So, hand on my heart, that is what I intend to do because I want to try to get the best outcomes, too.

I want to talk about some things particular to Goyder, the wonderful community that I am provided the opportunity to represent. Infrastructure is an absolute key. I was grateful, when minister Mullighan was in Goyder a few months ago to open a boat ramp facility on the eastern coast of Yorke Peninsula, that he was good enough to get in the car with me and drive for about two hours on some of our roads which are rather challenging. They are Department of Transport roads. They have some issues associated with the pavement width, the drop-off from the shoulders onto the adjoining area, the angle of the shoulders and how the road drops away, which causes hassles. He was good enough to take things under advice.

I think I have said in this chamber already that in some patches I have noticed some improvements that have been undertaken, but the road network is still the absolute key when it comes to the quality of a regional community. There is nothing else that I considered more important over the nine years I have been in this place and, indeed, that people have mentioned to me more, and there has been a variety of things. There has been the country hospitals plan mark 1 or 2 in 2007, there have been marine parks, there have been significant development proposals in the area which people talk to me about a lot of times, also, but roads has been the one constant and it is the one area where a significant level of investment needs to occur.

For minister Mullighan and his predecessors, I have tried to ascertain and demonstrate my support for projects and tried to find out what their future plans are and look at where the long-term visions are. There are some things that come out of the woodwork that surprise me. One was an investment of \$630,000 on an area of shoulder which was going to also have the wire rope or the guardrails installed. That was unexpected for me. I note, indeed, while driving to Port Pirie a couple of weeks ago, that the electorate of Frome has had significant work done north of Port Broughton, also.

The Hon. G.G. Brock: There's more to come, yet.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes, and more to come. I did contact the minister's office and he told me it is part of a \$630,000 expenditure, and I am very grateful for the investment to occur, I must say, but I have had people in the community look at me and say, 'Steven, there are roads that need money spent on them more than that,' though. That is the difficult balance that has to be found, but it is part of a particular program.

The Hon. G.G. Brock interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: True, and it is where the drop-offs occur and, if someone were to go off the side of the road, there would be serious damage, I know that, because there are three, five, seven and eight feet drops on some occasions.

No matter how long I have the opportunity to represent the Goyder community in this place, the one particular thing I will continue to argue about is the improvement of the key intersections at Port Wakefield, to the north, and Federation Park. It was, indeed, the very first question I asked in this place of then minister Conlon about the intersections and the challenges they represent in the

peak travel times, when we have thousands and thousands of visitors to the electorate. The response I got was rather flippant, saying that it was only at holiday times and it did not matter if people got caught up.

I have deliberately travelled it during the peak times and have experienced the frustration (for those familiar with the area) of when you come from Yorke Peninsula and come to the very top of the gulf, looking to get to the Federation Park intersection and meet with the Copper Coast traffic that is heading towards Port Wakefield. It took me 33 minutes after I stopped before I finally got to that intersection, and it would have been about 1½ kilometres. It then took me another 27 minutes to get from that intersection the seven kilometres to the Port Wakefield intersection.

Every peak time TV media crews go there, and they fly over and talk to people who are frustrated about delays, and I am sure there are other people in this place who have spoken to constituents or relatives who have frustrations with it. Last year, out of desperation (because if I held my breath for the investment to occur I do not think I would actually live very long) I asked whether there was an opportunity for alternative, little bypass routes to be established in these peak times to allow those who want to travel on them to use alternative routes.

The Department of Transport actually took up the suggestion. They contacted the Copper Coast council, the Wakefield Regional Council and, I think, Yorke Peninsula council. The Copper Coast council and the Wakefield Regional Council said no, because they were concerned that reliability for travelling on those roads—and, indeed, the potential increased maintenance—fell as a cost upon the ratepayers. I understand that, but I did it out of desperation because I think that it is such a negative when people see lengthy delays that the community at large misses out on the potential of a lot more visitors coming because they choose to go elsewhere.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr GRIFFITHS: That is right. I have copped a bit from a few of the business operators in Port Wakefield for suggesting this but I stand by the suggestion, not because I want it to occur permanently but as a short-term, fixed opportunity. I still think it is one worthy of consideration, but it does come back to the need to actually invest in it. To me, there has been a roundabout opportunity at the Federation Park intersection. The Department of Transport was good enough to brief me, probably two years ago, and showed me three different design options of various sizes to allow for different configurations, because we also have some large vehicles that travel those roads.

However, it does have to be one of the things I will fight for in my time here. It is not just the Port Wakefield intersection, which everyone focuses on and which is, hopefully, considered as part of a bypass issue; Yorke Peninsula-bound traffic will still have to go through Port Wakefield, but it is that other intersection seven kilometres up the road which causes exceptional delays.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (16:12): I rise today to continue the grievance debate following the Supply Bill. When I made my original contribution to the Supply Bill I talked about roads, just as the member for Goyder has been. I will come back to that in a little while but, as the member for Bragg mentioned, it is an opportunity to give both brickbats and bouquets, and I am going to give some bouquets out to communities in my electorate of Flinders—in the first instance, for the wonderful job they did on ANZAC Day, all and sundry.

From Port Lincoln to Cowell to tiny Fowlers Bay there were dawn services and marches, and people celebrated and commemorated the centenary of the landing at Anzac Cove. The weather was not great. Rain had been measured right across Eyre Peninsula the day before and there were certainly showers; I attended the dawn service at my local town of Cummins and it rained for most of that service—although, having said that, that dawn service was at the very civilised hour of 7.30am. It was well attended, as were all the events right across my electorate and, in fact, right across the state. These crowds just seem to be getting more and more every year, and more and more young people, more and more people, are taking their participation more seriously.

I know, through my own children, that their recognition and understanding of what we are doing on that particular day is growing. There was a time when ANZAC Day was not as popular. I was a child in the 1970s, and I remember only too well the Vietnam War being on television every night of the week. Of course there were marches for moratoriums and all sorts of things. It was not a popular war, and the commemoration of our involvement in other wars was at an all-time low as

well. Those things have changed and I think that has been a positive. It gives us all time to reflect, even, for some of us, on our own family's involvement in past wars.

Particularly researching the First World War, I was interested to find that I had a great-grandfather who served in the 5th Light Horse, and a great-great-uncle who served in the 11th Light Horse, both of whom served in the Middle East—not at Gallipoli, but certainly both in the Middle East. Being country boys and being able to ride, of course they were seconded to the Light Horse brigades and did a lot of work. The last time horses were really used in warfare was during the Great War, the first war of the 20th century.

I am going to mention one event in particular, which occurred at what we call Gallipoli Beach. Gallipoli Beach is just north of Coffin Bay—just north of Farm Beach, in fact. It has been named thus since the making of the film *Gallipoli* in the 1980s. Many of us in this chamber would be old enough to remember that great Australian movie of that time called *Gallipoli*. They searched far and wide, right across the nation and right around the coastline, for a beach head and a piece of coast that most closely resembled Anzac Cove, and they found it in the seat of Flinders on Lower Eyre Peninsula, as I said, just north of Farm Beach. It has been known to locals ever since that time (which now is over 30 years) as Gallipoli Beach. It is a popular fishing spot, of course, and many of the locals go there to catch their whiting.

A committee was formed 12 months ago and they did an extraordinary amount of work to have their centenary celebration, and a celebration for the community, at Gallipoli Beach. There was a live cross to the service at Anzac Cove. It was well attended. Once again, the weather probably kept a few away, but I am going to congratulate them particularly on their efforts. I think it is their intention to have an event each and every year for the next three years, so they will have a centenary event for each of the years of the First World War.

I finished up in Port Lincoln at a ball that night, which is always a lot of fun. I managed to take part in the two-up both at the Port Lincoln RSL and at the Wangary Hall after the Gallipoli celebration. It is the one day of the year where the toss of the coins is legal. Not everybody was clear on the rules, but we had a lot of fun anyway. I know a lot of members in this place took time to be in their constituency and attend ANZAC Day events.

The member for Goyder finished his contribution talking about roads, how critical they are and what important infrastructure they are to country people and country communities, not just for us to commute but also to carry the freight that we both produce and require to live our lives. I spoke about the Tod Highway in my previous contribution. I am seeking a meeting with minister Mullighan to further discuss this issue. I lodged a petition this week with some 800-and-something signatures. I have received further letters during the week, complete with photographs, highlighting the state of disrepair that the Tod Highway has fallen into. I know everybody's road is important and everybody wants their road fixed, but this is one that I have been talking about, harping on about, and will continue to until something is done.

The Minister for Transport, the Hon. Mr Mullighan, did give me the undertaking when the country cabinet visited the West Coast—they visited both Streaky Bay and Ceduna—that he would try to get some costings to at least do some shoulder sealing on the Tod Highway. It is about 110 kilometres from Kyancutta to Karkoo. I cannot imagine it is all that much money, but we will wait and see what the costings are. It may not even be as much as the government has spent on advertising in the last six weeks. It is important to keep things in perspective and it is important that a Labor government such as this remembers that it needs to govern for all South Australians, not just those in the metropolitan area.

The other petition that has been lodged this week, of course, asks the parliament and the government to reinstate the pensioner concessions. I have a further petition, which I will be tabling next week. I have not collected all the forms at this stage, but it is from the local government areas of Lower Eyre Peninsula and Tumby Bay. It is a separate petition. I will just read into *Hansard*—although we are going to have another opportunity to talk about it next week—that the signatories are asking that the government reinstate the pensioner concession cuts that they have identified. We will wait and see the budget. It will be interesting to see how the government approaches it. I suspect there will be a lot of politics played on this, but I would strongly suggest that the people who are going

to be impacted by these cuts, these concessions to their council rates, are generally those on fixed incomes and can least afford it.

The last thing I would like to talk about in my remaining couple of minutes—and I did not get a chance to talk about it the other day—is the emergency services restructure. I can tell the parliament that there are still grave concerns amongst the volunteers—the CFS and SES volunteers—who work, and do such good work, in the community in my electorate about how this restructure is being carried out, the consultation process, and what it is trying to achieve and why. I know the volunteers association has had many meetings, and they have raised a number of serious concerns in relation to the future of the CFS under sector reform. I suspect that many volunteers are contemplating their future.

It does not have to be that difficult. I urge the minister to be very cautious about how he treats these volunteers. They cannot be treated with disdain. They are loyal and hardworking volunteers who provide a most important service. Once again, talking about the country, members in here cannot begin to imagine how important the CFS and the SES are to a small country regional community. There are lots of questions still to be answered by the minister regarding his reform process. For me, the main one is about the absence of any real business plan and what is actually driving this if it is not savings.

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (16:22): It gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Linda Williams on her appointment as South Australia's first female Deputy Commissioner of Police. I want to talk a little bit about Linda Williams and her appointment and also about 100 years of policing by women in South Australia. South Australia was the first police force in the British Empire to appoint women on the same pay and conditions as male police, with Kate Cocks and Annie Ross starting work in that role on 1 December 1915. I think Linda Williams' appointment is one more step in the line of the great work that women are doing in the South Australian police force, as they have for nearly 100 years.

The appointment of Linda Williams comes after an exceptional record that she has had as a police officer over 35 years. She served in just about every area within South Australia Police. Since 2010, she has been chief superintendent of the Ethical and Professional Standards Branch before becoming South Australia's assistant commissioner of the Operations Support Service in 2012. The Liberal Party is confident that she will distinguish herself in her new role as Deputy Commissioner of Police in the tradition of not only those trailblazing female police officers such as Kate Cocks and Annie Ross, and a few others who I will talk about in the few minutes remaining, but indeed also in the distinguished tradition of the two most recent deputy commissioners, current Commissioner Gary Burns and the soon to be police commissioner, Grant Stevens. On behalf of the state Liberal team, I congratulate Linda Williams on her promotion to deputy commissioner. The opposition looks forward to working with her over the coming years.

It was only a couple of weeks ago at the Police Foundation Day, celebrating the 177th anniversary of the South Australian police force, that we had some special celebrations for the centenary of women serving in South Australia Police. We heard terrific speeches from two women in particular who worked for the South Australian community and the police force for decades, in particular Senior Sergeant Chris Bettess and Constable Sharon Grant.

During the course of these celebrations, the plaque at Mary MacKillop Plaza outside St Francis Xavier's Cathedral was refurbished identifying the history of South Australian women police. I was talking to Assistant Commissioner Bronwyn Killmier after the ceremony and she identified a terrific piece of literature which was written by none other than Christine Bettess who we just heard from, as well as Patricia Higgs. It is *To Walk a Fair Beat: A History of the South Australia Women Police 1915-1987* and it is a terrific publication. I encourage all members to take the opportunity of the parliamentary library and have a look.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you put it back.

Mr GARDNER: Once I have returned it, as the Deputy Speaker identifies. I am sure it is not the only copy that they have; it is a very significant work. There are some particularly important things in the book that I want to share with the house because I think it puts into context the significant challenges faced by those early pioneers of women in the police force, and the way that the role has

evolved over 100 years, or at least in the first 72 years identified by the book and subsequently, but I particularly bring to the house's attention the history.

On 27 April 1915 the chief secretary at the time, the Hon. A.W. Styles, met with a deputation from 16 religious and philanthropic organisations putting to him that the morals of the time, particularly of young women and children, would be well served by having women serving in the police force. So this was debated in the course of 1915, but in particular on 2 October 1915, the crown solicitor, Mr C.J. Dashwood said—and I am quoting from the book here:

...after examining the Police Act advised the Commissioner that there were no legal complications regarding women being sworn in as police constables. On 7 November, 1915, in answer to a question in the Legislative Council, the Chief Secretary announced the appointment of women patrols, and that the two officers concerned would commence duty on 1 December 1915 and [critically, and I quote here from the chief secretary of the time] that 'they will be treated the same as constables in regard to hours of labour and remuneration'.

The first woman police officer in the world was one Alice Stebbins Wells, who was appointed to the Los Angeles Police Department in 1910. A number of other states of the United States of America had women police by the time we did in South Australia in 1915, but Kate Cocks and Annie Ross, on their appointment in October 1915 to start work in December 1915, were the first in the British Empire and outside of the United States.

The women police office opened on 1 December 1915 and its functions and duties were loosely defined but allowing those officers to find the work in which they could best serve the South Australian police. The first principal of South Australian women police was Kate Cocks, and that 60-year period of the South Australian women police branch was really in the vision of Kate Cocks who we remember significantly.

To put into context the significant role that Kate Cocks had in South Australia's history, on her retirement she had about a year of dinners and testimonials through the period until her retirement in 1935. In 1935 she was made a Member of the British Empire for her services to community. She had 20 years with the children's department before her 20 years with the South Australian police force—an incredible woman.

There is one story related in the book about Annie Ross, her co-founder of the South Australian women police, when they first started having women patrolling the wharves to meet naval and freight ships, and I quote from the book:

As they walked along they were constantly subjected to unflattering innuendos and whistles from the wharves. On one occasion Annie Ross and Cora Trestrail were stopped in their tracks by a burly waterside worker holding his hand up in a stop fashion to the laughter and cheers of his mates. Annie took his outstretched arm and after a quick flick of her wrist the man found himself flat on his back with Annie's foot across his throat. Story silence. Without a word the women continued on their way. The story obviously spread quickly around the docks and the women were no longer bothered whilst on patrol.

I thought that was a terrific story to hear and imagine.

The first report of the women police in June 1917 identifies the sort of work they were doing: 1,659 long distance trains met, with 147 persons assisted with accommodation or escorted to homes of friends; 79 steamers were met; 12 inquiries for other government departments; 43 girls rescued from immoral surroundings and placed voluntarily in institutions; 14 women placed in institutions; 65 women in distressed circumstances helped; 58 was the number of persons arrested and placed before the court, which were 47 juveniles and 11 adults; six absconders from state homes arrested; 600 plus persons warned regarding their conduct whilst on patrol; 610 miscellaneous inquiries, including white slave traffic, suspicious advertisements, ill-treatment and neglect of wives by husbands, misconduct of wives, especially soldiers' wives with children, houses of ill repute, mentally deficient persons, aged, destitute and drunken women; and 20 cases involving assisting the criminal investigations branch.

They did significant work assisting that criminal investigation branch, particularly where there were instances involving women, including larceny, indecent assault, abortions, concealment of birth, one coining charge and, indeed, fortune telling. The league of nations in 1927 recognised the significance of the South Australian police. Dame Rachel Crowdy was the secretary of the league of nations committee inquiry into the trafficking of women and children. A visiting South Australian women's police officer reported that Dame Crowdy said:

She considers the South Australian Women Police are among the leaders in their work and considered it a credit to South Australia that her Government realised the necessity and value of Women Police so early and leads the world by giving women commission to enquire into women police work.

Other work involved dealing with couples lying indecently together on beaches. Some of those roles seem a little ancient to us now, but at the same time there are also examples given in the 1920s and 1930s of women police officers getting honourable mentions for incredibly brave work, such as one might expect of any police officer.

The women's police office was disbanded in the early 1970s in a reorganisation of police. A new uniform was designed—the first time women were in uniform. Women were not forced to retire on their marriage. Of course, that early work (much of which is now done through the department for families and communities in its various form), by the 1970s was being done by the department of social welfare, and women fully integrated eventually into the police force as we know it now through the uniformed role.

Assistant Commissioner Madeleine Glynn was the first assistant commissioner from 2002. We now have 27 per cent of our police force made up by women. Linda Williams will do a terrific job in her role. We commend her on her appointment.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (16:32): I rise today to talk a little bit about the impact of Gallipoli and the First World War on the Campbelltown district, which is partially in my electorate of Hartley. Obviously, at the centenary of ANZAC just passed we commemorated, remembered and mourned the people of our country who fought and died in the service of this nation. Certainly the ANZAC legend shaped our unique Australian identity and it is fair to say we emerge at the turn of the century from perhaps what was a distant outpost of the British Empire, the edge of the world, to one of the shining lights of opportunity and certainly freedom in the world.

The ANZAC spirit of hard work, toil, sacrifice and reward certainly is as relevant to our society today as it was 100 years ago and we have an opportunity to reflect on that ethos in our day-to-day lives, but especially when commemorating the centenary of ANZAC. Mr James Jury is a gentleman who is part of the St George's historical church group society and he has done a fantastic job at putting a book together which commemorates the ANZAC tradition and the spirit and what happened during the First World War.

During the last month, I had the pleasure of attending many ANZAC ceremonies in my electorate. One was at Clayton Church in Magill, another one was at the Bupa nursing home in Campbelltown and, of course, on ANZAC Day, along with the member for Morialta and many of the councillors and other members of parliament, I attended the Magill ceremony at The Gums in Tranmere, which was attended by thousands of locals commemorating the special day.

Further to that, we also visited the Payneham RSL and last, but not least, the Kensington Park RSL. It was a busy day. It was an enjoyable day and a wonderful opportunity to commemorate and remember those who have fallen before us.

The impact the First World War had on Campbelltown is apparent. Looking at the Magill RSL Honour Roll, the Magill memorial statue and the Campbelltown War Memorial statue, there were approximately 367 enlistments, of whom 55 made the supreme sacrifice. There is no doubt that the impact on our local area was huge. Across the state, South Australia had 34,959 enlistments, which represented 8 per cent of the state's population of 437,000 at the time.

Men aged between the ages of 18 and 44 who enlisted represented 37.6 per cent of the state's male population, so it goes without saying that quite a significant amount of our productive workforce at that time was affected by this war. I note that 6,600 soldiers from South Australia were killed, and that represented 18.9 per cent of those who enlisted and fought overseas. South Australia's fatality rate was the highest nationally. The impact on Campbelltown was certainly immense, as it was across the whole of South Australia, especially considering that the district of Campbelltown was only 46 years old when the First World War broke out.

The impact that this war had on early settlers was obviously devastating. Certainly, young people from the district were eager to enlist and, naturally, that placed a massive strain on available people power for primary production. Most of the young people in the Campbelltown region actually

joined the Australian Infantry Forces, principally the 10th, 16th, 27th and 3rd/9th Light Horse battalions, and most of those regiments were raised in South Australia.

There was a massive impact upon many of the churches in my area, and one only has to look at the memorial at St. George's Church, Magill, to see that. Further to that, the Campbelltown Methodist Church Honor Roll details the 34 enlistments and the eight who made the supreme sacrifice. On the Campbelltown War Memorial statue, we see that there were 94 enlistments and 15 who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. There is also the Magill Soldiers Memorial statue.

It was quite an emotional day, this 100th year commemoration of ANZAC Day, and I certainly took it very seriously. So much blood has been shed for us to have the liberties, the democracy and the freedom that we have in our state and in our nation. It certainly puts things into perspective. We are certainly indebted to those who have fallen so that we can enjoy the wonderful opportunities and the wonderful freedom that we have in South Australia.

I would like to commend Mr James Jury and the St George's Church Historical Group for putting together their book, *Young Men for the Cause*. I also commend the community groups and organisations, the RSLs and the churches, some of which I have mentioned, which have taken the time to really make sure that the 100th year commemoration of ANZAC Day was such a special day.

On Sunday 26 April, we attended a moving service at St George's, Magill. After that, we were invited to view what seemed to be quite a collection of items preserved from the First World War, many of which came from the families of some of the soldiers involved. I attended that with the member for Morialta and also the member for Sturt, and we were very moved and very honoured to be in the presence of that wonderful community group. With those words, I finish up and congratulate all those who made the commemoration such a success.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (16:40): I will use this time to talk about the need for the Malvern Police Station to remain open. There is no doubt that the government's decision to close shopfront police stations in its budget cutting is going to have a significant impact on the people of Unley, and I refer to the SAPOL organisational review in 2005, a metropolitan satellite station review discussion paper.

The program sponsor was the Deputy Commissioner, Grant Stevens, and the program manager was Superintendent Dean Miller, officer in charge of the Commissioner's Support Branch. It reviewed the activities of the Malvern Police Station, and it is important that the parliament understands that the Malvern Police Station plays a significant role as a community police station and also conducts regular foot patrols. The history of those foot patrols is a very important factor in understanding why the Malvern Police Station is so important.

When I was a trader on Unley Road 10 or 12 years ago, we had a spate of opportunistic crime in Unley Road, in particular, when people were running into shops, threatening shop owners, grabbing goods and running out again. People were feeling unsafe in the street because they were being accosted by people who were asking for money. A meeting of traders and local police resolved that the station would start regular foot patrols, and the police in Malvern would walk up the entire length of Unley Road, then move into King William Road and down the side streets in-between. It has had a significant impact in the reduction of crime in the area because of the visual presence.

I hear the government is suggesting that these police stations will be replaced with patrols, but I want to tell you about an experience of a patrol that involved a constituent of mine in the Housing Trust block of Stowe Court, Fullarton. The constituent rang the police after being assaulted by another resident in that area who for quite some time had been using racist language when addressing her—she is an Australian of Indonesian-Chinese heritage—and on Sunday a week ago it turned into a physical attack. The police turned up and decided, despite the fact that the woman had significant visual damage to her hands and throat, that it was too hard to determine whether the incident was an assault, so no action was taken.

Last Friday, I went to visit the police. We made an appointment through the Sturt station, and the advice was, 'Go to any police station. You don't need to make an appointment. You can go in and make that report at any police station.' We thought we would go to the Malvern Police Station but, unfortunately, because there was just one officer there, the station had to close in order for that report to be taken, which took two hours. The point I make here is that if a patrol—and I think there

were three officers there at the time—could not make a report on the assault, it had to be done in a police station.

One of the reasons it needed to be done in a police station was because this resident needed a translator. Fortunately, I was very pleased that Housing SA provided a translator for my constituent, she was able to tell the whole story and there is now a proper police investigation into this assault. I sat in on that interview and we were able to establish that there was a long history of disturbances by this particular tenant. I know that my constituent who came to me with this assault is very keen to see it through to ensure that she can live safely in that home or, if she cannot, be transferred either to another part of that large complex away from that tenant or to another Housing SA home somewhere in Unley. I think that is a classic example of where we can discount the comments of the police minister when he says that these services can be replaced with patrol cars because there is just no way that can be done.

When you look at the activities like the regular foot patrols that the review determined are carried out by the Malvern station, there were four full-time equivalent members, three of them IMO qualified. The positions were not backfilled when members were absent on leave but the remaining members worked together to alter shifts and rosters as required to cover absences to ensure the station remained open. I think that is very important because there was a commitment from those local police, and we all knew them. It is not as though we get different police every week or every month, we all know them, so it is that terrific community policing, and they can establish a relationship with those officers which of course you cannot do when you get a random police car turning up on patrol.

During the review period of 95 days the station was open every day, excluding public holidays, but what happened in those 95 days? One of the important things here is that, of 189 vehicle collision reports taken at Malvern Police Station over that three-month period, only 20 per cent of them (or 38) could have been done online. We have heard the minister again saying that there are options here with technology for reporting things online, but the department's very own report said that only 20 per cent of the 189 vehicle collision reports that were taken at Malvern station could have actually been reported online. So, that puts a lie to that myth that people can go online to make those reports.

Another interesting statistic is that in November there were 22 firearm registrations at Malvern, nine in December and 12 in January, so you can see it is a very active and busy station. The Sturt LSA superintendent commented that the Malvern Police Station provides a good community connection and is considered efficient. Members produce good returns regarding productivity and provide a service which would have to be replaced by patrols should the station close. Again, I have used that example of what happened Sunday week ago at Stowe Court in Fullarton. It is a very simplistic argument and an argument which simply will not work in Malvern.

One of the members working at Malvern was spoken to for the current review. He stated that Malvern members provided a valuable service and contributed significantly to crime prevention and public confidence. There is no doubt about that. We had a terrific success as traders in Unley Road 10 or 12 years ago when we engaged the Malvern station directly to help us make strip shopping in Unley a safer experience. He stated that the closure of the station would deeply sadden the staff and community, and he is qualified to speak for the community because those officers are part of the Unley community.

The Malvern station members commonly worked solo to provide optimum hours of operation. During shift overlaps they conduct regular foot patrols covering the area from Fullarton Road to Goodwood Road, Greenhill Road and Mitcham Shopping Centre. During these patrols they provide high visibility policing at major intersections and shopping centres, around schools and suburban side streets. Through these foot patrols they have built an excellent rapport with many local traders. That extends, of course, to the residents. I have had that feedback in my office time and again.

Statistically speaking, there has been a very slight increase in the work activity from the comparative period, albeit the results were already at a higher level. Based on the statistics provided, the average number of recorded transactions per day is the highest of all satellite stations in South Australia, yet we hear that the minister is going to close the Malvern Police Station when the

department's very own report identified the significance and importance of the station and the reasons why the station should remain open.

Sitting extended beyond 17:00 on motion of Hon. G.G. Brock.

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (16:51): 'My business is being destroyed by that better business and it's the government's fault.' That is the most liked post from the satirical Facebook page 'Opposing Everything Because I'm From Adelaide', which highlights the hypocrisy of conservatives opposing change in our city. This used to be a conservative town where things did not change—where you had dined at every restaurant because they had not changed in years; where you could find a car park on almost every street in the city because people did not leave the suburbs; and where festival season meant a fortnight every two years, because that is what always had happened. There were not small bars—or many big ones, for that matter. The only food you could get from a truck was your morning milk delivery, and the huge start-up costs needed to start a small business meant that we had clear intergenerational lines between bosses and workers.

Things have changed. Almost all of our city has embraced that change. We are proud to show it off to tourists, especially during the footy season. International students love it and many former South Aussies are returning home from interstate to a transformed city. But, since they lost the fight on the tram extension, the new hospital, Adelaide Oval, the footbridge, small bars and the Festival Plaza, Adelaide's famous naysayers are now turning their sights on pop-up festival venues and food trucks. The claims are the Garden of Unearthly Delights, the Royal Croquet Club and the odd food truck are hurting bricks and mortar businesses.

There is no financial evidence and there is no economic modelling presented that this is the case. It is just the vibe and the fact that one pub lessee that was struggling for years, sadly, went out of business. The last time I checked, we operate under a capitalist system and, under capitalism, there will always be businesses both opening and closing. We cannot protect every business owner from ever going out of business. In fact, it is the risk and reward proposition that makes capitalism work. It is particularly difficult for those staff members who are put out of work and must have their rights protected, but the fact remains that businesses that best adapt to their customers' wants and needs will thrive.

The good news is that our state has the second lowest rate of businesses becoming insolvent per person and, as of today, there are 55 licence applications being advertised through the liquor licensing commissioner, a dozen more than even this time a couple of weeks ago. There will soon be more and more bars and restaurants open around SA that you have not heard of yet. The evidence also shows that business people and developers have done exciting things with bricks and mortar in Adelaide. Take a look at the Mayfair Hotel, Peel Street, 2 King William Street, modern apartment buildings rising up throughout town and the soon-to-be first five-star hotel built in 30 years. This is not the sleepy Adelaide of old.

Yet, some say we need to protect the bricks and mortar business from competition, from those businesses that dare not use bricks; but why is red tape bad in every area of public policy except for food and beverage businesses? Why should these businesses be wrapped in regulation and protection and immune from the forces of a free market? If a particular pub offers bad service, food, marketing and entertainment, there is no reason why that business should not close and the building be leased to someone who can run it better. A successful business is not the bricks that hold it.

This is increasingly so in the digital world. Owning a property is not a precondition of having a business. In my own electorate right now, we have people utilising broadband connections from their homes to connect with clients around the world. Others have businesses to produce goods to sell at many local markets, others have food trucks and others have function businesses. They all contribute to the economic development of our state. They all contribute to employment, either through just their own labour or by also employing others. It has somehow been lost in the debate that places like the Garden of Unearthly Delights are also comprised of dozens of small businesses. Those small businesses hired more staff and had the opportunity to reach new markets.

I particularly admire the gumption of a new pop-up venue of arts vendors in Norwood that I saw, which has called itself The Bricks and Mortar Creative. The conservatives will not know what to

do with that one. If the conservatives on the Adelaide City Council are concerned about bricks and mortar, perhaps they should have look at their own facilities; the Adelaide Central Market, a key tourist attraction, has managed to survive and thrive despite the lack of care and attention from its public owner to its bricks and mortar, seemingly waiting for Soviet-style architecture to come back into fashion.

Of course, there is more work to do to improve the environment for start-up businesses and entrepreneurship in South Australia, and address some of the challenges that will leave us. For instance the government's taxi review, which has been recently announced, will look at how to further develop this industry and improve the outcomes for passengers and drivers with the potential increased competition from new technology, and through a parliamentary committee, the Economic and Finance Committee, we are currently looking at how our small businesses and sole traders will best take advantage of the opportunities presented by the National Broadband Network.

We must look at what regulatory barriers we have in other areas that must be overcome. In particular, there is going to be more work to modernise liquor licensing, as anyone who has tried to drink a beer standing up can attest to. We must also consider that when so many people in the future will be employed themselves, how this will impact upon their ability to have income security for their family, compared to traditional jobs, where you work nine to five for a guaranteed paycheck.

However, when state or local governments consider regulation it should be to protect the safety and welfare of the community and the even playing field of the market, not regulation to pick winners in the market. People who claim to be small business, particularly in elected office, should be supporting all businesses' rights to start up and operate, not just supporting protectionism for some existing businesses.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (16:57): I rise today to talk about some financial issues in my electorate, and also to again try to work with the government to present some ideas in moving this state forward.

I have recently come back from Texas, where I was fortunate enough to spend some time with the Hon. Chuck DeVore from the Texas Public Policy Foundation. I was very interested to work with Chuck and find out why Texas was booming yet much of America was struggling and either in recession or what we call a technical recession. I found out that Texas has actually committed to low tax and small government, which is paying dividends—and has been for over 15 years, certainly not a one-day wonder.

Just to give some context around this, they actually walk the talk, so to speak. The Texas parliament meets for only four months every two years. A part that I am probably not too fond of is that the average remuneration for a legislative representative is \$7,200 per year, so I do not expect too much of a hearing on that one. However, they do walk the talk in terms of a low tax and a small government strategy, and it is paying dividends.

Chuck DeVore has written many books, but the one I have found the most interesting is *The Texas Model: Prosperity in the Lone Star State and Lessons for America*. These lessons are just as relevant for the state of South Australia. I think it is always important to look around at places in the world where they are doing things better and having better outcomes than we do in South Australia. Just for the record, Texas has a very low unemployment rate, and businesses are relocating from other states into the state of Texas to start up businesses. One of the excerpts from the book I just mentioned which I found quite compelling states:

The freedom to own or use property, to operate a business, to work are often overlooked in the all-knowing nanny state, tenderly seeking to save us from ourselves.

It is called economic freedom. Abraham Lincoln, in the context of slavery, shared the idea that every man had a natural right 'to eat the bread which he has earned by the sweat of his brow'.

While taxes are easy to measure and government spending somewhat less so, regulations are a hidden form of taxation put in place by lawmakers who draft bills that empower unelected government experts to draw up rules that compel people to act or not act in a certain way. Of course, some rules are needed—for instance, regulations on air and water quality that improve the livelihood of many nobody would argue with. However, there are also other regulations—for instance, endless

red tape, onerous restrictions, particularly on labour, operating hours, etc., which depress employment in South Australia and need to be challenged at every opportunity.

No wonder productive people are fleeing South Australia for other states. We have to realise that we are in a competitive market. If you had \$5 million to invest, you would need to ask yourself, 'Why would I invest in South Australia?' We have the highest water prices, the highest electricity prices, the lowest payroll tax threshold, stamp duty, red tape, and the list goes on and on. We have a culture in this state where everybody is happy to say they want to see development, but when you talk to developers and investors they tell a very different story.

I have had many conversations with people who want to develop in this state and yet, when the rubber hits the road, they find they run headlong into bureaucracy and red tape. Of course, at the next election people will have a choice. I think it is important that I put on the record what I stand for, and that is individual liberty, traditional values, limited government, free enterprise and decentralisation, where decisions are made as close to the people as possible.

Another issue I want to take up is pensioner concessions. I see myself as always trying to work in a bipartisan way with this government; however, pensioner concessions and the ongoing politicising of this issue is quite disturbing to me, and it is something that I want to take this government to task on. I find it disturbing because it affects some of the most vulnerable in our community. If this is being used as a political football then I think this government needs to have a good hard look at themselves.

The decision on GST allocations from COAG now means that South Australia will get an unbudgeted and unexpected \$146 million in GST funding as a windfall this year. In fact, the total GST funding to South Australia will actually be \$571 million more than this year, but \$425 million of that has already been allocated in the government's budget estimates. This unexpected GST bonus means the Weatherill government no longer has any excuse to continue its \$90 million ESL slug on homeowners or to go ahead with its plans to remove \$30 million worth of pensioner concessions and to close the Repatriation General Hospital.

Coming back to pensioner concessions, this decision really does affect people in my electorate. If what I have been told does happen—and that is that councils will be told to send out rate notices without the concessions and then the government will do an amazing backflip and reallocate it—it is cruel and unnecessary, and the government needs to be taken to task over it.

One of the other things I saw in Texas was a change in focus on crime. As most people are aware, Mount Gambier has an ever-expanding correctional services facility. In fact, in the last three years it has expanded three times, with one more expansion planned to commence in the very near future. Whilst the jobs are welcome, the idea out of Texas was not to be tough on crime but to be smart on crime.

In discussions with some of the lawmakers from Texas, it is not a reduction in funding, it is not being soft on crime; it is certainly a reallocation of priorities. In fact, they put more money into rehabilitation instead of incarceration and it has had a dramatic effect on the number of reoffending criminals, because what we all know is that if you have somebody who has done the wrong thing and you put them into gaol with people who have committed more serious crimes, then the chances of them reoffending are higher and also they learn from those who are already incarcerated.

In 2006, a study of 1,500 youths found that the rate of reoffending increased when a young person was incarcerated versus non-prison sentences. This type of focus on rehabilitation instead of incarceration saved the budget in the order of \$119 million for the state of Texas over a five-year period.

The other issue that I want to talk about is a notorious intersection that we have in Mount Gambier, the Wireless Road/Penola Road intersection. This conversation has only been going on for about 12 years, but I am hoping, now that we have the Treasurer in the chamber, that some funding can be allocated for this notorious intersection, rated as the riskiest intersection in country South Australia.

I find it incredible that the Weatherill Labor government plans to spend \$160 million on the Adelaide O-Bahn and yet we struggle to attract the \$2 million that it would cost to put traffic lights at

this notorious intersection. It shows to me that the priorities of this government are all about investing in Adelaide and yet country South Australia is devoid.

Very quickly, I need to talk about the drainage network. Minister Hunter commissioned a group to come down and look at the \$9 million needed to do the drains, only allocating \$2.2 million, and I call upon him to fund this drainage network properly.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (17:07): I want to put on the record (I think I am not being too presumptuous in saying this) this place's appreciation of the role of former MFS chief officer Mr Grant Lupton. As we all know, Grant Lupton was the longest serving chief officer in the Metropolitan Fire Service's 150-year history and left recently to take up a job in the United Arab Emirates, where he is in charge of the civil defence programs for all of the seven emirates. He will be based in Abu Dhabi. The population is about seven million people and some of the features of the emirates, as we are obviously aware, are the world's tallest buildings, the world's largest oil storage facilities and a significant challenge for anybody, with the location close to areas of conflict.

To have lost Mr Lupton is a real loss for South Australia, particularly for the emergency services. I should put on the record that Grant is a personal friend of mine and I hope to visit him in Abu Dhabi in the not too distant future, once he has settled in, to see what they are doing over there and what opportunities he has, because he is the man who will be able to reshape or reform and take forward the emergency services in the UAE.

I should say that he was headhunted from over 90 chiefs—90 fire chiefs from around the world. We had this man here in Adelaide; we had him in our grasp here. We have a minister who wants to restructure and reshape emergency services, yet we have lost the person who probably was best equipped, best experienced and had the best knowledge to guide that possible restructure.

What has happened, though, unfortunately, is that Grant has taken an opportunity that was presented to him—and who would blame him, when this magnificent opportunity was there, and what he was being presented with. I will just read from some information that was presented publicly by the Metropolitan Fire Service about chief officer Lupton's retirement.

It says that Metropolitan Fire Chief Officer Grant Lupton announced his intention to resign, effective 17 March 2015, after 13 years in the role, and that Mr Lupton was the longest serving Chief Officer in Australasia having been recruited from Canada in late 2001, where he was the deputy fire commissioner for the province of British Columbia. It continues:

During his time in South Australia Chief Officer Lupton has been responsible for introducing a wide range of MFS initiatives to continuously improve emergency service delivery to the community and provided leadership during many major emergencies.

Chief Officer Lupton has made a significant international contribution to fire safety and fire engineering, becoming the first Australian Chief Officer to be appointed as the International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers (2013/14), based in the UK with 43 Branches worldwide. He is also the first international Chief Fire Officer to be appointed Chairman of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Closer to home, Mr Lupton has initiated the Tonga Fire Service Sustainable Development Program and helped lead the establishment of the Pacific Islands Fire Services Association to provide humanitarian support to South Pacific Islands Fire Services.

Mr Lupton said:

'It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as MFS Chief Officer for the last 13 years...The MFS is a great fire service, primarily due to dedication of the men and women who are proud to be part of this essential public safety service.'

'To have the opportunity to lead the MFS for such a long time has been the high point of my career and I'm very grateful to all the people who have supported me. I have especially appreciated the opportunity to work side by side with some outstanding South Australia police and emergency service leaders,' says Lupton, who has served with two Police Commissioners, three CFS Chiefs and five SES Chiefs.

'I'm satisfied with what I've accomplished during my tenure and am pleased to be leaving...'

Mr Lupton says he is looking forward to a break from the 24/7 responsibility [in South Australia]...and pursue other interests.

And we know what those other interests are now. Just to list some of his achievements as chief officer, over the past 13 years Grant Lupton coordinated the acquisition of the Angle Park Training

Centre, and South Australia became the first fire service in Australia to achieve the level 4 Incident Management System Certification. Mr Lupton introduced the Australian Interservice Incident Management System (AIIMS) into MFS operations, establishing the MFS state fire control centre to support AIIMS and the newly adopted Emergency Management Act. He oversaw the major upgrade of the MFS 000 communications centre and the introduction of SACAD to incorporate coordinated statewide call receipt and dispatch services for MFS, CFS and SES.

Mr Lupton introduced the MFS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capability and supported deployments to the Queensland floods and the Christchurch earthquake. He implemented a generational replacement of MFS breathing apparatus, including a whole-service user selection trial, and he introduced VectorCommand computer simulation training for operational command. He developed a 50-year station replacement and development plan, which has resulted in the construction of new stations for Renmark, Glen Osmond, Elizabeth, Golden Grove, Port Lincoln, Beulah Park, Paradise, Seaford, and we know that there is a new station now being built at Salisbury.

The other things that Mr Lupton achieved included the establishment of a day working crew for Mount Gambier and the development of new engineering workshops at Angle Park. He helped facilitate the implementation of the 'closest, fastest and most appropriate' response agreement with the CFS and SES. He sponsored the introduction of the road accident program. He led the development of the MFS strategic management framework, incorporating a comprehensive approach to strategic planning, corporate governance and performance management. He contributed to the development of the Emergency Management Act to replace the Disaster Management Act and served on the Emergency Management Council and State Emergency Management Committee since their establishment.

Mr Lupton has acted as SAFECOM deputy chair since the establishment of the SAFECOM Board. Mr Lupton was also the co-host for the 2007 World Police and Fire Games held in South Australia, and he chaired the Finance and Governance Committee of those games. He supported the refurbishment of the MFS Skyjet aerial appliances and then the recent sourcing of the replacement combined aerial pumping appliances. Innovation to introduce rear-mounted general-purpose pumpers and the replacement of MFS heavy rescue and Bronto large aerial appliances to enhance MFS operations was another achievement that Grant led.

The other things that Grant did included working with the Treasurer to transition the MFS superannuation fund into a public sector scheme, and he coordinated the MFS 150th Sesquicentennial Celebrations, including the establishment of the Wall of Remembrance at Adelaide Station.

Mr Lupton was partly responsible for sponsoring the MFS international firefighter exchange program and overseeing MFS negotiations through four enterprise bargaining agreements, conducting a successful parity review of commander and district officer ranks, and he facilitated the transfer of MFS staff from ESAU to SAFECOM. He introduced the MFS executive development program. He initiated the Tonga Fire Service Sustainable Development Program and helped lead the establishment of the Pacific Islands Fire Services Association, as we said, and he also became the first Australian Chief Officer to be appointed as the international president and chairman of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

Mr Lupton is a huge loss for South Australia. Can I congratulate my good friend Grant on what he has given to South Australia and what he has done for the MFS. As people in this place know, my father was in the MFS for 30 years and I am a life member of the CFS. So, having worked with the MFS and lived within an MFS family, I know how members who are in the MFS—and the member for Colton would be able to verify this—become part of a big family, and Chief Officer Lupton has led that family for over 13 years.

Fortunately for Mr Lupton, he has gone on to bigger and better things but, unfortunately for South Australia, we have really missed out. We have seriously missed out on a massive opportunity to have a man with immense experience and expertise here with us to help guide the future of emergency services in South Australia. I think that, if we continue along this line and ignore the experts, we are worse off for it, but I congratulate Grant on his move forward and thank him for his service to this state.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Thank you. The member for Schubert.

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (17:16): Acting Deputy Speaker or Acting Speaker?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Acting Speaker is better, yes.

Mr KNOLL: Acting Speaker sounds pretty good to me. Congratulations on your promotion. I hope it leads to a second ministerial car and all the perks that come with that auspicious office. I rise today to talk about three issues: a couple to do with my local electorate but, firstly, I missed out on time during my Supply Bill speech to talk about this beautiful document which has come out in the last number of months, and that is the tax discussion paper and it as a vehicle for change in South Australia.

I think the tax discussion paper that was put forth was a missed opportunity. I think it was definitely a missed opportunity. It speaks very little about the long-term future of South Australia. Indeed, there is only one half page that deals with population changes and demographic changes within South Australia. I think that is a missed opportunity because, without bringing forward that understanding of what the state and the demographics of the state are going to look like, it is very difficult for us to understand where it is that we are going to go.

The tax discussion paper is also a missed opportunity because, in my view, all it is is a document through which the government seeks to increase taxation, and I think that is disgusting. Sure, we can talk about changes to gambling revenue, although I have a number of clubs in my electorate that have an issue with that proposal. We can give some simplistic calculations around changes to payroll tax, but the true intent of this document is aimed at one thing, and that is about bringing a land tax on the family home.

It was a proposal that the member for Playford brought to this place and to the public debate when he was the treasurer. It was shouted down then, and it has come back. It seems to be the only proposal that the government is interested in talking about, and I think that it is wrong for South Australia. It is something that we were right to give up during the Tonkin government back in the early eighties. It seems to be very much back to the future for this government.

The Treasurer said on radio that poor people cannot afford to maintain their homes. I was quite incredulous when he said it. He said that poor people cannot afford to maintain their homes and it was a good thing that the government was thinking about a proposal that would help them to unlock the equity that is in their homes and helping them to downsize.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: I never said that.

Mr KNOLL: I would put to you, Acting Speaker—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Don't mislead parliament.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Order!

Mr KNOLL: If you are a person who owns—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis: Remember the conversation we had.

Mr KNOLL: —a person who owns your own home—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Treasurer, order!

Mr KNOLL: If the Treasurer would like to defame me on Twitter, be my guest. I just seem to be trying to have an open conversation—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): The member for Schubert, the minister is on his feet.

Mr KNOLL: —but if we—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Treasurer.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The member has accused me of defaming him. I ask him to withdraw and apologise or to take action.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Yes, the member will withdraw and apologise, and please continue with this debate.

Mr KNOLL: I will withdraw and apologise, even though I don't believe I said he did. I said that he may or he could.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): No, no. The member will withdraw and apologise.

Mr KNOLL: I withdraw and apologise.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder): Okay.

Mr KNOLL: It just seems interesting that the Treasurer would confuse open and constructive debate as being some sort of final position on anything. As a young member of this place, I seek to go to all sorts of people to discuss different ideas, but if that is somehow construed as having taken a final position and that is something I cannot debate—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

Mr KNOLL: Acting Speaker, if you are an older person who owns their own home outright, do you know what makes your house unaffordable? A land tax on your house. That is what makes your house unaffordable. Under the current system, it is only when you sell your property that stamp duty gets triggered. Instead, if you own your own home, the thing that will make your house unaffordable and force you to downsize is having a land tax put on your family home yearly.

If you have a property that has increased its value significantly over time, then that land tax bill will be significantly more than the averages that have been purported by the government on their very simplistic calculation. That is exactly the kind of thing that will make people's homes unaffordable and I think it is a little about-face. If we want to make housing affordable in South Australia, and if we want to keep people looking after the asset that they have spent their lifetime building up, then the current system certainly helps us to do that.

I move on to a couple of local issues. The first issue is the perennial Barossa hospital. A new health facility in my electorate is needed and it has been needed for such a long time. Today it was revealed that the government is spending \$3 million on spruiking hospital cuts, or as they call it, Transforming Health. And the irony of all of this should not be lost on anyone—spending \$3 million on trying to tell the public how they want to save money!

The Barossa Council is the 10th fastest-growing council in the state. Population growth will demand increased and better service provision in the Barossa, and the sooner the government realises this, the sooner we can start delivering a project for the people of my electorate, a project that they have been talking about and fundraising for since 1992. I do not accept that we need to have substandard health care in the regions. Instead of spending that \$3 million on spinning health cuts, that \$3 million could and should have been put forward for a new hospital facility in the Barossa.

The second issue I want to talk about—and this is quite an odd issue for me because it is something that I did not think would occupy as much of my time as it has—is two stop signs in my electorate—two stop signs.

In March 2014, I received a letter from DPTI that stated that there have been a number of crashes at the corner of Stockwell and Angaston roads (and I will declare I live about 400 metres down the road) and this intersection also forms an important part of the local gazetted B-double freight route. The project will provide safety and efficiency benefits for all road users and consists of installing dedicated right-hand turn lanes, widening various sections of the intersection, removing the stobie pole on the northwest corner and upgrading lighting and stormwater drainage.

That is all well and good and I thank the government very much for spending that money, but as a result of that upgrade, the stop signs have been removed and replaced with give-way signs. I have been made aware of at least one serious accident at that intersection since February, since it

was changed, but there have been a number of near misses that have been highly publicised and well reported in my electorate.

The reason that these have been highly publicised is that the editor of one of my local papers was involved in one and a senior journalist at the same paper was involved in two, so of course these things tend to get some good ink. On 25 March, the editor of *The Leader* wrote:

I was returning to The Leader after a very successful day when all of a sudden a motorist travelling from Stockwell direction drove straight in front of me. Fortunately I was driving at around 70km/h at the time, so I braked heavily, sounded the horn and with the other hand activated the wind screen wipers. Shortly after this experience my very dear wife, Angela kindly took me to Nuriootpa for some fresh air and a nice hot coffee. However, on our way back history was almost repeated when a man travelling on our left from the Stockwell direction, almost didn't give way to us. He had to brake heavily after not seeing our vehicle.

In last week's *The Leader*, the senior journalist wrote:

Less than 10 metres in front of me a maroon vehicle zoomed through the Stockwell and Angaston Roads intersection, seemingly without a care in the world as I made my way from Nuriootpa to Angaston. A colleague of mine behind me saw it all unfold. It was when we pulled up in the car park of The Leader office that it really dawned on me what had happened, when she said, 'I nearly saw you die.'

This week, after another near miss, the senior journalist wrote:

Remaining cautious of this intersection, I spotted the truck stop but soon after they proceeded to move off the line to head towards Stockwell and I was right in their way. I discovered the real reason for horns being installed in vehicles and this would have to be closer than it was last week.

So we have had a number of serious incidents at that intersection. I have written to the minister, and we are seeking a follow-up. I appreciate the fact that he has a young child at home, as I do; as I have been through newborn babies, I can understand. He is a little bit time poor at the moment and his priorities are elsewhere, but in this case I plead with him to help to change the stop sign.

I also have the same issue when it comes to the Seppeltsfield/Samuel/Stelzer Road intersection, where again we have had a number of near misses and one quite serious accident around six weeks ago. We again wrote to the Light Regional Council on that issue, and they said, 'We are complying with the legislation and the regulations as they are set down; it has to be a decision of the minister to change those stop signs.'

I would like to put on the record my public pleading for common sense on this issue. I am pleading to the minister: please, give my community something that they so desperately want. It is a common-sense solution, and it is just a pair of stop signs. I am not asking for much money. I am not asking for anything. In fact, I will do an Ivan Venning and I will go put up the stop signs myself. But, I implore the minister to see common sense on this issue.

The reason I am asking for this now is: we have had near-misses, we have had incidents, and we have had a couple of accidents, but I would hate to come back to this place in a couple of months' time and for us to be sitting in the same situation, and for there to be a serious accident that causes permanent injury or death. I sincerely hope that we are able to—given I know the minister is a gracious person and I know he is a common-sense kind of guy, I implore to his better nature to please do this for my community.

It is genuinely the biggest issue that has occupied the minds of residents in my electorate for the past two months. As their local member, they are pleading and imploring me to get something done on this. In fact, I have got a letter from one of my constituents that says:

May I also suggest that in this process you lobby hard to have rumble strips or similar on the Stockwell Road intersection to make motorists aware of the approach.

It amazes me how seriously people are taking this, and I, in turn, am taking this very seriously. I am hoping that we can get a decent resolution by the time we come back to parliament in a couple of weeks.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS (SURROGACY) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:28 the house adjourned until Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 11:00.