

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 26 May 2016

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

### *Bills*

#### **MOTOR VEHICLES (NOMINAL DEFENDANT) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Introduction and First Reading*

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:31):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an Act to amend the Motor Vehicles Act 1959. Read a first time.

##### *Second Reading*

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:31):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am introducing this bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act 1959 because it is clear that, in the wake of changes to regulations allowing bicycles full access to footpaths, some safeguards need to be put in place to ensure that pedestrians have some financial security in the case of an injury should they be hit by a cyclist who cannot for whatever reason be identified.

This is an issue that has been raised with me as the shadow minister for transport and road safety and by many of my Liberal colleagues, and I am sure that members of the government would have also received correspondence at their offices from people concerned about the notion of being hit by a cyclist and being left to their own devices.

The vulnerable situation pedestrians can find themselves in was recently illustrated by the hit-and-run collision in which a young female pedestrian on a city footpath, struck by a bicycle at some speed, suffered a broken rib and internal bleeding. The cyclist did not leave details and, despite some of the media commentary on this case, did not stay long enough to render any form of assistance.

I met with Ms Bedford, who was the victim of the incident, who ran through the details of that case and her frustration with police when, after reporting the incident, they said there was nothing that they could do about it. She then went to the media and the media ran that story and, all of a sudden, CCTV footage popped up and SAPOL were then able to put out an alert and the cyclist turned themselves in.

Had that not happened, Ms Bedford would have been left with the hospital bills to cover for her own situation, and that is on top of the fact that she was not able to work during the recovery period. Being a person who had just finished university and entered the workforce for the first time, it was a very distressing time for her.

We cannot rely on media coverage for every incident where somebody is the victim of a hit-and-run with a cyclist here in South Australia. This bill expands the definition of 'nominal defendant' in the Motor Vehicles Act to include cyclists. In the event that a pedestrian is hit by a cyclist and there are no details for civil action, either directly or through insurance companies, this aims to ensure the recovery of medical costs.

The law states that pedestrians have right of way on the footpath. We are not seeking to change civil law in any way; we are enabling the process that is available when the identity of the rider is known to also encompass unknown riders. This is only for the very few cases where people are irresponsible. If you compare the rate with the nominal defendant when it comes to irresponsible drivers of registered motor vehicles, it is less than 2 per cent—75 hit and runs out of a total of nearly 4,000 claims that were lodged last year. It is a very small proportion of South Australians who do the wrong thing.

Generally, South Australians will do the right thing and stop to exchange details to make sure that the person they have hit, whether in a motor vehicle or on a bike, are rendered assistance. If there are other implications such as medical bills, this process ensures the innocent victims of a collision will not be left to deal with that situation. I think we also need to bear in mind that more than 90 per cent of bicycle riders own registered motor vehicles, so they already pay for CTP insurance. It just so happens that they are on their bicycles, rather than in their cars, when an accident occurs.

I was a bit concerned when I heard the minister respond to this proposal. He said that it would see extra fees for one million motorists in South Australia. I point him to his own figures from the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. According to a table provided to the South Australian Parliament Research Library by the department in relation to the number of pedestrians hit by cyclists, there have only been five serious injuries in the past five years, and 41 minor injuries.

We also have to understand how the CTP insurance system works. There are no more pain and suffering payments, so we are not going to see a whole lot of ambulance chasers, by way of lawyers, looking for business. You cannot actually claim lawyer fees unless the amount awarded is more than \$25,000, and it is only for medical bills unless you are permanently disabled. The chances of that happening from being hit by a cyclist are very minimal. What is likely to happen is what happened to Ms Bedford back in March: a broken rib, severe bruising—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** This is spooky. Ms Bedford?

**Mr PISONI:** Ms Bedford, the victim of the—not you, Deputy Speaker.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, I know, but it's scary.

**Mr PISONI:** The 24-year-old victim—you could be mistaken for a 24 year old; I do understand that, Deputy Speaker—Ms Bedford, was on the footpath and was the victim of a hit and run. She would have her medical bills covered under this proposal.

I also have a graph provided by the department on the nominal defendant system for registered motor vehicles. It shows that the number of CTP claims lodged in 2014-15 was 3,926. That same table will show us that the number of uninsured vehicle claims lodged was 75 and the number of hit and runs was 150. So, you can see that hit and runs are a very small proportion of motorists who behave in that manner.

I would argue that the vast majority of cyclists are very responsible and also that this is a rare event. We understand that, but we do know that there is a lot of anxiety out there in the community about the what-if situation. I think that is why we all have insurance. We hope that we do not use insurance, but we all have it for that what-if situation. Insurance simply would not work if those what-if situations were a regular occurrence, which they are not. I thank the Royal Society for the Blind for coming out today and supporting these amendments. I quote from their news release that was circulated this morning:

[Royal Society for the Blind] Government Relations and Accessibility spokesperson, Tony Starkey, commends the proposed solutions; noting that they are likely to reduce the number of accidents involving pedestrians—and most importantly—pedestrians who are vision impaired.

Of course, that is what this is all about. This is the first of two amendments that I am bringing to the parliament today, so that we can truly share the footpaths. I do not think it is acceptable that people are left to their own devices if they are the victim of a hit and run by a cyclist, which is the case at the moment, when we do not accept that when it comes to registered motor vehicles. We have a scheme there that can be expanded through these amendments that I am bringing forward to the parliament today at, I would argue, virtually no cost whatsoever to motorists. I would be interested for the government, if they do not support these amendments, to bring back information that suggests there would be a significant, or any, increase in the insurance that motorists pay when they register their motor vehicles. With that, I conclude my remarks.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Hildyard.

**ROAD TRAFFIC (BICYCLES ON FOOTPATHS) AMENDMENT BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:43):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Road Traffic Act 1961. Read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (10:43):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In moving the second reading, I think we need to look at the history of the change in regulations that we saw introduced in October last year regarding cyclists and the rule that allows cyclists of all ages to ride on footpaths at a speed designated for the adjacent road. The changes arose after recommendations made by the 2014 citizens' jury.

I attended the LGA-sponsored round table on cycling safety, and there is no doubt that the main focus of that round table was cycling on footpaths, which is generally supported; it is supported by the Liberal Party with the amendments we are bringing to the parliament today. A bit of an eye-opener the general public probably do not know is a lesser known recommendation of the citizens' jury. Democracy Co were there, which facilitated the citizens' jury on cycling, and the recommendation that we do not hear a lot about from the government is:

As part of this recommendation—

this is the recommendation to allow bikes to ride on footpaths—

it must be clear to cyclists, that they travel at low speeds and have enhanced consideration of pedestrians.

This was completely ignored by the government when they changed the regulations to allow cyclists to ride on footpaths and then passed the responsibility for any speed limits to councils. What the minister does not tell you when he argues this in the media is that, in order for councils to change the speed or, if they wish, to ban bikes from particular footpaths, they need to get permission from his office or from him in order to do that.

My bill makes 10 km/h the default speed for riding on the footpath unless otherwise signposted. It also allows councils to make that decision without having to go to the minister for sign-off, so it cuts down the bureaucratic process. I find it difficult to understand why the government expects ratepayers and local governments to spend an enormous amount of money and council resources putting speed limits around the place on footpaths if they are concerned about the speed at which bikes might be travelling on footpaths. Remember that the government's regulations have allowed bikes to travel on footpaths in metropolitan Adelaide at up to 60 km/h. We even see some metropolitan roads in Adelaide at 70 km/h and 80 km/h. I know it is unrealistic to expect a bike to travel at that speed, but the facts are that as the regulations stand now they enable a bike to travel at the same speed on the footpath as it can on the road.

My amendment defines the intent of the citizens' jury, when the citizens' jury said as part of this recommendation that it must be clear to cyclists—clear to cyclists—that they travel at low speeds and have enhanced consideration of pedestrians. 'Low speed' is subjective, but 10 km/h puts a number on it, just like the safe distance from a bike. We now have a number on that: one metre is a safe distance from a bike if you are travelling at less than 60 km/h, or 1.5 metres if you are travelling faster than 60 km/h.

This amendment defines what a low speed is. The reason we have chosen the 10 km/h speed limit is that that is the speed that gophers are limited to in order to be classified as a pedestrian. It is also a speed you can travel at leisurely on a bike and the bike does not wobble; it is a nice leisurely ride. It is also a speed at which you might see some relatively enthusiastic joggers jogging on the footpath. It is a speed that is consistent with many other footpath users, so that is why we have chosen that speed.

We do not believe this amendment is going to stop anybody from using the footpath because, if you are someone who wants to ride for leisure, when you stop every few hundred metres to go into shops, look in a shop window or stop for a coffee, 10 km/h will get you there. If you have your

shopping on the back of the bike and you are not confident to use the road, or if you are a new bike rider, you can still get to where you want to go at 10 km/h. Of course, all those pedestrians who are there will be aware that they are sharing the footpath with bikes that are travelling at a speed that is comfortable. This paper presented to the LGA round table had a selection of quotes from jurors. One of the quotes is:

Of course the safety of pedestrians has to be considered too. For example, bicycles cannot travel too fast. Mixing speeds is dangerous in any situation.

I think it is a point missed by the government; the fact that we have a recommendation about slow speeds, and the fact that we have quotes pulled out from those who attended the citizens' jury that raised concerns about speed with the regulations changed, shows that this amendment bill is needed to set a line in the sand, if you like. What is a slow speed? Let's define that and accept that.

Some people say, 'What, are we going to be seeing speed cameras?' Well, we had speed restrictions on motor vehicles before there were speed cameras. This is really, and I hate to say this, legislating for common sense. As for anyone who is on the footpath, I have been observing this since it has been debated around Adelaide since October, and very rarely do you see a cyclist doing more than a jogging speed on the footpath, and it is certainly very difficult to do that. When I rode on the footpath from Parliament House to LGA House, it was very difficult for me—

**Mr Pengilly:** Were you on a bike?

**Mr PISONI:** Yes, I was on a bike, Mr Pengilly—it was very difficult for me to get any speed up. So I ask the government to consider not just this amendment but my previous amendment as well as a solution. Again, I thank the Royal Society for the Blind for their public support for these amendments. In their release, they describe this as a solution. It is not a compromise. No-one is compromising; it is just spelling it out as to what the expectation is and giving some people—particularly with the first bill I introduced—some sense of security if they become victims of a hit and run. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.R. Kenyon.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (RATE INCREASES) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 24 March 2016.)

**Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (10:53):** It is a pleasure to be able to stand today and speak on the Local Government (Rate Increases) Amendment Bill which has been tabled in the parliament by my colleague the member for Goyder. I think this is a really important piece of legislation which has the opportunity to significantly reduce the cost of living pressures being faced by ordinary South Australians the length and breadth of this state.

As many people here know, I was a member of the City of Marion council for 3½ years prior to my election to state parliament. Some people say to me that they are surprised that I would be such an advocate for this body of legislation because of my time on a council; however, one of the motivations for being such a supporter of this legislation is that very reason, because I was on a council and I was able to see firsthand the unusual way that councils went about delivering their rate rises and budget setting each year.

I have described before how I find it very backward. Rather than look at how much money they have and then consider what that money could be spent on and how far it would go, certainly the council I was involved with (and I think this is fairly common practice) would look at devising a range of projects or a wish list. They would then go away and work out how much that would cost and raise rates accordingly. I do not think many businesses would operate like that. I do not think many household budgets would operate in that way either, so it is a particular luxury afforded to very few that they get to come up with their wish list and then have the capacity to collect revenue in a way that will, accordingly, fill that wish list.

I find that quite troubling. When I was on the City of Marion council, I thought it led to a lackadaisical approach to budgetary discipline, and it resulted in poorer outcomes for the overall budget for those councils and, as a consequence, higher rates and more significant cost of living pressures being faced by South Australian households. The councils I have been involved with—the two councils that sit across my electorate are the City of Marion and the City of Holdfast Bay—have a tradition of raising rates substantially above annual inflation or CPI rates.

That does need to be called into question. It does need to be reduced, and we need to look at legislative mechanisms from this state to actually hold some of these councils to account. I commend this legislation to the house. I think it is good legislation. It has the capacity to lower household cost of living pressures in South Australia and I look forward to bipartisan support for this legislation because that is what South Australians deserve.

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (10:56):** I rise today more in disappointment than anger to oppose the Local Government (Rate Increases) Amendment Bill 2016. In common with the member who introduced the bill, I also have had a long period of involvement with local government. In my case, it was as an elected member for 23 years—23 years of wins and losses, satisfaction and frustration. I started out with hair and ended up with none.

It is a world of footpaths and roads, stormwater, parks, gardens and sporting grounds, landscapes, landfill and rubbish collection, community wellbeing, economic development, residents with their day-to-day concerns, dissent, dialogue, deliberation and decision, meeting after meeting. Over time you see the changes, the improvements and also the mistakes, good judgement, poor judgement and middling judgement and, at its heart, that desire to help through engaging with all the amazing mix of people who make up any community. It is because of that involvement that I know this is a poor bill. It is cheap populist politics and bad policy that will ultimately hurt communities.

It will hurt in two fundamental ways. The first is that it represents an attack on intragenerational equity. It does that by shifting raising revenue, over time, from rates to far more aggressive user charges. It does not save people money in the long run. Ultimately, it has the opposite effect. New South Wales has had state-imposed rate capping for many years and the result is plain to see. Total local government revenue per capita in New South Wales is significantly higher than in South Australia. User charges in New South Wales represent over 36 per cent of total revenue compared with 18 per cent in South Australia.

There is always some complexity in making comparisons, but what can be clearly stated is that the evidence shows that rate capping does not work and does not benefit the cost-of-living exposure of households. What it does, through a reliance on user charges, is hit the poorest households the hardest. Rates revenue provides opportunities to cross-subsidise service delivery, improving access for people on low incomes. There is clearly a role for user charges and, for some services, it makes sense but an overreliance on user charges ends up being deeply regressive. The second fundamental way it will hurt communities is through a reduction of investment in long-lived infrastructure assets—

**Mr Pengilly:** Who wrote this? Finnigan?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HUGHES:** —and, as a result, an undermining of intergenerational equity by shifting costs onto future generations. South Australia's 68 councils manage close to \$22 billion in assets. Most of those assets are essential for the decent functioning of our state's many and varied communities. Most councils are already experiencing an infrastructure backlog, and state-imposed rate capping will make that backlog worse. Rate capping in New South Wales has contributed to a \$7 billion-plus infrastructure backlog. Councils need to be prudent when it comes to expenditure and need to ensure that spending is both efficient and effective.

Councils are required to engage with their communities when it comes to setting budgets. Years before that requirement was mandated for all councils, I was able to initiate that change at a local level on the Whyalla city council. One of the challenges is getting people to engage in the process. Some councils do it better than others, but just holding a meeting and expecting people to turn up usually results in a handful of participants. Effective engagement needs to be properly

resourced and open to creative ways of involving people. It should also be said that sometimes this is not a priority for people who have all sorts of demands on their lives. On genuine engagement, it is clear that the opposition has not engaged with the local government sector in good faith given that the policy—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HUGHES:** —has been decided upon before involving the sector.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr HUGHES:** That is the view—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. Sit down, member for Giles.

**Mr HUGHES:** That is the view—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Giles, sit down. It is unparliamentary to interject, and it is unparliamentary to respond. I will have the member heard in silence, and I ask members to cooperate with the standing orders. The member for Giles.

**Mr HUGHES:** That is the view of councils in my region, and I will say a bit more about that later. The bill undermines local decision-making, and it runs counter to the principle of devolving decision-making to the level best suited to making those decisions. It increases red tape and associated bureaucracy, and it perversely increases costs. The New South Wales Independent Local Government Review Panel found that millions of dollars are spent each year by councils and state agencies on preparing, reviewing, and determining applications when the actual cost impact of the proposed rate increases on households is often no more than a dollar a week.

I have four councils in my electorate—five if you count that creature of an indenture, the unusual example of Roxby Downs. It is 'unusual', given its undemocratic nature and, in my view, a body that needs an overhaul of its governance structure in order to introduce greater democratic accountability. That is something that I might talk about on another occasion. The local government sector is strongly opposed to state-imposed rate capping. I refer to a letter that I received from one of the councils in my electorate because it probably reflects well the views held in the sector.

The letter comes from the Kimba council. It is a conscientious council that takes its role of serving its community seriously. This is not a council from Labor's heartland. I could count the votes that I get from Kimba and surrounding districts on the hands of four mates. That does not bother me; they are good people and they want to do the best for their community. This is what they had to say, 'Steven, I thank you for recently travelling to the Eyre Peninsula to consult on'—

**Mr Griffiths:** You're not going to read all three pages, are you?

**Mr HUGHES:** I am not going to read all of this; it is a long letter.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr HUGHES:** You wait until we get to the best bit.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind members of my earlier request for you not to interject, or respond to interjections.

**Mr HUGHES:** I apologise.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have three minutes.

**Mr HUGHES:** The letter states:

I thank you for recently travelling to the Eyre Peninsula to consult on your proposal to introduce legislation for the implementation of rate capping on Local Government rates. I was disappointed to learn you already committed to this cumbersome, restrictive, regressive and unfair policy...

I will repeat that: 'this cumbersome, restrictive, regressive and unfair policy'. The letter continues:

...meaning consultation would have very limited results for us and our communities. Maybe I have it wrong, but when we consult with our community we are not completely committed to an action and I believe the consultation is somewhat farcical when your course is already set.

Rate capping in its various forms, I believe, has a history of poor results and certainly does not address an overall healthy and sustainable sector. Its very focus is solely on rates and ignores results and the very needs of the community in question. I believe this will be a damaging policy for regional councils and most damaging for small rural councils such as our own. I have no doubt rate capping will result in reduced services, unfunded asset renewal over the long term and ultimately will most likely deem our council unsustainable. I sincerely hope that is not your intention, but that said, good intentions will in no way excuse the action and ultimate poor outcomes for our community.

You state you want to ensure councils are as cost efficient as possible. This regressive policy will add costs, red tape and inefficiencies to small rural councils who are already struggling with grant cuts and cost shifting from other spheres of government. You are adding to the problem, not being part of a solution.

The mayor, on behalf of his council, then went to the nub of the motivation for this bill when he stated that this is 'populist policy for a quick headline'. That is what this bill represents: it is a populist policy. It is not going to lead to a reduction in cost exposures for households. It will lead to an increase in bureaucracy, it will lead to an increase in red tape, it will lead to an increase in user charges, and in the long term it is an incredibly regressive policy.

**Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (11:06):** I rise today very briefly to speak in support of the Local Government (Rate Increases) Amendment Bill that has been put before the house. More than 200 people in my community support this policy and have contacted my office in support of reducing council rates in our local area.

It is absolutely fantastic to have this bill before the house and to be looking at reducing the costs and charges and fees on families in all of South Australia. To reduce the cost-of-living pressures right across the state is only a good thing. This legislation will impose a council rate cap and will ensure that families keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets so that they can spend it as they see fit. A rate capping scheme will protect ratepayers from unnecessary council rate hikes and provide much-needed cost-of-living relief to all South Australians.

It was outlined in our 2036 manifesto that we want, and are committed, to reducing cost-of-living pressures. Under our scheme, the independent regulator, ESCOSA, will set the rate rises for councils and allow councils to apply for rate service increases at the Local Government Price Index (LGPI). Councils will be able to apply for rate rises above the cap but they will need to show that they have the support of their communities. We want to see councils being transparent as to how they come up with their rate rises. We do not want to see constant rate rises and constant pressures being put on families in the community.

It is a very good bill. It makes sure that council ratepayers' money is being used in value for money exercises; that is what is important. It is in place in New South Wales, and has been for several decades, and it was introduced by the Victorian Labor government in 2015 as well, so they see it as being a very good policy. Unfortunately, those opposite are addicted to increasing fees at every opportunity on all South Australians. All they know how to do is to take money from people's pockets and waste money, and that is why South Australia is in the predicament it is. It is simply not fair to have council rate increases out of proportion to the increasing cost of living. So, from a cost-of-living perspective this is a very good policy and will be much loved by all South Australians.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Goyder.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I was waiting for the other side to stand.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hang on. I was just going to say, if you speak, you close the debate, and I see the member for Colton is on his feet, so we probably have to let him speak.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I thought there was an order but, notwithstanding that—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Off you go, member for Colton.

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (11:09):** Thank you very much, ma'am. I was always going to speak, future leader. One of the things that I find somewhat annoying is the very nature of populist politics. My good friend—in fact, some people refer to him as my twin—has well articulated that this is a regressive and populist policy.

Of course, you would expect that the member for Mitchell might have, just like the member for Hartley did when he sent out a survey, got many people back supporting this. You might as well ask them whether or not they support a reduction in the wages of members of parliament because the answer will come back 'yes'.

The point is, on the evidence that the Economic and Finance Committee has received to date, particularly from those located in New South Wales, this is not going to in any way reduce the cost of living that is being felt by many within our community. The way in which the cost of living can be more significantly reduced, particularly for those most vulnerable, is simply by things like the \$200 per year concession that the state government provided to those people—that is the way by which you reduce the cost of living.

The evidence we have seen from New South Wales to date—and the member for Giles said it very well—was that, whilst there is rate capping, and I believe they have to go to IPART if they want to go above whatever that capping is, they have significantly increased the level of user-pays charges and cost of service delivery charges. That is simply the evidence we have seen, and it cannot be refuted. We had before us at the Economic and Finance Committee I think a man who wishes to become a future member of the Liberal Party in this place, and that is Mayor Lachlan Clyne. He is the only mayor of the 68 in this state who is out there supporting rate capping.

**Mr Tarzia:** No, he is not.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Well, we are yet to see any other mayor, and in fact the local—

**Mr Tarzia:** Try reading *The Australian*.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I read *The Australian* to make me angry.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Colton!

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Yes, ma'am.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I just remind members again that it is unparliamentary to interject and respond to interjections. In the interests of keeping the business of the house moving along well, it would be great if we could hear each member's contribution in silence. Member for Colton.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I understand that, at the most recent meeting of a special meeting of the Local Government Association, there was unanimous support for rejecting this blunt instrument that you call your bill. It is nothing but a blunt instrument, and it is not going to work. I expect that, at the next election, you guys will be out in all of the seats saying, 'This is how we tried to reduce the cost of living by introducing rate capping,' knowing full well that it is nothing more than populist rubbish and is not going to actually, in any way, support the people who you purport are going to be the beneficiaries of this rate capping exercise.

In fact, what it will do is pass costs on to future years. We know we have had this in the past. I think it might have been the member for Wright who was the local government minister, and a very good one I might add, when changes were made during that period of time because what we had seen with council infrastructure—

*The Hon. J.M. Rankine interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Yes, there was no ability to be able to manage infrastructure properly when rates were being capped or reduced. I know the member for Finniss was a mayor of—

**The Hon. J.M. Rankine:** Not a very popular one.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** No.

**Mr Pederick:** That's outrageous!

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you very much, member for Mitchell. I know you haven't interjected at any stage this morning!

**An honourable member:** He is in his spot.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That's true, but two wrongs don't make a right.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Ma'am, interjections are disorderly no matter where you are sitting.

**Mr Pederick:** Now he is running the show.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** No, I am not. I am just reinforcing the point that was made by our Deputy Speaker. The member for Finnis was the mayor of Kangaroo Island and I think, at one stage, it might have been 2004 or 2005—I do not have those figures here in front of me—the local government price index might have been slightly higher than CPI but pretty much the same at 4 per cent, 3 per cent or whatever it was. The member for Finnis oversaw, at that stage, as an elected mayor, something like a 17 per cent, it could have been 18 per cent, it might have even been a 19 per cent increase in rates in one particular year.

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** It was the rates that increased by that value over that period of time.

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Anyway, you oversaw something that you and your side are trying not to let happen through this bill. I agree that there should not be 19 per cent increases in council rates. If I were a member of that community, I would have taken the opportunity to bag you just like I am taking the opportunity today to bag you for what I think is a nonsense piece of proposed legislation.

The member for Goyder was an outstanding CE, as I understand, over an extended period of time in various councils, even starring in the Hunter Valley for a period of time, but it is safe to say too—and you can turn around and say, 'Well, actually rate increases are a matter for the elected members,' but of course we know that CEs are meant to show some leadership in this particular area and that you have been subject to up to 14 per cent increases in rates during your period of time as a CE.

I am sure that that was done for a very good reason—to address some of the infrastructure problems you might have had within your particular council at that time. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot come into this parliament and say, 'This is what we are going to do' yet oversee in a previous life those things that you obviously supported as a CE that those elected members were putting forward.

The member for Hartley, as I said earlier, put out a survey—800, I think it was, and it got up to maybe even more—and he got back a couple of hundred or I think it was significantly more than 800 and it might have been thousands that he put out. He got back only a small percentage, perhaps 10 per cent, which is not a bad return. But, of course, you are asking whether you pay too much in rates or not. You know the answer you are going to get before you send the survey out. It is just populist and ridiculous.

I understand that comparing things in New South Wales and South Australia might be a little bit difficult from time to time because you are not comparing apples with apples, and that is a point that has been made. But the fundamental issue is that what you are trying to do with this bill to cap rates has been undertaken in New South Wales, and we have seen through evidence there that the only people who are affected by that are the people the councils are there to support in varied ways.

Getting back to the Mayor of Unley, I might be wrong, but I do not think I am, when I say that there is almost universal support across local government for this not to occur. Even my deputy mayor, Bob Randall, in the City of Charles Sturt has made it pretty clear that he does not support in any way this proposal. Of course, he was a former president of the Liberal Party, as I understand it.

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Yes, that is right, he shifted around, just like your position on this shifts around, but that is okay. Getting back to Mayor Lachlan Clyne, he made a bit of an appearance before our Economic and Finance Committee. I did not think it was a very good appearance, but about rate capping he was asked, 'If we cap rates, how would you get other forms of income?' I will paraphrase here. He said, 'Through fees and services, just like new South Wales.'

So, in reality, what he was admitting was that the amount of money coming out of ratepayers' pockets would not be reduced at all, it is just that we would be able to say, 'There are fewer rates being collected'. But there is going to be more money collected from them through other means and that is all that will happen, plus we will make sure a future generation is going to have to pay for the infrastructure that will be left behind and not maintained whilst this rate capping is on.

We also see examples in New South Wales, where community clubs, community organisations, ovals and these type of things are either closing down or not being maintained to the appropriate level. I do not think I have said this before—we often say, 'I commend the bill to the house'—but I condemn this bill to the house and believe that, quite rightly, it should be voted down because it is nothing more than a populist load of rubbish.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Light.

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the member for Goyder speaks, he closes debate, doesn't he? Do you want to come up and take over, member for Mitchell? Member for Light.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (11:19):** The member for Mitchell would like to guillotine debate, clearly.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just speak, member for Light.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Given this matter affects local government, I consulted with the four councils which I—

**Mr Tarzia:** How much did they go up when you were mayor, Tony?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not as much as when you were a councillor.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am going to start calling people to order if you cannot behave, which means you will miss out on question time if you are naughty this morning. The member for Light needs to be heard in silence. Member for Light.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I consulted my four mayors and CEOs in my council and asked them for their views on this matter. I obviously used their opinions to help me form my own opinion on this matter. For the record, I indicate that all four councils are opposed to it, including the City of Playford, where their mayor is a well-known member of the Liberal Party, Mayor Docherty, and the other three mayors. I will quote from their letters, because I think their letters and their emails are very constructive in what they think of this proposal.

It is quite clear that this bill says that local government is either incapable or unwilling to reform itself and do the job properly—simple as that. That is what they are saying: it is a vote of no-confidence across local government. I hope that when members of the Liberal Party go to local government events they actually say that to their mayors and CEOs, 'We as the Liberal Party in this state think that you people are incompetent, incapable or unwilling to reform yourselves.' Let's be honest about it, but I bet you they do not do that. They will play games in here, and will go out in their communities and say what a wonderful mayor they have. In fact, they will probably call their mayors around election time to make sure they boost their prominence in the community for their re-election.

They are saying with this bill that local government is incapable or unwilling and clearly too incompetent to manage their own affairs and that they need to use a big stick to bring them into line. The Mayor of Gawler—and all the mayors have given me permission to quote them; they were happy for me to quote them in this place—said the following:

Gawler has demonstrated over the last few years the capacity to manage its financial affairs, reducing debt, driving efficiencies without large rate rises and without forced rate capping. The paternalistic view that this motion [bill] represents is disappointing, as is the lack of any real consultation with the local government sector.

I urge you to reject this bill tomorrow.

Many thanks for the opportunity to respond.

Barossa Council mayor, Mayor Sloane, stated:

We have discussed rate capping at a workshop but not in a Council meeting.

I listened to another presentation from Stephen Griffiths last week at a Central Local Government meeting in Maitland. None of the Mayors and CEOs present had any support for his rate capping.

We are very happy for you to voice our opposition to this ill conceived proposal.

Mayor Bill O'Brien, Light Regional Council—these are all bastions of socialism of course I am talking about here—

**The Hon. P. Caica:** Agrarian socialism.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, agrarian socialism. Mayor Bill O'Brien's contribution was the longest, so I will paraphrase rather than take up all my time. Essentially he says that he believes that local government is capable of reforming itself. It is certainly true that, if you talk to local government (and I have held that view for many years, and still do), we can improve the transparency and accountability of how it charges a set and engages with the community—that certainly can be improved. I am on the record in my local community saying that, but I do not believe this is the way to achieve this. In short, the mayor says:

...the LGA's position was to reaffirm the view that decisions concerning council rates are better informed, and the impacts better understood, when made by the respective councils in consultation with their communities;

So, not only are they saying that there is a vote of no-confidence in local government right across the state—each elected member, each official in local government—but they are also saying that this bill disempowers the local community as well. The mayor continues:

...it rejected the State Opposition's policy on rate capping; and it endorsed the LGA President and (LGA) CEO to continue to work with all Members...to ensure rate capping is not imposed on South Australian councils.

When you look at the evidence, and compare councils between South Australia and New South Wales, like with like population-wise, area-wise and rate base, it is interesting that, where New South Wales has had rate capping for many years, the total charges to each resident are actually greater than those in South Australia. It is important to say 'total charges' because all members would know that there are different components on your rate notice. There is the flexible amount—the rate bit—and then there are other fixed charges, which councils have now introduced.

**Mr Griffiths:** They provide different services, too.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That's right. Let me finish. They do. Well, they do provide services, that is right, but for some of these services that were provided previously the councils have now costed them out as a way of trying to control those costs and also tell the people what the costs of those services are. Rubbish collection is a classic example.

So when you compare New South Wales and South Australia, there is no actual benefit to the ratepayer. Zero. What capping does is it forces councils to increase charges in other areas, so the total cost is the same, if not more in New South Wales, so this is really just a con job. It is a Clayton's cap—the cap you have when you don't have a cap. Quite simply, it does not work. It does not work—a cost-of-living measure—if it does not work, it is not a cost of living measure, and I will explain why. Why would the Liberal Party go with this policy? Why would they do this? Why would they think clearly when they have local government—

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Let me finish. Listen. Why would they do this? Mayor Clyne came to give evidence to the Economic and Finance Committee. I wanted to understand why he would be supporting rate capping.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry? But apart from that—his concern was the current act, and I will quote him:

I'm not sure that the Local Government Act 1999 promotes and encourages local councils to aggressively pursue other sources of revenue.

His concern is that the current act does not enable councils to charge people enough, so what they say is, 'By capping, we will force them to charge for things which people don't charge at the moment.' This policy will force councils to say, 'Well, perhaps we will start charging for library books.' You will bring your credit card when you want to borrow your library book. When you go to the local pool or reserve or sporting club, you will need to bring your credit card. How does this impact on families and the cost of living?

*The Hon. J.M. Rankine interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Exactly. In terms of cost of living, those user charges, those direct charges are regressive and they impact greatest on those who are less wealthy. What this policy does in terms of cost of living is it increases the cost of living for pensioners, families with more kids, so your sporting group will have to charge your child to pay more for their sports because of the charges on the reserves, etc. This is a back door way to meet a policy outcome that the Liberal Party has always had. They like user charges. They like fixed charges, they like user charges. They have tried it before; they have form in this area. A previous Liberal government introduced rate capping in this place and it was dumped. It was a failure.

**Mr Pengilly:** Like you.

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

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Stuart is called to order.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am a failure? I am on this side and he has been going down the rank ever since he has been here, so if I am a failure it is an interesting definition.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Light, no response to interjections.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I want to have a full discussion on this.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I want to have a full discussion. I am more than happy to have a full discussion. I have nothing to hide here. Let's make it very clear. This is about the Liberal Party's long-term view of increasing charges to people. They do it at the federal level. They would need to reduce income tax but increase charges. They are doing it at a local level. Let's be very clear. If this policy is put in place—

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Finniss, order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If this policy is put in place, you can rest assured that the councils will increase their charges and also introduce new charges. Mayor Clyne said so. He wants that freedom; he wants the freedom to charge for everything. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, you just granted leave.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Disgraceful. No, we didn't.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, you did.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** No, not at all.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Right, well, if someone has objected to leave being—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Well, we heard yes. No-one—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Mitchell! The table is advised that leave has to be unanimous; so if someone is now saying 'No', leave is not granted. So, the member's time has expired.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** No. I call for—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired.

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Just a second; I am getting instructions from the desk. As the time has expired, it is now 11.30, the debate has to be adjourned.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is that seconded?

**Mr Griffiths:** No.

**The Hon. T.R. Kenyon:** You can't say no to seconding.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Everyone needs to be quiet. Procedurally—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! You either want to play by the standing orders or you do not. I cannot control where we are. We are at 11.30, so the time for this business has expired, so we do not have many choices. The choice we have is to adjourn, and that is it. If you want to bring out your standing orders book and have an argument with the Clerk, please come and do so; but as I am told, adjournment is our only option.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, may I have an opportunity to seek an additional allocation of time for private member's legislation to be debated?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That would be fraught, wouldn't it? What standing order are we working on with that? The Clerk has advised you can move to rearrange private member's business. Procedurally—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I am advised—

*Mr Griffiths interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sit down! I am advised procedurally we still have to adjourn before you can move to seek that. That is what I am advised. I cannot do anything else but follow the advice. If you think about it, it makes sense.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Goyder has something to say.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Deputy Speaker, can I seek clarification? On the basis that an adjournment is successful, the opportunity to debate the legislation is lost, it goes to the back of the list and disappears into the ether and is never resolved. Is that correct?

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! We all know that standing orders exist. We are all trying to work through this in a logical fashion. You can adjourn it on motion, I am advised—

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Finniss, it is not necessary—

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** On the basis of an adjournment on motion, do I have the opportunity as the mover to nominate the date for it to be debated again?

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! As the Clerk rightly points out, if you wanted to deal with this further today it would have to be adjourned on motion. Obviously, you would then have to negotiate between the sides to make sure it was given precedence. We are at 11.30; that is the complicating factor.

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not know if you have to do that at this point.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** I just wanted to provide information (it is not a division, sorry) for the clarification of the house—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** From your point of view.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** From our point of view. We obviously moved the adjournment because the members who want to speak on this bill are not here. So that the opposition is aware, in the event that the adjournment is successful, and if they intend to move that the debate be extended and that is not successful, we are happy to bring it up to number one next sitting week. So, it can be first order of business next sitting week in Private Members Business, Bills.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Would this not have all been better sorted out between whips before we got to this point? But that is just an observation. Member for Goyder.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Deputy Speaker, I appreciate the commitment given by the member for Newland, but can I just seek clarification. Given that there is no government business listed for this afternoon, is that an opportunity for this to be debated at number one in this afternoon's session after the grievance debate?

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** It would be if the people who we need to be here were here.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And, as I said, this should have been—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! This should have been sorted out privately. You are wasting the house's time now, everybody. Quickly get to where you are going.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** The member for Frome, who is paired because of illness, and the member for Kaurna, who is paired due to the birth of his child, both wish to speak on this bill, and the member for Frome, being the minister, wishes to participate in the debate. He is not going to be here

today. We cannot do it after grievances. We are happy to bring it on. We are happy to oppose this bill. I have said to you before that we will bring it on at No. 1. If the opposition can agree amongst themselves on their side of the house to make it No. 1 next sitting week, done.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** As a point of clarification, as the Clerk so wisely points out—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! It cannot automatically go to No. 1 but, if you have an agreement for that to be the case, the house can resolve that itself. Member for Goyder.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I need to qualify this, and I apologise for taking this time. I understand that on Thursday 9 June a bill controlled by the member for Ashford is listed at No. 1.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is correct.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Is the whip, on behalf of the member for Ashford, prepared to commit for this bill to become No. 1?

**An honourable member:** Probably.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot hold up the business of the house while this is natted out to the nth degree.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON:** Having pointed that out, and as the issue listed as No. 1 is such a sensitive topic, I will confer with the member for Ashford, and then I will confer with the member for Goyder, but I give a commitment now. We are not afraid of this bill. We will bring it on whenever we can make that arrangement to do so.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does that meet with the agreement of the member for Goyder?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I will accept the compromise.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not want him running around being unhappy about it, but the house cannot stay on this for the next 10 minutes.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I am speaking to the member for Goyder.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** For the record, the whip provided the opposition with details of what might be a vote opportunity this morning, but I understand the circumstances have changed since that was given, and I appreciate that. Given the commitment by the member for Newland, I am prepared to accept that.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The chair sincerely hopes—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! This should not happen again. We should be big enough to organise our own business without this happening again.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.R. Kenyon.

*Motions*

## **BRIGHTON ROAD**

**Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (11:37):** I move:

That this house condemns the Weatherill Labor government for failing to appropriately budget and plan for maintenance and upgrades to Brighton Road, resulting in the significant degradation of this important commuter, freight and tourism route and in particular—

- (a) the failure to maintain the overall condition of the road's surface;

- (b) the failure to resurface both sides of the road between Sturt Road, Brighton and Arthur Street, Seacliff Park, leaving one side of the road resurfaced and the other not;
- (c) the failure to address safety and congestion issues at the Scholefield Road and Edwards Street intersections;
- (d) the failure to put in place a long-term, costed infrastructure plan to address serious congestion caused by the Hove railway crossing; and
- (e) the failure to appropriately address safety at the Seacliff Primary School pedestrian crossing.

Today, I want to talk about one of the most serious issues that affects not only my electorate but also tens of thousands of Adelaideans every day, that being the overall state of Brighton Road. When I was running for election in 2014, I worked over several months with my community to come up with six priorities that I committed to championing should I be elected. When surveying the community to develop these priorities, it quickly became clear that Brighton Road was one of the stand-out issues people wanted me to tackle if elected.

I was elected and have stayed true to my six priorities, including the need to fight to have Brighton Road upgraded and improved. The challenges facing Brighton Road are many, varied and historic. The road forms one of Adelaide's alternative north-south corridors running from Glenelg in the north, where it comes out of Tapleys Hill Road, through to Seacliff Park in the south, where it becomes Ocean Boulevard as it heads south towards Hallett Cove.

The road is hemmed by commercial premises and there is very little capacity to widen it so, as traffic volumes have increased, the road has become more congested with this leading to a range of problems from wear and tear issues to difficulties entering and crossing the road from side roads, to pedestrian interaction with the road being very challenging. Given that there is no way of growing Brighton Road's physical capacity, it is a route that needs very careful and ongoing strategic management to ensure that it serves the community as well as it should.

Brighton Road carries over 40,000 vehicles per day making it one of the most heavily-used routes in metropolitan Adelaide. A recent analysis of traffic movements by the RAA revealed that Brighton Road has had one of the biggest travel time increases, almost three minutes in the morning and almost four minutes in the afternoon. The average speed on Brighton Road during peak times has also dropped from 31 km/h in the morning to just 25 km/h. This is a road that is suffering ongoing degradation, and traffic flows are suffering as a result of increasing congestion. I note that the road is now regularly cited on radio traffic reports covering peak-hour congestion. This is a new eventuality and something that we were unused to in the past.

A comprehensive management plan for Brighton Road was first mooted following the 2010 election when the road became an election issue. The former member for Bright, Chloe Fox, pledged to have a management plan created for the road, and I understand that the transport department undertook this work during 2011. However, the management plan has never been finalised. It remains, five years later, as a draft management plan and its status is in serious question. It is filled with bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo and the few solutions that it canvasses have been implemented.

As a result, I question whether it is worth the paper it is written on, and have personally written it off as another faux election promise used half-heartedly to enable my predecessor to placate constituents who regularly raise this as an issue. I want to take members here today on a journey along Brighton Road and step through each of the problems and challenges that that road faces. I will start in the south and move in a northerly direction. Brighton Road begins in the south at the intersection of Scholefield Road at Seacliff Park. Here we find a particularly dangerous intersection which has a very difficult southerly right-hand turn. Residents are forced to crawl out into traffic, many feeling unwilling to do so, before moving in a southward direction.

While traffic lights are an option listed in the draft management plan for Brighton Road, they pose a range of difficulties because of the gradient of the road at this point. Regardless of what solutions are proposed, the fact is that the intersection is dangerous and poses a real risk particularly for residents living in Marino and Kingston Park. Its redesign is a priority and the coming residential development of the old Cement Hill site at Seacliff Park must be a catalyst for these improvements.

Moving a few hundred metres north from Scholefield Road, Brighton Road users will come across the Seacliff Primary School pedestrian crossing. This is notorious in our local community as being very dangerous, and the school community has related stories to me time and time again of near misses. The school crossing is at the foot of a long, steep descent and motorists come across it quite suddenly. For those unfamiliar with the road or for careless drivers, the appearance of the pedestrian crossing can come too late to take precautionary action.

The school community has made huge efforts to lobby the state government for improvements to the crossing and has been keen to see a safety camera installed here as a deterrent to dangerous driving. Unfortunately, this has been rejected by the Minister for Road Safety. I congratulate the principal, Greg Miller, and the governing council chair, Jacinta Day, for their ongoing work on this campaign.

Personally, I believe a safer approach could be to build a safe walkway between the Seacliff Primary School and Scholefield Road intersection and, as part of the upgrade of the Scholefield Road intersection, include a far safer pedestrian crossing at this wider part of the road, improving lines of sight. This is only a couple of hundred metres from the school and would not be a significant impost but could be much safer.

If we travel north for another kilometre or so we pass a number of other intersections which have their own unique problems but none more so than the Edwards Street intersection. One problem with Brighton Road is that there are very few opportunities to make safe, controlled right-hand turns onto the road from side streets. Between Glenelg and Seacliff Park, and that is some six kilometres, there are only two examples of this: at Whyte Street, Somerton Park, and at Jetty Road, Brighton. Edwards Street is adjacent to the popular and growing Brighton Central Shopping Centre and the new, somewhat dubiously approved, Hungry Jack's outlet.

It is a heavily congested intersection with a significant number of its users wishing to turn right. Drivers do have the option to turn left and look for an opportunity to do a U-turn, but this is very difficult at this stretch of Brighton Road because as soon as you turn left from Edwards Street you hit the busyness of Sturt Road and then the Hove railway crossing beyond. It is a complex stretch of road and it requires a significant redesign.

The next major problem for Brighton Road comes another kilometre or so north of Edwards Street. Here the Seaford line slices across the road, creating an ongoing blockage to efficient traffic flow. The crossing closes the road for an average of 14 times between 7am and 9am on a normal weekday. While I always acknowledge that the Oaklands crossing is a complex priority within the southern region which needs urgent redress, it cannot be overlooked that Brighton Road is the busiest major road in metropolitan Adelaide to endure the indignity of a railway line cutting it in two. The need for grade separation here is a priority, alongside the complex Oaklands crossing further up the line.

Having highlighted the challenges with Brighton Road in a geographical sense, I now want to canvass a few other significant issues with the road. Firstly, we have the Brighton Road bike lane, which appeared shortly after my election in 2010. In a burst of ingenuity, the state government thought it wise to run a two-way bike lane down each side of Brighton Road. The bike lane operates in both directions from 7am to 9am, and from 4pm to 7pm. It is worth noting that the hours of operation originally proposed were quite a bit longer, but after significant lobbying from myself and the member for Morphett the hours of operation were reduced.

In relation to the bike lane, I do not believe it has ever really been intended as a bike lane; rather, it is a quasi-clearway designed to assist with peak hour traffic flow. This is something that I support, and I wish that the transport department was up front and had implemented a clearway instead of a dangerous cycle lane on one of Adelaide's busiest roads.

I also have a significant issue with the impact that the bike lane has had on small businesses along the road, which have traditionally relied on passing trade pulling over and ducking into shops. I have been encouraging the department to amend the hours of operation so that the bike lane operates similarly to many other bike lanes in Adelaide: going one way in the morning and the opposite way in the afternoon, in supporting peak traffic movements.

This approach would be supported by local businesses and would be a decent compromise. Unfortunately, I received a letter earlier this week from the transport minister stating that after a review of the bike lane, no changes would be made and the area would be left with an antibusiness bike lane going two ways.

Another major issue for Brighton Road is the condition of the road surface. For a main thoroughfare this really is disgraceful. With the road peppered with potholes and areas where the road surface is breaking up for several metres at a time, this not only increases wear and tear on vehicles using the road, but it is also a real safety hazard.

Last year, I was heartened to see Brighton Road resurfaced between Arthur Street at Seacliff Park and Sturt Road, Brighton, on the southbound lane, but hundreds of residents joined me in dismay when it was only the southbound lane that was completed and the northbound lane, seen by many to be in poorer condition overall, was left unfinished. It was not until many months later that a series of patch-up jobs were undertaken on that northbound lane, covering the worst parts of the road; but there is still no doubt that such a major artery could benefit from a full program of resurfacing in its entire length.

The Edwards Street intersection, which I have discussed already today, forms something of a gateway into an economic zone within Brighton Road, from Edwards Street through to the Hove railway crossing. There are a significant number of roadside commercial premises that are actually occupied by small traders, including clothing shops, hairdressers, bakeries, two supermarkets, an Australia Post outlet, cafes and restaurants, medical consulting rooms, a veterinary practice, two churches and a primary school.

This is a unique retail zone in the midst of a thriving residential community, but its effectiveness is seriously hindered by the division caused by such a major road like Brighton Road. I believe that from Edwards Street through to the Hove railway crossing, there is scope for some really visionary integrated design which can look at traffic controls, traffic speeds, and the way that the road can be used to support economic development in the region rather than hinder it.

I understand there are some people within the transport department who are interested at looking at some more creative ideas for the management and design of this section of the road—design which could transform it from a congested highway to a thriving High Street zone; design which would make the area more pedestrian-friendly, slow traffic in a positive way, dramatically improve the aesthetics of the road, and stimulate the local economy by making this commercial strip much more of a destination rather than a place for locals to avoid.

This is something that I would wholeheartedly support, and would happily work alongside the transport department, the City of Holdfast Bay and any private stakeholders, including businesses who want to explore this further. I also want to raise the disappointing aesthetics of Brighton Road. This is obviously not high on my agenda, because traffic flow and general workability of the road must come first, but the aesthetic should not be overlooked. This is Adelaide's main coastal thoroughfare, extending from Adelaide Airport down into the Fleurieu Peninsula, and as such it will carry many thousands of tourists each year.

The road is incredibly ugly at the moment. The median strip has faded, tacky-looking astroturf along it. There is a hotchpotch of different signage, particularly around both sides of the Scholefield Road intersection at Seacliff Park. Trees have died in the median strip and have not been replaced because of what I see is quite a perverse safety ruling by the transport department, when far more dangerous stobie poles which run up and down both sides of the road should be removed. Perhaps in the longer term, there could be an opportunity to underground those.

With that, I believe I have provided a thorough analysis of the challenges facing this major transport corridor, and I urge the state government to finalise its draft management plan, take this road seriously, and benefit thousands of commuters every day by giving it the priority that such a vital transport route deserves.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (11:51):** I rise to oppose this motion, and in doing so I just want to put some facts on the table. The member has indeed given quite a detailed description of Brighton Road, and I want to clarify some of the things that he has said.

In the past three years, the following work has been conducted on Brighton Road: in 2013, the Brighton Road junction with High Street was modified to reduce access at this location to left into and left out from High Street; in 2014, a pedestrian actuated crossing was installed opposite the Hove Shopping Centre, between Cecelia Street and Downing Street; and, as the member for Bright said, bicycle lanes along both sides of Brighton Road between Anzac Highway and Seacombe Road were installed in 2014.

As the member has already mentioned, there is a draft road management plan which has been developed to provide an overview of the existing operational and safety issues along Brighton Road, as well as identifying short to medium-term traffic management treatment options to be implemented. The plan is expected to be finalised at the end of October this year.

Obviously, funding for any potential improvements need to be assessed against other statewide projects when considering funding priorities for future financial years. This approach ensures that funding is allocated to the projects where the greatest benefit can be provided to the community as a whole. The member for Bright talks about the failure to maintain the overall conditions of the road surface. Brighton Road, between Anzac Highway and Arthur Street, is approximately 6.85 kilometres in length, with two lanes in each direction. DPTI uses a management system to prioritise road resurfacing projects. This system examines the condition of all roads within both the urban and rural network in terms of ride quality, age and the level of pavement failures, including surface condition. It then provides a suggested program of works, and each financial year this program of works is assessed and prioritised.

Total investment on Brighton Road in 2014-15 was \$960,000, and approximately \$200,000 in the following year. That is a total investment of \$1.16 million. There is also a suggestion that the government has failed to resurface both sides of the road between Sturt Road, Brighton and Arthur Street, Seacliff Park. DPTI assesses Brighton Road, in conjunction with other statewide roads, in determining the list of candidate projects to receive funding in each financial year. This approach ensures that the funds available are allocated to the projects where the greatest benefit can be provided to the community as a whole.

The section between Sturt Road and Arthur Street was included in the 2014-15 program to receive funding. The ride quality and level of pavement failures on the southbound carriageway were considered worse than the northbound carriageway. To maximise lane kilometre road resurfacing within the allocated funding and to benefit the community as a whole, it was concluded that only the southbound carriageway of Brighton Road would be resurfaced in that financial year.

The member also talks about a failure to address safety and congestion issues at the Scholefield Road and Edwards Street intersections. As the member knows, within the Road Management Plan the extension of the right-turn lane and installation of traffic signals at Brighton Road and Scholefield Road has been identified as the preferred treatment. Such a project attracts a high construction cost, including new infrastructure and impact to services and surrounding land. The project is currently considered a low priority when compared with other projects on a statewide basis.

The junction of Brighton Road and Edwards Street was reviewed as part of a nearby development application. Any proposed development needs to ensure that traffic generated from that development is obviously managed safely and efficiently onto the arterial road network. A traffic impact assessment undertaken by the consultants on behalf of that developer has indicated only a minor impact on traffic volume at that intersection, and DPTI has advised it has no objections to the development. DPTI therefore does not have any plans for upgrading that intersection.

There is also the suggestion that there has been a failure to put in place a long-term costed infrastructure plan at the Hove railway crossing. The Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan identifies investments to improve capacity and reliability in terms of the road network. One of the key items for implementation is the grade separation of road crossings of the passenger rail line at key locations between Brighton and Elizabeth, including the adjacent freight rail line in the north. This includes Brighton and Oaklands, the rail line at Cross Road, and potentially the Glenelg and PortLINK tram lines at key locations. These road and rail improvements are medium to long-term projects, with implementation times of five to 15 years, or longer.

There is a suggestion that there is a failure to appropriately address safety at the Seacliff Primary School pedestrian crossing. As the member knows, the pedestrian crossing is well delineated with kerb ramps, road safety signage, and has equipment to detect the speed of pedestrians crossing the road. This site has two sets of duplicated traffic signal warning signs in advance of the crossing, as well as duplicated large, red background 'reduce speed' warning signs and pavement markings stating 'pedestrian crossing' on the south approach.

In 2008, the 60 km/h speed limit for northbound traffic heading towards the crossing was shifted further south to ensure motorists travel at a safe speed through the crossing and along Brighton Road. The school monitors the crossing to ensure children do not cross until the traffic has stopped. Correct crossing behaviour is taught in the school, and the school participates in DPTI's Way2Go education program. It is important to note that there are no recorded crashes involving pedestrians at this location.

Finally, it is important to remember that, in the 2014 federal budget, the Liberal government ripped \$135 million out of funding for regional roads in South Australia. In contrast, the state Labor government has boosted critical road safety and maintenance funding, with a \$110 million stimulus package in the last state budget. This stimulus package has funded more than 185 upgrades, creating more than 300 jobs, with almost two-thirds of the funding being spent in regional areas such as the South-East. So much for those opposite accusing the government of being city-centric.

Coupled with the state government's ongoing programs, the government is spending more than \$532 million on road safety and maintenance over the forward estimates, with \$341 million going to the regions. Instead of writing to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure about overgrown vegetation and overgrown grass, as I am advised he does from time to time, the member for Bright may want to work on convincing his leader to stand up to the federal government about cuts to road funding, or even convince the leader to insert a real roads funding or transport infrastructure plan into the Marshall manifesto 2036.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ODENWALDER:** With that, I oppose the motion.

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (11:59):** I rise to support this motion by my colleague the member for Bright. Thank goodness that road is in Liberal hands now, because on my website—I meant to check this morning to see if it is still there—there is a photograph of me standing on the median strip of Brighton Road with one foot in Bright and one foot in Morphett. New bitumen ended at that line.

This government really has neglected Brighton Road. There have obviously been some upgrades and some patching up, but there has never been a thoroughly thought out plan for Brighton Road, and what the member for Bright is raising in this motion really hits the point. I sometimes joke about changing the name of Brighton Road to Rodeo Drive, because it is so bumpy and rough going down there in some places. It is similar to Anzac Highway and Oaklands Road. The roads down there need a lot of work, and Brighton Road in particular.

The member for Bright and I worked very hard to get the bike lanes installed on Brighton Road in a sensible and sane fashion. I understand that they are still going to be maintained as bike lines both in the morning and evening, and not just flow with the traffic, as would be a sensible thing to do. Certainly the businesses along there would like to see those sorts of changes come in, and we will keep negotiating with the Minister for Transport on that matter.

The failure to address safety and congestion concerns at Scholefield Road and Edwards Street is an issue. I used to live at the beach end of Edwards Street, just around the corner, and I know that intersection extremely well. I still travel along Brighton Road daily and that intersection is becoming more and more of a dodgem car circuit. It is surprising that there are not more accidents there than are on record.

Scholefield Road further up the hill is another dangerous spot. People come down Cement Hill, around the corner and, once you have got through the lights at the pedestrian crossing—and I will speak about that in just a moment—you need to make sure that you are prepared for those

intersections, and this government needs to be aware of that. If you are travelling that road as frequently as the member for Bright and I do, you would know firsthand that Edwards Street and Scholefield Road are serious issues.

With the pedestrian crossing at the Seacliff Primary School, you have trucks, cars and motorbikes coming down Cement Hill. Sure, it is a 60 km/h zone but, because of the incline of the hill and the large trucks from the quarry coming through there, it is a very difficult pedestrian crossing to see clearly when you are coming down the hill until you are almost on it. You look to see whether the traffic is flowing or whether it is stopped because you know that you might have to brake suddenly so that there are no incidents or accidents at that pedestrian crossing.

I would like to go back to my end of Brighton Road for a moment and to the school crossing on Diagonal Road, which is just around the corner from Brighton Road. The traffic whizzes around that left-hand lane off Brighton Road. After many years of lobbying, I did get speed cameras put in at that pedestrian crossing, but there have still been several near misses. There is a need for Armco barriers on that corner. That sounds like overkill, but let me tell you that it is a very, very dangerous intersection. I will have more to say about that issue in other motions that we will hopefully get to in the not too distant future.

Brighton Road is becoming more and more congested. There is a rat run that goes down Tarlton Street and Moseley Street, through the back of Sacred Heart College and down to Partridge Street, that causes congestion at the intersection of Partridge Street and Gordon Street. The ripple effect of what is happening on Brighton Road impacts on my constituents, and certainly I see it every day. We need this government to fund not just the electorates that they think are in danger or that they need to support. The fact is that all South Australians are paying lots of taxes, so just funding and supporting those particular electorates that they think they will be able to win, hang on to or may lose if they do not fund is something that a good government would not do.

The member for Bright has been working very hard to make sure that the people of South Australia do get what they want and what they deserve, and I know that he will remain the member for Bright for as long as he wants to be because he is one of the hardest working members in this place. We will make sure, if we are elected in March 2018, that the people of Bright will get the result they deserve in having not only a better government but also a better Brighton Road.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Treloar.

#### **HEWITT, MR LLEYTON**

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:04):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the outstanding career of South Australian Lleyton Hewitt on his retirement from professional tennis;
- (b) notes that he has been, and will continue to be, a wonderful role model and mentor for young South Australian tennis players; and
- (c) highlights his distinguished record over his 20 year professional career.

I am very proud to rise to introduce this motion to the house to acknowledge an outstanding tennis career by South Australia's only number one tennis representative, Lleyton Hewitt. Lleyton was a young sportsperson who always attracted attention. I used to watch him as a junior down at Kidman Park. His parents were always by his side, as they are today, and he attributes his hard work, his passion and many of his trademarks as a reflection of his life. He was always someone who was determined, he was always someone who really wanted to achieve, but he always had an edge about him. I think he is an inspiration. He has been one of the great trademarks of Australian tennis and has always conducted himself in a very astute manner.

I move this motion today to acknowledge one of South Australia's greatest tennis players upon his retirement this year, although I note that he still seems to be heavily involved with the Davis Cup as the head coach. His role within Davis Cup typifies what he has brought to the game, the respect he has earned from young up and coming players and also the numbers that have come with

him. I note that ABS stats show that tennis participation rates in South Australia sit just under 70,000, and I have no doubt that tennis stars such as Lleyton Hewitt have driven such strong numbers.

As the former number one tennis player called an end to his career playing in this year's Australian Open as his final major tournament, many people have reflected on his distinguished career. He was a character, as I have said, and most people will remember his fist pumps and his 'Come on!' but also one of his trademarks was that he was one of the very first tennis players to wear his hat backwards. We see today that many of our young sportspeople, aspiring tennis champions, have their caps on backwards, and I think it is one of the lasting legacies, with the 'Come on!', the hat on backwards and the fist pump.

For many people in this place who have watched games of tennis, those trademarks are almost like a tattoo that will never go away. It was interesting reading an online article in *The Wall Street Journal*, titled 'How Lleyton Hewitt changed the sport of tennis'. It reads:

...[Hewitt] unlocked a new way to play tennis, one that Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic have since perfected.

Before Hewitt, there used to be a clear division between defensive and offensive players. Hewitt blurred that line, which the game's aforementioned giants have since erased. Like Hewitt, they can all defend with bursts of speed and quick hands, but also attack from a defensive position. Like Hewitt, they have no glaring weaknesses.

To have *The Wall Street Journal* reflect on a great Australian tennis player like Lleyton Hewitt I think speaks volumes for the respect the world sporting stage and sportspeople have for Lleyton. It was a great tribute to his prowess on the court. Hewitt's style of celebration is now popular and widely used in sport. I will not use the 'Come on!' again because I have used it twice and that is enough.

**An honourable member:** Come on!

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Come on! I think people would reflect on his relentless energy. If he was down a set or down two sets, you could be assured that he would fight to the very end, and there were many, many five setters in which Lleyton would fight to the very end. In many instances, he would win a five-setter because of his doggedness and his capacity to never say never, to never lie down and to never die—it is etched into people's memories.

When Lleyton reached number 1 in the world, he was 20 years of age, and he is still the youngest in the sport's history to achieve that. He won two grand slam singles—the US Open in 2001 and Wimbledon in 2002—and reached one Australian Open final, losing to Marat Safin in 2005. Many South Australians hold Lleyton dear as one of their great tennis players and one of their great sportspeople. He played AFL before he hit the tennis circuit. He was ranked number one in the under 18 division in 1996 and captured the under 18 national grasscourt title that year. He started from a tender young age, but he showed promise and determination and grit, and that took him to the heights of his tennis career.

We have seen the affiliation he has with South Australia and with Memorial Drive, which people will respect for many generations to come. He will be one of the great champions from South Australia. I want to touch on Lleyton's concerns about South Australian tennis infrastructure. He has joined the growing list of high-profile South Australian tennis players and sportspeople calling for an upgrade of Memorial Drive. Some of us have seen the draft drawings of the proposed upgrade of Memorial Drive as a multisport stadium, and I call on this government to do more than just look at it, do more than just let it sit in a drawer.

I would like to see Lleyton Hewitt's call for Memorial Drive to be held in greatness once again acted on. If we are going to get Davis Cup tennis back on the agenda in Adelaide, if we are going to get world series tennis events here, we have to have a world-class stadium. I recently attended one of the WTC events here in Adelaide. It was a great event. It was a bit of a warm-up to the Australian Open. Lleyton came here and played. When I looked around at the once great Memorial Drive, it was quite sad to see the northern stand in disrepair. It is rusty, it is falling down and it really does need a major overhaul.

The southern stand, too, looks old, dilapidated and out of touch in today's sporting stadium world. South Australians expect that we will have great events. We do have a drawcard stadium. We do have facilities that will draw people to South Australia. To complement the Adelaide Oval,

Memorial Drive should be part of the great sporting precinct on the River Torrens. For too long, we have seen stadium facilities just let go, and every South Australian expects—

**Mr Pengilly:** Alberton Oval.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Yes; Alberton Oval is not looking all that grand, but let's not get into that. Lleyton Hewitt's call should be a wake-up call that there is a need for an upgraded stadium, and we will see it happen. Whether it happens under the current government remains to be seen, but if it does not I am sure a Liberal government will give it much more consideration and a spotlight.

I would just like to reflect on Lleyton Hewitt's mentor, Mark Woodforde—a great South Australian, particularly noted for his doubles play. The Woodbridge-Woodforde partnership were doubles champions for many years. Lleyton Hewitt looked up to Mark as a young tennis player, just as Thanasi Kokkinakis looks up to Lleyton Hewitt in today's Davis Cup team in a mentoring role. I have seen many photos of Thanasi and Lleyton out together socially and they are just a great story within sport.

That is an example of a young protégé looking up to one of his greats. They are great South Australians who lead by example: they behave themselves, they work hard, they train hard, they play hard, and they have been able to take home success. I wish Thanasi all the best with his current injury, but once he gets that injury out of the way I am sure we will see some greatness come out of him. Mark my words, he will win a major in his tennis career.

I would like to pay respect to Lleyton's parents. Many people would have seen them standing behind Lleyton in the stands giving him support, and they travelled the world for many years. I do not think there were too many matches where they were not there giving him support. His father, Glynn, has been a tower of strength, and keeping him level-headed was just as important.

I want to touch a little bit on the personal side of Lleyton. Obviously, he follows one of the great AFL football teams in the country, the Adelaide Crows—go the Crows. There is not too much action over there when I say that.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr WHETSTONE:** This is about Lleyton Hewitt—it is not about you guys. A few fun facts I will talk about are that his favourite food is Japanese and his favourite band is Cold Chisel. He now has a growing family, and I note that his young son has the tennis racquet out and is having hits on the court with his father. You never can tell—we might see a chip off the old man's block. Lleyton married Bec in 2005, and they have three children who travel around with him. It really is such a great story. One of his hopes before he retired was to one day captain Australia's Davis Cup team, and today he is doing just that—another dream fulfilled.

One of Lleyton's sporting heroes is Tyson Edwards, a former Adelaide Crows player and Port Power assistant coach—a Wynarka boy from the great electorate of Chaffey. That shows where it is all coming from. Lleyton is a very good golfer who has caddied for Greg Norman, and Aaron Baddeley is one of his very good mates. The good work that Lleyton is currently doing includes supporting many charitable foundations, particularly children's charities. I mentioned his father, Glynn, and his mother, Cheryl, who were both great contributors to the sports sector.

In closing, I would like to mention Lleyton's ranking. It all started way back in 1997 when he ranked 722. That was just a starting point but it did not take him long, and by 2000, he was ranked seventh in the world. By 2001/2002, he was number one in the world. He had injuries in 2003 and dropped back, but by 2004/2005 he was back into the top four in world rankings. Sadly, as many members would understand, ankle and knee injuries dogged him. Because of his style of play and the way he drove himself, the injury took over. He was always a top contender at any world tournament, but his rankings did not reflect that right at the end of his career.

This motion is about paying tribute to the greatness of South Australia's only number one tennis player. His influence on the young, and his influence on the game, has been inspirational. If you asked the many young tennis players today who would be their favourite tennis player they would have no hesitation in saying that it was Lleyton Hewitt. They would be wearing a cap on backwards, and when they win one of those really hard points, it would be 'Come on!'

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Audible laughter is out of order. What would Speaker Bishop do?

**Mr GEE (Napier) (12:19):** We have waited a long time to have this motion heard, so it is a real privilege today to stand and speak to acknowledge and congratulate a great South Australian tennis star, Lleyton Hewitt, on his outstanding career and his recent retirement from the world tennis tour.

Lleyton is the son of SANFL and VFL football star Glynn, and Cherilyn, a physical education teacher, both of whom have been staunch supporters of their son throughout his career. After playing AFL until the age of 13, Lleyton began to pursue a tennis career. He won numerous junior Australian titles under the guidance of his long-term junior coach, Peter Smith. He was part of the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) tennis program in the late 1990s and trained in the squad with fellow future champion Alicia Molik, under coach Roger Tyyzer.

In 1996, Hewitt won the under 18 Australian national grasscourt title and was ranked the number one Australian in the under 18 division. In 1997, the very next year, the Adelaide teenager made history, becoming the youngest player ever, at 15 years and 11 months, to qualify for the Australian Open. The world quickly began to notice Lleyton as his success in the sport continued. He broke through for his first ever ATP title in 1998, winning his hometown tournament, the Adelaide International, defeating Andre Agassi in the semifinals.

In 1999, he was a member of the Australian Davis Cup winning team which defeated France 3-2 in the final. In 2000, Lleyton was the youngest doubles player to ever win a grand slam when he partnered with Max Mirnyi at the US Open. At the age of 20, Lleyton won the 2001 US Open, making him the youngest player, and first Australian, ever to reach the world number one on the ATP world rankings. This is a phenomenal achievement and a record which cannot be understated. It is also one which may never be surpassed.

Beaming with confidence following his success in 2001, Hewitt picked up where he left off the following year. Not only did he retain his number one ranking, but added more silverware to his cupboard when he defeated Argentine David Nalbandian at Wimbledon in straight sets. Hewitt was the screaming, fist pumping, chest thumping firebrand on court. We all quickly became aware of his motivational 'Come on!' he would yell at himself, finding inspiration in his obsession with the movie *Rocky*. It is possible that he provided the lyrics for the well-known jingle, 'Come on Aussie, come on, come on.'

For his refusal to be beaten, he has been described by another Australian tennis legend, Pat Rafter, as a 'little mongrel'. On many occasions Hewitt would appear to be on his way out of a match, only to come back and win in thrilling style. In 2010, following a three-month break to recover from a hip ailment, he bounced back and claimed the 2010 Halle title in Germany, defeating Roger Federer in the final. Throughout his career, Hewitt won more than 600 matches. This includes 30 ATP singles titles, two of which were grand slam, two ATP masters, 1,000 singles titles and two year-ending championships. He was also the runner-up at the 2004 Tennis Masters Cup, 2004 US Open and 2005 Australian Open.

Hewitt has also played in more than 70 Davis Cup matches, winning a staggering 54 of them. He has won more Davis Cup rubbers than any other Australian Davis Cup player throughout his career. Hewitt has also proudly represented his country at the Olympic Games in 2000, 2008 and 2012. This year, Hewitt made his 20<sup>th</sup> Australian Open appearance, where he officially retired from the ATP tour. Some of the game's most famous five-set victories are woven into the rich legend of Lleyton Hewitt, who has contested more marathon matches than any other man in the open era.

Many Australians would remember being glued to their televisions at 4.32 in the morning watching Hewitt fall to his knees after having survived a titanic third-round Australian Open 2008 against Marcos Baghdatis 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-7, 6-3 in a match which lasted 285 gruelling minutes. Lleyton Hewitt is an absolute legend of the game. He has been an incredible representative of South Australia and the entire country. He has been an idol for many Australians young and old, and forms part of South Australian tennis royalty alongside Ken McGregor, Mark Woodforde and Darren Cahill. On 21 January this year, Lleyton said:

I do all the right things. I've prided myself my whole career on preparing as well as possible and doing all the percenters to try and get the best result possible.

And this he has. South Australia is incredibly proud of Lleyton. With years of experience and amazing success, Hewitt now sets out on a new path in his tennis career as Davis Cup captain and a mentor. He is an amazing role model for our young South Australian tennis players and, as a mentor, he can provide advice, motivation and inspiration to our future tennis stars in a way only few can. Congratulations to Lleyton Hewitt. He is the creator and owner of a phenomenal legacy which will last throughout the years.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the member for Chaffey speaks, he closes the debate. Before I call him though, it would be good if the women's magazines stopped printing such terrible stories and perhaps reprinted both of your contributions today in the next editions. Member for Chaffey.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:25):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, my sentiments exactly. It is a sad social space that most people thrive on to the detriment of others. Lleyton Hewitt is a great South Australian. He is a great tennis player and a great sportsman, but I think, most of all, he is someone who young tennis players and young sports people of South Australia, more importantly, aspire to when they look at his ethic, the way that he works, the way he behaves himself and the way he applies himself in a competitive environment.

This morning, I was speaking to the CEO of Tennis SA to ask for some reflection on Lleyton's involvement as a South Australian with Memorial Drive. He said Lleyton always had dreams. His dreams were to be the world's number one, to win majors and to captain the Davis Cup for Australia. He married Bec and has three great kids. To achieve all of that, his ethic was to achieve, to have the right mentoring, show respect and have a strong work ethic.

To Lleyton Hewitt, well done. The people who support you, Lleyton—your family, your coaches and the tennis fraternity—hold you in very high regard. To the young South Australian tennis greats, take a leaf out of Lleyton's book. He leads by example. I think Thanasi Kokkinakis is the next great tennis player to come out of South Australia, and what he is doing is taking a leaf out of Lleyton's book.

Motion carried.

#### **ADELAIDE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:28):** I move:

That this house congratulates Adelaide United Football Club in winning the 2015-16 Hyundai A-League grand final and the Premier's Plate.

Champions, campeones, campeones, campioni and maginbwa is how you say 'champions' in five of the mother tongues of Adelaide United's 23-person squad. There are of course many other languages also spoken by this extraordinary team. I rise today to wholeheartedly congratulate the Adelaide United Football Club on winning the 2015-16 Hyundai A-League grand final and the Premier's Plate. What a remarkable season and win, and what an amazing amount of support at Adelaide Oval for the grand final, at Hindmarsh Stadium for the semifinal the week earlier, and all over our state and beyond!

I was honoured to represent our Premier, Jay Weatherill, at the game, and what a game! More than 50,000 fans packed into our beautiful Adelaide Oval to witness history in the making as Adelaide United clinched a 3-1 win over the Western Sydney Wanderers. Our resident soccer aficionado Paul Marcuccitti, in his InDaily column on the match, informs us:

The last time a grand final was held in Adelaide? 1995.

The last time an SA soccer team became champion of Australia? 1994.

The last time one of our teams clinched the national championship *in* Adelaide? 1978.

This is truly a momentous time for soccer in South Australia, and this team gives us so much to be proud of. Particular congratulations must go to skipper, Eugene Galekovic, and club manager, Guillermo Amor. We must also recognise the brilliant work of the three goal-scoring players: Bruce Kamau, Isaias, and the incredible goal that sealed the deal for United through the superb work of

Pablo Sánchez. Of course, it is important to recognise the hard work of all our players, and I acknowledge the team's collective resolve and support for one another and the years of dedication and sacrifice that players and their families have gone through to get to this point.

Whilst a grand final win is always an incredible experience, a win for an underdog is always very special. It is extraordinary that United played the first eight rounds of the season without securing a win. Their win in this context is a testament to their ability to work together as a team, to their sheer determination and to their enormous heart. It is an amazing achievement that from this record United not only made the finals but also secured the Premier's Plate for the regular season win.

After their not so great start, they went on to win 13 out of their next 18 games and lost only once for the remainder of the season. It served as an inspiration to junior and other teams of every code all over the country that with grit and determination even the toughest of starts to a season can have a fairytale ending. I know that we are setting up our young players with incredible role models that will ensure that this win is the first of many. It was a long wait for this victory, and I know that our championship team will strive to continue to better this and nurture those who come behind them to remember this moment and to build on it.

Our city was electric during that day and during that evening. People were cheering on our streets on their way in and throughout the evening. Even the least likely of soccer fans were caught up in a mood that enlivened our city, packed our cafes and hotels, and saw strangers chatting, cheering and celebrating together. In this regard, I pay tribute to the multitude of Western Sydney Wanderers' fans who attended the game. No matter what the scoreline was, these fans sang, drummed, cheered and relentlessly and vociferously supported their team, adding to one of the best sporting atmospheres I and thousands of others have experienced.

I have a good friend Gary Davenport (Davo), with whom on a Saturday I commentate local Australian rules football on the radio. He is a past Australian rules player and an absolute aficionado of the game. He decided to go to his very first ever soccer game and bought tickets to the grand final. He was ecstatic about the atmosphere and experience. My brother has travelled all over the world and seen soccer in many, many different countries. He said that this experience, here at our fabulous Adelaide Oval, was unparalleled.

Also, importantly, it was an absolute delight to see a gigantic Adelaide United flag flying over the New South Wales Parliament House as a result of a lost bet between New South Wales Premier, Mike Baird and our own Premier, Jay Weatherill. It is always a thrill to see our beautiful state's achievements being recognised across the whole country. It is always a thrill to see our Premier win a bet with a Liberal premier, and this flag flying was a thrill indeed.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It should have been on the Harbour Bridge.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Indeed, Madam Deputy Speaker. At this incredible game, I was honoured to meet two of the most significant women in the sport: Matildas' co-captain and one of the greatest footballers in the world, Lisa De Vanna; and Moya Dodd, whose leadership and work with FIFA, the FIFA Women's World Cup, and Football Federation of Australia, is seeing support grow for women in sport across the world.

Dodd's proposal to FIFA on football and women, and why reform must specify inclusion and investment, rocked the soccer world when she submitted it in October 2015. It stated that women must be included in decision-making in the soccer world. Her tireless and enduring leadership provides enormous inspiration for aspiring women leaders in this and many other sports.

**The Hon. L.A. Vlahos:** An Adelaide girl.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Absolutely—an Adelaide girl. Interestingly, just last week Adelaide United has taken the Lady Reds back under its banner, five years after it relinquished the W-League side to Football Federation South Australia. Now both Adelaide United teams will be able to do us proud in our highest levels of competition. It really is an exciting time for soccer here in South Australia.

Congratulations again to our champion team. I look forward to their ongoing success and wish them all the best in this very slightly more restful period before the season kicks off again. They have done us all proud, and they have many, many supporters in this house and beyond.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge the presence in the public gallery today of a very fine looking group of students from Woodcroft College, and the adults who have come with them, who are guests of the member for Mawson. We thank them very much for visiting us today in parliament. We sincerely hope they enjoy their time here. Are you staying for question time? Excellent. We will see you back at question time. Member for Chaffey.

*Motions***ADELAIDE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

Debate resumed.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:35):** I too rise today to support the motion put forward to congratulate Adelaide United Football Club for winning the 2015-16 Hyundai A-League grand final and Premier's Plate. What a day! What a sporting event it was, sitting up in the stand at Adelaide Oval. Not having experienced a final of this sort before, I was blown away. I was lucky enough to be a guest of Football Federation Australia, and upon a conversation I had with David Gallop, CEO, and Steve Lowy, the chairman, they are great passionate sports administrators, but just as importantly they were a little nervous about how the day was going to pan out.

I had not experienced a Western Sydney Wanderers crowd before but, my goodness, didn't they shake the foundations! They were amazing. But even more enthusiastic and supportive were the Adelaide United supporters. They were not quite as well versed as the Sydney cheer squad but, by goodness, it set the scene for an electric game, and the atmosphere was something I had not experienced before.

The victory for Adelaide United was a momentous occasion, not only for the supporters but a momentous occasion for South Australia. It was a great experience. It showcased the game of soccer and showed that the A-League had come to a final in Adelaide with its home team. Adelaide was not let down, either by the result or by the enthusiasm and the environment the game presented.

I was sitting alongside Steven Marshall, Leader of the Opposition, who is a very keen soccer supporter and fan, and he was just beside himself, also experiencing this great national event, as was the NSW Premier, Mike Baird. Obviously, there was a little bit of a wager between South Australia and New South Wales that the winner would fly the flag on Parliament House. It was something about which we very quickly reminded the Premier of New South Wales: would he need a flag to take home with him because we wanted to see it raised high above NSW Parliament House.

It had come after a long wait. For 13 years, Adelaide United had been contesting this competition, and was it not a sweet win? Obviously, the Reds' season was capped off by commentators saying that it was a fairytale that no-one could have predicted, having nearly won the wooden spoon the previous season and starting the season with eight losses. The season was looking very grey, very gloomy, but the team, the coaching staff, the administrators, the whole package of the Adelaide United roadshow (the team), stepped up and, once they got a sniff, there was no stopping them.

Although crowned the champions of the FFA Cup in 2014, it was a league championship that had eluded Adelaide United, but those demons are now gone. The coach of the season, Guillermo Amor, in his first year turned around the team's fortunes, after a season that looked like they were in dire straits. I spoke to a couple of the players and there seemed to be some form of disconnect earlier in the season, and that is what they attributed the first losses to, namely, getting used to the language barrier. But, once that communication issue had been overcome, the team became more united, became much more functional, and I think that was something that was just a great outcome.

Amor told the media he was thrilled to see his side put together a near perfect display on the big stage. I would like to reflect on that: as a spectator, Adelaide United looked hungry, they were disciplined, they did not play the tag or the dirty straggling game that some of the teams had been playing over the season, and it showed that the team was led by Amor, a great coach. They were disciplined, they stuck to their team game, they stuck to their strategy and it gave them that 3-1 win.

'I know what it means for the city,' he said. 'It's such a big day for Adelaide. It was a special week, everyone screaming, "Come on!"—it sounds a bit like Lleyton Hewitt, doesn't it? 'Today the stadium was full,' he said. It was great to see the non-AFL stadium with a non-cricket team. The stadium was built for AFL and cricket, yet this football code came in and filled up the stadium and presented a great outcome.

The 50,119 crowd, no doubt, was a highlight of the day. The Adelaide United supporters were about 90 per cent of that crowd. It was about having a home team in a home stadium, a world-class stadium, to be able to watch their home team win and enjoy the fruits—whether it was a hometown advantage, but it was a fantastic win. There was flow-on from that game. It fill up Adelaide streets with scarves and colour, with the vibrancy that comes with a national event. It filled up the hotels and restaurants. It filled up the town with energy and it filled up Adelaide's confidence in the game. I am sure that many young budding soccer players will be much more engaged when the next season comes around.

The Adelaide chairman said, regardless of the result, the day had been the biggest moment in the club's history and galvanised the event for the state. He went on to say, 'I don't know what the FFA budgeted to publicise this game, probably nothing, but they didn't need to spend a cent as it would have been sold out from the Adelaide end alone.' The chairman was passionate. There was emotion around the game of AFL played the day before, and it was great to see that the Stadium Management Authority worked together with the SANFL, AFL and FFA to get their stadium on track to where it needed to be to hold a world-class event.

I note that AFL standards for the grass are 29 millimetres high. There was a lot of advertising writing and lines on the Oval that had to be removed. In soccer standards it has to be 24 millimetres high. They had to go over and mow it down to that standard, take off the printing from the oval, get the place set up and get it ready for soccer the very next day. I congratulate the grounds staff on the fantastic job they did to convert the stadium from AFL to soccer, all in a very short period of time.

One of the other interesting points that I would like to touch on is about the Adelaide United guernsey which had Northern Territory on the back. That is something I would like to ask the government: why? Why wasn't the South Australian logo on the back of those jerseys? I think it was ironic that we did not have a South Australian government logo on the back or a South Australian sponsor on the back of that jersey as well.

I am sure that Adelaide United had been to the state government, asked for some support and did not get it. Adelaide United went away, went to the Northern Territory government and they got it. It was a logo that took up the entire back of the jersey, so that gave the Northern Territory huge exposure, not only around the nation but it gave them world exposure. It baffles me as to why we would not have had that South Australian logo somewhere on the back of that jersey as well.

Again, the biggest winner of Adelaide United's success on that fine Sunday was soccer, the game itself. I think that win will inspire young ones who are 50 per cent engaged in the game. It will give them an inspiration to go on and to play better. The game remains a growing part of the state's sporting landscape with strong participation across all ages, male and female. I want to acknowledge the growing reputation of women's soccer. It is a great game, as it is a world game.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:45):** I too would like to support the motion congratulating Adelaide United Football Club on winning the 2015-16 Hyundai A-League grand final and the Premier's Plate. It was a fantastic position with Adelaide United coming at one stage from the bottom and then ending up winners for the year. It was a 13-year wait. Along with my family, I attended the game. We purchased our tickets online. I know there were more than 50,000 people there on the day. I really think it showed Adelaide Oval at its best. It was fantastic.

I know there was some discussion about whether soccer could be played at Adelaide Oval. It was an outstanding success. We were speaking to some interstate people who were there as well, and they said that they thought it was the best oval in Australia, and I am sure that members of this chamber would agree. I would like to congratulate the players, support staff, coaches and, of course, chairman Greg Griffin, on what proved to be a fantastic season.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (12:46):** I say thank you to all who have contributed to this debate. I wanted to add, on behalf of all members of the house, our congratulations again to Adelaide United,

and particularly to note again their incredible efforts coming from such a shaky start to the season. I think it is an inspiration to us all, as has been spoken about, to see a team with such big hearts and such determination turn the season around and become national champions. As I said previously, I have no doubt that everyone in this house will continue to support and cheer on this team long into the future.

Motion carried.

### CAROLINE BRISTOW WIG LIBRARY

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:48):** On behalf of the member for Bragg, I move:

That this house acknowledges the launch of the Caroline Bristow Library at Renmark, and further—

- (a) congratulates the chair, Ellen Traeger, and her committee for the development and establishment of the Caroline Bristow Wig Library;
- (b) acknowledges Sergeant Caroline Bristow's service to the South Australia police force and her contribution to the Riverland community for the past 25 years both in her capacity as a police officer and a local resident;
- (c) thanks Caroline's family, friends, work colleagues and the local community for their support and effort with fundraising and donations;
- (d) appreciates Senator Anne Ruston, senator for South Australia, who was the catalyst for the initial idea; and
- (e) appreciates the Renmark Lions Club, Bonnie Wigs Adelaide and many more, for their contributions to the cause.

I rise to support this wonderful motion put forward by the member for Bragg to acknowledge the official launch of the Caroline Bristow Wig Library based at Barmera hospital's women's health wing. I note that the member for Bragg was present at the opening of the library in Renmark.

I would like to congratulate the chair, Ellen Traeger, and her committee for the development and establishment of the Caroline Bristow Wig Library, and Senator Anne Ruston, who was the catalyst for the initial idea. Obviously, both Senator Ruston and I were good family friends of the Bristows and we thought that it was fitting that this wig library be set up in memory of Carol and her long-running battle with cancer.

Ms Traeger said Anne Ruston was the catalyst. She had been invited to Whyalla to open a wig library at the Whyalla Hospital. She came back and told Carol about it and obviously it got into Carol's head. She thought, 'That's a great idea.' Carol did not want to wear a wig. She did go out in public throughout her treatment and she wore scarves over her head. What it showed was that she had adopted the idea of wearing a wig. It was a great turning point for Carol to go out socially and be much more comfortable, knowing that she had the wig on. It was a starting point in dealing with the illness that she had.

Again, the committee that is left says, 'We are the twigs that are going to keep the fire going with this wig library.' The little group has got it going for Carol. Since the establishment of this library in a wing at the Barmera Hospital, Caroline's family, friends, work colleagues, the local community and charity groups have put a huge effort into fundraising and making donations to bring it to fruition.

The library is a fitting tribute now to the late Carol Bristow. She was a very well respected community member, along with her husband, Mick, a good friend of mine, and their two children, McKenzie and Tillie. Carol was a former police officer, very well known in the Riverland and Mallee, and very much a local identity when it came to community work and representation. Carol was named South Australian Police Officer of the Year in 2012 in recognition of her policing and her community work. Upon receiving the award, she said, 'No police officer starts their career to be a police officer of the year,' but to be recognised by her community was an absolute highlight of her career.

She was a patrol officer and then went on to be a police prosecutor. Her community work included programs such as Neighbourhood Watch, a youth intervention program and Calperum on the Land. Sadly, Carol was diagnosed with cancer in 2013, but she was determined not to let this stop her from doing what she loved, which was just to get out and be part of the community. Even

nearing her last days, she still managed to put on a smile and she still managed to give her family support. I know from speaking to her husband, Mick, that was the case right to the very end.

Carol swore that she would not use wigs, as I said, during her treatment, but she eventually gave them a go and she never looked back. She enjoyed the fact that she could go out feeling her best wearing a wig, despite going through that terrible chemotherapy. She then decided that she would love for this to become an option for everybody, regardless of whether they could afford the sometimes hefty cost of buying a wig.

I think one of the main drivers for Carol was that she decided that the wig library was a great idea for many of those people suffering, dealing with chemotherapy and losing their hair. It was something that she could give back while she was still herself going through the treatment. She was watching community people in the Riverland and Mallee going through the terrible ordeal and their families having to go through it as well and she was able to give that support that was always needed, just like a wig would.

After she saw the similar initiative in Whyalla, Carol decided that the Riverland and Mallee needed that wig library. During the course of driving the wig library, Carol was told that her cancer was terminal. She sadly passed away in January of last year. Initially, the wig library was to be called the Riverland Mallee Wig Library, but as a legacy to Carol Bristow, who had a vision to provide a service that could assist with easing some of the more physical and emotional side effects of cancer treatment, the library was fittingly renamed the Caroline Bristow Wig Library.

It is a service available to those in the Riverland, Mallee and beyond that allows them to hire wigs during and after cancer treatment. The wig library was officially launched at Ruston's Rose Garden in April this year, with more than 100 people in attendance. Michael and Carol moved to the region from Port Pirie and made the Riverland their home, and I think the Riverland is a better place for the Bristows moving there. Obviously, their two children came along with them and became a great part of the youth community in the Riverland, particularly at Renmark.

There are few people who have not been touched by cancer, whether it is family, a friend or someone you know. I think this wig library is going to be a longstanding legacy that will help those people feel a little more comfortable, allow them to go out without having the burden of the outcome of the treatment of chemotherapy. Cancer is a very nasty disease to have.

I commend this motion—a great motion put forward by the member for Bragg. I commend the wig library in the Riverland. To all those people who are considering visiting the wig library, please do so. It is at the Barmera hospital. It is an institution that I think should be recognised and potentially taken up by other regions to support those suffering from the treatment of chemotherapy, sadly, for the sickness of cancer.

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:56):** I really proposed to bring this issue to the parliament after attending in April the launch of the library that has now been outlined by the member for Chaffey. Of course it is important to always acknowledge that when somebody does something great, in this case to establish the Caroline Bristow Wig Library, when they are suffering from the effects and ravages of a disease and the treatments that go with it, sadly culminating in Ms Bristow's death in January 2015, we also acknowledge those around her, including the chair of the committee, Ellen Traeger, and the rest of her committee, for developing and establishing this library.

I have particularly brought it to the attention of the house because there been the professional and personal sacrifice of Ms Bristow—who was a police prosecutor who went to the Riverland in the 1990s and had an outstanding community service and professional service as a police prosecutor in that community—and even when all the attention could have been on her she was prepared to advocate for this.

Cancer is an insidious disease and the treatment is invasive, it is ghastly. Frankly, in the 20 or 30 years or so that I have had any connection with the treatment of it, it has improved and it is more effective for a lot of cancers but it is still an ugly treatment. One day we will look back on this period and see how we were trying to help people in this situation and reflect on how invasive and how difficult that was. Inevitably, for most patients who undertake some of these treatments there is significant hair loss, weight loss and nausea, all sorts of consequences.

When you are feeling dreadful, at least you want to try to look reasonable because the people around you who are coming to see you, support you, work with you and, of course, assist you, are usually people you love or professionals committed to your care, and you want to be able to feel like you are at least not looking as bad as you feel. It is a confronting condition. It is a very invasive and ugly treatment and the consequences are very real. If you have any pride in your appearance, which I think most people do most of the time, then a sudden loss of hair, if that is something that you otherwise enjoyed having, can be catastrophic.

I ask members of the house to pass this motion. It has been in the Senate, and there has been recognition of it by Senator Anne Ruston, who has been a key player in its development. I want this to be replicated in regional areas around South Australia, so I ask for your endorsement today, to recognise the pioneers of this project and the woman who sacrificed her life during its development, and pass this motion.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Digance.

*Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Minister for Finance (A. Koutsantonis)—

Third Party Premiums Committee Determination

*Ministerial Statement*

### FESTIVAL PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (14:00):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** Earlier today, the Premier and I—I should say the Premier and I, and another guest (the deputy leader)—had the pleasure of attending the announcement that agreements had been reached with Walker Corporation and SkyCity for the redevelopment of the Festival Plaza precinct situated directly adjacent to Parliament House. Broadly speaking, the development will comprise a new 1,560-space underground car park and a 40,000 square metre 24-storey office building and retail development, along with new public realm.

Importantly, the government has also reached agreement for an early works package with SkyCity. The early works package will provide for a grade separation of Festival Drive to separate pedestrian and vehicle movements. It will establish a new pedestrian entrance to the rear of the Adelaide Railway Station from the Riverbank footbridge, and constructs both temporary and permanent loading facilities for the InterContinental Hotel. It will also complete works to allow for SkyCity's proposed development, including pilings, foundation and subbasement works. The tender for these early works is being released today.

As members would also be aware, works have already commenced on the upgrade to the Adelaide Festival Centre. Tying these developments together will be an upgraded Festival Plaza that will be a unique world-class hub for the arts, culture, tourism and entertainment pursuits. The redeveloped plaza will be defined by a number of key places, including a new square, an upgraded northern promenade to the northern side of the Adelaide Festival Centre, redefined integration with King William Road, an arts-based plaza, the redesigning of Station Road, and a new entry to the Adelaide Railway Station. The new plaza will be an attractive destination and will be the centrepiece of a revitalised arts, culture and leisure precinct, embracing the Riverbank at the heart of our city.

There has been some comment about why it has taken such a period to get to this point. It is important to realise that the agreements reached were not simply as a result of negotiations between the government and one other party. These negotiations and eventual agreements took

account of the requirements of numerous parties, including the Adelaide Festival Centre, SkyCity, the InterContinental Hotel, the Convention Centre and the Riverside Centre, being stakeholders in and around the plaza. This is not to mention the large amount of private sector funding which naturally required careful commercial negotiation and consideration.

Turning to the agreements themselves, I can advise the house that the government has now executed a development agreement with Walker Corporation for the delivery of the integrated development of the car park, upgraded Festival Plaza, and office building and retail development. Sitting beneath this development agreement are a number of other agreements, such as leases for the office and retail development, as well as a sublease of car parks back to the government.

In order to facilitate the development of the car park and plaza, the state must first carry out a package of these early works. As mentioned earlier, the government has entered into an agreement with SkyCity for this. The total government expenditure on the Adelaide Festival Centre precinct will be \$180 million. This includes approximately \$90 million for the Adelaide Festival Centre upgrade and northern promenade works, an upgrade of the Festival Plaza realm, and the Adelaide Festival Centre upgrade.

The government leaseback of 400 car parks will be at a cost of \$30 million. Included within this amount is \$20 million for the early works, in addition to a \$5 million contribution from SkyCity. Importantly, this development is to attract over \$700 million in private sector investment, with Walker Corporation's office and retail development and the early works package, and the ability for SkyCity to proceed with their \$300 million expansion.

As for the timing for the delivery of this project, I can advise that the tender for the early works will be finalised by June 2016. Early works construction will occur between August 2016 and December 2017, with Walker Corporation to demolish the existing car park and construct a new car park, along with the public realm, from February 2017 to the completion of these works anticipated by August 2019.

Commencement for the construction of the office and retail development will be able to occur as early as mid-2018 and, once it has begun, it is anticipated to take approximately 20 months. This is a tremendous development opportunity for the City of Adelaide, building on what we have already done with the redevelopment of Adelaide Oval, two stages of the Convention Centre, the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and of course the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

**The SPEAKER:** Questions, leader.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr MARSHALL:** I am waiting for the call.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I said 'leader'. They wouldn't have started thumping the table if I had not said 'leader'.

*Question Time*

### **CARDIOLOGY SERVICES**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Is SA Health planning to relocate TQEH cardiology inpatient services twice: first to the old Royal Adelaide Hospital and then to the new Royal Adelaide Hospital?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:06):** It is no secret that we will be relocating cardiology to two places: firstly, to the Royal Adelaide Hospital and, secondly, to the Lyell McEwin Hospital. It is very, very important that we beef up cardiology services at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. It is essential that the Lyell McEwin Hospital has that second cath lab for patient safety reasons.

I understand the chief executive of central Adelaide has been speaking to clinicians about the timing of those moves, and if she believes and the clinicians believe that it can be safely done sooner rather than later then I am all for it and certainly support her in doing that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is called to order for interjecting, 'The one that you love.' The member for Fisher.

### INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

**Ms COOK (Fisher) (14:07):** My question is for the Minister for Health. Following the introduction of pharmacist-administered influenza vaccinations last year, will you consider expanding the types of vaccinations pharmacists can provide?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:07):** It is wonderful to have a question from the member for Fisher, a member who really understands our health system and in particular understands the importance of nurses in our health system, something sadly lacking from the Leader of the Opposition—you would think that it is only doctors who work in our health system—and he completely ignores nurses and allied health and I should say pharmacists.

In January last year, the government moved to allow appropriately-trained pharmacists to administer the influenza vaccine throughout South Australia. I am pleased to report that since then more than 200 pharmacists have been trained to provide influenza vaccinations. Every year, thousands of South Australians are struck down with the flu, even though it is an illness which can be easily prevented with a simple flu vaccination. Given the terrible flu seasons our state has had over the past two years, it is crucial we do everything we can to support people being vaccinated.

Allowing pharmacists to directly administer the flu shot has encouraged a greater uptake of the vaccine, especially by people who feel they don't have time to visit a GP. In fact, I was the first person to be given the flu vaccination at my local pharmacy in Para Hills. While having the injection in front of a room full of journalists was not ideal, I can say that the experience was quick and relatively painless.

Currently, pharmacists can vaccinate adults over the age of 16 who are not already eligible for a flu shot as part of the National Immunisation Program. People who are eligible for the free flu vaccine as part of the annual influenza program—including pregnant women, people aged over 65, and those with underlying health conditions—still need to visit their GP to receive the free vaccination.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** Given the success of enabling pharmacists to deliver flu vaccinations, I am keen to explore what other vaccinations can now be delivered safely by pharmacists to ensure an even greater uptake of vaccination in the community. I note that Queensland has recently allowed pharmacists to administer vaccinations like measles, mumps and rubella, as well as pertussis, and I have asked SA Health to explore the possibility of introducing this measure in South Australia.

In exploring the potential of pharmacists delivering these vaccinations, the government will consult with relevant parties, such as the AMA and the Pharmacy Guild. Immunisation is one of the most effective strategies to protect our community against many illnesses, and this government will continue to explore more ways to ensure vaccinations can be delivered to as many people as possible in a safe and efficient manner.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome to parliament today students from Woodcroft College, who are guests of the member for Mawson, and I call to order to the members for Morialta, Stuart, Hammond, Adelaide, and the deputy leader. Leader.

*Question Time*

### BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Does the minister stand by his commitment to consumers that the services and

facilities for brain injury rehabilitation will be better at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital compared with the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre?

On 2 March, in relation to rehab services moving to The Queen Elizabeth Hospital from Hampstead, the minister made public comments saying, 'Of course it's going to be better.' However, the opposition has been advised that SA Health's current proposal for the move indicates a significant reduction in brain injury services.

**The SPEAKER:** Before the minister answers, I upgrade the member for Stuart's call to order to a warning because he was called to order in the pre-lunch session of play. Minister.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:11):** Yes, of course I stand by it.

*Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel will not agitate the house. The member for Ashford.

### AUSTRALIAN GAS NETWORKS

**The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (14:12):** My question is directed to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Can the minister update the house on the Australian Energy Regulator's final decision on the Australian Gas Networks' access arrangement for the period 2016-2021?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:12):** As a matter of fact I can, and I thank the member for her question and her keen interest in keeping the cost of energy low in her own community. The government is doing all it can to give South Australians reliable and affordable energy.

The government is committed to working with the industry and communities to serve South Australia and make sure it will remain a place where people and business thrive. In July last year, the gas distribution business, Australian Gas Networks, submitted its 2016-2021 access arrangement proposal to the Australian Energy Regulator which proposed a significant increase in both capital and operating expenditure. Submissions were invited by the Australian Energy Regulator, and the government called on the regulator to identify any opportunities for real decreases in gas prices. I do note that the opposition put in no submission.

This morning, the regulator released its final decision to allow the Australian Gas Networks to recover \$985 million over this 2016-2021 regulatory period. This is a substantial reduction in the \$1.1 billion that the Australian Gas Networks proposed over the same period. This is an unambiguous win for all South Australian households which will reduce gas bills by about \$144 each year, or 12.4 per cent by 1 July this year, on average. The reduction is even better for South Australian small business who can expect, on average, a saving of \$750 in their gas bills.

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Here we go. Finally, we are giving some good news to South Australian consumers and the only person upset about it is the Leader of the Opposition. Distribution charges make up about 56 per cent of the annual gas bills in this state, so the Australian Energy Regulator's determinations have a significant impact on retail bills.

Today, I have written to AGL, Origin, EnergyAustralia, Simply Energy and Alinta, urging these retailers to pass on the savings in full to households and businesses. I encourage consumers to use the Energy Made Easy website to ensure they receive a maximum benefit. If the opposition had made a submission to the Energy Regulator rather than scoffing in the chamber, perhaps they would have more credibility on the issue.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is called to order for debating the matter. The leader.

### HEALTH REVIEW

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Is the government now planning to locate the eye hospital at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital rather than Modbury?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:15):** We haven't got any firm plans as yet. We are—

*Ms Cook interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Fisher is called to order.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** We have been consulting with clinicians. I will have more to say about this later.

### WOOL INDUSTRY

**Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (14:15):** My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Health is warned for taunting the Leader of the Opposition, who is also called to order for making an indecipherable response. Member for Elder.

**Mr Marshall:** Sir, I can spell it if you would like.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, do that. Bring it to me. Member for Elder.

**Ms DIGANCE:** Minister, can you update the house on how local businesses are working together to support the South Australian wool industry?

**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) (14:16):** I thank the member for Elder and pay tribute to her great work looking after the small businesses in her area and also further afield. I was delighted to attend a site visit with her a few weeks ago where we saw an amazing coming together of three South Australian companies: one was Silver Fleece. Many people would know or have seen that brand, Silver Fleece.

They have been operating since 1951 down in your electorate, Mr Speaker, at Kilkenny, and do a tremendous job in making lots of private-school school uniforms and a lot of scarfs for sporting clubs, as well as the Australian cricket jumpers. Those Australian cricket jumpers have been made right here in South Australia for the past 40 years.

The reason behind the visit was that the member for Elder works very, very closely with the Edwardstown Regional Business Association. They have 100 members, and they are looking after businesses further afield than their own Edwardstown boundaries. Their motto is to grow South Australian businesses 'one job at a time'. If each of the 100 people they have as members of their association can take on one more person, then it's going to create more jobs, which is what this government is all about. It's great to see groups out there working in this sort of collaborative way—a very positive way.

What was interesting there was that Silver Fleece, who have, as I said, been around since 1951, met Michell Wool, who have been around since about the 1870s, for the very first time, this year. Someone else who was at the gathering organised by the member for Elder and the Edwardstown Regional Business Association was a guy called Geoff Power, who I know very well as the livestock association president here in South Australia.

**An honourable member:** Livestock SA.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Yes, from Livestock SA. He is a farmer from the lower Flinders Ranges—

**Mr Griffiths:** From Orroroo.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** —from Orroroo. He has sheep. He produces world-class wool, and he didn't know that Silver Fleece was a South Australian company based here, so it's terrific—

**Ms Chapman:** Are you wearing a woollen suit?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I am wearing a woollen suit, yes.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Yes, exactly. I have the merino socks on as well, if you want to check. What is great is to see these associations and people like the member for Elder bringing businesses together—people who have been operating in their own little world, industriously working very hard, producing high-quality goods for export around the world and for use not just here in South Australia but for right around the country.

Now these three organisations—Michell, Livestock SA and Silver Fleece—are going to work together as part of that fibre to fashion program, where we tell proudly the story of our primary produce and then what we can make out of that, instead of exporting everything and letting the value-adding be done overseas to keep it here in South Australia and to make sure that we do the value-adding here so we create the jobs, we create the wealth, for our people here in South Australia.

We have also spoken to them about perhaps talking with the Industry Advocate here, Ian Nightingale, who was on the visit with us, to see whether the education department can do a contract with Silver Fleece about school uniforms for public schools here in our state. We want to get the state brand on scarves and other things that we can offer up for guests and visitors on delegation here to South Australia as well. We are going to work with Silver Fleece and other companies. I want to thank again the member for Elder for bringing this great South Australian company to my attention.

*Mr Tarzia interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Hartley to order, not for tapping the glass to indicate the minister's time has expired but for interrupting the minister twice during his answer. Leader.

#### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:20):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Is the minister aware of any issues with the air conditioning ducts at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital that will further delay the handing over of the project? If he is aware, can he update the parliament? If he is not aware, can he perhaps advise the parliament how often he receives a briefing on issues associated with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:21):** I don't get briefed on every tiny issue in the building of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The paint might peel, the floor tiles might lift; these are not issues which are regularly brought to my attention in that sort of detail. What I can say is that it's no secret that there have been issues at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, the same as there are issues with every other new public hospital that is being built around Australia.

If I recall correctly, the Fiona Stanley was about a year late. I think the new Children's Hospital in Western Australia is very late. I think the new Children's Hospital in Melbourne likewise was significantly late. I have been saying since December 2014 that the hospital was likely to be late—December 2014. Since then, I have been saying that it is likely that the hospital will be late. I know the Leader of the Opposition is like Mr Potato Head. He has put his angry face on today. He's got the angry face, Mr Potato Head. 'I'll put on my angry face today,' he says, but—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr GARDNER:** Standing order 98: the minister is debating and away from the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Well, not very far, but before the minister rises again I call to order the members for Kavel, Chaffey, Colton, Unley and Newland. I also call to order the member for Flinders and congratulate him on the 51 millimetres of rain at Mount Hope in the last 24 hours. I also warn the leader, deputy leader, and members for Unley, Morialta and Kavel, and I warn for the second and final time the leader. Minister.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** Please keep talking about the new Royal Adelaide Hospital. I love talking about the new Royal Adelaide Hospital because it is going to be fantastic. It is going to lead the world in terms of modern care for South Australian patients. It is something all South Australians will be incredibly proud of. And, gee, the opposition leader, if he is still there, is going to look pretty silly come the next election when we're cutting the ribbon on the beautiful new hospital.

When we have cut the ribbon on the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, isn't the Leader of the Opposition going to look pretty silly?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I warn the member for Hartley, and I warn the member for Kavel for the second and final time. The member for Wright.

### LONG ISLAND SPEED RESTRICTIONS

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Can the minister update the house on speed restrictions at Long Island, Murray Bridge?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (14:24):** I thank the member for her question. The South Australian government is committed to continually improving the safety of our marine environment facilities and infrastructure across our state, both in regional and metropolitan areas.

In response to representations from the member for Hammond, Mr George Bolton from the Boating Industry Association (South Australian branch) and Mr Adam Bruce, Chairman of the River Murray Boating and Recreational Advisory Group (RMBRAG), the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure has been consulting with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources about the removal of the four-knot speed restriction near Long Island at Murray Bridge, put in place since February 2009.

This restriction was imposed as a result of a portion of the River Murray riverbank in the vicinity of Long Island collapsing into the river. This was due to extremely low water levels, following the record drought that we had in that time in the preceding years and the continued wash coming from, particularly, motorised vessels passing in the vicinity. Following the collapse, the then minister for transport exercised his emergency powers to stop navigation to that section of the river to marine vessels, instead diverting traffic through another channel.

The four-knot speed limit was then put in place to reduce the risk of further deterioration and landslides of the steep, and at some points quite high, remnant bank at this location. Low speeds on the water would restrict the wash from vessels against the bank and reduce the opportunities for further damage. The landslides that occurred also created underwater hazards, including sunken tree branches protruding from the water and other debris.

I am pleased to report to the house that it is now considered that, due to ongoing stable water levels over the last few years and from recent investigations by both departments, lifting the speed restriction that is currently in place is unlikely to cause further erosion or collapse of the riverbank in this area. I am pleased to advise the house that the Boating Industry Association and the RMBRAG, which I mentioned earlier, the rural city of Murray Bridge and DEWNR (the department) have all endorsed the removal of the speed restriction.

I would like to assure the house that both the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources will continue to monitor the riverbank and water levels across the River Murray, but particularly in this location, and also liaise with local organisations and the local community to ensure that we have the appropriate safety measures in place, as both government and the community deem necessary.

This is just another way we can assist those using the river to enjoy it but, importantly, do so without damaging the surrounding environment. This state government is committed to continuing to monitor and improve marine safety, as well as provide as many opportunities as possible for people to enjoy the marine environment. I am glad to say that this follows close on the heels of another initiative I have previously informed the house of which was working in partnership with the member for Hammond to assist that users group, RMBRAG, to conduct an education campaign for River Murray users along their local stretches of the Murray.

**ARRIUM**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house what specific measures the state government has or will offer to Arrium and its administrators in order to secure the futures of Whyalla and those affected by the possible closure of the steel plant and the mine?

**The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:28):** No, we won't be doing that because we are negotiating in detail those specific measures with both the commonwealth government and the administrators, and it would not serve the interests of the people of Whyalla to publicly speculate about them.

I have been speaking in the last few days with both the Prime Minister and the industry minister. We have met, of course, with our own advisers. We are entertaining a very substantial proposition that has been put to us by the administrators, but we have to realise that we are also negotiating in the context of a federal election where we need to have both the federal government and the federal opposition committing to this proposition. We also, frankly, want to see a contribution by both the banks and any potential future purchaser. We don't believe that this is something that should be borne solely by the South Australian or the Australian taxpayer, but we are more than happy to brief the opposition about this matter, just as we have briefed his federal counterparts.

**MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE**

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (14:29):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. How is the government supporting young South Australians to learn about our precious coastal environment?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:30):** I thank the member for the question. I know how dear the ocean is to his heart in more ways than one.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** And what's in it, indeed, and what he can remove from it and enjoy later. But for the purposes of this question, I would like to refer to the Marine Discovery Centre, which is at the Star of the Sea Primary School at Henley Beach. I think twice now I have gone to the Marine Discovery Centre with the member for Colton. This centre has been running for about 15 years and it is teaching our kids about South Australia's coastal and marine world. It is an award-winning centre and it has a unique hands-on approach in how it teaches the kids about the marine environment.

I note that the member for Colton is not only a long-time supporter but also an ambassador for the centre. The centre uses a range of innovative resources, including models, activities, aquariums, trails and experiments, and opens students' eyes to our marine environment, including the state's marine emblem, the leafy sea dragon. Director, Tim Hoile, sums up the centre's approach to learning, saying he prefers children to make a discovery for themselves than to be told 100 facts. Not surprisingly, the centre is in high demand for school excursions, with more than 8,400 children and adults visiting every year.

I am very pleased to inform the house and also the member that the state government will continue to support the delivery of education programs at this centre this year with a grant of \$15,000. This funding will support the centre to be more accessible for more children, updating the displays and training of the centre's 43 dedicated volunteers, and allow the centre to continue to employ a marine biologist in residence to work with the students and give them an insight into what marine biology is about.

I note that this is a part of STEM that is less talked about. In talking about STEM, we talk often about the hard sciences and the sciences that play into technology and less about the natural sciences. While our future is largely dependent on students not only being obviously extremely mathematically literate but also being able to manipulate technology, an understanding of the natural environment is absolutely essential.

When we look at the crises we are facing through climate change and loss of biodiversity, and the challenges for our farmers in not only maintaining their standard of living but feeding

everyone with that rapidly changing environment, it is absolutely essential that we enthuse kids about the natural world and the way that the world works. That is no less the case for our oceans, where there are deep concerns, not only about the rising temperatures and therefore the rising levels of the ocean, but the increasing acidity that is caused through the carbonisation of water as the oceans have been absorbing the excess carbon that has been produced over the last 150 or so years.

To have a little centre in Henley Beach that is part of invigorating an interest and understanding in children about the importance of our natural environment, the importance of our ocean, but also how it works and how it matters, is fantastic, and I am very proud to be able to be part of supporting it.

#### FESTIVAL PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:33):** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Are there any variations to the key commercial terms in the development agreement between Walker Corporation and the state government, as announced on 13 March 2015 by the Premier in respect of the Plaza development, and the development agreement, as announced by the minister today, and, if so, what are they?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (14:33):** As the deputy leader said, there were some key commercial terms which were entered into as part of a form of an agreement a little over a year ago, and of course what the Premier and I have announced today is that we have been able to finalise and execute a final development agreement between the state and the developer, Walker Corporation. I would have to check to see what, if any, detail has changed between the two of those. Suffice to say, with an additional 12 months of discussions, consultations, and of course very detailed and at times perhaps robust commercial negotiations, it is likely that there may be some changes, but—

**Ms Chapman:** You've negotiated for 12 months and you can't even tell us one difference.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** As I was saying, Mr Speaker—

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

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN:** As I was saying, I will endeavour to investigate that and come back to the house with an answer.

#### YOUTH PARLIAMENT

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:34):** My question is to the Minister for Youth. How is the government encouraging young South Australians to learn about our parliamentary system?

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers) (14:35):** This government is committed both to listening to young South Australians and to encouraging them to learn and be a part of our democracy, something that I know the member for Florey has very much supported.

I have spoken previously about this government's 2016 Youth Strategy for South Australia Connected to YOUth, which was launched on 19 February 2016, focusing on the issues of youth homelessness, training and employment, and engagement. One such way the government assists with youth engagement is through the Office for Youth sponsorship of the YMCA South Australian Youth Parliament program, held in this very chamber.

The program is run for young people aged 15 to 24 and helps to educate participants about the South Australian parliamentary system, including voting procedures, etiquette, public speaking, leadership and bill development. Mr Speaker, I know that your position is well sought after on the part of the participants; they like to have control of the chamber. The program also provides the opportunity for young people to express their views on the issues that matter to them.

As part of the state government's Charter for Stronger Regional Policy, a regional scholarship program was introduced in 2015 to support more young regional South Australians to participate in Youth Parliament. In 2015, the number of regional participants more than doubled compared with

the number of regional participants in 2014, with 24 of the 75 participants completing the program from regional South Australia (32 per cent). This year aims to meet the target of at least 25 per cent of participants from regional South Australia.

I am pleased to advise that this year Youth Parliament week will be held between 10 and 15 July. I invite all of my parliamentary colleagues, from this house and the other place, to support our young parliamentarians. They look up to all of us, and there is some ambition within it. I had a brief conversation with some people and I was reminded that there are several people here today who participated in Youth Parliament—the member for Lee, the member for Morialta and the member for Bright.

**Mr Duluk:** I did as well.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON:** Member for Davenport, I did do a straw poll. I think you must talk to your whip, your Leader of Government Business. As we can see, this is an important endeavour. Not everyone will go on to be a member of parliament, but what this does inspire people to do is to be actively involved in democracy. I will be particularly pleased to see the diversity, both in gender and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and of course I have touched on the fact that we have people from both metro and regional areas. This year, a total of 86 participants have already registered, including 20 regional participants. One such participant is Elysse Dimitradis, who is from Mundulla in the South-East; is that correct?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON:** Near Bordertown. She will be taking up the role of Youth Governor, a very senior position in the Youth Parliament. Elysse took part last year and passed a bill about rural education. She said that one of the best things about Youth Parliament was meeting new people and that the regional participants all stayed together in Adelaide. She also said that it was 'learning that I have a voice in my community, even though I am young.' These participants are currently undergoing training for Youth Parliament week. I encourage all members of this place to pop in and listen to the debate and meet some of these really fantastic, motivated, young South Australians.

#### GILLMAN LAND SALE

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:39):** My question again is to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. Has the minister met with or received a request to meet with investors of Adelaide Capital Partners to provide the \$45 million by 1 November 2016 with respect to the Gillman proposal and, if so, who are those investors?

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (14:39):** Can I thank the deputy leader for her question. I don't believe so, but I will double-check.

#### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Disabilities. How is the National Disability Insurance Scheme assisting organisations to increase participation in the arts and cultural activities for people living with a disability?

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse) (14:40):** I thank the member for Torrens for her question. I had the pleasure this morning of launching the Access2Arts 30x30 Project and would like to acknowledge the members for Morphett and Morialta, as well as the member in the other place, Kelly Vincent, who attended this great event at the Adelaide Oval. We were all joined by Keenan Ramsey from the Adelaide Football Club, who told his own story about his experience of living with a disability since he was a child, with his loss of an eye due to cancer.

As members may be aware, Access2Arts strives to increase access to and participation in the arts and cultural activities for people living with a disability. Since 2012, Access2Arts has received funding from the government of South Australia through the Richard Llewellyn Arts and Disability program and the arts organisation disability program managed by Arts SA.

In 2015, Access2Arts received funding from the National Disability Insurance Scheme to promote community inclusion and capability development in this important area of our community. Through this funding, Access2Arts has established the 30x30 Project, a direct response to Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that recognises that all citizens have the right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports.

I am advised that over this year the 30x30 Project will create and deliver 30 unique arts, culture, recreation, leisure and sports opportunities for people living with a disability across the state. Importantly, all these activities are free and accessible to all members of the community. This project will offer participants new experiences and maximise opportunities in the arts and recreational areas. It also aims to play a role in maximising opportunities for people living with a disability to engage in new areas in their life and wellbeing.

We know from the Australia Council for the Arts report in 2013 that there is a noted lower level of attendance in arts activities with people living with a disability and also by those without a disability that are facilitated particularly for that sector, and we need to redress this imbalance. An equally important point is that 30x30 will also help inform organisations in creating inclusive events and how to celebrate diversity as we move more towards a social justice lens as we move into the introduction of the national disability insurance space.

Barriers created by society that are disabling in themselves to an individual are our collective responsibility to break down and remove. Greater experiences that project the availability and include people with easy access and open caption movie viewing, such as the recent screening of *Zootopia* at Palace Nova are important. Future events include a sensory tour, an interactive cooking experience at the Adelaide Central Market and visits to the Mega Adventure Park at West Beach, where people will be able to experience climbing on ropes and platforms at a great height, which if you have a disability is a unique opportunity to participate in.

These events will be richly rewarding for all the participants, as they will be able to enjoy and share the same experiences that we all do every day, but catered to their particular needs. This is an exciting initiative and I encourage all members of the house to be involved. I sincerely express my good wishes to all involved with this new project.

#### ZED CONSULTING

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Was more than \$5.6 million paid by SA Health in the last 10 years on contracts and consultant fees from Zed business management and related corporate entities subject to open tender and fully disclosed in the annual reports, and what did we get for the money?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:44):** Zed Consulting came in on the EPAS project I think in 2013, or a little bit before then, basically to help with the project management of the EPAS rollout. I cannot remember exactly how much the initial procurement was for, but it was well under what you would normally have an expectation for something to go out to tender. It was then rolled over a number of times. The initial amount was not \$5 million; it was much less than that.

This was all subject to an audit that was done. The report was given to the audit committee of the Department for Health, on which sit representatives of the Auditor-General's Department. The report found that while nothing had been breached, given the number of times that particular contract was rolled over, it should have gone out to tender. That should have happened, but nothing was breached because every time it was renewed it was under the tender amount. But, given the number of times it was renewed, there is no doubt it should have gone out to tender.

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** What did we get for it? What we got for it was excellent project management by the fantastic—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** Well, isn't it interesting that the opposition want to back a South Australian firm like Zed Consulting? Isn't it interesting, the opposition are happy to trawl through the mud—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —a very, very good South Australian firm that has an excellent reputation like Zed Consulting. Perhaps the opposition might just be a little bit careful about what they say about a very proud South Australian business that has done absolutely nothing wrong and has done an excellent job on the EPAS project.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The members for Chaffey and Hartley are warned for the second and final time—

*The Hon. J.J. Snelling interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** —and so is the Minister for Health.

#### **ADELAIDE BEER AND BBQ FESTIVAL**

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (14:46):** My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on something that is very near and dear to my heart. What is the government doing to support craft brewers and distillers in South Australia?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** I enjoyed a glass of Prohibition on Friday night.

**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) (14:47):** A very good gin indeed, Mr Speaker, and I congratulate you on your fine taste, drinking South Australian produce. We know that the member for Colton is also a very keen whisky drinker and supporter of South Australian companies.

The South Australian government is pleased to support Adelaide's Beer and Barbecue Festival this July, celebrating the state's beer and ciders. There will be 38 South Australian companies represented there, and that is terrific because you do not have to go back too far to a time when we did not produce that much locally produced beer, cider and spirits. So, it is tremendous to see this resurgence at that craft brewery level. I know that just in my own electorate we have Jeff and—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I love the Woolshed Brewery up at Wilkadene, just above Renmark. I reckon Tom and Sarah make the best IPA in South Australia. The Pirate Life is pretty good too, but Tom and Sarah do a tremendous job at the Woolshed Brewery. I was very pleased to be there with the member for Chaffey a few years ago, when I had one of the most pleasant jobs in my political career: to open a brewery. To have your name on a plaque at a brewery is just terrific.

In my own electorate, it used to be hard to leave, with three breweries. Now that we get out, we have breweries right around the state. I was down in Robe earlier in the year, and Robe Town Brewery is doing a tremendous job down there. They are using the old-school method; they actually have a wood fire underneath the kettle where they brew everything, and it brings a little Eastern European influence.

We have a couple of brewers up in the Barossa now. It is fantastic to head up to Clare; that Bulls Eye brew is tremendous. The red ale—they used to call it 'ranga ale'; I think they had to change its name—is quite good. Getting back to my own electorate, Jeff and Mary Goodieson run a fantastic family company called Goodieson Brewery. They are doing a tremendous job. Jeff used to work for one of the big brewers in Australia and he decided to have a bit of a tree change and look after his family down there.

We have Dan Wright at Swell Brewing Co., and they have just moved all their beers into cans. Look out for their golden ale; it just won a big award recently. Of course, Vale Ale is very well known and on sale right throughout Australia at many good bars and dispensers of fine alcohol. Keep an eye out for those and all locally-produced beers.

Pirate Life Brewing is an interesting story. It is actually a Western Australian company, a family company once again, that moved to South Australia because of the business conditions here and because of the way they get the support from the state government. It speaks to who we are as a state and our second highest economic priority—well, my highest, but the Treasurer loves his minerals and energy. Maybe they are equal first but, I tell you, my stuff tastes better than your stuff.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** You can't make it without our stuff.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** That's true, we do need some energy to go into the process. They moved to South Australia and South Australia does have that economic priority of premium food and wine, and I think we have to add beers, ciders and spirits as well.

One person I really want to congratulate too is Sacha La Forgia from the Adelaide Hills Distillery, who in San Francisco at the World Spirits Competition, which is the most respected and influential spirit competition in the world, picked up a gold, silver and bronze for their 78 Degrees Gin, their orange bitters and newly released rum. That is one thing about the bitters: 90 per cent of the botanicals in South Australia are actually bitter and they are perfect for these kinds of drinks. It is great to see us taking on the Italians and those established countries in producing fine beverages.

#### ENTERPRISE PATIENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:51):** My question is going to the Minister for Health. Has cabinet-approved funding been secured to roll out EPAS to country hospitals other than Port Augusta and, if so, what is the additional cost?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:51):** No, it hasn't because that was never part of the scope.

*Mr Goldsworthy interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel is on two warnings.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Treasurer is warned.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newland is warned; he has left the chamber once already this week. I suppose it falls to the member for Unley.

#### WORKREADY

**Mr PISONI (Unley) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Higher Education. Was a regulatory impact statement completed for the change from Skills for All to WorkReady and, if so, were you briefed on that statement, were there any major concerns identified and when will the report be released?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:53):** Sorry, you probably called me and I couldn't quite hear. That change predates my role and so I will have to take that on notice.

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley is on two warnings. The member for Stuart.

#### GAS INDUSTRY

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:53):** My question is for the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Does the minister support federal Labor's policy to implement a national

interest test for Australian gas, otherwise known as a gas reservation policy, and is the minister confident that the policy would not deter investment in South Australia's gas sector?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy) (14:53):** Yes, I do, sir, and it's not a reservation at all; it's a national interest test. But I will tell you what will hurt investment in South Australia—

**Mr Marshall:** That wasn't the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Yes, it was. You asked me if I would support it and I said I did, and it's not reservation at all; it's a national interest test, as the question referred to. But what will hurt investment in gas in South Australia are Liberal MPs like Tony Pasin saying that they want a moratorium on oil and gas exploration here in South Australia. I will tell you what else will hurt: the Liberal Party going into an election demanding inquiries on the viability and the safety of unconventional gas, even though they know it has operated in this state safely for nearly 50 years. That is what hurts investment.

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The question was very simply whether he supports the policy, not whether it is going to be good or bad or anything else. He has answered the question and he is now debating the matter.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully to what the minister has to say to ensure that he answers the substance of the question.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** I was at the national conference where that policy was debated. A national interest test is, basically, the same sort of test we apply to foreign ownership of farmland. It's the same sort of test that we apply to purchasers of national assets, or private assets. I don't think it's a reservation policy. It doesn't, in my mind, reserve gas for domestic use. In this state, we have a first-class regulatory process, which I support, and we are on the record as putting our state before the party. If anyone attempts to change policies that would hurt the oil and gas industry in this state, this government stands on their side.

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Unley is on two warnings.

**Mr PISONI:** Thank you, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I am glad you are grateful. Member for Morialta.

#### SCHOOL FUNDING

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (14:55):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Has the total amount of additionality funding delivered under the Gonski agreement in 2014 and 2015 been delivered to schools?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:55):** I will take it on notice because I don't want to unwittingly mislead. In the time that I have been minister, which obviously was at the beginning of 2015, we made a decision during the course of that year to provide the additionality to schools. There is some softness around that because there are some agreed priorities, but I will get a comprehensive answer in order to not mislead.

**Ms Chapman:** How is that annual report going?

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader is on two warnings.

*Members interjecting:*

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

### MULTI-AGENCY PROTECTION SERVICE

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (14:56):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. Why, in the government's own report card for child protection, is MAPS (the Multi-Agency Protection Service) shown as 'delivered', and how many child protection cases not involving domestic violence have been referred to MAPS?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:57):** I am not sure of the source document that the member is quoting from, but if I can just clarify my understanding of MAPS, although I am not the minister responsible for MAPS.

The idea of MAPS is that it is to, initially at least, look at domestic violence and to make sure that in so doing all of the risks that pertain to that family are understood by the various agencies involved. So what that means at present is that we have a very highly regarded service in the form of MAPS that other states are interested in, and are interested in modelling, but that at present the child protection elements of that become references and notifications to the CARL.

There is, I think, a question about whether MAPS might have further stages, and therefore it would become more involved in the acquisition of information about child protection. But at present it's the domestic violence lens that is the one that is used for the gathering of information and the assessment of risk. I know that the commissioner, Margaret Nyland, is aware of MAPS, and it may be that she will have some views about its usefulness within the child protection system proper.

**Mr Gardner:** So why are you saying that you've done it in child protection?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Mordialta is warned. The member for Morphett.

### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:58):** My question is to the Minister for Disabilities. Can the minister guarantee that all funding for the NDIS will go to front-line recipients and not be subject to a handling fee, a service fee, or a management fee by the state government or its agencies?

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse) (14:58):** I am happy to take that on notice.

### NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:58):** My question is again to the Minister for Disabilities. Can the minister tell the house how many South Australian residents are currently on plans funded by the NDIS, how many are waiting for approval, and how many are not yet approved?

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse) (14:59):** I have received some transitional data from the NDIA for the month of April. I believe that in April 348 children have had their first plan approved, and this brings the total of participants for the plan to 6,173.

**The SPEAKER:** He is fortunate still to be with us: the member for Kavel.

### MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT HOSPITAL

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY (Kavel) (14:59):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know they have all been waiting for this.

**The SPEAKER:** I have been.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise when I might expect a reply to a letter I wrote to him on 11 November last year concerning aged-care bed allocations at the Mount Pleasant District Hospital? Follow-ups were made on 3 March and 4 April this year.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I think we have got the idea.

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** Still no response received to date, Mr Speaker.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:00):** Well, the member for Kavel has got me there. We always try to answer correspondence from members of parliament as quickly as we can.

*Ms Bedford interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Florey is warned.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** I don't have the information on me as to the tardiness in the reply, but I shall take it up immediately with my office and find out where that correspondence is at.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (15:01):** The member for Kavel tells me he is about to bake a birthday cake on that piece of correspondence. My question is also to the Minister for Health. Can the minister explain why, when SA Health pays compensation because a hospital has been responsible for an adverse outcome, does SA Health insist on the recipient of such a payment signing a confidentiality agreement?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for Consumer and Business Services, Minister for the City of Adelaide) (15:01):** The general rule when the state settles matters is that there is a deed of release, and that's a standard matter. The deed of release guarantees that the disputes between the parties have come to an end and that there will be no further agitation of whatever it is that has been separating the parties.

As to whether there are additional terms in relation to the transmission of information beyond that to third parties, again that is not an unusual provision in the resolution of matters, and I imagine it's a matter that is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. I can assure members, and I know that the member for Bragg would know this from her extensive practice as well, that it is quite standard for matters—

**Mr Marshall:** You just said 'case-by-case' though. It's either standard or it's case by case.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** This is right. That is a very interesting point that's raised. The standard is the thing that applies most of the time or, indeed, as the default arrangement all the time, but there are some things which are not standard, and there may be a number of reasons why they may not be standard. In the context of a matter which may not be standard, the standard outcome may not apply but, if the standard is not to apply—that is, the standard outcome—in a non-standard sort of matter, the standard requirement is that there is a negotiation around whether the standard provisions continue. Sometimes, that occurs, but the standard is it generally doesn't.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (15:03):** My question again is to the Minister for Health. Is the minister not concerned that the lack of accountability afforded by the practice of hiding failures behind confidentiality agreements is building a culture of mediocrity within his agency?

**The SPEAKER:** Asking a minister whether or not he is concerned gives the minister a great deal of scope. Deputy Premier.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Child Protection Reform, Minister for the Public Sector, Minister for Consumer and Business Services, Minister for the City of Adelaide) (15:04):** I think it's important for members to understand, as I was trying to explain before, that the standard situation is that these matters would generally be resolved on the basis of a number of standard clauses, including that each party agrees to go away and not further agitate the matter with the other party, and the confidentiality clauses are the standard.

There may be many, many reasons why they are there. For instance, insurance companies regularly require confidentiality provisions because they don't want to have the arrangements that they enter into with people who are claiming under the insurance policies given to other members of the public who may or may not use that to some advantage. Likewise, there are some people—and

I'm talking here about a plaintiff or a complainant—who are complainants or plaintiffs who actually do not want, for very good reason, to have the terms and conditions of the settlement they have reached with an insurer, or in this case the Crown, to be put out into the broader public domain. I can give an example because that might be of assistance.

Some people who are involved in these types of claims might not want an estranged partner, or other members of the family or business colleagues or any other people, to know they are about to receive money or indeed to know the amount of that money. They may not want to see their face in the newspaper and the details of their personal business put into the public domain, and of course it's entirely reasonable that they should feel that way. I don't think anyone should imply that the standards which are applied here are used for any purpose other than the general purpose one sees used in normal standard litigation.

#### *Grievance Debate*

### **MITCHELL ELECTORATE COMMUNITY AWARDS**

**Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (15:06):** I rise today to speak about a community awards presentation I held at Patrilli Wines in Dover Gardens recently. More than 100 people attended to celebrate some outstanding people in our local area. Meeting with people in the electorate, I am always hearing about people doing fabulous things for others and people who are generally doing great things for our local area. It is often the small things that make the biggest difference in a community, and I want these people to be acknowledged.

Through my newsletter, local schools and community organisations I asked for nominations to identify those who just quietly go about helping others and contributing to the local area but who are not often recognised. I had such a terrific response, and as such I acknowledge and celebrate five award recipients.

I also want to say a big thank you to Ines Patrilli from Patrilli Wines in Dover Gardens, who helped put on the event; Total Tools, Lonsdale, who supported it; the Warradale Hotel; Zorich Sports/Sports Power at Glenelg; and the SA Aquatic Centre. My wife, family and friends also helped support the night with some food. It was a great environment in which to acknowledge these fantastic people. Also, thanks go to Seaview High School's school captains, Jake Beaumont and Rachael Jaala Rattus, who attended. Rachael sang and her brother played keyboard, and they were absolutely outstanding and also helped to raise some funds for Operation Flinders, the Seaview chapter.

It was a brilliant night, and the first person we acknowledged was a gentleman by the name of Jarrod Lamshed. He is a passionate and dedicated teacher at Woodend Primary School. He initiated a fantastic program with the year 6s and 7s to prevent future domestic violence by breaking down stereotypes and discussing what masculinity and respect really mean. He used a very innovative approach for the discussion, using Twitter and the hashtag #westandtall. Students posted a photo of themselves with their own comments about masculinity, respect and stereotypes.

I encourage everyone to search for #westandtall to see the photos and comments Jarrod and his students put out there for the world to see. The maturity of the students' comments is a credit to Jarrod and the way he went about running this program. I have seen a number of these students in our community throughout time, and the great respect they show to me is again a credit to the way he ran this program. They are highly respectful and a wonderful addition to our community. Jarrod's family was also there, and they were very proud of his award. I would like to congratulate Jarrod Lamshed on being one of our community award winners.

The second award winner was a young lad by the name of Kane Marshall, who was this year named Reynella Cricket Club's Junior Player of the Year for 2015-16. His dad, Kym, and mum, Sandra, were also there. Kane has also been heavily involved for a number of years as a player with the Reynella Football Club, the Wineflies, but this year he joined up with the Southern Football League to be a boundary umpire for 2016 season, trying to keep his fitness up so that he can continue with his cricket.

I also saw him heavily involved with the All Abilities Cricket as an assistant coach at the Reynella Cricket Club. He was always there helping out kids a little less fortunate, making sure they

had a smile on their face and they were enjoying playing the game of cricket. Kane has a true passion for cricket and loves to share it with his community, and I acknowledge him for that. He was also recognised as a student leader when he attended Woodend Primary School, and now at Reynella East High School he is an active member of their Aboriginal support group, another great accolade for this young man. He is a wonderful role model to his peers and has shown what can be achieved if you work hard and set your eyes on a dream. Congratulations to Kane.

Jourdan Fairbank was our third award winner. Jourdan has had an amazing career working with vulnerable animals in our community. She runs a charity called Be the Change Animal Shelter in Reynella to look after animals in need and to find new adoptive parents for them. She worked tirelessly during the recent bushfire crisis, taking care of pets and animals that had been affected. The charity is a 100 per cent not-for-profit organisation that relies on donations from the public. She works hard to house animals in need and gives selflessly to care for vulnerable animals. Her husband, Danny, was also in attendance; they have three children and have a very busy life. It is a brilliant example of what people do to give back to the local community, and I commend Jourdan.

### **TAFE SA TONSLEY CAMPUS**

**Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:11):** On Sunday 22 May this year during the evening news, Channel 7 ran a report citing claims regarding low enrolment numbers at TAFE SA Tonsley site. The report showed photos of empty classrooms at the site and machinery and equipment with 'almost no wear and tear' to support claims that the facility is underutilised. In addition, the live broadcast from the Tonsley site that evening observed that the campus was shut up and deserted. This is not surprising, given there are no classes or activities scheduled at this site on a Sunday evening.

For the record, there is a total of 20 non-educational corporate staff based at the Tonsley site and 170 education staff, supporting a wide variety of building and construction programs across 26 trades. Training offered from this site includes building and construction, carpentry and furnishing, furniture making, glass and glazing, electrical and renewable energy, electrotechnology and engineering, interior design and decoration, mining and exploration, civil construction, plumbing, bricklaying and plastering, gas fitting, painting and decorating, and signage.

I have spoken to many of those who attend this site and one young man who attends this campus to further his trade as a bricklayer has described to me that it is the most amazing complex and he feels very privileged to be there to learn from those who are experienced. He is in a class with many others. In addition, TAFE SA offers a range of short courses and accredited skill sets from this site including Work Safely in the Construction Industry, Work Safely at Heights, Operate Elevated Work Platforms, Low Voltage Rescue and Resuscitation, as well as general leisure courses in wellbeing and resilience, management and administration, and arts and design.

The first students began their studies at this site in January 2014 and TAFE SA has identified that some of the footage shown on that Sunday night was taken at the launch of the campus in 2014, hence classrooms and workshops appeared new and not used. Management at TAFE SA's Tonsley site are reviewing security tape to see if they can determine who has taken and provided the more recent video footage.

The structured nature of the training provided to apprentices from this facility means that students often attend blocks of educational training on campus and then return to their workplace to apply those skills. In addition to this, TAFE SA has mobile lecturers who deliver necessary skills to students within industry and workplaces to further support on-the-job training needs. The flexible nature of this educational format means that students are not always on campus five days a week. Contrary to the suggestions made in the report, student hours delivered at TAFE SA's Tonsley site have actually increased every year since opening, and student hours for the year to date are well above budget for each and every program offered at the campus.

TAFE SA's onsite enrolment figures for semester 1 this year so far to date show an 11 per cent increase in student enrolments in comparison with semester 1 in 2014. In 2014, TAFE SA delivered training to a total of 4,923 new and continuing students, delivering 689,128 training hours at this site. This compares with a total of 6,685 new and continuing students, delivering a total of 978,289 training hours in 2015.

In May 2016, TAFE SA hosted the Construction Industry Training Board's visit to the TAFE SA Tonsley site during which members of the board observed the high level of student activity on campus. The Onshore Petroleum Centre of Excellence is a unique partnership between the state government, Santos, Senex Energy, Beach Energy and TAFE SA. Established in 2011, it operates from the TAFE SA Tonsley site. The facility provides a fully immersive simulated oil and gas production environment for students. I visit this site quite often because it is actually in my electorate, and I would just like to put on record that I see many students at this site in many of the classrooms, plus queues at the cafes during their break time.

### HISTORY MONTH

**Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:16):** One of the great pleasures of my portfolio of shadow minister for the arts is the opportunity to participate in History Month events. This History Month, I want to commend not only the organisers of History Month itself, but all the many local community history organisations that have endeavoured to put on a spectacular array of events around South Australia. I have had the pleasure of attending some of those in Adelaide, and I particularly want to reflect on a couple of them.

Earlier this month, the member for Unley and I attended the open day at the Saint Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church and appreciated Father Vladimir sharing many of the stories of how the congregation came together having come out from Russia, many of whom had come out through a number of other countries in the meantime, and building the church in the 1960s, previously having had their congregation meet in a whole variety of different circumstances. That was a tremendous experience and a very special insight into that church which I encourage members to take the opportunity to visit in the future.

The 13<sup>th</sup> of May saw the member for Hartley and I travelling along the O-Bahn in a very unusual circumstance. Usually, we travel with commuters from our communities. On this occasion, we travelled with a number of people appreciating the history being presented by Tea Tree Gully council's David Brooks (a man well known to this chamber), Campbelltown council's Helen Thiselton and Port Adelaide Enfield council's Meredith Blundell. They gave the 30-year history of the O-Bahn—a wonderfully successful project initiated by the Tonkin Liberal government and eventually completed in the mid-eighties. Thanks to the work of the Tonkin Liberal government, that unique public transport infrastructure still works well today.

Although not strictly a History Month exercise, I want to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Magill Sunrise Rotary Club. The member for Hartley and I enjoyed participating in the celebration, and I congratulate their president, Mina Ward, and their president-elect, Kirsty Stark, on the great work they are doing. I also acknowledge that earlier in the year the Campbelltown Rotary Club, the grandfather or grandmother club of Magill, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year, and president, Damian Leach, and his board organised a spectacular function at the San Giorgio La Molara Club to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incredible service to the Campbelltown community and, indeed, to the broader South Australian and international community.

I was pleased to join the City of Holdfast Bay's History Centre's organised tour of St Jude's cemetery. St Jude's cemetery at Brighton was established in 1854. There cannot be too many cemeteries around Australia that contain memorials to two fine Australians who have appeared on our currency. At St Jude's, they are honoured to have the memorials, the remains and the gravestones, of both Sir Douglas Mawson and Catherine Helen Spence, and it was particularly touching to be able to appreciate those sites. I thank Jill Golley from the City of Holdfast Bay for the tremendous work she did in the pouring rain, keeping our attention so well.

I particularly bring to the attention of all members one of the Migration Museum's contributions to History Month—its exhibition Ticket to Paradise, which runs past the end of May right up to the end of July. I encourage all members to go and look at Ticket to Paradise, which is a reflection on the materials put out by the Australian Department of Immigration throughout the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the different ways that people were encouraged to come to Australia and the different supports that at different times have been presented for new migrants to Australia. It was a real eye-opener. The information might not necessarily have been new, but the way those historical documents were presented to people was extraordinary.

Finally, I would like to reflect on the open day at Lochend House put on by the Campbelltown Historical Society. I know that the member for Hartley is a regular supporter and that Christopher Pyne was influential in getting the money to support them in the first place. I particularly thank all those members of the Campbelltown Historical Society who do such a great job in putting it on, and this month in particular: Peter and Genevieve Rumbelow, Tony and Eunice Uren, Tony and Marian Eddowes, Pat and Ian Reddy, John Drummond and Maxine Drummond, Carol and Denis Slade, Margaret Woodcock, Ruth Henderson, Liz Mitton, Kay Gallyer, Clare Eddowes and Babs Clement. Thank you to all of them for their ongoing and tremendous work. I encourage people to use the #capturesahistory and #haighs in their Instagram photos. Thank you very much to Haighs for their support of the festival too.

### PINNACLE COLLEGE

**Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (15:21):** On Monday of this week, I was really pleased to be invited once again to visit Pinnacle College at Elizabeth East, in my electorate. As you probably know, Deputy Speaker, Pinnacle College is a small independent school which has its origins in Burc College, which started life in 2005 at Gilles Plains.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And there's a little bit of it still there.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Yes, it's still going strong. I understand it is a primary school, whereas the campus in—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Big school.

**Mr ODENWALDER:** Big school, yes. The campus in Elizabeth East is an R to 12. It is a lovely school. It is growing. I say it is a small school, but it is growing rapidly. Their stated mission is, 'Create a world with no room for fear of the unknown, misconceptions or misunderstandings,' and they put a lot of emphasis on community service and, in their words, 'contributing to the future of Australia'.

I was invited to talk to the year 10s about the future of work and the importance of education. It was a great discussion. I think I gave them the rather sobering news that every job that I had had up until the age of 30 is now obsolete, so they had better stay at school for as long as they possibly can and learn to understand society and get a broad range of what we call enterprise skills, rather than a narrow range of skills.

Before I did that, the staff, as always, laid on their fantastic morning tea, with their very strong Turkish coffee, which I enjoyed with my staffer, Brad; the principal, Mr Halil Yilmaz; the senior coordinator, Nurudeen Suraju; and their human resources manager, Jonathon Piasente. I mention them by name not only because they are committed teachers and administrators at the school but because they are also locals, and they are locals out of choice. They have chosen to move and live locally because of their commitment to be an integral part of the community which they serve.

Mr Yilmaz, for instance, has come from his previous post in Sydney to live in Elizabeth Grove, immediately opposite the new training grounds of Adelaide United as it happens, while Mr Suraju has made a circuitous journey from Ghana, through various teaching and administrative posts, including in the British High Commission in Ghana, to live, in his words, across the road from the school.

So, they are a pretty dedicated bunch, and you can hear the commitment in the way they talk about the school, its students, its curriculum, and the various programs they develop to reach out to their own community. This outreach is important because when Pinnacle College (or Burc College) was first set up in Elizabeth East in 2010, on the site of the old Playford High School, there was some community disquiet about what people referred to as a Muslim school, or an Islamic school.

As I told the morning tea, when I grew up in Elizabeth it was a very Anglo-centric place. Very few of the people I grew up with were from a non-British culture, and this was true of Elizabeth up until quite recently. In order to combat the community disquiet, the school leadership took some really impressive proactive measures. Together with their students, they embarked on a consistent and energetic community outreach program—doorknocking, open days, leafleting, community barbecues

and sports days—and I am pleased to say that the local community in Elizabeth East has come to embrace this growing school, and a growing school it is.

As I said, the Elizabeth campus commenced operation in 2010 and it caters for primary and secondary school students from reception to year 12. In 2010, there were only 22 students. Now, in 2016, there are more than 300, and it is still growing. They pride themselves on a high quality of education, and Pinnacle College has become a multicultural school with students from more than 21 nationalities. English is the main language taught at the school, but a lot of the languages spoken at home include Indian, Afghan, Arabic and Uzbek.

Indeed, while it is a school based in a Muslim tradition, and they are still quite proud of that, its attitude is resolutely inclusive, and more and more non-Muslim parents from the local area are choosing to send their kids to Pinnacle College simply because of its reputation and its academic results. Indeed, the college enjoys strong academic success, with all its 2014 graduates and 72 per cent of its 2015 graduates going on to university with high SACE scores, including two students receiving ATAR scores above 90 and two current year 12 students receiving an A+ for their research assignment. With those words, I wish Pinnacle College and its local leadership all the best for the future, and I look forward to continuing to watch it grow throughout the years.

#### HARTLEY ELECTORATE

**Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (15:26):** I would like to bring the house's attention to some local updates from my electorate of Hartley. Recently, I had the good fortune of attending the Campbelltown Art Show and Sale. It is an event that has been held for many years now. The member for Morialta and I have enjoyed supporting the art show over the years and we both host offices with much art purchased from the Campbelltown Art Show. It is a fantastic cause to support.

Many of the artists are in fact local, and it is exceptional that we are able to support them through this art show. It is also a great way to support the fantastic Campbelltown Rotary Club, which does an array of works for the community: fundraisers, the art show, the monthly collection that they do in Newton. They support an array of activities to raise much-needed money for various charitable causes. I encourage those who are able to go along when they can to the Campbelltown Art Show, at the Campbelltown Function Centre at the top of Montacute Road, to support a fantastic local project.

I also had the fortune of supporting the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magill Sunrise Rotary Club, an amazing Rotary club which has featured over 94 members during its 20 years of service. They too conduct an array of activities to support good local and also overseas charitable causes. They have just finished their Reel Event, which is actually an evening of short films that are made by South Australian filmmakers. I had the privilege of attending their event last night.

I would like to bring the house's attention to some of the films that are available to support during this year: *Living Room; Injury Time; Doomsdays; Co-Oni; Central Texas BBQ; Grounded; The Little Girl; Enfilade; Too Dark; Peppercorn, Babycorn, Unicorn; and You and Me*. I would encourage all those who are able to support local artists and support those in the film industry—you never quite know where these future directors and producers could end up. We are proud to host many of them right here in Adelaide.

The Returned and Services League of Australia Glynde RSL Sub Branch recently conducted their annual dinner, and they are a wonderful group of people. I would also like to thank them for their hospitality and the good service they provide in Glynde. We were welcomed by the master of ceremonies, Vice President Colin, and then a service of remembrance was conducted by President Geoff, who then went on to make the loyal toast. They played the national anthem. Grace was given by Vice President Colin and a toast to the RSL was undertaken by President Geoff.

We were also fortunate to be entertained by Colleen Bradke. It was good to see Mr Tim Gray, head of the LHI home in Glynde, which is a village of hundreds of residents in my electorate. It was a wonderful evening, and it is a privilege to support the club. I thank them for all that they do in the community, and for the hospitality they offered me that night. In recent times, I also supported the 21<sup>st</sup> annual graduation night of the Young Druze Professionals of South Australia. I would like to congratulate both the tertiary and secondary graduates. The tertiary graduates were: Miss Marina

Aburas, Mrs Monica Mashtoub, Miss Lara Rasheed, Mrs Zeina Rasheed, Miss Natasha Raslan, Ms Rima Richani, and Mr Serge Zebian. The secondary graduates were: Mr Jad El-Banna, Mr Hisham El-Jourdi, Mr Jad Ghosn, Miss Lana Hassenieh, Miss Jana Humzy, Mr Majd Masri, Miss Meray Najjar, Mr Nader Obeid, Mr Mhammad Radwan, Mr Adam Rasheed and Miss Liana Salha.

The Druze community do a particularly good job at acknowledging the good deeds of their young people, and it was wonderful to be able to support and participate in the event. I commend the community for all they do, and I wish these young people all the very best for the future. I have no doubt that they will go on to do wonderful things in our community. I especially commend Mr Nidal Rasheed and Dr Aaron Areege Mohtar, who were community speakers, as they actually graduated from the same function not so long ago. It was great to see how much of an impact the graduation ceremony had had for them, and it is good to see them doing such prosperous things in the local community.

### FEDERAL BUDGET

**Mr GEE (Napier) (15:31):** Today, I want to raise my concerns about the recent federal budget and the impact it will have on families, young people and workers who live in my electorate. This budget provides very limited benefit to those in my electorate; however, this budget does give all South Australians a clear choice in the July 2016 federal election.

It is a choice between a plan for the wealthy, big business and big polluters, or a plan supporting education, health, jobs, the environment, and equality for women and the LGBTIQ community—a choice where school funding is based on the needs of our young people and those with autism, dyslexia and other learning difficulties that will require extra support, or schools that are funded based on performance with no reversal of the previous Liberal cuts, a choice where universities provide a chance for young people to attend based on their intelligence, or \$100,000 degrees—an opportunity, again, only for the wealthy.

It is a choice where our hospitals are funded based on people's needs and no GP tax, or a system where your credit card gets a better workout than your Medicare card, and for ever-increasing out-of-pocket costs for hospital, doctor and specialist visits. An unaffordable \$48 billion tax cut for all businesses including multinationals, or a small business tax cut which benefits the majority of businesses in Australia and a majority of businesses in my electorate of Napier. A personal tax cut for the wealthy, while family assistance is cut. I believe that an independent umpire should decide penalty rates, not the federal Liberal government. Those families who hoped that a change in prime minister would reverse the cuts to family payments have been left disappointed with this government, as it continues its attacks on families through reduced education funding, increased health costs and less support for families.

Young people should be offered real opportunities, not internships that have no ongoing prospect of future employment. We need a federal government that will fund quality education and training, with support for the wellbeing of young people. It is disgraceful that the federal Liberal government is cutting funding to mental health services in general, and specifically the headspace Youth Early Psychosis Program. It is essential that we provide good mental health care for our young people, with almost one-quarter of our young people now experiencing a mental health condition.

It is also disgraceful that the federal Liberal government is cutting funding to community legal service centres, as well as the Working Women's Centre. These services are essential to my constituents who may not be able to access legal representation. Only one side is investing in jobs and transition in the north, while the other is exporting jobs to Spain, and would have exported jobs to Japan as well if not for our strong state Labor government, the campaign by unions, and the public outrage towards the federal government for selling out South Australia in such a disgraceful way.

I thank Nick Champion, the member for Wakefield, and his federal colleagues for their advocacy and commitment to South Australia. I also thank John Camillo and the AMWU officials and members for protecting and delivering jobs for workers in South Australia. After promising to build 12 submarines in South Australia and then doing everything they could to get out of it, the federal government was forced to back down, but the public will not forget come July.

I support the long overdue electrification of the Gawler rail line and the ADLINK train network being delivered to create jobs and get more cars off our roads. I support real and direct action on

climate change, a world-class NBN, and more support for women and children. This federal government and this Prime Minister have shown they have no compassion for those people in the LGBTIQ community, with the staged axing of the Safe Schools program and the promise to put the community through a very expensive and divisive debate over same-sex marriage.

The majority of Australians support marriage equality and robust antibullying programs. Bill Shorten and his team understand this and support all Australians. Voters have a choice between the future and the past, a choice between the rich and the poor, a choice between supporting families and young people or abandoning them, and a choice between a Medicare card and a credit card. The choice has never been clearer. I support a bright, united future for Australia, delivered by a united Shorten team.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION**

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (15:36):** I move:

That standing orders and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable Private Members Business, Other Motions, set down on the *Notice Paper* for today to take precedence over Government Business, except for the receipt and any consequential consideration of messages from the Legislative Council.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** An absolute majority not being present, ring the bells.

*An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:*

Motion carried.

*Motions*

**CAROLINE BRISTOW WIG LIBRARY**

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Chapman (resumed on motion).

**Ms COOK (Fisher) (15:39):** It is my great pleasure today to rise on behalf of the government to support the motion about the Caroline Bristow Wig Library. Firstly, I would like to offer my congratulations to Ellen Traeger, the chair, and the Caroline Bristow Wig Library committee itself for the development and establishment of the Caroline Bristow Wig Library, located at the Barmera Hospital near the women's health team in the Riverland.

Caroline Bristow was a former South Australian police officer and Renmark resident, and the primary driver behind this project. While undergoing chemotherapy, Caroline saw the benefits of wearing wigs and wanted them to be available to all cancer sufferers, not only to those who could afford to buy one. They are extraordinarily expensive, if you were to purchase one. Caroline did not let her illness stop her from achieving her vision. She tirelessly worked throughout her illness to establish the wig library in Renmark for people undergoing chemotherapy in the Riverland region.

In January 2009, my family began its own battle with cancer. At the age of 31, my youngest sister went to the doctor with a small cyst in her breast. Her doctor did investigations and said that she felt it was quite benign and not an issue. In fact, that was true: it was a cyst without a problem. However, the very diligent doctor decided to send her for a scan to rule out any other possibilities. Buried well beneath this surface cyst was a very dangerous form of breast cancer that would never have been found had the doctor not been so diligent.

We laughingly referred to that cyst as 'the hand of God', as in the soccer match, and said that the cyst was reaching out and giving us a message. In her early 30s, and with a two year old and a six year old, my sister started undergoing aggressive chemotherapy. When I was researching the Caroline Bristow Wig Library, I spoke to my sister about her experience. She is now seven years clear and doing extremely well. Since then, she has qualified as a nurse and now works at the beautiful Lady Cilento hospital in Brisbane.

She told me that some of the most important things as a young woman undergoing chemotherapy treatment are the ability to just walk down the street, to be with your children, and to just feel beautiful. For her, it was very important to have the confidence to cover up her head with

something beautiful. I know that for many women undergoing cancer treatment that in fact involves a wig, so I can fully understand the great work of Caroline Bristow and her supporters.

The library was named after Caroline in honour of her service to the South Australian police force and for her contribution to the Riverland over the past 25 years. Thank you to Caroline's family, friends, work colleagues, and the local community, for their support and effort in keeping Caroline's name alive, and their effort with fundraising and donations. I am sure that the member for Chaffey fully understands the great work that continues on a daily basis. Thank you to the Renmark community, to the Renmark Lions Club, and also to Bonnie Wigs, a great organisation, for their contribution to the cause—a really wonderful legacy to a really brave and remarkable community woman.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:43):** I rise to close the debate, and I thank the member for Bragg for her contribution. To correct the last contribution, I would like to put on the record that it was Senator Anne Ruston who had the insight, and she was the architect, for bringing the wig library back to the Riverland. We must congratulate the chair, Ellen Traeger, and her committee for developing and establishing the wig library, which was named after Caroline Bristow. It really is a 'good news' story about a woman who was taken tragically so early in her life.

To give a bit of an update about the library, it now has 75 wigs thanks to the kind donations of people in the local Riverland and Mallee community with many coming from Adelaide as well. This is something that is an ongoing addition to the library. Fourteen women have now borrowed wigs from the library, and they have been extremely happy in being able to find a wig that suits them and makes them feel confident about themselves when they are out and about. 'So, please, keep on letting the community know we are here,' says the wig library. I am sure there are many people out there who they would love to help. Remember, it is at the Barmera Hospital's women's health wing. I ask the government to support this motion.

Motion carried.

## HOMELESSNESS

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:45):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) calls on the state government to further address the long-term waiting lists for affordable housing and homelessness in South Australia;
- (b) urges the state government to take decisive action to help reduce the cost of living pressures in this state; and
- (c) acknowledges the outstanding work undertaken by service groups across the state to help the less fortunate.

I bring this motion to the house to highlight the seriousness of homelessness in South Australia and the lack of available affordable housing for our youth, in particular. It is a major issue that needs much greater focus, particularly in the electorate of Chaffey in the Riverland.

I will start with a recent conference in Adelaide where experts and sector workers warned that a looming tsunami of industrial change facing South Australia will happen when car maker Holden closes in 2017, and it could prompt a stampede into homelessness if the state is not able to generate more employment opportunities. The conference stated, 'Our unemployment is the worst in the nation and is not getting any better.'

On any given night, one in 200 people in Australia is homeless. In the 2011 ABS census, there were 105,237 homeless people in Australia. In South Australia, there were 5,985 people—that is, 37.5 people per 10,000—homeless on the census night in 2011. Almost 3,200 children younger than nine ended up on the homelessness service in 2014-15, with 22,382 people in South Australia needing help with crisis or long-term accommodation. Most concerning was that 14 per cent were children aged younger than nine, and about a third of those people were fleeing family violence.

At the conference, the University of Adelaide's Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning director, Professor Andrew Beer, said the current homelessness sector may not be large enough or sufficiently well resourced to cope. Professor Beer said that problems with under-

resourcing and insufficient funding are particularly concerning for South Australia. The Hutt Street Centre manager, Ian Cox, told media that more families were presenting to the centre, and he feared it could worsen if the unemployment rate continued to rise. He said people were often living in cars. They had been recently evicted or moved from interstate with children as young as three. Mr Cox said that a crucial element of the long-term response to homelessness was to build more suitable affordable housing.

A count of those who sleep on the streets of Adelaide taken in May 2015 found that more than half of the 81 people sleeping rough in the city had effectively given up finding stable accommodation because it was too expensive and inaccessible. In 2015, the federal and state governments together spent about \$57 million on homelessness services in this state. I am aware of the state government's Renewing Our Streets and Suburbs strategy to regenerate old Housing Trust stock that predates 1968 within the next 15 years.

The questions I have had raised with me about this program though are: why is it predominantly city-based and, even if this program is just city-based, is it enough to meet the future demand? The Rann government committed to halving the number of rough sleepers in South Australia by 2013 as part of its Strategic Plan, but in 2012 the South Australian Strategic Plan Audit Committee concluded that it was unclear this goal would ever be achieved. While the number of homeless persons increased by 10 per cent across Australia between 2001 and 2006, it rose by 2.4 per cent over the same period across South Australia. My point is that the state's homeless numbers are still increasing. I would like to refer to an Adelaide University report, entitled 'Homelessness South Australia: a 2015 stocktake of homelessness issues in South Australia'. It states:

...South Australia has entered a period of economic transition that will take a number of years to work through. While the fall in the value of the Australian dollar will help the State's recovery, much economic damage is unavoidable as General Motors Holden...and associated suppliers cease operations by 2017...

I think you would also need to add that there is a slowing of the mining sector. The report goes on:

The impacts on the state economy will be profound, and those most affected will be the vulnerable within society. We can anticipate greater levels of family breakup, domestic violence, young people leaving the family home before they are ready, an on-going crisis of housing affordability for many and greater demands on the full spectrum of welfare services, including homelessness services. We know from the research literature that these events can have long term impacts, with some individuals affected for decades and some homelessness transmitted across generations...

Other factors impacting upon homelessness and housing affordability include low interest rates, which have contributed to house price inflation in South Australia, with median house prices closer to \$500,000. Owning a home for low income earners or even our youth is almost out of the question. The rental market is in high demand as a result.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out the amazing work of our service groups and organisations that help those who may find themselves homeless. I would like to acknowledge, particularly in the electorate of Chaffey, some of the groups that are doing fantastic work that I have just recently experienced out and about while having a look at homelessness and some of the issues around people living it rough. They include ac.care, Life Without Barriers, the Salvos, Centacare, and the list goes on.

I want to touch upon some of the experiences that have occurred in my electorate. It was a real eye-opener for me to head out with the Berri-based welfare agency Life Without Barriers in a dinghy patrolling the River Murray to take water and assistance out to some of South Australia's most vulnerable people. When I hopped into the dinghy, I had no idea what I was about to experience. I travelled along a considerable stretch of the river around the Riverland to see people living rough, living in tents, living under pieces of canvas, and in some cases people were living under sheets of galvanised iron. These people are out of sight and out of reach of today's typical society.

The Life Without Barriers team goes above and beyond to drop off water. A lot of the homeless have become socially inept or unable to interact with mainstream society. The Life Without Barriers employees do food and water drops by the tents, by the canvas, by the sheets of galvanised iron and then leave. As we motored away in the dinghy, we would see these people emerge, and

they were very grateful for the drop that had been left with them. Welfare agencies in the Riverland are never really surprised by what they see.

On the 2011 census night, roughly 600 people were living homeless in the Riverland alone. One of the main issues is the lack of available emergency housing, particularly in regional areas, which is then also complicated by a number of other factors, such as high unemployment. As I said, these boat patrols run several times every week along the riverbanks between Renmark and Waikerie, and it is evident that homeless people live in these locations. Some are there for weeks; some have been there for a number of years. For me, it was an eye-opener to understand exactly the challenges life presented for them, not being able to afford housing, becoming socially incapable of interacting with mainstream people. It really makes you wonder where the priorities are with the way funding works and how support mechanisms are put in place and how they are funded.

Obviously, the cost-of-living pressures currently facing many South Australians are placing more pressure on those who are already homeless and those who are facing homelessness. The extra strain is never quite seen, particularly with service providers that are continually under resourced. Those service groups are doing a great job with what they have available. For those who own or rent a home, the cost of water, electricity and gas services, as well as the continual increase of our ESL, are all contributing to what I consider a concerning number of people in the region on the verge of becoming homeless. The Riverland's unemployment sits at 9.3 per cent and, again, without an income, the chances of owning your own home or being able to find a roof over your head are becoming minute.

Of course, there are other factors which are contributing to the continued rates of homelessness in the Riverland and those factors resonate across the state. Domestic violence remains a factor which contributes significantly to people living rough. Groups such as Centacare with Ele Wilde and her team do an outstanding job with an ever-reducing amount of resources and funding for what I think is God's work. They are working tirelessly to support women and families impacted by domestic violence.

Sadly, my electorate has also seen the rise of drug use and the increasing presence of crystal methamphetamine. It seems to be a conversational topic that is raised with me on an all too frequent basis. Drug issues are certainly contributing to homelessness and have also put welfare services under the pump. The dire situation of people living rough in the region is also further complicated, as I said, by the lack of public transport. In many regions of South Australia, particularly the Riverland and the Mallee, public transport is almost non-existent. That puts further strain on people being able to access services and can drive them to become homeless. It is just another factor.

Another concern to me is that many of those living rough or looking for affordable social housing are our youth. It is a sad fact that we have an increasing number of youth living rough who are taking up residence wherever they can find shelter. The findings of a recent study by the Flinders University Rural Clinical School were presented at the National Rural Health Conference in Darwin. That study found that youth homelessness is on the rise in the regions and that, sadly, access to drugs is a major factor.

The university was approached by agencies to deal with homelessness because the agencies had noticed an increase in homeless youth aged between 10 and 18. The local Riverland ABC recently reported on a Riverland mum who had spoken out about being homeless with her four children after ending an abusive relationship. Ending that relationship left Kate unable to pay the rent, and she soon was evicted, unable to afford food. She lived on the cramped floor of a room at a relative's house. This is just an example of people who are facing life's challenges, who are being forced to become homeless and who live in today's society. As Kate said, this is one of the hardest things she has had to do: with four children, she decided that an abusive relationship had to end and she became a homeless statistic.

These are the sad realities of what we face in today's society. The homeless and the young people who are unable to afford homes find themselves without a roof over their head. We in this place should understand that, and we should reach out and give them more support. I call on the government to look at the homeless situation, particularly that of our youth, and to look at drug addiction and the reserves and the support that need to be put out there. Regional South Australia's

drug addiction is increasing and the rehabilitation centres are not there. No-one is putting a hand out to give them a hand so that they do not reoffend. I commend this motion to the house.

**Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (16:00):** I rise to oppose this motion but not because I disagree necessarily with the member's sentiments. These are complex issues and no-one likes to see homelessness and their fellow human beings sleeping rough. It is true that so much of this is domestic violence-related. Too much of this is domestic violence-related, and it is particularly distressing, of course, when you see kids sleeping rough, and I have seen that myself. I have seen kids sleeping rough in cars and it is heartbreaking.

I oppose this motion because it ignores the efforts and the achievements of this government in relation to making housing more affordable. We are addressing homelessness and we are attempting, and often succeeding, in easing the cost-of-living pressures for those on low and fixed incomes. It is important that these accomplishments are recognised, and I would like to take the opportunity to place some of them on the record.

Before I do, though, I would also like to acknowledge and commend the exceptional work done by many of our service groups, our non-government organisations and other community-based groups in our community. There are many of these organisations working tirelessly in our community to help struggling families. They provide invaluable support and assistance to the vulnerable, the isolated and to disadvantaged people, as well as working collaboratively with the government. On behalf of the government and this parliament, I extend thanks to all community service groups for the great work they do.

Adelaide is considered one of the world's most liveable cities. We are understandably proud of this, but we do understand that there are many South Australians who struggle to balance competing financial pressures, such as mortgage or rent, school fees, utility bills and the cost of essentials, such as food and clothing. Upon taking office, the Premier laid out his seven key strategic priorities for our state, one of which was ensuring that South Australia remains an affordable place to live, and since 2011 much work has taken place towards this end.

This government is committed to working across a broad range of housing options to meet housing needs, including developing new opportunities for affordable housing. The member already mentioned the government's Renewing our Streets and Suburbs program, which means that over the next 15 years a lot of our old Housing Trust stock is being replaced with new contemporary housing much better suited to the needs of the community, the changing demographics and the changing ethnic makeup of our communities.

This government has also been working with financial institutions to improve the purchasing power of buyers and working with industry on design measures that will help make housing more affordable without impacting on its quality. Housing SA has moved from a waiting list to a housing register model, which means that people seeking housing assistance get help to access a broad range of housing services appropriate to their circumstances. This is far more than just public housing.

For example, South Australians struggling to access affordable housing can also get help with information, private rental, homelessness support, and public or community housing. Over 85 per cent of people on Housing SA's category 1 list have received at least one of these services in the past year. Through the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, the government provides a range of concessions as well as Affordable Living programs which aim to ease the cost of living for people on low and fixed incomes and which help them to have greater control of their own finances. In 2014-15, around \$163.3 million was allocated through DCSI for concessions, benefiting over 200,000 households.

On top of this, many different services are offered through the suite of Affordable Living programs. This financial year, around \$10.7 million will be provided for these programs. This includes funding for financial counselling, financial assistance, emergency electricity payments, low income support, utilities, literacy and microfinance products, including the new Good Money store at Salisbury. In fact, within a few short months of establishing the new Good Money store at Salisbury, Good Shepherd and the Good Money store team have delivered 100 no-interest loans to the community; that is, 100 loans that would not otherwise have been provided and 100 people who

would be worse off if it were not for this store. Additional support is also provided through the spectacles scheme, the funeral assistance program, the personal alert system rebate scheme and the Companion Card program.

Importantly, the state government has acted to look after South Australian pensioners and low income earners through the introduction of the Cost of Living Concession. Rather than a rebate off a bill, this concession is a direct payment that can be applied as a person sees fit. Making this concession available to tenants means that an estimated 45,000 additional households are now eligible for support. Three new Foodbank hubs have been opened: one in my electorate, at Elizabeth; one at Edwardstown; and one at Port Pirie, helping people with emergency food relief in times of crisis. The government has also supported the Affordable SA helpline, together with more funds for financial counselling.

However, making real improvements in the quality of life of South Australians is a job that government cannot do alone, that is why we partner with the non-government sector and the broader community to deliver vital support to our community. Such assistance includes financial counselling, emergency assistance and, more recently, tenancy management through the transfer of public housing to the community sector.

The variety of service and community groups that administer these programs is wide and their reach across the state is huge. Their capacity to collaborate and to work together with government is something that we in South Australia can be truly proud of. But, of course, there is always more that can be done and this government is committed to doing so. We are committed to ensuring that South Australia is a healthy, safe and just place to live, where people with limited means can participate fully in the great quality of life we have here. As such, the government will be opposing this motion and I urge others to do the same.

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (16:06):** I rise to support the motion and I commend the member for Chaffey for bringing such an important motion to this chamber. I note the member for Little Para states that, although he agrees with the principle, he is not supporting the motion. However, if you read the motion carefully it says that it 'calls on the State Government to further address'. It is not saying that you are not addressing the issue, it is saying that it requires further addressing because, clearly, not enough is being done.

If it was, then why would the Salvation Army's report, their National Economic and Social Impact Survey released yesterday, called Out of Reach, highlight as their number one item the accessibility of suitable, affordable and sustainable long-term housing? If enough was being done it would not be highlighted. I would call on the government to support this motion. Further, in the Salvation Army report, which was released yesterday, there was a quote:

People need a stable foundation to start with for labour market programs to work. What they need is a ladder of opportunity to pull them up—support to make them employable...

And housing is at the very base of that requirement for people to actually get jobs. The member for Chaffey mentioned the issues in the Riverland. I too have been out with Life Without Barriers and the member for Chaffey on both the dinghy and the four-wheel drive tours to see the campsites of homeless people who cannot afford rental properties, nor can they afford to purchase their own properties. I have also been out with many of the service providers throughout metropolitan Adelaide including Street to Home; there are dozens of them out there.

So, things are certainly being done. The council is sending people out early in the morning to visit the common sites where people sleep to see that they are okay. One morning when I went out with the Street to Home team we found a homeless couple and they were both found housing, so it was a good morning to be able to meet some people and hear their stories.

There are lots of reasons why people are homeless. A lot of boarding houses do not allow couples, which is one reason why couples would choose to be homeless. I have met people eating at the Hutt Street Centre who were there for that very reason, that they were not prepared to be separated, yet there is no housing available for them as a couple so to sleep in the Parklands, basically, was their only option. So, we do need to address this more and the government does need to do more, and although I acknowledge that they are doing a considerable amount, more needs to be done. I will quote from this year's ROG (report on government services):

A lack of adequate and affordable housing contributes to housing stress and homelessness, and is detrimental to people's physical and mental health. Homelessness affects life expectancy, with homeless people estimated to live 15-20 years less than the mainstream population.

There are widespread consequences of not fixing the homelessness problem. I am told by people who work in the prison system that the prison population goes up in winter because there are actually homeless people who would prefer to break the law to go to prison so that they have a roof over their head and three square meals a day, because that is a far better option than the option they have of sleeping out.

We know that a homeless man was found dead in the river recently and we know that a homeless woman was found last year in the car park at Business SA, so we know how dangerous it is sleeping out in the Parklands and sleeping rough. We know there are other alternatives: that homeless people break the law to go to prison, some of them end up in hospital, which also costs a lot of money, and many of them end up with mental health problems that last a lifetime, which is also a considerable expense for the government. More money should be spent up-front to provide adequate housing, more boarding houses, facilities like Common Ground, perhaps facilities where couples can live. We should address this issue earlier to avoid long-term health issues and mental health issues.

Last year, I went to a housing round table. Some of the points that came out of that round table were that 12 per cent of homelessness looks like Hutt St, so the perceived single older man, yet 25 per cent of homeless people are actually 16 to 25 years old and 60 per cent are families or single parents with children. Certainly they are very keen to make sure that there is wider appreciation that homelessness is not just older single men, that it affects a wide range of people, and it is particularly sad when it affects children. They were saying that most people are only two to three pays away from poverty and many are only six pays away from homelessness.

It is also noted in many of these different forums and meetings that I have been to that alcohol is actually the most harmful drug. We do hear a lot about ice and illicit drugs, but alcohol is also a major factor contributing to homelessness. Many homeless people have contacted my office to express their anguish that Housing SA properties are being left empty when they do not have a home to live in.

Linsell Lodge was a Salvation Army property off Whitmore Square. I have had many homeless people contact me to say, 'Why am I sleeping in the Parklands when there's this five-storey building that's sitting there empty?' It is empty due to the fire regulations and some of the building code upgrades. I understand the need for safety, but it is not good for a homeless person to see an empty building because it is not up to the high standards of the code. Maybe we need to look at the strictness of some of our codes when it means that we have properties sitting there empty and idle while we have homeless people sleeping rough, endangering their lives. With that in mind, I will quote from the Liberal Party policy that was recently released regarding the adaptive re-use of Adelaide's buildings:

Rather than just sitting empty, dilapidated and underutilised, we want to see these buildings come alive again—whether that be for hospitality, residential or office purposes.

We do need to look at how we can re-use space, buildings that are empty. We have a lot of empty office space in the city that could potentially be converted to residential. I believe that there is a lot of empty office space in the lower types of rentals, rentals that have not been upgraded and do not have all the bells and whistles that people want these days. That is an ideal opportunity, and they are doing it a lot in New York.

I visited there recently and, because people are more mobile with their businesses, taking their laptops to cafes and meeting with clients, and a lot are working from home, they are re-using a lot of the old office buildings now for housing. That could be a way that we could get more housing in the city where there are vacant spaces. I would like to note that, as at 20 May this year, there were 21,079 people on the Housing SA waiting list, and 3,471 of those were category 1. These are people living in extreme vulnerability that are waiting for houses.

There are always stories in the paper. There was one last year stating that a Housing Trust home had been vacant for 2,849 days, which is almost eight years. It was one of 1,000 properties

that were ready to rent out but were not being rented, and there are 3,000 people waiting for accommodation. There are things that can be done. I acknowledge the government is working on this, but there is a lot more that could be done.

A COAG agreement was signed in 2007 by the then minister to transfer up to 35 per cent of the South Australia Housing Trust properties to non-government organisations in order to take advantage of commonwealth rental assistance. This was signed nine years ago and agreed to by this Labor government; however, it was only last year that we had our first significant transfer of 1,100 homes. The government is falling behind on its own agreement. The government's failure to act on this policy means that the advantage of commonwealth rental assistance going to places like Anglicare and Unity Housing, which received the first transfer, would be able to be re-used to build further affordable housing. I commend this motion to the house, and I call on the government to support it because more can be done.

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright) (16:16):** I will just make a very quick contribution. The member for Little Para made a very detailed presentation about the situation as we see it in South Australia. Can I just make the point that I think perhaps the member for Chaffey has made a mistake in his motion. He:

...calls on the state government to further address the long-term waiting lists for affordable housing and homelessness in South Australia;

I do not think there is any waiting list for homelessness, as serious as that matter is. Nonetheless, I want to make the point that the issue of homelessness was not even on the political agenda or anyone's radar until Labor came to government in 2002.

The issue of homelessness was driven very hard by premier Rann at the time. I am going to outline for the house just a few of the initiatives that were put in place. We have heard from the member for Adelaide about Housing SA houses being empty. Of course, they are empty for lots of reasons. Sometimes they are empty because there is a change of tenant. They are empty on any given day because repairs and upgrades are being made. They are empty because they might be part of a redevelopment that is occurring. So, there is a churn of houses all the time.

When the Liberals were last in government, they sold 11,000 Housing SA properties. They sold them; they did not transfer them to non-government organisations so that they can get the benefits from the federal government. They sold them, and then they have the temerity to come in here and lecture us about homelessness. It is nice, however, that they are finally starting to think a little bit about homelessness.

One of the initiatives that Mike Rann brought to South Australia—and we were the first in Australia to do so—was to establish Common Ground. Common Ground had been operating in New York for some time, and I had the privilege of visiting a couple of the Common Ground facilities there. I have to say, our facilities in South Australia are much better; they are fantastic. They provide secure housing for people who are homeless and people who are on low incomes. They also provide medical and dental services. They help give people the skills they need to eventually transfer out into independent living.

So we have two Common Ground facilities here in the city, and also established in Port Augusta where I think the accommodation was made so that it would better fit families up there. I heard a fantastic story at the opening of the second Common Ground facility, and the member for Adelaide was right in saying that any one of us at any time could find ourselves in that situation. There was a wonderful story told to the gathered crowd and I do not think there was a dry eye in the place.

There was a young woman who had been sexually abused when she was about 14. She came from a wealthy family and went to a private school. She was abused by someone her father knew. She never told anyone and she ended up on the streets taking drugs, etc. This young woman told the crowd that Common Ground saved her life, that she was back at university and she had transitioned into her own independent living. It was one of the most moving stories, and I think it actually resonated with people that it was not just a particular type of person or a particular person from a low income area or a poor suburb who can find themselves homeless and in these situations; it can be anyone. Common Ground was established under a Labor government.

The other amazing facility—and I do not expect that anyone on the opposition has been to visit it—is The Terrace on South Terrace. This was a Housing SA initiative which was transferred over and is managed by Unity Housing. There are some beautiful old bluestone villas that would have been the holiday houses of the rich and famous in the early years of South Australia and we built some low-level apartment buildings behind that. At full capacity, it accommodates 100 people.

The accommodation there allows people to transfer from the street into a very open and simple room so that people are not feeling crowded and overwhelmed by space, and they slowly transition up into self-contained accommodation. At the opening of that facility, three of the clients came up to me; they had been out and bought themselves suits from the local op shop. They were so proud to be tenants there. These young men said to me that they could not believe how lucky and fortunate they were, because if they were living in Sydney they would be paying \$800 a week for their accommodation, yet they had safe and secure accommodation on site, with support on site 24 hours a day. The fantastic thing about that story is that one of those people again transitioned into his own independent accommodation and now supports people at the Hutt Street Centre. It is a fantastic story.

In relation to young people, when I was minister for housing I went down to Port Adelaide to have a look at the Black Diamond Hotel, which Housing SA had purchased in partnership with the Labor federal government at the time to turn it into a supported housing facility for young homeless people. I looked around that building and thought, 'This is either going to be really great or it's going to be one unholy disaster.'

Let me tell you that at the opening it was just fantastic. You could not imagine better accommodation. No young person going into that accommodation could not help but feel a sense that they mattered. There is 24-hour support, AFL footballers providing mentoring, and elite netballers and basketballers supporting the young women. The young people have to be either learning or earning to be in that place, so there is strict criteria about going in there. There is strong supervision and psychological support on site. There was a lot of whipping up of fear in that community when that facility was being constructed. I have to congratulate the Port Adelaide council, because they stood firm behind this fantastic initiative.

Of course, we then built the Uno Apartments in Wakefield Street. As part of that, it has accommodation for homeless youth straight off the street, Housing SA apartments, as well as apartments that provide for community housing, affordable purchase and market sales, so a complete mix. Young people have their own entrance so that they are secure. The staff know where they are at any given time, and they are able to help them through the trauma when they come off the streets. Again, that is a fantastic facility.

When the global financial crisis hit and the then prime minister, Kevin Rudd, provided stimulus money for housing, I said to the department, 'I don't want 1,365 three-bedroom houses because they'll go up in a puff of wind and no-one will notice.' So we were very strategic about where that money was spent and how it was spent. Some of it was spent in the Riverland, and I went up there and met one of the women who had moved into a new house. She was a grandmother who had been living in a shed, or a caravan, at the time, and caring for her grandson.

When I visited that woman's house, she was so incredibly proud and pleased, but it was very simple. In the lounge room she had two deck chairs, a cardboard box, and a television set—but you would have thought she was a multimillionaire. I have to say that it was absolutely wonderful. We contacted one of the non-government organisations here in Adelaide and they provided vouchers for her to be able to go and furnish her house. Rubys is another homelessness service for young people that the state and federal governments support.

I could go on and on about this government's list of initiatives, but I would stress that the opposition here should be talking to the federal government about their cutting of money to homelessness. So do not come in here with your mealy-mouthed motions, when your lot—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.M. RANKINE:** —cut the money.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member's time has expired. Member for Hammond.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Hammond is entitled to be heard in silence. I will not have his time interrupted by interjection. My protection is yours again, member for Hammond.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (16:27):** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I always appreciate your protection. I am just a wilting violet in this house.

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

**Mr PEDERICK:** Shrinking—thank you.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He may be wilting.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I note the motion from the member for Chaffey:

That this house—

- (a) calls on the state government to further address the long-term waiting lists for affordable housing and homelessness in South Australia—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr PEDERICK:** You had your go.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am on my feet. Member for Wright, member for Chaffey, go outside and talk to each other. You can go for 15 minutes, if you like: 15 minutes together of sin bin. Member for Hammond.

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

**Mr PEDERICK:** They do not appear to want to have a cup of tea together. The member for Chaffey's motion continues:

- (b) urges the state government to take decisive action to help reduce the cost of living pressures in this state; and
- (c) acknowledges the outstanding work undertaken by service groups across the state to help the less fortunate.

In speaking to this motion, it is well known across the state that there is so much homelessness and so much more work that needs to be done. Certainly, that came to the fore during the Social Development Committee in regard to domestic violence and the issues of homelessness around domestic violence, when women and children have to get out of their home for their own safety and find emergency accommodation and then longer term accommodation. It is an absolutely vital service for those people in those situations.

It is to be noted that the rising client debt levels of Housing SA have risen by \$1 million a year since 2012 and trebled to a \$3 million increase last financial year, 2014-15, to \$25.3 million. This does not include bad debts that have been written off. There is a category 1 waiting list. Certainly, in my electorate I have people who, for a range of reasons—generally health reasons and some with homelessness reasons—try to get on that category 1 waiting list so that they can find the appropriate accommodation. We have those services in my electorate, but there is certainly not enough of them.

We note that the category 1 waiting list has increased by 10 per cent from 3,069, in the years 2013-14, to 3,368 in 2014-15. These are our people who need the most support, and they are our most vulnerable. There are 21,190 people who are on the Housing SA waiting list in South Australia, which is a very slight improvement of 37 less than in the previous year. At this rate, it will take 572 years to fulfil the waiting list.

I have quite a few constituents who come to me from time to time with issues. Sadly, I have a case at the moment of a disabled lady whose accommodation is just not working out. I have actually

taken that issue directly to the Minister for Mental Health to see that we get the appropriate outcome. I am trusting that we will get the appropriate outcome because there has been quite a bad situation with the housemate in this current care house. I just hope we get that sorted out appropriately.

You have issues with people living in some of these houses with neighbours they are not happy with or neighbours who are disgruntled, so they apply for another house. It takes time sometimes, but I think the issue is: where is the money to go in to help these most vulnerable people in the state? They certainly need support right across all of our electorates. If they do not get that support, it just becomes something that we cannot be proud of. They are the most vulnerable, and we should be doing more to help these people.

I take my hat off to the non-government officers who support this work in assisting the homeless, including ac.care, UnitingCare, Centacare and others who get on board to make sure we get the right outcomes but, at the end of the day, you need that base government support and that base finance to be in place. It is ridiculous to have nearly 600 years' of people on waiting lists—it is just crazy. We need the investment in the right place to make sure we can help these most vulnerable right across the state, wherever they may be.

We note what is going on in the state at the moment, and there are not too many bright lights. As I indicated only this week in the house, agriculture is probably the last bright light in the state. Agriculture always has its issues, and we are struggling to get enough rain at the minute for the dryland farmers. I note, for the week at home, we have only had 10.5 millimetres of rain, so we are a long way down from Mount Hope in Flinders. We would certainly love the 51 millimetres they have had down there.

I think the South-East has had some good rains in the last few weeks. I heard of 50 millimetres in one place down there the other day. They certainly need it because, quite frankly, on a recent trip to Lucindale for the field days I had never seen the South-East looking the way it did before these recent rains. I have been travelling down there for over 30 years, and it was almost horrifying to see how bare the ground was.

There are issues for everyone, but what we are seeing in this state now is the wind-down of the steel industry and mining. We have seen what has happened at Leigh Creek and what is going to happen when Holden closes. Detroit said they were going to leave South Australia, and they are leaving South Australia. No matter what subsidies were paid to them, it was their decision at the end of the day. There is a big transformation, and I must say there are some very smart companies aligned with the car industry that are undergoing transformation. It is a lot of work trying to keep their employees on.

I note that in regard to employment the Ingham proposal could employ many hundreds of people, or close to 100,000 all-up, with building facilities in the north of Adelaide through Monarto, and up to 20 full-time jobs at Yumali in my area, with close to the same number of part-time jobs in that area. There will also be a net increase of not just five but 20 jobs created at the local feed mill that is going to be built at Murray Bridge.

That is great news, but we are seeing so many people who are losing their jobs and who are losing faith in the economy, struggling with their power bills, struggling with the cost of living, struggling with the ever-increasing emergency services levy, which has gone up another 1½ per cent. I really fear for the good citizens of this state, especially those who do our emergency services work—the CFS members (and there are quite a few of us on this side who are in the CFS), the SES members and the MFS—and who do great work in protecting our homes, our buildings, our lives and our properties, yet everyone is being hit with more and more land tax increases with this emergency services levy. Reality has to come into play. The government just has to stop looking upon the population of this state as a tax cash cow and do far more to assist the vulnerable, the homeless, and those looking for other housing options, especially those on the category 1 list.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (16:36):** I would like to make a contribution to this motion and debate. The issue of homelessness is very complex. Certainly, we all need to do all we can to assist the homeless. I think we need to understand that homelessness is more than not just having a roof over your head. That is certainly the hard edge of homelessness, not having a roof over your head, and I appreciate that, but it is a lot more.

It is not until you understand what you do in your home that you understand the importance of having a house or accommodation. For example, a home is where you live with a partner, children, or your family, etc. It is where you sit around the kitchen table and chat about things and have family time. It is a place where you meet with friends and engage with the community and extended family, etc. Homelessness is more than not having a home; it is about being isolated from the community in a very big way.

That is what makes it so complex, because people who become homeless are homeless for a whole range of reasons. In saying that, I am not making any judgement because if not for the grace of God there go I. I am very fortunate because I have had a loving family and friends. We migrated to this country and therefore we had opportunities, so I am very fortunate and I certainly would not look down at people who become homeless. I recall doing some volunteer work (a very small amount, I acknowledge) at the Hutt Street Centre, where I talked to workers and volunteers. I had the opportunity to meet a whole range of homeless people who are seeking assistance from Hutt Street. Hutt Street does a wonderful job, as do many other organisations, in supporting our homeless people.

When you hear individual stories, it is quite terrifying to realise that if you make one major bad decision in your life or if something happens you can go from being a very successful businessperson one day to a homeless person the next. People, for example, whose marriages or relationships break up may turn to alcohol or something. One moment they have a happy family life and the next moment they are homeless, as are women and children who are homeless as a result of domestic and family violence.

The reasons are many and complex, and there is no one solution. The general myth is that homeless people are homeless because they want to be homeless, and that is just not true. Those people who cannot grasp living in what you might call a 'mainstream lifestyle' often have mental health issues, and there is a range of reasons they are homeless.

That is one reason that when I was minister I supported people who were ex-offenders, making sure we gave homes to ex-offenders as well. If you are serious about reducing crime in our society and making sure that we rehabilitate offenders and give people second chances, a home is a very important part in that rehabilitation program. That has been shown clearly by research: people who have a home to go to when they leave prison or some sort of detention centre actually do much better in their rehabilitation.

As a parent, one of the things which fulfilled me the most when my children were young was seeing my children asleep at night, safe in their beds. I would think the day had been worthwhile whatever I had done that day at work, and that is what having a home means. It means all those things, it is more than just bricks and mortar. It is a whole range of emotional things, it is cultural things, and a whole range of things which make us human beings. It is so important in our society.

I attended a play, ironically by Stephen House, a South Australian playwright and actor, which was about homelessness. The very strong message from this play was how homeless people become invisible in our society. We get so used to seeing homeless people and we just walk past them in the street, not so much in Adelaide, but when you go to the bigger cities like Sydney and Melbourne there are a lot of people living on the street, particularly on street corners. It is so easy to become oblivious to those individuals and their circumstances. They become invisible and the main message of this play was how people just forget there is a human being behind that homeless person.

I will not repeat what has been said by a number of members on this side of the house because this government, since 2002, has a proud history of what we have endeavoured to do on homelessness and making housing affordable.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Let me finish. I am not suggesting that we have the issue resolved; I am not suggesting that at all, but our record is second to none in this country. I was very fortunate to attend places like Common Ground, Uno Apartments and the Ladder project where we have not just put people in homes but have helped them rebuild their lives so that they do not become homeless again.

There was a cycle of homelessness. This approach, which we have used as a government with places like Common Ground, which we support financially, and the Ladder project and a number of other projects, emphasises that we need to understand why people have become homeless. What do we need to do to help people to make sure they stabilise their lives and then grow again as individuals and not become homeless again? It might be TAFE or other studies, it might be a range of health supports, etc.

These projects have been supported by this government for a number of years and have been supported to different degrees by federal governments, particularly when the previous Labor government supported the initiatives in trying to reduce homelessness. The third part of the motion, paragraph (c), I am quite happy to support, but paragraphs (a) and (b) are quite offensive. It does two things: (1) it implies it is only a state responsibility to deal with this issue and, (2) it does not acknowledge the work we actually have done. We have done both.

As I said, we do not have the issue resolved. We have worked hard towards it and we need to do more, but it is a partnership. It is a partnership with the federal government and, from my experience in my previous role, I can say that sometimes there is a lack of understanding at the commonwealth level of what homelessness means and what the challenge is before us. I also talk about that in terms of the disability sector where they had no understanding of how we were going to transition from the state disability services to a national scheme and how we would actually make housing available for people with disabilities, and that is very important.

That is an area of concern I have because we have the money for packages for disabilities but we may not have accommodation for them to become independent individuals, and that concerns me a lot. Certainly from my discussions with the federal people at that time, they really did not understand that you have to do some work up-front to achieve that. I think that this is an important issue and that we need to work closely with the federal government and also the not-for-profit sector, as they do play an important role.

I was in my previous role when we initiated the process to transition the first tranche of public housing to the community sector. That was done because we could see that by doing that we actually get more money into the state and into those communities and also have opportunities to partner with local government. It is no secret that one of the local councils had discussions with me about partnering with us to improve services in that area. This motion does not do that. Unfortunately, this motion does not, firstly, acknowledge what we have done and, secondly, the motion implies that it is just a state government responsibility, and it is not.

We also need to work out—and this is also true in the disability sector—how we structure programs and schemes to get an injection of private investment in this sector too. I think it is very important because governments can provide the support and the client base for ongoing housing, but we need to get some things built today and we need an injection of investment. Housing does provide a steady return, so we need to work out how governments work together with the private sector to have an injection of money into this sector because we need a lot more housing in this area, particularly for people with disabilities.

Whether it is South Australia, or a Liberal government in New South Wales, or a Labor government in Victoria, we are all in the same boat. They all say the same thing, that we need to make sure we get an injection of funds from the private sector into this area to ensure that we provide that. We need to understand that, to resolve this issue, we must work as a community and we need to support those people in homelessness, but at the same time we must never forget—and I repeat, never forget—what it actually means to be homeless. It is more than just not having a roof over your head.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:46):** In closing, I would like to thank some of the government members for their constructive contributions to this motion. The member for Light does raise the issue that it is about a partnership with state governments and the federal government and that it is also an NGO partnership with government to address this issue. The majority of the contribution was all about what we have done and not about what we are going to do, and this motion is about the government needing to further their efforts. They need to do more. It is not attacking the government.

This motion is about an experience I have had with my constituents. It is an experience I have had that I felt strongly enough about that I thought that the motion needed to be brought to the house. The responsibility of government is just about that—it is about governing the situation that the state is in, particularly in relation to homelessness and increasing youth homelessness. It is confronting to see people living under sheets of iron, canvas and whatnot on the edge of the river. It is confronting to see a family living in a car. It is confronting. It is not about a single individual living in a car. It is about a mother and her children or a husband and his wife living in a car, and these are very serious issues.

The member for Wright is out of line. She is living in the past, attacking the motion on what she calls 'what we have done'. Again, she is living in history. Quite frankly, for the member for Wright to say that there is no waiting list for homelessness I think is outrageous. I would like to give you a little bit of an example. As of 31 May 2015, in Chaffey the category 1 waiting list had more than doubled in the previous 12 months and our waiting list grew overall. Often, I speak and write to the department highlighting the long waiting list for public housing in my electorate. In some cases, people are waiting two years for public housing requests and, yes, they may be category 3 now, but if they cannot find suitable accommodation they will soon end up in category 1.

I want to give a description of category 1. Category 1 applicants are in urgent need of housing—e.g. homeless. They are homeless, in urgent need of housing, and they are unable to access private rental housing options. Housing SA tenants, who have urgent reasons for requiring relocation, may also be placed in category 1. So, it just shows you that the member for Wright would not know if her hand were on fire, quite frankly.

In closing, I want to say that, as a state, we need to increase our attention and focus on these people and do everything within our power to reduce the number of people without a permanent roof over their head. Growing jobs is one way in which we can assist that measure. As I said, in my electorate of Chaffey it is extremely confronting to see people living on the riverbanks, living in cars, isolated from the rest of the community in many ways, and primarily it ends up with homelessness.

I am hoping that as a state this is something we can all work towards stopping. The funding to assist our most vulnerable must increase. As I listen to those agencies and service centres, they tell me that funding continues to be reduced, so I urge the government to do more.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes ..... 16  
Noes ..... 21  
Majority ..... 5

#### AYES

Chapman, V.A.	Duluk, S.	Gardner, J.A.W.
Goldsworthy, R.M.	Griffiths, S.P.	Marshall, S.S.
McFetridge, D.	Pederick, A.S.	Sanderson, R.
Speirs, D.	Tarzia, V.A.	Treloar, P.A.
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.	Whetstone, T.J. (teller)	Williams, M.R.
Wingard, C.		

#### NOES

Bedford, F.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Caica, P.	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Digance, A.F.C. (teller)	Gee, J.P.	Hildyard, K.
Hughes, E.J.	Kenyon, T.R.	Key, S.W.
Koutsantonis, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K.
Piccolo, A.	Rankine, J.M.	Rau, J.R.
Snelling, J.J.	Vlahos, L.A.	Wortley, D.

## PAIRS

Bell, T.S.  
Picton, C.J.  
Redmond, I.M.

Hamilton-Smith, M.L.J.  
Pisoni, D.G.  
Brock, G.G.

Knoll, S.K.  
Weatherill, J.W.

Motion thus negatived.

*Sitting extended beyond 17:00 on motion of Hon. L.W.K. Bignell.*

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (16:57):** I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises International Women's Day (IWD) on 8<sup>th</sup> March;
- (b) recognises that IWD was originally called 'International Working Women's Day' as a tribute to the struggles of working women;
- (c) celebrates and pays tribute to women's economic, political, cultural and social achievements to date;
- (d) recognises that inequality in many areas of life and in regards to basic human rights, continues to exist for women across the globe today;
- (e) recognises that IWD is a day on which we can reflect on the challenges ahead to achieving equality and commit to changing and furthering our actions for the advancement and equality of all women;
- (f) notes that this year's IWD theme is 'Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it Up for Gender Equality'; and
- (g) commits to doing what it can towards the achievement of equality for all women.

I rise today to speak about International Women's Day (IWD) which was marked and celebrated 2½ months ago, on 8 March. I was fortunate enough to speak about this important day during the grievance debate on that day, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to speak again.

As I said during the debate, International Women's Day, or as it was originally called International Working Women's Day, is marked each year on 8 March. It was first celebrated as a tribute to working women and it provided an opportunity to highlight issues about pay and conditions, as well as women's rights more generally.

In honouring our women's forebears, we can particularly acknowledge the union women who fought the earliest of fights for decent pay and conditions. Those women fought for those principles that underpin this day, and union women today continue to play a pivotal role in our women's movement. IWD must continue to be marked and celebrated for many reasons. It gives us an opportunity to recognise the past political, social, economic and cultural achievements of women and to renew our collective commitment to work together to achieve equality for women in all areas of life in our local communities and across the globe.

In my speech on International Women's Day, I spoke about our moving on from the grid girls, our Australian Labor Party's target of 50 per cent women in our parliaments by 2025, our ongoing fight to achieve equal pay, our ongoing challenges with and for women around the globe, the 'F' word (feminism), and why it is definitely not okay for federal Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton to refer to women journalists as witches.

Today I turn my focus not just to our achievements and the enduring opportunities and challenges that women face but to the pioneers of this place who paved the way for women of all political persuasions to come. In particular, I pay tribute today to the first two women in parliament: Joyce Steele and Jessie Cooper. Indeed, Joyce's presence via her magnificent portrait behind us graces us inside this very house. Whilst it—

**The Hon. S.W. Key:** Very big, too.

**Ms HILDYARD:** It is very big. Whilst it took our Labor Party a little longer to get our first woman into parliament—the formidable Molly Byrne—she made up for lost time, and since that moment we have continued to lead the way on women in our parliament.

Our South Australian example of women in leadership is an inspiring example of what we can achieve together. We are fortunate that here in South Australia we can draw upon an inspirational tradition of activist women who were fearless advocates for equality—women such as Catherine Helen Spence, the first woman to stand as a political candidate in Australia. It was thanks to the relentless efforts of Catherine Helen Spence and her fellow activists that, in December 1894, South Australia proudly became the first Australian state to allow women to vote. At the same time, women were granted the right to stand in state elections—the first place in the world—and women ratepayers were granted the right to vote in municipal and local council elections in 1861.

Susan Grace Benny was the first female local government councillor in Australia. She was elected to Brighton council in our southern suburbs in 1919. In 1986, South Australian senator Janine Haines became the first woman to lead an Australian political party, the Australian Democrats. Also in 1986, Labor's Anne Levy became President of the South Australian Legislative Council. She was the first woman to be a presiding officer of a house of parliament in Australia.

In 1994, when Carolyn Pickles was elected as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, she was the first woman elected to lead a major Australian political party in any chamber. Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young is the youngest woman to enter the federal parliament, elected in 2007 at the age of 25. Elected in 2010 at 21, Kelly Vincent MLC from Dignity for Disability is the youngest woman to be elected to any of Australia's parliaments. Of course, we cannot forget that Australia's first female prime minister, Julia Gillard, also hails from Adelaide.

These women all achieved positional status, but their leadership started with speaking up and with supporting others. These were and are a brilliant cohort of campaigners who really knew how to take on a great cause, bring women and others together around that cause, and win. These pioneering triumphs for women's equality were the result of commitment and sheer hard work over many years by very determined women.

Their impressive legacy spurs us on to continue their inspiring example. It also spurs us on to deeply commit to using our own leadership to empower the leadership of others, of those around us now, and of those who will follow. One of the most important things we can do as leaders is to give others a voice, and that is what I strive to do in parliament, in my work with and for our community.

One of the things that gives me the greatest pleasure in that work is empowering the voice of other women. Wherever I go in my southern community, there are women that I see who volunteer at their local football or other sporting club that I then see volunteering at their school governing council, and then at Meals on Wheels or elsewhere, and then rushing in to help when another community member falls on hard times. In them, I see an extraordinarily selfless kind of leadership, and I do what I can to support them, and, on the issues that they care about, to connect them and to empower their voice. One of the things that I have been committed to doing over the past few years is to publicly recognise those women for what they do, so often without an expectation of recognition.

I have continued a local community women's dinner and awards night to recognise those contributions. We have a ball there. As well as much fun and frivolity, however, we also discover the most extraordinary stories of selflessness, of relentless focus on a cause, and leadership which is truly about the achievement of a greater good. Through that event, we truly recognise that leadership is not always undertaken from the front of a room, from a structured position in power. Of course, leadership is not always in politics. Professor Amanda Sinclair from the Melbourne Business School argues:

Our interest in Australian women's leadership should change understandings of what is recognised as leadership: not just 'adding women in', but shifting public images and imagination about what good leadership is.

The contributions of women across our state in so many areas are impressive—in the arts, business, sports, sciences, and every area, with names like Maggie Beer, Moya Dodd, Julia Farr, Sia Furler, Mary MacKillop, Ms Gladys Sim Choon, Dr Helen Mayo, Dame Roma Mitchell, Mary Beasley, Susan Margarey, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, and Gill Hicks. There are so many wonderful leaders in our day-

to-day lives that are still breaking glass ceilings and pulling up other women behind them. It is an impressive legacy for our state.

I have long been committed to seeing more women in senior positions in all areas of our community. As a community activist and a politician, I have learnt that it is important for women to support each other but, more than that, it is vital that we do not let women's issues fall off our radar. We must continue to push to ensure that women's voices are heard and remain on the agenda for all of us. As Dolly Parton said, 'If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, to learn more, to do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader.'

As I have spoken about, we have had an extraordinary run of extraordinary women grace our parliaments. Their impressive legacy spurs us on to continue their inspiring example, but our work is not yet done. That is why at our Australian Labor Party National Conference last year and our state conference this year I was very proud to advocate for, vote for and move affirmative action changes to our Australian Labor Party rules to ensure that 50 per cent of our delegations to state and federal parliaments will be women.

We are all mature and wise enough in this place to see that there are real reasons that women are structurally excluded from leadership roles in our communities and in our parliament. It is, of course, absolutely not that merit is somehow only found in men or that women are somehow not up to the task. There are just as many meritorious men as there are women but, given our lack of equal representation in parliament, we must use the tools of quotas and affirmative action to bust through the structural barriers and ensure that this equality is reflected in our parliaments.

I am proud to be part of a forward-thinking party that has prioritised women's representation in our parliaments. There is more to be done, but I intend to be at the forefront of this fight. We must recommit to ensuring that our community make-up is reflected in the make-up of our parliaments, in all leadership positions and in all other places so that girls and young women are able to aspire to and succeed at doing whatever they have their heart set on. Social and economic change for women has nearly always been hard won and it takes individuals making deep decisions to lead, step up, speak up and act together for as long as it takes to win, and that is more important than ever around International Women's Day. I am proud to be able to speak here today and to speak up for all women in our South Australian community; it is truly an honour and one of which I am extraordinarily proud.

This year's International Women's Day theme, 'Planet 50-50 by 2030: step it up for gender equality', speaks to the issues I have addressed today, so it is fitting that we talk about these issues in our peak decision-making places. I look forward to working with all of my parliamentary colleagues on ensuring that all women have the chance to achieve their dreams, whether they be in the parliament, on the sporting field, in the boardroom or anywhere else they may choose.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the next speaker, you did mention Muriel Matters, didn't you, and I just didn't hear you?

**Ms HILDYARD:** Of course.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will be checking that *Hansard*, member for Reynell. The member for Adelaide.

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (17:07):** I rise to support the motion recognising and celebrating International Women's Day. I would like to start by acknowledging the work of Muriel Matters, who is a very, very important woman, a strong woman and a role model for many of us. While I am on a roll, I would also like to thank Joyce Steele, our first female member of the House of Assembly, for leading the way and really showing how it is done.

I would like to acknowledge the strong women who have been instrumental in my life and who have made me who I am. I especially acknowledge the hard work of all the women who fought for a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to be in this house, because I am obviously a recipient of their hard work, being here as I am now as a woman in parliament, so I thank them for all their hard work.

Although there is more work to be done, because apparently many women are still not paid equal rates of pay that men are for the same jobs, I have been very fortunate to always work in

industries where I have never actually come across that. In the modelling industry, men and women were paid the same rates. In fact, women had lingerie loadings that it was harder for the men to get, so women in some ways were actually paid more. In hospitality, we were paid equally. In retail, at places such as Myer, we were paid equally. There are certainly industries where people have to fight it out, and potentially some people fight for flexibility of hours instead of money, so who knows. I know there are a lot of people who are still fighting for equal pay for equal work for women.

As for being a member of parliament, I found no barriers to entering parliament just by being a woman, and I found no barriers to any jobs or in anything I have done in my life. Other than maybe reaching for things that are high up or lifting heavy things, being a female has never been a disadvantage to me. At the International Women's Day breakfast, I note that a guest speaker spoke a lot about feminism and feminists, and the movement and the importance of that movement. I have never really been one for titles or phrases: I just am, I just work, I just do what needs to be done and I do not need a title for it.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You are an activist.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Yes, and I note that the guest speaker went to great lengths to talk about the wonderful work that federal Liberals Julie Bishop and Michaelia Cash were doing, and about all their work as strong women and how they have acted on behalf of women. She then went on to say how disappointed she was that they did not call themselves feminists, and I find that offensive. You do not need a title to do good work. You can do the work of a strong female who empowers other women without needing the title or the support that is there.

I would not call myself a feminist; I call myself an equalist, in that all people are equal in my mind; whether you are female, male, LGBTIQ, it does not bother me. I would work as hard and equally for any person. I find that difficult to swallow or to hear. I think that there are many men who are disadvantaged now. There are certainly many cultural groups that are disadvantaged, or people with disabilities who, as a group, are far more disadvantaged than women. Potentially, we should be talking about equalism rather than feminism.

I grew up in an all-female household, so at no point did it ever occur to me that as a female there was anything that I could not do; I was never around that and no-one was ever telling me that. I also went to a girls school in senior school, and again nobody ever told me that I could not do something simply because I was a female, so I assumed I could do anything I put my mind to, including winning the seat of Adelaide, which many also thought was not possible. I think it is your mindset.

I started my own business at the age of 25—a modelling agency and training school—and one of my purposes was to empower women, in particular, but also all people. Ninety per cent of my students, my models, my staff, my lecturers were women. However, I think the whole point of that business was to help people see that we all have potential—potential to be anything we want. Although people do not associate the modelling industry with strength, many of the people I trained—and I see them nearly every day I am out in my electorate—went on to become schoolteachers, doctors, lawyers, and nurses. They are everywhere I go—they are businesspeople, they are starting their own businesses.

I was recently at a Women in Law lunch and four of the women at the table were past models and students of mine whom I had taught and shown by example that all things are possible—go out there and do it, be strong and do your best. I acknowledge that International Women's Day is about supporting women and recognising working women, and I acknowledge that there is further work to be done as far as equal pay is concerned. In the areas of domestic violence, women are definitely more likely to be the victims in that instance, and there is more to be done. I support the motion, and I commend the member for bringing it to the house.

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (17:13):** As we often say in here, I was not going to say anything, but I now find myself on my feet. This is a very important motion, and it starts off talking about International Women's Day which, of course, is the beginning of the eight-hour day and those sorts of things. In my work researching the Muriel Matters' story, I have come across some wonderful glass slides of the Eight-Hour Day March in Adelaide prior to the turn of the century, so we are talking

around about 1898 or something like that. So, Adelaide has always been at the forefront of this sort of movement.

Apart from Catherine Helen Spence, we have on our tapestry Mary Lee who, along with Augusta Zadow, went into those factories and into those workplaces to make sure that the women in Adelaide, who were, as the member for Adelaide said, often in the worst jobs with the worst conditions and the worst pay, were protected as much as they possibly could be in their workplaces. Our early research on Muriel Matters came up with an expression that I had not heard, because Muriel had worked to abolish 'sweating'. I was not sure what all of that meant until my good friend, the member for Ashford, let me know that that was the term used for sweatshops. Of course, those sorts of places that we think only exist in Bangladesh are still here in Adelaide today, where pieceworkers are probably locked up in sheds somewhere now making shirts and trousers for a pittance that we see sold in shops all over Adelaide for much higher prices.

Adelaide has had the same history every other place in the world has had, but we have a proud history of highlighting these things and doing the good work to make sure these issues are brought to the surface and rectified wherever possible, and it is because of these women: Catherine Helen Spence, Mary Lee, Elizabeth Webb Nicholls and the women involved with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which is a whole story we could talk to you about as well today because they were very much involved with making sure, again, that women had the best outcomes they possibly could in those terrible days.

These women were supported by dozens of other women. While we only know three or four names, that is not to say there were not other activists, which is what these women were. They were feminist activists because they were women being active in their space. This is why Muriel was able to do what she did. She came from a colony that was a free colony where women were shown they could be anything and could do anything. It is through that example that she was able to take her sort of activism over to England and help those women who were struggling for the vote because, as we know, she had voted here twice before she went to London.

So, 'feminism' is merely a term that expresses that women are working together. I do not think anyone doubts that women do work together or should work together, not only for themselves as women. In those days, they worked to make sure that men as well had equality of access to education and all the sorts of things we are aspiring to ourselves. It is really important to remember, when we look at our heroes who go before us, the women who inspire us. We hope to be the ones who inspire the next generations. People like Joan Kirner have inspired us and many of the women on our side. I am also reminded again by my friend, the member for Ashford, of Amanda Vanstone. One of her best quotes was, 'We will have equality when parliament is full of mediocre women.' I think that is a beauty because it is not about—

**Mr Duluk:** You have got a long way to go because all the women here are fantastic.

**Ms BEDFORD:** But it is really important to remember that, while some women feel that affirmative action is an enemy and merit will just float to the top, it does not. It is good to see that women on your side of parliament, your side of politics, are now beginning to see it is not easy to have happen naturally. While affirmative action may have been the thing we relied on early in the piece, it was just a starting point for us. As you say, as we all say, it is a matter of making sure that we lift everybody up.

One of my other favourite stories before I close is about Frederick Pethick-Lawrence who supported his wife, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, in the British struggle for women's rights. Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence was a fantastic activist organiser. She could raise £15,000 in a weekend in 1904, and £15,000 then was a fortune. He knew as soon as he saw her that she was the woman for him because she smoked cigarettes, rode a bike and did not wear gloves. If that is the sort of thing we have to look for—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms BEDFORD:** There was even a thing in those days called the 'rational attire group' because women were trying to get rid of corsets. You have no idea of the sorts of things women had to resort to to have equality. We certainly did not see men strutting around in corsets. I think that

might be something we should bring in—for true equality, men in corsets! Let's see the movement start here today. I commend the motion.

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers) (17:19):** I rise today to support the motion. I have the great honour of being the Minister for the Status of Women for the South Australian government. I thank the member for Reynell for putting this motion forward and the support that we have from both sides of parliament.

I think feminism is about choice, and you will only get real choice with true equality. That is equality through education opportunities, it is equality in the workplace, it is equality for superannuation and entitlements, and the list goes on. I think we are in the right space and that we are going there. Rather than looking for the divisions between genders, we should focus on wellbeing and resilience for all of us and for all South Australians.

When I think of the Office for Women, some of the portfolio areas and some of the areas that we are concentrating on, it is about leadership, it is about equality, it is about equity. Most recently, I announced a project looking at equal pay rates in the Public Service. Some of the issues that were raised with me include things like unconscious bias when advertising a position. It is about mentoring in the workplace, both mentoring up and mentoring down, and how we support people. Much has also been said about workplace flexibility. This is an area of particular interest to me because my reason for getting involved in politics was about economic participation.

I think that part of government's role is to partner with people to make sure that they have the choice, when they are in the workforce, to work and earn decent pay for a decent amount of work, and so that you can also have a balance between work and family. Some of the more practical ways that we are doing it include a project about equality and equity within the Public Service, but it is also about STEM subjects. We know that there are quite a lot of gender divisions in particular work, and that is along traditional lines.

Science technology, engineering and maths are ways to make a difference, so we support several scholarships in that way and also some internship programs. It is a great honour for me to have the role of Minister for the Status of Women. Maybe one day this role and this ministerial position will not be necessary, but we still have some way to go, particularly on wage equality and equity as we go through the years. I commend the member for Reynell, and the other speakers, on this motion. I commend the motion to the house.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Colton. This will be a bravura performance.

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (17:22):** Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I would say that I am not properly prepared, but you do not need to be properly prepared to speak on such an important issue as this, that is, recognising the contribution of women over a long period of time and the advances that still need to be made with respect to the role that women play. The best way we can advance the role that women play in our community, in our state, in our nation and at a global level, is by making sure that we recognise in the first instance and then support and advocate for the work and the role that women play. I am married, and I love my wife very, very much. Her name is Annabel. She is not only the best person I know but the bloody toughest person I know.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** When is your anniversary? How many years has she been tough?

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Our anniversary is 5 September, the day to remember, Deputy Speaker.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** How many years has she had to tough it out?

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Well, the only difference between me and Annabel is that I remember it and she does not, but that is irrelevant—that is irrelevant.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You were going so well until then.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** No, it does not matter, it does not bother me. Every year on 5 September, I come up and wake her up and say, 'Good morning, darling. I've got something for

you,' and she says, 'I've forgotten again, haven't I?' I say, 'Yes, you have, but it doesn't matter.' Through the interjections—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You need a calendar.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I don't need a calendar. Through the interjections of the chair, and interjections, Deputy Speaker, are disorderly—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Not from the chair.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** —even if they are coming from the chair. As I said, she is more than just a decent woman; she is tough, she is strong and she epitomises what women are about. I look over here and I see Joyce, the first female to be elected to this parliament, as I understand it, almost simultaneously as a woman from the Liberal Party was—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Jessie Cooper.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Yes, Jessie Cooper was elected to the upper house, and that was a great thing. In 1959?

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** 1959.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** 1969.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** 1969? I thought it was 1959.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Have a look.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I thought it was 1959, but it was a while ago. I have a look at this parliament and I think our side is doing well. We have a long way to go. We have a system where merit is at the basis of how people enter into this parliament, but have a look at the other side. They should be very proud of the fact that they had the first woman in both the lower house and the upper house elected to this parliament in South Australia, but they themselves still have a way to go. They need to adjust the way by which they do things to make sure that there are more women in this parliament.

It is easy enough to say that we have a system by which merit is recognised, and that is an easy cop out for some people because they are not actually recognising that particular merit; they are making out like they do. I have often said that this world would be a much better place if women were in charge, and I say that for the reasons that I outlined with respect to my wife. I am not saying that everyone needs to be a Margaret Thatcher, because I am not sure the world would be a better place if that were the case, but the simple fact is that I have always found women to be stronger and as good, if not better, advocates than men.

The member for Ashford was probably at this meeting I remember going to when I was secretary of the firefighters union. I was there with Blinky (Quinten) and we were the only two blokes at this meeting that had women unionists there. There was a debate on something and I think Leena Sudano might have been the chair at that particular stage and she said, 'Right, is everyone in favour?' I lent over to Quinten and said, 'You would have to be pretty brave to go against this particular matter.' Leena looked at me with this death stare and said, 'What did you say, Paul?' I told her exactly what I said and she said, 'Well, that is alright then.' It was pretty frightening for a young trade unionist at that stage.

This was a very well-organised group of women who were advancing not only the interests of women within the trade union movement, but in doing so they were also advancing the interests of the trade union movement at that stage. It was a really good meeting to be at. It would be 20-odd years ago and I remember it as if it was yesterday because it showed me, not just the role that women play in the trade union movement but the leadership they were showing within our movement. I am very pleased to be standing up and speaking to this motion here this evening. It goes without saying, I do not know how many men have spoken tonight but—

**Ms Digance:** You're the first.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Am I the first? I am sure after this I might not be the last, but who knows? It is not that I am a SNAG. I come from a background where my mum and dad taught me that everyone is equal irrespective of gender, race or anything else. We still have, as I mentioned, a long way to go, maybe not as long as we had 20 years ago because we have made some good advances, and we should recognise that, but we still have a way to go with respect to ensuring that women are properly recognised and accepted. Through that acceptance, we must ensure women are utilised for the skills they have for the betterment of the communities in which we live and the country in which we live.

There is no doubt that that needs to be the case. There is a lot of rhetoric going around. This might be a bad analogy. I am renowned for giving bad analogies and bad examples but I am going to do it anyway. You ask people: do you care for the environment? Yes, I care for the environment. It is like a fatherhood, or motherhood, statement.

**Ms Digance:** Generic.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** A generic statement.

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

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** A parenthood statement. You are going to try to confuse me again. The member for Ashford is trying to harass me, Deputy Speaker—not harass me, but confuse me—and if I ask her she will say, 'You can do that by yourself, Paul.'

The point I want to make is that it is really easy for people to espouse the virtues of equality, gender equity and all those types of things, but actions speak louder than words, and that is why on this side we have certain processes in place that make sure that not only do we recognise the role that women can play and do play, but we have things in place to make sure that the hurdles in front of them in other areas do not exist. As I said, we might even say that, from our perspective, our party still has a way to go, but I think we are a long way down the track. It is about time the rest of society accepts that, all things being equal, women have much more to contribute than most of the men I have ever met.

With those few words, I am very pleased to support this motion that recognises International Women's Day, and I commend the motion to the house. I am very thankful and pleased that it is being brought before this parliament. Collectively, if we are really committed, we know that we can do a lot more to make sure that International Women's Day in the future does not even need to be celebrated because it is just part of what exists.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Any excuse for a party.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I am the first one to say, 'Any excuse for a party,' Deputy Speaker. If the only reason to continue it is to have a party, I will be there, but what I want is a society that does not distinguish between men and women in regard to all aspects of the way—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Except in some areas.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** I do not know whether you are trying to provoke me, but you know what I am saying. I am going to leave it there, and I am going to say I commend the fact that this motion was brought to the house and I, like everyone in this house, ought to be and must be celebrating International Women's Day.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hear, hear! I must just correct what I said earlier. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Steele were elected in 1959. Of course, South Australia was the first place in the world to let women stand, but it was the last state in Australia where a woman was elected.

**Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (17:32):** I was not necessarily planning to contribute, but I cannot help myself but contribute after the gallant effort of the member for Colton. I really appreciate his contribution. He is the only male in this house at this point who has contributed to this motion as put by the member for Reynell, and it is a very important motion at this particular point in time.

As the member for Colton said—and I support his sentiments—over time I hope that we do not need to have special days, such as International Women's Day, that recognise such pivotal events. I too would like to think that at some point the inequalities disappear. But I do appreciate that

at the heart of this what I think we see is respect, and I think respect prevails in its entirety. I would like to draw your attention to Justin Trudeau, who is the president of Canada.

**An honourable member:** The Prime Minister.

**Ms DIGANCE:** The Prime Minister, thank you; you are quite correct. I was getting a bit carried away. One of the bases of why he was elected was that he afforded respect to women and his attitude towards women was quite outstanding because of his history which had shaped his thinking. But he has also come out strongly saying that he is a feminist and asking why we should be afraid of using the word 'feminism'. It really just describes the basic respect of men and women, so I applaud his courage in how he is approaching these issues.

It would be wonderful to think that we do not need to have such a day to stop and think about women and women's issues but, sadly, we still do need to think about these issues. When we look at the horrific statistics on domestic violence, we certainly need to stop and recognise International Women's Day. When we look at the fact that in the caring professions there are a majority of women—nursing, child care—a lot of these women are then also working to care for their families, and they are often the people who are the carers of the elderly and the disabled in their families as well. Gratefully, some of this is starting to change, but change in some areas is coming very slowly. So, we still have some way to go.

I would also like to draw your attention to what is happening at the other end of the spectrum: we do not have equal pay yet in all areas and we do not have equal recognition. There is an article today in *The Advertiser* that points to Australia's top companies, and the number of women in leading positions in Australia's top companies has not changed in the last five years. We need to ask ourselves the question why. Why has this number of women in the top Australian companies, in leading CEO and chief operating officer positions, not changed? I would suggest that there are many reasons behind that. I will not speculate, but I am sure that some of this would be cultural and attitudinal.

I think in our world, as we see it on our side of the house, we embrace having women members. I know that I value my female colleagues as much as I do my male colleagues. Women and men contribute quite differently to debates in many ways and I think it is of value to have women recognised. With those few words, I remind the house that at the core of this is respect, equality, gender equity and also challenging and working towards respecting and championing women's rights. I commend the motion put by the member for Reynell and recognise International Women's Day.

Motion carried.

## WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (17:38):** I move:

That this house acknowledges and celebrates the election of Mrs Joyce Steele to this House of Assembly and Dr Jessie Cooper to the Legislative Council in 1959, being the first women elected to this state's parliament.

Fortunately, the library has a wealth of information on these two ladies, so I will be reading my speech today:

Members of parliament: Jessie Cooper, MLC & Joyce Steel, MLA. South Australia was the first state to see the election of more than one 'first woman' into office at the same time, and their success came at a time when questions were being asked as to why so few women had found their way into the nation's Parliaments...Joyce Steele, Jessie Cooper and three other female candidates came forward in South Australia in 1959...

The book continues:

Joyce Wishart was born at Midland, Western Australia, in 1909, to a couple that lived for politics and community work. Her father was a technical school headmaster and ran for Mayor when Joyce was 10. By that time she was just as interested in politics as her parents...Joyce was educated at Perth College, and married Wilfred Steele...in 1936. When Wilfred retired, the family moved to his hometown of Adelaide. It was here in 1941 that Joyce recorded one of her many 'firsts' when the ABC appointed her as its first female announcer in South Australia. Joyce beat 119 other applicants for the job, which she kept for two years. During this time she also worked to establish a special school for the deaf, and her efforts paid off with the opening of the South Australian Oral School. She would serve as President of the school from 1947 to 1968, and in 1964 a new wing at the school was named after her. Joyce

also later became the first woman member of the Council of the South Australian Institute of Technology, a position she held from 1961 to 1968.

Her daughter's disability made Joyce keenly aware of the lack of facilities for the disabled, and this awareness prompted her to go into politics. She made her first attempt in 1956, with a run for preselection for the seat of West Torrens...She lost by one vote...In 1958 Joyce ran for preselection again, this time in the seat of Burnside...Joyce won the preselection, but sadly, Wilfred did not live to see his wife elected to the Legislative Assembly the following year.

When Joyce and Jessie were elected in March 1959, Adelaide's *Advertiser* questioned how the pair would deal with combining the roles of politician and homemaker. Joyce commented that she would have to get a housekeeper to help around the home, while Jessie said that she would fit in her housework in the same way as a male member fitted in the running of an orchard or an accountant's office. Both women also gave an idea of interests they would pursue in Parliament: Joyce would concentrate on social welfare problems, while Jessie said she would not concentrate solely on women's issues, but would work with men on a range of issues. On a more trivial note, the paper pointed out that the two women lived only two streets away from each other.

The book continues:

The columnist clearly believed that Joyce and Jessie would cope with their roles as pioneers...Both women were invited to move the Address in Reply when Parliament opened in July. Joyce spoke of the honour that she felt at being the first woman to raise her voice in the Legislative Assembly, and told the House that she had received a warm welcome from MPs on both sides of politics, and from Parliamentary staff. She quoted part of a letter she had received from Viscountess Astor, the first woman MP in Britain, who told Joyce about her less than happy experience during her early time in Parliament...'How much happier has been my fate!' Joyce added. Her speech went on to cover a range of topics, including the development of a research laboratory, price controls on food items, public transport services for disabled children, and the need for a more co-ordinated approach to social welfare problems.

In the Legislative Council, Jessie did not dwell on her place in political history during her Address in Reply speech. Instead she focused on issues affecting education from primary through to tertiary...Jessie was known as a staunch Conservative, but she was not blinded by ideology. Although she believed in the traditional wife-and-mother role for women, she also argued for equal pay for women who had gained the same training and qualifications as men. Jessie had a fight for equal treatment as soon as she entered Parliament, when she discovered that while her male colleagues were entitled to superannuation, she was not. The attitude of the time was that the husband of any female MPs would be working, so the women would not need to accumulate super. Believing this to be grossly unfair, Jessie confronted Premier Tom Playford on the issue and won the fight for female MPs to be paid superannuation.

It continues:

...Labor MP, Anne Levy, told the House that Jessie's speeches had all been thoughtful and well researched: 'They were never unduly verbose and always worth listening to, even though occasionally it made my blood pressure rise when I was listening to them.'

Levy's comments point to one of the paradoxes of Jessie's beliefs. Dr James Cooper recalls that many feminists had problems with his mother's views because Jessie never had much truck with feminism, despite the battles she had to fight in order to be elected and her views on women's right to equal pay for equal work. She 'never felt that being a woman had ever held her back. She did her political work, came home, and cooked dinner, although we did have a housekeeper. She believed that women should get in there, muck in and get on with it.' James recalls that by the end of her political career, Jessie had had enough politics and public life and she 'retired into domestic bliss,' living quietly, playing bridge and travelling with her husband. Jessie died in December 1993, at the age of 79. On hearing of her death, Premier Dean Brown described her as a highly respected pioneer for women in politics, and a woman of firm principle who had served South Australia with distinction.

...Jessie remained on the backbenches during her parliamentary career, but Joyce went two steps further. In 1963 she was appointed the first female party Whip in South Australia, a position she would hold until 1968. That was the year she became Education Minister, making her not only the first female Minister in that state, but also the first woman to hold the Education portfolio anywhere in Australia.

It continues:

Joyce encountered her first hitch when she moved into her ministerial office. Since there had never been a woman incumbent before, there was no female toilet on the same floor. She took that in her stride, later commenting that: 'It didn't worry me; I just went to the one on the floor below and used to have a bit of a chat to members of the staff who used it.' The education portfolio would have problems that were not so easily solved. Joyce raised the number of schools and teachers, increased specialist courses and introduced regional education offices around the State...

It goes on:

Joyce spent four years on the Opposition backbenches before retiring from Parliament in 1974. Her departure prompted a compliment from a colleague known for his flamboyant taste in clothes:

the premier of the time, Don Dunstan, was praising also her contribution of 'brightness and lightness to the masculine gloom of this Chamber which I now see is gradually changing under her influence' when another polly interjected 'the pink shorts!'—thus indicating the genesis of that historic fashion change in State politics.

I commend the motion to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Treloar.

#### *Bills*

### **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to amendments Nos 2 to 5 made by the House of Assembly without any amendment; disagreed to amendment No. 1 for the reason indicated in the annexed schedule. The Legislative Council returns the bill herewith and desires its reconsideration:

No. 1. Clause 5, page 5, lines 31 and 32 [clause 5(8), inserted definition of 'desex']—Delete the definition and substitute:

'desex' means to castrate or spay an animal so as to permanently render the animal incapable of reproducing (and 'desexed' has a corresponding meaning);

Schedule of the reason for disagreeing with the foregoing amendment:

Because the council prefers its position in the bill.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** I move:

That the amendment be insisted on.

Motion carried.

### **SUPPLY BILL 2016**

#### *Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

### **LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

#### *Motions*

### **WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT**

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Sanderson (resumed on motion).

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:50):** It is a privilege to rise to speak to this motion and to recognise Dr Jessie Cooper and Mrs Joyce Steele, who of course presides over us here in this chamber in her Versace-blue jacket. In particular, I acknowledge their fight to get representation in the parliament and to have their election legitimised. I am not going to dwell on the contribution of each of these women in the parliament, because the member for Adelaide has adequately and concisely outlined that. They will forever be remembered as the first two women elected members in our parliament, and I am pleased to say one in each of our chambers.

Dr Jessie Cooper, together with a Mrs Scott, who were the LCL and Labor candidates respectively for the tickets of each of those parties in the 1959 election for the Legislative Council, became the subject of a very interesting legal battle at the time. Let's go back for a moment and remember that there had been no women elected members of parliament in South Australia prior to this election. Both major parties had nominated women high up on their ticket and both had some reasonable expectation that they would be elected if they were able to continue to stand as candidates.

What occurred at that time was that a Mr Frank Chapman of the Liberal Party, who had lost in a preselection to Mrs Cooper of course to get on the ticket—

**The Hon. S.W. Key:** Any relation?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** —no relation whatsoever I am pleased to say—and an accountant, Mr A. Cockington, decided that they would challenge in the Supreme Court the legitimacy of these two women being able to stand. This culminated in a case in the Supreme Court of The Queen v Hutchins; ex parte Chapman and Cockington. They challenged on the ground that the constitution made provision for a man to stand for parliament. Dr J.J. Bray QC, who was later the chief justice of the Supreme Court, opposed the right for women to stand for parliament in his submission, arguing that a woman was not a 'person' under the South Australian Constitution Act 1934.

It is fair to say that these two Adelaide housewives caused a national sensation. It was decided, after having decided to enter into politics, to start a legal battle which then kept three judges and six barristers busy in the Supreme Court for six days. This case attracted attention around Australia. *The Australian Women's Weekly* wrote an interesting article and sent representatives from Sydney to cover this extraordinary trial. They wrote articles, entitled 'The suffragette fight of 1959' and 'When is a woman not a person? When she wants to be a politician.'

These two women, having been nominated by their respective parties, were challenged for the right to be able to be elected as candidates to the Legislative Council. The ultimate determination of the judges who heard this application was that it really had to be a matter for parliament. Only Jessie Cooper was actually elected under the ballot. Mrs Scott was not successful. Jessie Cooper was able to successfully get the numbers and the court decided that it ought to be a matter for parliament.

After the election, Sir Thomas Playford, as premier, and the then leader of the opposition agreed that there would be an amendment to the Constitution of South Australia to ensure that we would never have this legal debate again. I think it is very important that all members of parliament understand that this was not just the fight for women to come into parliament 65 years after they had been given the legal right to stand with these two women at the forefront, but that it was a challenging passage even though there had been support from their respective political parties. Although Mr Scott was not successful, obviously other Labor women have subsequently been preselected and endorsed and, indeed, other members of other minority parties which have presented female candidates.

In the course of this determination, I am often asked how it could possibly be that a person should be interpreted under our Constitution Act as being limited only to a man when clearly there was other legislation around that indicated that when 'he' was referred to it meant 'he' or 'she'. There was already case law in Australia in which there had been a recognition of both genders when the male reference to 'he' or 'his' was identified, unless it related to Her Majesty, and of course in my lifetime it has only ever been Queen Elizabeth II, but obviously some people are older than I am and they remember her father, King George VI. But I digress. In short, there was a whole line of British commonwealth judgements which had successfully challenged the right of a woman to hold public office, and these were brought to bear in that legal argument.

Having some understanding of the context of the times, I find it is quite interesting to read a number of these cases. It is fair to say that had the judges decided to determine the case on its merits, they would have had to make decisions on these cases as to whether or not they be accepted, overturned, or extinguished for the purposes of allowing there to be a judicial determination. As I say, to some degree they squeaked out and decided that they would leave it to the parliament. Fortunately, I think the parliament did the right thing, but there was a very impressive list of cases from all over the British commonwealth where that had occurred.

There was of course even commentary in the judgement and the submissions at the time which supports the idea that to admit women to public life on what they called 'grounds of decorum' was obviously to be railed against, according to them. Men of the past apparently considered their womenfolk ran a grave risk of losing their dignity and feminine modesty in the hurly-burly of parliament.

Today, this all seems utterly absurd, but in the context of the time it was a sensational case. It was a fight for feminism in 1959, sometime after the war. One has to wonder how this could happen even in 1959, but it did. We have sorted it out, and it has not been a problem since. We have not had

challenges on that issue. Perhaps we will have challenges in the future in relation to intersex candidates. I do not know, but hopefully we have sorted that out recently in the legislation.

Dr Jessie Cooper and Mrs Joyce Steele need to be recognised. The one thing I think is important is that shortly, in the next two years or so, we will celebrate the swearing in of Dr Jessie Cooper, which actually took place an hour before the swearing in of Mrs Joyce Steele. We will celebrate 60 years since the election of these women to parliament. I think we are appropriately recognising Mrs Steele in this chamber, and it is about time the Legislative Council, because of course they are a separate chamber—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And we wouldn't tell them what to do.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** —we certainly wouldn't tell them what to do—have the opportunity to discuss the recognition of their most prominent woman, the first female member in the parliament. It may be in the form of a tapestry or it may be in the form of a portrait. It is not for us to make that determination, but I hope they would discuss it and it would be on the agenda for recognition in their chamber so that we continue to have an enduring recognition of this famous lady.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Treloar.

At 18:00 the house adjourned until Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 11:00.