

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 3 November 2016

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

**The SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land upon which this parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

### *Bills*

#### **CRIMINAL LAW (SENTENCING) (HOME DETENTION) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Introduction and First Reading*

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (10:32):** Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law (Sentencing) Act. Read a first time.

##### *Second Reading*

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (10:32):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This bill is identical to amendments the opposition put forward nearly a year ago. In October 2015, the government brought forward its Statutes Amendment (Home Detention) Bill 2015. At the time, led by the then shadow minister for police (the member for Morialta), the opposition said that we understood how important it is that home detention be offered as another sentencing option for courts, that we understood that there are some people who have been convicted of crimes, who might otherwise have to go to prison, who should perhaps be sent to home detention instead and that we understood that principle.

We also said and still say that there are some criminals, some convicted criminals, who should not be entitled to consideration of home detention. For us, it is fairly simple. Murderers, terrorists and serious sex offenders should not be eligible for home detention. It is pretty straightforward. At the time, the government refused to accept that fairly straightforward premise. They said at the time, 'Yes, we understand about murderers and, yes, we understand about terrorists.' The government said at the time that they did not understand, or did not accept, what we were putting forward with regard to wanting serious sex offenders to be excluded.

The government's logic at the time was that there were a range of offences, which are today technically classified as serious sex offences, which in the government's mind today are not that serious anymore. Instead of embarking on the path of actually changing the technical definitions so that 'serious sex offenders' would be covering a range of offences that today would be considered genuinely serious, the government actually chose just to object to our amendment.

What is particularly concerning is that, having used that logic, the government disagreed with us on serious sex offenders and also then disagreed with us on terrorists and murderers. So, the government used its numbers to ensure that its bill went through. I say again that the opposition supports the intent. We completely accept that there are times when home detention is an appropriate sentence. Here we are again and, instead of asking for an amendment to the government's bill at the time, I am moving a private member's bill seeking the support of the government and crossbenches in the other place to change the bill. I think this is particularly pertinent given that now we have a bit of a taste of how home detention is going.

It is worth putting the government's desire for home detention—in fact, unfortunately, the government's need for home detention—to be available to as broad a range of people as possible because it has completely mismanaged our prison system over the last decade or so. Our prison system has been operating above its own identified official capacity since 2013, and it is forecast that it will continue to operate with a prison population in excess of its own identified approved prison capacity until at least 2018 because the government had the rack 'em, pack 'em and stack 'em

approach. Of course, they have not used those words for a few years now, but they certainly used them a few years ago.

It is those words, that intent and that approach to Correctional Services that has got the government into so much strife, and, with that in mind, it refused to increase the capacity of our prisons. Now, of course, it is trying to increase the capacity of our prisons, but it is too little, too late. I welcome the capacity increase, but we know that that capacity increase, which the government is now funding and is now building, will not help our prison system catch up to the forecast prison population growth until at least 2018.

So, the government is forced to pursue home detention in as broad a way as possible so that it can keep as many convicted offenders as possible out of prison. I come back to my point: the opposition supports the fact that there are some offenders for whom home detention would be completely appropriate, but we do not accept that murderers, terrorists or serious sex offenders would be in that category of people. To be really clear, this bill is about home detention as a sentencing option at the front end of a sentence.

This bill does not affect the opportunity for the Department for Correctional Services to use home detention as a custodial management tool at the end of a sentence. For those who may not know, or might be reading this or listening to this in another place, the courts determine the sentence up-front after a conviction but, at the back end of a prison system, the Department for Correctional Services, if it chooses to, can send a prisoner from prison into a home detention custodial situation. This bill is about only the front end. It is only about the sentencing and it is only about asking the government and the crossbenches in the other place to support the principle that murderers, terrorists and serious sex offenders should not be entitled to skip prison.

There is a huge amount of public frustration and public anger about some recent home detention sentences that have been handed out. I am not suggesting that public sentiment alone should determine how a convicted criminal is sentenced; in fact, I would say of course not. If it were as simple as that, we would just let the jury take care of that as well. It is not appropriate. It is not appropriate for the families of victims to choose a sentence, the same way as it is not appropriate for the families of the convicted criminal to choose the sentence.

Mainstream public opinion must form a significant component of the way our courts choose sentences, but at the end of the day it does need to be up to a sentencing judge to make that decision. The parliament does get to set the guidelines about the range of options that are open to the judge when choosing what the sentence is. I think that this bill is a very sensible and very appropriate way of guiding judges whilst still leaving them a with range of options and, as I said before, leaving the Department for Correctional Services the option to use home detention at the back end of a sentence.

Deputy Speaker, you might have seen in the media recently comments by family members of victims saying how important a prison sentence is to the victims and their families with regard to getting through their grief and understanding. I read one quote where a family member said that a shorter prison sentence would be more satisfactory to victims and their families than a longer home detention sentence and that, in their minds, there are some crimes which deserve a prison sentence.

I will say again that it is not up to the victims or the victims' families to be choosing the sentence, and it should not be, but their views and feelings, and the position of the overall community at large, must absolutely be listened to. There is great frustration and anger at the moment with regard to the government's imposition upon the courts of a much wider range of opportunities than the opposition thinks is appropriate and, simultaneously, the courts' knowledge that the prisons are full. The prisons are overflowing; the prisons have been operating over capacity since 2013 and will do so until at least 2018. You can understand the position that a sentencing judge is put in when trying to decide exactly what to do with an offender as well.

We accepted that home detention was important. When the bill came to parliament, we wanted to improve what the government had to offer. The government rejected that support from the opposition. This is another opportunity provided by the opposition for the government to improve upon the bill which it brought through and passed in the parliament, and which has now led to more lenient sentences being handed out than I think most people in South Australia would agree with. I would just like to briefly quote from an InDaily article written by Morry Bailes:

After feeding the South Australian public for years on a strict rhetorical diet of being 'tough on crime', it's no wonder the State Government is struggling to sell home detention as a palatable sentencing option...

...A far wider range of incarceration and penalty options would not only introduce much needed flexibility to our courts, it would also likely be met with a deal more enthusiasm from the public...

...One can never remove the underlying expectation that if you do the crime you do the time. What we need to figure out is where and in what circumstances. Just locking people up in their lounge rooms probably won't cut it.

The reason I have chosen these quotes is that they clearly identify the problem that the government has got itself into. It clearly identifies the fact that home detention, as one of the options, is certainly important. It clearly identifies the fact that perhaps there should be a wider range of options for courts to consider, but it also clearly identifies the fact that, as is referred to here, 'Just locking people up in their lounge rooms won't cut it.'

The reason that is such a sensitive issue is that there is a very wide range of ways that home detention can actually be implemented. Home detention could be as simple as a convicted criminal staying at home and sitting there watching television all day long while on the dole; so, convicted of a crime, sentenced to stay at home, still receiving welfare benefits. That may or may not be appropriate, but that may be next to no infringement of that criminal's liberties whatsoever if, perhaps, that is just about all that person ever did anyway.

A person could potentially still go to work; a person could potentially still play sport; a person could potentially still participate in a wide range of family and other social activities. Maybe that is appropriate and maybe that is not, but I am comfortable for sentencing judges to be making those decisions. What I am not comfortable with is that they can make those decisions and hand out those types of penalties to murderers, terrorists or serious sex offenders.

This is an opportunity for the government to improve its bill. It is the second time that the opposition has offered this opportunity to the government, and I sincerely hope that this second time around the government will take it.

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

## **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (YOUTH TREATMENT ORDERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 September 2016.)

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (10:47):** I rise to support the Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Amendment Bill that was introduced by the member for Bragg. The Controlled Substances (Youth Treatment Orders) Amendment Bill would provide for treatment orders without consent to be made by a magistrate, to be supported by a medical practitioner confirming an addiction and risk of harm, and to provide for residence at a facility for up to 12 months. The legislation would apply to people under the age of 18 and would be similar to applying for a mental health order.

Earlier this year the member for Bragg hosted a drug treatment round table in parliament house. She said:

During these discussions, a key problem that was identified was a lack of consistency of support and treatment services and a 'revolving door' of drug treatment which sees people returning to drugs and dropping out of treatment programs.

This is a very important piece of legislation and, having the shadow portfolio of child protection, there have been many incidents of drug abuse and issues when a treatment facility such as this would have been wonderful. In fact, a year or so ago I met with a foster child, in parliament, who was almost begging to be taken into a drug facility because he knew he needed help. The problem is that we do not have facilities available to help people, even when they self-identify that they need help.

Even if we could get them in, if they waited the months and months that it might take to find a facility that had a vacancy, when they get in there and it all becomes too difficult they can just check themselves out. I have had parents beside themselves; they have spent thousands of dollars to put

their child into private drug facilities but, because at the moment we do not have coercion or compulsory attendance, they can then change their mind even though they were quite willing when they went in—they had realised they needed help, they had been selling their parents' property and had been getting in trouble with bikie gangs and the law and having terrible, horrific things happen.

Currently, we have no way to coerce or force them to stay in the treatment, even though we know it is in their best interests. On that point, a lot of people you speak to say that, unless a person has chosen to get help for their drug or alcohol abuse, you are wasting your money; if you force them to go in, it will not work. However, I have some quotes from studies and research that the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has done, because there are compulsory facilities available now in Canada.

Alberta's Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act came into effect in 2006. That requires persons under 18 with an apparent alcohol or drug problem to participate, with or without their agreement, in an assessment and subsequent outpatient treatment or in a program within a protective safe house. There was also legislation passed in late 2005 in the Saskatchewan area, namely, the Youth Drug Detoxification and Stabilization Act, which allowed for the apprehension and detainment against the will of the person under the age of 18 for assessment, detoxification and stabilisation of substance abuse problems.

I have some information here on the effectiveness of such programs. A 1970s evaluation of a US civil commitment drug treatment program, the California Civil Addict Program, examined the effectiveness of methadone maintenance treatment programs for those who entered a program under high, moderate or no legal coercion. There was no significant difference in the outcomes for the three groups, suggesting that the regime under which individuals entered treatment had no impact.

A 2001 international longitudinal study of cases involving civil commitment of individuals with alcohol problems indicated that the health of the clients who had undergone treatment had improved overall and was, on average, superior to other clients undergoing treatment at the same facilities at other times. Although it is often thought that individuals mandated or coerced into substance abuse treatment are less successful than those who enter voluntarily, evidence suggests that treatment can have a positive effect on a person's substance use behaviour, despite being coerced to participate. This is largely based on evidence from coercive treatment regimes and not from mandated treatment settings.

Studies have also identified client motivation as having a substantial effect on program retention rates and outcomes. One such study found that internal motivation was a better predictor of retention rates and client engagement in the treatment than legal motivation. So, whether you are forced or not forced, you could have the same outcomes; it is really dependent on the person. I think this is a very worthwhile policy and I do hope that we have the support of the house.

Both the Layton commission of inquiry and the Mullighan inquiry recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a secure residential care facility in South Australia. At present, secure care can only be provided by the Youth Justice Directorate within the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion or the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services under the Women's and Children's Health Network.

Youth justice services and the Adelaide Youth Training Centre secure care facility are the only options for the placement of children who are acting out, or exhibiting extreme behaviours that place themselves or others at risk, and who cannot be contained in other ways. The Adelaide Youth Training Centre is a government service designed to provide a safe and secure environment for young people in custody. If a child is experiencing the early stages of a psychotic illness; suffering severe mental disorder, including depression with suicidal component; or experiencing complex or co-existing disorders requiring multiple assessments and specialised care, they may be admitted to the Boylan Ward.

Whether young people end up in a mental health service or youth justice service may depend on how these difficulties are expressed in either harm to self or harm to others. It is very important to note that other jurisdictions in Australia have developed alternatives to youth justice and mental health responses for children in care. New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern

Territory have implemented forms of secure care for children under care and protection orders, although these reforms are relatively new.

In New South Wales, an application is made to the Supreme Court, and the child must be in the care of Family and Community Services. In Victoria, the decision to place a child in secure care may be made by the court or the divisional child protection operational manager, depending upon the order sought and the legal status of the child. There are also similar ideas in Western Australia and the Northern Territory. There is a paucity of evidence either way regarding the effectiveness and practice parameters of secure care for children in care, despite anecdotal support for its judicious use.

Secure care cannot be expected to serve a therapeutic function in the absence of case management that includes a clear conceptual model matched to the client need, clear case planning and availability of a range of post-care options, including semisecure, disability, mental health and youth justice options. Care should be taken to match the children's needs with the therapeutic interventions that have been demonstrated to work. In the Nyland report of 2016, recommendation 152 states:

Develop a secure therapeutic care model, supported by legislation, to permit children to be detained in a secure therapeutic care facility but with an order of the Supreme Court required before a child is so detained. The model should include regular evaluation of outcomes for children.

This was also recommended in a similar way in the Layton Review of Child Protection in South Australia, recommendation 73, and the Mullighan Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry in 2008, recommendation 43. It is highly likely that children who get involved in drugs will end up with a lifelong addiction and a battle with the highly likely mental health issues that tend to follow. Many young people are preyed on by sexual predators, particularly when they are drug affected or need money for drugs. Ultimately, many may have children who are born also affected by drugs. I believe that approximately one baby is born per week in South Australia requiring methadone treatment.

Research shows that drugs, alcohol, domestic violence and mental health issues are the major causal factors of children being removed from their parents, with parental substance abuse being 69.4 per cent likely as a characteristic of the parents of children being taken into out-of-home care. With over 3,000 children in South Australia already in out-of-home care, we know that something must be done. Not all programs work for all people. We have some wonderful programs, such as Operation Flinders and others, but more must be done. I commend this bill to the house.

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

### **CHILDREN'S PROTECTION (GUARDIANSHIP) AMENDMENT BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 September 2016.)

**Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (11:01):** I rise to give full-throated support to this bill introduced by the member for Bragg in relation to Other Person Guardianship. The family unit is one of the central building blocks of our community. As a parliament, we need to be doing everything we can to strengthen families because the work that we do in helping to protect and preserve the family unit is hugely preventative when it comes to the work that government has to ultimately undertake when there is a breakdown in those relationships.

We know that when we have a breakdown in the family relationship, children have adverse outcomes. Conversely, we know that when children grow up in a stable family with a loving mother and father, they have better outcomes and a better chance of fully developing, and this leads to better outcomes later in life. There are better outcomes in terms of health, educational attainment, future earnings potential and in a whole series of other ways.

The work that we could do in that area would potentially save a huge amount of heartache and pain for families, for the children involved in those families as well as the parents, and for family and friends who surround those families, but it would also help to reduce the need for government to interfere in people's lives and, in most cases, to necessarily interfere in people's lives when things

do not go the right way. Can I say that we should never move our focus away from prevention in this way, and we must do more in this area. I think it is a huge failing of this Labor government, the results of which we are seeing in the awful outcomes that they give to children who have to enter into their child protection system.

I am not naive. I know that we are never going to be able to prevent all the issues that exist when families break down. We are not going to be able to fix all of those problems. Indeed, there is an immediate need when family breakdown has occurred, and we must do what we can in those situations as well. We all understand in this place the extremely difficult decision that the state makes to take children away from their parents. These decisions are difficult, they are fraught and they are often subjective. I have a huge amount of sympathy and respect for those who have to make that choice, as that is an awful choice.

The department, the minister and the chief executive need to decide to take away a child from less than ideal circumstances, and in some cases absolutely awful circumstances, but what they are seeking to take that child into is not necessarily going to give them the best chances in life either. We know that children who go into the child protection system often have adverse outcomes, and that is potentially because there is a cohort of children and young people who, because of their circumstances, may be more prone to having issues. Having said that, we know that there have been huge issues within the child protection system. Many of them were failings of the government, but many of them were a result of the circumstances that existed.

In all decisions, we need to look at what is best for the children, what is going to deliver the best outcomes for children. I know that in an earlier amendment to a bill in this place we sought to change the object of the act away from keeping families together, which is of itself a noble ideal, towards thinking about what is in the best interests of the child. I think that is a hugely important step, and governments around the world are grappling with this growing problem that we have come to realise.

As much as changing a name from Families SA to the Department for Child Protection is symbolic, if it does in any way represent a shift in the thinking of the way we look at these issues, then I think that can be positive. In thinking about what is in the best interests of the child, and given that sometimes home life for children is not appropriate, we should have a child protection system that tries, to the greatest extent that it can, to mimic what I talked about at the beginning, that is, providing a stable, loving family for these children.

We are debating a bill on adoption in this place, and I will reserve my comments on adoption for that but, given that the department has a predisposition against adoption—in fact, I am fairly sure that it is the one recommendation from Coroner Johns' recommendations that the government did not take up—we need to look at other mechanisms by which we can provide stability for children, and one of those is Other Person Guardianship. Some great comments came out of Justice Nyland's report, where she very succinctly states the case for Other Person Guardianship. She states:

Stability of care relationships for children is an important precondition to their development. Adoption is one way of securing that stability. Some members of the community hold the view that adoption of children from care solves the problem of the shortage of suitable home-based placements. However, the Commission is not persuaded that an increased emphasis on making children in care available for adoption is necessarily appropriate, when fundamental considerations of the child's best interests are brought into account. That is not to exclude the possibility of adoption of children in care when it is genuinely in their best interests.

The commissioner goes on to say:

However, children can gain additional feelings of security within a loving family through Other Person Guardianship where guardianship responsibilities and powers are shifted in certain circumstances from the Minister to the carer of the child under the Children's Protection Act. It can bring a greater sense of stability, certainty and normalcy to a child's life, including placing important decision making in the hands of the adults who know the child best.

She goes on to say that Other Person Guardianship has been underutilised in South Australia and that the agency has retained decision-making powers. She then makes a number of other comments about the fact that we need a better and easier procedure for Other Person Guardianship to be a legitimate form of out-of-home care. I agree 100 per cent with what Justice Nyland has said, and I am extremely proud that I am a member of a Liberal Party that, through the member for Bragg, has brought this bill to this place, because it is extremely necessary.

Indeed, I was lucky enough to have a briefing from the education and child development department last year exploring this very issue. It was something that the department at that time was expressing a view that should happen more often. The statistics they gave me at the time were that over 3,000 children were under the guardianship of the minister, and there are a number of different forms that that takes, but that only 114 children at that stage had access to the Other Person Guardianship system. That provides for a child to be able to change their name to, I assume, the guardianship family name, but there is still that failsafe that if something does go wrong in that situation the department, through the court, can overturn that order and bring that child back under the full responsibilities of the minister.

In the member for Bragg's second reading speech, she talks about the fact that there are a couple of blocks to accessing this process more, and the first of those is that it can be quite expensive, and that can stop families from accessing it. She also goes on to say:

...the most significant deterrent against people making an application is the fact that they are then met with the parent or parents who take them through the process, ring them through the courts and make it an expensive process, because the applicant, foster carer or relative has to go through the arduous task of establishing that the parent or parents are unfit to provide for these children.

Justice Nyland has said that we need to find an easier way to make this process more available. The act of doing that happens to be solved in part (and, hopefully, more than just in part) by the member for Bragg's Child Protection (Guardianship) Amendment Bill.

This is an extremely important step forward in a child protection system that sees children being moved from place to place, in a child protection system that has been shown not to give the best opportunities for children to develop in the best way they can in the way that children who are lucky enough to exist in more stable families can. This provides a mechanism whereby they can have greater certainty and greater stability. Hopefully, through that, they can develop and become more fulsomely connected and contributors to society.

This could be a very good mechanism for us to prevent some of the issues that occur when children are not inside a stable and loving family relationship. It could also have good, positive consequences down the track for the way in which governments interact with families. So, I commend this bill wholeheartedly to the house. I hope beyond hope that the government see this as a worthy way forward, that they enact what Justice Nyland wants us to enact and that we as an entire parliament can take ownership of helping some of our most vulnerable children in South Australia to have a better future.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

**LIMITATION OF ACTIONS (INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 September 2016.)

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:11):** I speak to close the debate on this matter in the absence of any other speakers.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, member for Newland.

**The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (11:11):** I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes ..... 21  
 Noes ..... 17  
 Majority ..... 4

**AYES**

Bedford, F.E.  
 Brock, G.G.

Bettison, Z.L.  
 Caica, P.

Bignell, L.W.K.  
 Close, S.E.

## AYES

Cook, N.F.  
Hamilton-Smith, M.L.J.  
Kenyon, T.R. (teller)  
Odenwalder, L.K.  
Rau, J.R.

Digance, A.F.C.  
Hildyard, K.  
Key, S.W.  
Piccolo, A.  
Snelling, J.J.

Gee, J.P.  
Hughes, E.J.  
Mullighan, S.C.  
Rankine, J.M.  
Wortley, D.

## NOES

Chapman, V.A.  
Griffiths, S.P.  
Pederick, A.S.  
Sanderson, R.  
Treloar, P.A. (teller)  
Williams, M.R.

Duluk, S.  
Knoll, S.K.  
Pengilly, M.R.  
Speirs, D.  
van Holst Pellekaan, D.C.  
Wingard, C.

Gardner, J.A.W.  
McFetridge, D.  
Pisoni, D.G.  
Tarzia, V.A.  
Whetstone, T.J.

## PAIRS

Koutsantonis, A.  
Redmond, I.M.  
Weatherill, J.W.

Goldsworthy, R.M.  
Vlahos, L.A.  
Marshall, S.S.

Picton, C.J.  
Bell, T.S.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

**DEATH WITH DIGNITY BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 20 October 2016.)

**Mr GEE (Napier) (11:18):** I would like to say a few words on the Death with Dignity Bill 2016, sponsored by the member for Morphett. It is my personal opinion that this bill is really about a couple of principles. It is about dignity and respect. It is about having a legal right to make a choice.

My view on this issue has not always been set in stone. My position on voluntary euthanasia is coloured by personal experience, and I am sure so many others here today are moved by the same feelings. I remember the day when I was told that my father had cancer. I will never forget the day he died—not because of sadness but because of relief. Where was his dignity and respect? Where was his choice and where were his rights? I still feel his pain.

This issue has come before parliament many times, and people have had many different and varied views. The United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that people are born with dignity, and further, that no-one shall be subjected to cruel or inhumane treatment. I believe that South Australians who have a terminal, incurable medical condition should not be prevented by this parliament from dying with dignity.

It is inhumane to make people with an incurable medical condition suffer when we can provide them with a right to end their pain. I support life and the protection of the right to life by all, but people have a right to a quality of life that is free from pain and suffering. When a person can no longer expect a quality of life, then they should have a choice to decide if they would prefer to put aside their suffering.

There are some members of our community who are opposed or concerned about voluntary euthanasia because of stories about what happens overseas or some of the methods that have been talked about in the past. I want to address these concerns. This bill has all the appropriate safeguards in place to ensure that the right to die peacefully is limited to those who need it. I will outline the strict



eligibility criteria. To be eligible, the person must be a competent adult who is of sound mind and has lived in South Australia for more than 12 months.

The person must be suffering from a terminal medical condition that is causing suffering that is intolerable to the person and there is no available medical treatment or palliative care options that would, having regard to both the treatment and any consequences of the treatment, relieve the person's suffering in a manner that is acceptable to the person. Further, the person's death has, disregarding any medical treatment that may be administered to prolong the person's life, become inevitable by reason of the terminal medical condition.

Some members of the community believe that the elderly, disabled and children will be put at risk as a result of the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia. It is a requirement of this bill that everyone who wants to access their right to voluntary euthanasia will need to consult with two independent doctors and potentially a psychologist. In addition, the bill clearly states, to avoid doubt, that a person is not eligible merely because the person is of an advanced age; suffering from a disability, however described; or suffering from a mental health condition, whether or not the person finds those matters intolerable.

These are appropriate protections to ensure that this bill is not misused and the elderly and disabled cannot be coerced or euthanased against their will. There are penalties in this bill, including \$10,000 fines and 10 years' imprisonment for people who commit an offence under this bill, along with the standard indictable offences. In relation to children, in Belgium, euthanasia of children is legal under very strict rules, and the legislation has been used once. This bill deals solely with adults. I strongly oppose voluntary euthanasia being extended to children.

At least 85 per cent of Australians support voluntary euthanasia, including up to 77 per cent of Catholics, 88 per cent of Anglicans and over 90 per cent of those with no religion. All of these people support a voluntary euthanasia bill that is likely broader than this bill and knowing that we have a good healthcare system and quality palliative care. They understand that as part of the range of options, voluntary euthanasia needs to be available as palliative care is not always enough. Susan Byrne, convenor of SA Nurses Supporting Choices in Dying, told InDaily recently:

Most people want to live, almost at all costs. It's not a decision that these people come to easily...The majority of people I've looked after towards the end of life would never ask the question—they cling to life, they want to see their loved ones, they want to see the sun come up the next day.

But there has to be a choice. Byrne goes on to say that even though the principal tenet of the medical profession is, 'Do no harm':

If someone is really suffering at the end of life, and the health professionals are unable to assist them to die, 'we're definitely doing harm to our patient'.

I am aware that not all doctors and nurses are pro euthanasia, and this bill does not place an obligation on all members of the medical profession to assist patients to end their suffering. The bill says they can refuse without prejudice, discrimination or loss of employment. Again, this bill offers choice. I am certain that many doctors and nurses will have been asked across their careers to increase medications to end a patient's suffering.

A study in the *Medical Journal of Australia* concluded that in 1995-96 approximately 1.8 per cent of all deaths in Australia occurred as a result of voluntary euthanasia and that 0.1 per cent were due to physician-assisted suicide. Further, the study found an estimated 3.5 per cent of all Australian deaths involved termination of the patient's life without the patient's explicit request. This bill allows nurses and doctors to say that they can legally assist without risk of prosecution, as long as the correct process is followed.

It is alleged by some people that the introduction of voluntary euthanasia will increase the suicide rate. This is untrue, as suicide is entirely distinct from voluntary euthanasia and there is no credible evidence of increased suicide rates because of euthanasia laws overseas. I know the member for Morphett is an advocate for suicide prevention. In addition, sadly, members of our community commit suicide every day, and will continue to do so whether this law is introduced or not. It is possible that rates of assisted suicide will fall with the introduction of this bill, as people will be able to access the legal means to end their suffering by medical supervision.

In conclusion, South Australians should have the right to end their suffering in a controlled environment with many safeguards in place and pass away with dignity, not be forced to experiment with backyard methods. This bill is about choice, giving people a choice to end their suffering, giving nurses and doctors a choice to assist patients to end their suffering, and demonstrating that South Australia is a state that cares about its citizens at a time in their life when they need our support the most. I urge all members to support extending this choice to those most in need.

Debate adjourned on motion of Ms Sanderson.

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

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Newland will not say aye until I have asked.

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

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

### FARM DEBT MEDIATION BILL

#### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 September 2016.)

**Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (11:27):** I rise to support the bill put to the house by the member for Hammond. In recent years I have had a fair bit to do with a number of farmers in my electorate who have been suffering from the vagaries of the weather, in particular drought, and who have found themselves under financial strain. A number of those farmers have been using the services of rural counsellors to try to work through that.

There are a lot of issues, but one of the issues that has been brought to my attention is that of compulsory debt mediation by the banks, forcing the banks to go through a process of mediation prior to or instead of just foreclosing on the financial arrangement they have with their clients in time such as these. I have been urged by those rural counsellors to support a move such as has been brought by the member for Hammond, and I congratulate him for bringing this to the house.

I understand the government is not in favour of this process, a process which happens in other jurisdictions. It is certainly in place in Victoria, just across the border from my electorate, and I am sure that it works very well. For the life of me, I cannot understand why the government in South Australia does not support the farming community by supporting this move that has been brought to the house by the member for Hammond.

There is nothing worse than a farmer suffering financial hardship from matters which are totally outside their control, and that happens all too regularly in South Australia because we do not necessarily enjoy the best climate for farming, as is enjoyed by lots of other places on the planet, and drought is a fact of life. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

#### *Motions*

### SURF LIFE SAVING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (11:31):** I move:

That this house acknowledges the incredible work of Surf Life Saving South Australia and its 20 clubs around the state's precious coastline, and in particular—

- (a) the time spent patrolling our beaches throughout the 2015-16 and 2016-17 surf lifesaving seasons;
- (b) the commitment to serving coastline communities; and
- (c) the ongoing efforts to ensure our beaches are safe for South Australian families.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to speak on this motion. With summer upon us, it is an opportune time to reflect on the valuable role of Surf Life Saving in South Australia and to use this opportunity to place on the public record this house's sincere appreciation for the work that Surf Life Saving, the organisation, and surf lifesavers, as volunteers, do in our coastal communities across our state.

Support for Surf Life Saving has traditionally been a bipartisan issue in this parliament and it has been an honour to work with the member for Kaurana in the formation of Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving. This has given us the chance to host a number of reception events in Parliament House over the past few years where we have been able to celebrate and recognise the achievements of clubs and individuals within the movement, exposing the organisation to other parliamentarians and hopefully increasing the parliament's understanding of Surf Life Saving and what it contributes to our communities.

Surf Life Saving has a long and proud history in South Australia, with the first club formed at Henley in 1925. This was 18 years after the first clubs nationally were established in Sydney in 1907. Henley was soon joined by Seacliff in 1930, Glenelg in 1931, Port Elliot in 1933 and Moana in 1938. A period of some difficulty then emerged, and I am grateful for the Surf Life Saving South Australia website for providing some of this interesting history. Basically, a dispute arose between the Royal Life Saving Society, which had traditionally had responsibility for beach safety in South Australia, and the role of Surf Life Saving clubs came into conflict with these traditional stewards of the water.

South Australia's coastal waters were actually officially declared inland and it was declared that any clubs would have to be part of the Royal Life Saving Society rather than of Surf Life Saving. It took 13 years and much meteorological evidence to declare South Australia's beaches the responsibility of Surf Life Saving and, in October 1952, Surf Life Saving South Australia was given affiliation to the national body.

This led to a period of rapid growth across the state, with Port Noarlunga being formed in 1952, joining the original five clubs. Brighton and Semaphore followed in 1953, then Christies Beach in 1954, Grange and West Beach in 1955, Whyalla and Chiton Rocks in 1957, South Port in 1959, Somerton in 1960, North Haven in 1967, Aldinga Bay in 1978, Normanville in 1998 and, much more recently, Goolwa in 2010. In 2013, Robe, in our state's South-East, became the latest to join the ranks, with a club being formed there.

In recent times, the South Australian organisation has seen considerable professionalisation, with a move in 2012 to impressive new premises known as Surf Central at West Beach. Last year, there were 8,625 Surf Life Saving members in South Australia and 2,917 young people involved in nippers. Patrolling members contributed 79,099 patrol hours, and 375 bronze medallions were awarded. South Australia has also been fortunate enough to display what it has to offer at an international level in lifesaving, hosting the Lifesaving World Championships at Christies Beach and Glenelg in 2013. Due to the phenomenal success of that event, South Australia will host them again at Glenelg in 2018. Those events have also, on both occasions, been held at the state Aquatic and Leisure Centre at Marion.

Although Surf Life Saving got underway in South Australia in the 1920s, it was not formalised until the 1950s. Between the 1920s and the 1950s, women were allowed to participate in surf sports because there was no formality around the organisation. Bizarrely, when it was formalised, national rules came into play and women were not allowed to compete, an approach not actually rectified until the early 1980s. Things have improved markedly since then, with women now making up 50 per cent of incoming membership; however, women still do not hold many leadership positions within the movement. This led to the formation of Surf Sisters in 2015.

This innovative program creates a leadership development and social network that aims to assist women develop into leadership roles within Surf Life Saving in South Australia. The goal is to see women's involvement on the representation side of Surf Life Saving grow to 50 per cent, to match the 50 per cent participation figure. I am certain that the organisation will meet this role, given the dynamic leadership provided by Clare Harris, Surf Life Saving SA's CEO and an unwavering advocate for women in leadership. I congratulate the member for Reynell on her involvement as patron of the Surf Sisters program.

Surf Life Saving plays a vital role in building stronger, healthier communities, with each of the clubs in our state playing host to a strong sense of camaraderie and encouraging fitter, healthier members through active involvement in beach sports, a need to complete regular proficiencies and a lifestyle revolving around the great South Australian outdoors. It also teaches important life-sustaining skills, from first aid to CPR, to swimming skills and water rescues. In 2015-16, Surf Life

Saving in South Australia performed 258 rescues, undertook 19,337 preventative actions and 920 first aids.

With those statistics in mind, there is no doubt that Surf Life Saving in South Australia is fulfilling its role as a vital emergency service, helping to sustain that very Australian pastime of going to the beach and doing so safely. The organisation is also reaching into areas where it might not traditionally have had involvement. Of particular interest is the On the Same Wave program, an initiative which, although not limited to it, has a particular focus on young people from multicultural backgrounds who often do not have the water skills that will keep them safe, so as a group require more attention focused on engaging them in the benefits and risks of living in a coastal community and the skills they need to stay safe and stay alive.

Many members would be aware that I have a very personal connection with Surf Life Saving. I have been involved in Surf Life Saving in South Australia for far longer than I have been in public life. For me, it is an intrinsic part of my life and the lifestyle I chose to have when my family moved to Australia. In fact, like many Brits, having grown up on an unwholesome diet of watching *Home and Away* when I got home from school, I thought it was almost compulsory to be a surf lifesaver if you lived by the beach in Australia. That is one of the reasons, probably not the primary reason, why I pursued an interest in surf lifesaving when we arrived in Australia. I have been a member for many years of Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club in the heart of my electorate, and it is an incredibly important part of my personal community as well as the community I am privileged to represent here in this parliament.

At a local level, my understanding and knowledge of surf lifesaving is obviously shaped by the area that I represent, including not only the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club of which, as I have mentioned, I have been a long-term member, but also my involvement in the other two clubs in my electorate, those being Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club and Somerton Surf Life Saving Club. Seacliff, Brighton and Somerton are among the largest clubs in the state.

I believe that Somerton has had over 1,000 members in the past and has about that number at the moment. They are all thriving clubs that play incredibly vital roles not just in keeping our beaches safe but also in building that sense of community along our coastal areas with many hundreds of people having active involvement in these clubs not just as patrolling members but also as social members attending dinner at these clubs on Friday evenings to eat at the bistros, to be among family and friends and to take part in social activities.

I think of the Brighton Jetty Classic and the jetty sculptures, which are incredibly important community events. They are the largest community events in my electorate in any given year, hosted by Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club. There is the Swim, Paddle, Run event organised by Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club and the Somerton Signature Challenge run by Somerton Surf Life Saving Club. These events and the community hubs created by our surf lifesaving clubs should not be overlooked as they are also integral parts of our coastal community that ought to be valued, upheld, celebrated and supported.

I want to thank the volunteers who are so involved in surf lifesaving in my local community that I represent. At Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club, the president, Andrew Chandler, and his support team were recognised earlier in the year when they were named South Australia's surf lifesaving club of the year. I was disappointed that they were narrowly pipped at the post for the title of national surf lifesaving club of the year, but I am convinced they came very close to taking that award as well. It is a fantastic club there at Seacliff, and they have built a very strong community in recent years.

As many members would know, they have partnered with me locally in developing the Beach for All initiative to create equitable access to beaches for people with a disability. Seacliff was the first club to pioneer that. That took a lot of work by them. It was not something that could just be easily rolled out on the beach in a couple of minutes. It takes commitment from the club and commitment from the individual members to make that happen. I have put it on record here before, but I want to put on record again the incredible contribution that Seacliff have made to making Beach for All and that equitable beach access project a viable possibility.

I want to congratulate the members of the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club, led by president Christopher Parsons. Again, as I have mentioned, Brighton is an incredibly strong surf lifesaving

community, and central to that are their annual events—the Brighton Jetty Classic and the jetty sculptures—that they run there. The Brighton Jetty Classic is South Australia's largest open-water swim, and it is a fantastic event held on the first Sunday of February each year.

Finally, the northern boundary of my electorate is where you find Somerton Surf Life Saving Club on Repton Road at North Brighton. This is another great club. It has also, while I have been the representative for that area, been named South Australia's club of the year a couple of times. It is a strong club, a thriving community and a great place to be a member.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those who work in and volunteer with Surf Life Saving SA and its 20 clubs in our coastal communities around the state. They form a vital emergency service. Sometimes they are overlooked and not seen as an emergency service in the same vein as we might think of the SES, the CFS or the Metropolitan Fire Service, but they are absolutely a vital emergency service. They are keeping our beaches safe and making our coastal communities stronger and healthier.

We wish all surf lifesavers in South Australia a successful and very safe 2016 season. I hope that not only do they get the opportunity to enjoy the contribution they make to the community through their involvement in Surf Life Saving but that they also get the opportunity to enjoy getting down to our beautiful beaches and being part of our Australian beach culture.

**Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (11:45):** At the beginning, I would like to congratulate the member for Bright, David Speirs, on bringing this motion and for his work together—

**Mr Pengilly:** Don't mention his name.

**Ms HILDYARD:** Okay, thank you—he who shall not be named. I congratulate the member for Bright and the member for Kaurna on their work in Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving. It has been wonderful to work with them on those functions but, really importantly, it has been really lovely to have that camaraderie with both the member for Bright and the member for Kaurna when we are together at various Surf Life Saving functions and, indeed, sometimes at the beach. I look forward to hearing you on the radio waves, member for Bright, and seeing you at the beach patrolling this summer. Congratulations again on bringing this motion and on your commitment to surf lifesaving.

Recently, it was my immense pleasure to attend, as I try to most years, our Surf Life Saving SA awards night. This year, the awards happened in the form of our inaugural Surf Life Saving SA Red and Yellow Ball. This is most certainly the night of Surf Life Saving nights, and it was wonderful to be there to help present some very well-deserved awards with the member for Bright and our Minister for Emergency Services and to hear our minister speak, rightly, about the incredible dedication and commitment of Surf Life Saving volunteers.

There were of course award winners on the night. I congratulate them again, particularly those members from my club—Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club—who won awards for their outstanding service: Cal Silcock, Grant Brown, Richard Nurmi, Craig Hobart and Peter George. It is to all of our Surf Life Saving volunteers to whom we as a South Australian community owe both our congratulations and our deep thanks.

Surf lifesaving holds a very special place in my heart. It is the community that as a child made me feel safe, included and part of a much bigger community family. Surf lifesaving is indeed the epitome of what being part of a strong and active community that looks out for all community members is all about. My first club was West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, where my brother and sisters and I participated and competed—including, in the case of my sisters and I, before we were officially admitted as lifesavers—and where we were coached in our beach sprinting and flag pursuits by our wonderful, very patient and very kind member for Colton. He certainly was one of those people at that lifesaving club who made our family very welcome and included.

I remember our club at the time (West Beach) being filled with great women and great men equally committed to keeping our beaches safe, to keeping active and fit and to volunteering to make our club inclusive, welcoming and successful. Women in lifesaving are such a strong part of our history, and together we will ensure that they continue to be a thriving part of our future. I have excellent memories of being included in club life and of competing at carnivals across our beautiful

coast, including at South Port, where one of my best memories, as well as the camaraderie and excitement of competing in the carnival itself, was joining thousands of other young nippers to slide down the enormous sandhills at the conclusion of the carnival.

My brother, who was a much more successful athlete than I was, made successive lifesaving teams. I remember very fondly my mum packing up our green Holden HG station wagon to drive us around the country, literally, to watch him at carnivals along the beautiful coastline of Australia. However, I also remember a night at our club, when a sombre mood gripped those present after a day when our senior members had to perform the most difficult of rescues to literally save the lives of fellow community members who found themselves in the most difficult circumstances in the sea. It is with great pleasure and so much respect that I see at lifesaving events and functions now a number of these heroic club members who included me as a kid in our club family, and so many of them—and now their children—still, after all those years, patrol our beaches.

As everyone in this house knows, South Australia is blessed with the finest beaches in the country. Our beaches are amongst the best in the world. They are accessible and, because of our surf lifesavers, they are safe. In my electorate, in our beautiful southern community we are blessed with vistas at O'Sullivan Beach and the glorious Christies Beach that I feel very lucky to live so close to. Christies Beach is made all the better by the invaluable contribution of my club, the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

This club is very dear to my heart. It is filled with generous friends who have selflessly spent so much time keeping our local community safe. Some of them, like the incredible Richard Nurmi and Julieanne Locher—and Richard Nurmi this year clocked up 2,000 patrol hours—also spent time assisting me to achieve my bronze medallion again, along with my dear friend and fellow patrolling member, Belinda Uphill. Trust me, Madam Deputy Speaker, that was quite a task.

I also heap praise on Port Noarlunga Surf Life Saving Club, and the South Port Surf Life Saving Club in the member for Kaurna's electorate, for the outstanding work they do to make our beautiful mid-coast beaches, which are now part of the Mid Coast Surfing Reserve, safe and to promote inclusivity and a sense of community in all that they do. I know that I feel safer and a strong sense of community when I see the two red and yellow flags on our beaches, but it is more than the flags. It is about 8,500 surf club members, with more than 2,600 patrolling members across 20 Surf Life Saving clubs who give up not just weekend after weekend and public holidays to patrol but countless other hours to make our Surf Life Saving clubs functioning and effective.

This interwoven network binds our coastal communities and produces a sense of belonging to and ownership of a natural asset we all share. Our clubrooms are beacons for our communities, bringing us together not only to swim and be safe but to share a meal and enjoy one another's company. I see the spirit in my own club, the mighty Christies Beach, in every club that I visit and in every lifesaver I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Our clubs across the coast help our communities to grow, to learn and to compete across all ages. Our nippers learn lessons that stay with them for life, including the importance of physical activity and beach safety, but the lesson in community spirit and giving is perhaps the most important lesson.

Our government continues to recognise the centrality and importance of Surf Life Saving SA to our state. We have provided more than \$18 million to Surf Life Saving SA and its affiliated clubs across the state for the provision of emergency services. Of this, \$11 million has gone towards new and upgraded facilities at Christies Beach, Somerton, North Haven, Brighton, Seacliff, Port Noarlunga, Henley and South Port, as well as the new headquarters, Surf Central at West Beach, which I had the pleasure of visiting recently to host and chair my Women in Sport task force.

On that note, another fantastic program I am very proud to support is Surf Sisters. This program targets aspiring females within Surf Life Saving SA's volunteer membership and will support women of every age (including those of my age) who need some intensive help to complete their bronze. It also provides pathways and skills that enable girls and women to take up leadership positions within their local clubs as coaches, officials and trainers.

Surf Sisters is about celebrating our women lifesavers, and it is about creating an opportunity for further and deeper involvement of women in lifesaving. As was mentioned by the member for Bright, I am deeply honoured to be the patron of this program. In speaking about that program, I did

want to mention some of my Surf Sisters. At the recent AGM of the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club, for the first time in our club's history—and I think for the first time in Surf Life Saving SA's history—we elected a woman president, Madeline Nurmi; vice president, Kerrin Amos; and club captain, Tina Hobart Hands.

When speaking about Surf Sisters, as the member for Bright did, I also have to mention the incredible Clare Harris, who is one of the few CEOs of any sporting or emergency service body here in South Australia. Clare Harris does an incredible job not only in administering Surf Life Saving but also in supporting initiatives like Surf Sisters and so many other programs that promote surf lifesaving. Along with her board members, she has been absolutely instrumental in securing the world lifesaving titles that will be here again in 2018.

I want to conclude by wishing all the best to all of the lifesavers who will patrol our beaches over season 2016-17, and again thank them for their incredible and selfless service to our community.

**The Hon. P. CAICA (Colton) (11:54):** I congratulate the member for Bright on bringing this motion to the house. I think it was only the last sitting week when I spoke about surf lifesaving and the wonderful clubs that I have in my electorate in general and the wonderful job that surf lifesavers do.

I ask you, Deputy Speaker, and it might be rhetorical, but is there is anything more synonymous with Australia than our beautiful coastline, our beaches and, indeed, the bronzed Aussies who patrol them? Although, things have changed. They are certainly not as bronzed as they used to be because we are much more conscious about what the sun can do to you. Surf lifesaving was an early adopter of making sure that those people who are out in the sun all the time were properly protected in their duty of protecting those who were at the beach.

I was in the very first nippers that was established in South Australia—I think it was 1969—at the Henley Surf Life Saving Club. We used to get teased by a bloke called Paul Snelling, who used to say, 'The wee little nippers', and stuff like that. There were those who I grew up with who played cricket and there were others who went to the surf lifesaving club during summer, and for the life of me, as much as I love cricket, why would you stand out in 40° weather, chasing a ball around the oval when you—

**Mr Duluk:** That's un-Australian.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** No, I love cricket. In fact, the test starts in four minutes, but my point is this: for someone who was not a very good cricketer, who fielded at fine leg and then had to run down to fine leg, and never got a bat and never got a bowl, I thought it was far more appropriate for me to spend 40° days standing in knee-deep water, patrolling beaches and making our beaches safer than what otherwise would have been the case.

I will say this too: the culture of surf lifesaving was, I think, although others might disagree, very good for me in my growth as a person. The clubs looked after the younger fellows. They were engaged properly. They were properly looked after and, in addition to that, people like me were able to learn the skills that are so vital to ensuring that you become, not just an adequate surf lifesaver but one who is able to patrol and protect those people who are beachgoers.

I make this point too: there is a lot about competition within surf lifesaving, and that competitive aspect is a very good thing with clubs competing against each other at the state and national level because it is really just honing the skills that are required to be able to discharge your responsibilities properly. The training that is now provided and the expectations in gaining the qualifications that are required to be able to patrol the beach are very good qualifications and they have changed dramatically over the years.

The other thing that has changed for the better is that, when I joined surf lifesaving, there were no women members. They were either members of the auxiliary who raised funds or the social club. Now surf lifesaving is much better for the role that women play in the surf lifesaving movement.

I was interested to learn about the Surf Sisters. I was familiar with it anyway, but for a bloke who has not been an active member for quite a while, I think we should have a similar type of system

that would help an old man like me, should I decide to go back and become an active member. It is safe to say that I will not be doing butterfly around the cans, not that I ever would, in becoming active again, but stranger things have happened and maybe I will go back to it.

I was a member of the Henley Surf Life Saving Club for a long time and West Beach for a few years. I enjoyed my time at West Beach, where I was fortunate enough to coach some very good athletes, one of whom, Luke, is the brother of the member for Reynell. The objective over those three years was to make a senior relay final at the national level. We dropped short a couple of times in the semifinals, but were able to make the finals in the juniors, and many of those people who I coached at that stage went on to different clubs and achieved gold medals at the national level, one of whom was Luke Hildyard and another was Charles Sheffield.

I am going to finish off. I said I would not keep the house long, and I know that the member for Hammond is sitting on the edge of his seat to start talking about this. I just want to finish off by again congratulating the member for Bright on bringing this motion to the house, that this parliament does recognise the enormous amount of hours that are spent by volunteers in patrolling our beaches and making them safer than would otherwise be the case; and the commitment of those of those involved within Surf Life Saving to serving not just our coastline communities but also others who visit the beach. I think over 80 per cent of Australia's population is around the coastal areas, so it is all people who go to the beach. The Australian way of life is enhanced through the role that Surf Life Savers play in South Australia and throughout Australia.

I want to put in a plug and say that I was very pleased that the government decided some time ago to increase the level of facilities funding. Henley has been a beneficiary, and those who look around the Henley Surf Life Saving Club say, 'This is fantastic.' Grange is currently being done. I hope we can work out ways in which West Beach can be properly accommodated in this area. Also, to the rest of those clubs in South Australia who have not had access to that facilities funding, I know they will in the future. I commend the motion to the house.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:01):** I congratulate the member for Bright on this excellent motion:

That this house acknowledges the incredible work of Surf Life Saving South Australia and its 20 clubs around the state's precious coastline, and in particular—

- (a) the time spent patrolling our beaches throughout the 2015-16 and 2016-17 surf lifesaving seasons;
- (b) the commitment to serving coastline communities; and
- (c) the ongoing efforts to ensure our beaches are safe for South Australian families.

I, along with other members of this house, cannot say enough about Surf Life Saving, the many lives they save and the safe practices they put in place to get people to swim between the flags. I am amazed that when you are at a beach, whether it is in South Australia or interstate, there are always people who tend to drift off from the flags. If they want to stay safe and be under the direct, watchful eye of those very valuable people, our surf lifesavers, they need to swim between the flags.

I just want to talk about the Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club, which has only been around since 2010. I would like to acknowledge everyone there, including club captain, David Reynolds. Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club offers beach patrols from October through to the end of March, and training is provided in the following areas: bronze surf lifesaving medallion, surf rescue certificate, radio operator training, first aid, advanced resuscitation, spinal management, surf rescue, inflatable rescue boat crew and driver training, and much more.

In 2015, along with other clubs, Goolwa were the recipients of a \$5,000 grant as part of the commonwealth's Beach Safety Equipment Fund. The total grant will equate to \$25,000 spread over five years. I also note that the Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club are in the process of upgrading their club facilities, which will be great to see going into the future. I understand a new state-of-the-art facility will be built behind Bombora cafe as part of a redevelopment plan that is being worked though with Alexandrina Council, and it will complement their lookout facility near the car park.

I certainly commend the work of the Goolwa Surf Life Saving Club, as Goolwa is a dangerous beach. Swimmers are strongly urged not to swim beyond the first line of breakers as the currents are extremely strong. I have not been out there for a little while, but back in the summer of 2009 my boys



and I were swimming at the beach and the next thing I knew, due to the undercurrents, I had one fly past my right so I grabbed him, and the other one went past on the left. If I had three kids, I would have been in strife, because I was hanging on to two of them. It can certainly be an issue. They were only nine and six years old at the time, so it was a valuable lesson in what can happen with those undercurrents.

Sadly, we see so many people get caught who do not understand the rips and undercurrents, especially around the South Coast. There have been some terrible tragedies over time, when people have not taken heed or have just not realised that they need to take heed of the conditions at our various beaches. Certainly take notice of the signage, and acknowledge the fact that water can be a very dangerous place, and not just if you are swimming. There is also the potential for shark attacks and that kind of thing. I congratulate everyone involved in Surf Life Saving SA and more broadly, who take time to look after their community.

Surf lifesaving first commenced in Sydney in 1907, and it has come a long way since then. The first club in South Australia was founded at Henley in 1925, and in 2014 Adelaide won the contract to host the Lifesaving World Championships in 2018. This is an event that is known to be the largest lifesaving event in the world, and 2018 is certainly set to be the biggest. In regard to people looking for information about how to manage swimming in the surf and to get some lifesaving tips, they can go to the Surf Life Saving website, which can provide those tips. I encourage potential swimmers to look first for information such as how to spot a rip and how to survive a rip.

Between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015 271 people drowned in Australian waterways. This number would have been far higher without the fantastic work of our lifesavers. I guess that is the biggest challenge for all of us, to try to get that number down to zero. That might be a near impossible task, but that number would have been far greater if it were not for the valuable contribution of all these volunteers right across the state and the nation in helping their fellow swimmers, and people who are essentially going down to the water to have a good time. The last thing you want is to have a tragedy.

I salute everyone involved in surf lifesaving and commend all the work they do. It is absolutely valuable work, as all voluntary work is. We could not afford to pay them for the things they do to keep our community safe. I commend this excellent motion from the member for Bright.

**Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (12:08):** I would also like to rise and say a few words about the member for Bright's motion, in particular about how his genesis into surf lifesaving started. I do not know quite what they thought when they saw a scrawny, white-skinned, ginger-headed Scotsman in budgie-smugglers on the beach, but well done to him for getting involved. I know he is intensely involved these days and I pay full credit to him, as do other members in this place.

I have three surf lifesaving clubs in my electorate—Normanville, Chiton Rocks and Port Elliot—and they all do a fantastic job in their own way. I do not intend to go through a list of names or call out names because if I do that I will leave someone out, but I know they are dedicated to the cause. Chiton Rocks has a lot of metropolitan people in it who come down to their shacks and whatnot at Victor, and Normanville is another surf lifesaving club of enormous consequence on the western Fleurieu. It does a great job, and I have been there several times over the years.

Port Elliot is by far the biggest club. They have an enormous membership there. They train and look after lots and lots of nippers and they are a very dedicated club. They work consistently throughout the warmer months of the year. Indeed, I have seen Port Elliot Surf Life Saving Club members out there when the water would be about minus 5° I would have thought.

It is interesting that 69 per cent of Australians do not know how to identify a rip in the sea. We are a nation of water lovers and we have immigration to the country of people who are not used to the sea. Let me say that I am very familiar with cases of drowning in my electorate in the last couple of years, particularly at Petrel Cove. Indeed, I lost my own cousin at the age of 17, in 1979, who drowned at Pennington Bay on Kangaroo Island in tragic circumstances.

We have a wide expanse of beaches around this nation and I have a wide expanse of beaches in my electorate. I have some wonderful beaches and I have some extremely wild coastal surf beaches along the Southern Fleurieu and over on Kangaroo Island. It does not really matter

whether you have a spectacularly wild surf beach or you have what is not much more than a duck pond, people drown, and that is the tragedy of it.

Not enough people learn how to swim and not enough people understand that, when you get into the water, it is different, and that is why surf lifesaving clubs are there. They are also there to instil discipline and training. I have always watched with interest the challenges they have around Australia. Some of my clubs have been in competitions across Australia. I am not so sure that I want to run around in a pair of budgie-smugglers at my age, but it seems to be a fairly common occurrence by people in this country (from New South Wales) who have achieved great heights. I suspect that you won't see me down there.

It is good to see all members of the house supporting this motion from the member for Bright because it is important. I know there are many members in here who do not have sea frontage. I have lived on the sea all my life and been in and out of the sea all my life. Indeed, I probably spent more time on the water fooling around when I was kid, rather than being at school many years ago, but that is the way it is.

Surf lifesaving clubs are an integral and iconic part of Australia. They are very much an iconic part of Australia that people from overseas see, so long may they continue and long may they be supported. I do not want to get political about it at all—about men, women or anything else, quite frankly. As far as I am concerned, they are surf lifesaving clubs, they benefit the people who use the water, they benefit the young ones they train and it is most important that they continue. With those few words, I endorse the member's motion, as will the house, I am sure, very shortly.

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (12:13):** I rise to support the motion from the member for Bright. The member for Bright and I, when coming into this parliament, relatively quickly joined forces to set up the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving, and it has been a very good process to be involved in. I certainly came to this parliament with a passion for representing surf lifesaving in this place, given that my electorate encompasses four fantastic surf lifesaving clubs, and there is a fifth one just outside the boundary.

In my electorate, there are surf lifesaving clubs at Aldinga Bay, Moana, South Port, Port Noarlunga and then, very close by, there is the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club. I certainly have a lot of involvement in my electorate work in working with those clubs, attending events and helping them apply for grants and other assistance that they need. All those clubs play a very important role across the southern coastline that I represent in keeping our beaches safe.

I am very happy to be biased in saying that we have the best beaches in my electorate and they are very popular across the summer season for people to come down and enjoy, but whenever people are out there enjoying time on the beach there are safety concerns. Having those volunteer surf lifesavers provide those patrols makes our beaches safer, because we always, sadly, will have occasions where rescues need to happen.

A very significant rescue happened in the last summer season at South Port Surf Life Saving Club, where a number of people had to be rescued at the mouth of the Onkaparinga River. It is a tremendous credit to those people, those volunteers, involved in that rescue for, without doubt, saving people's lives on that occasion. Those sorts of incidents have occurred at all the surf lifesaving clubs across the electorate.

I have to admit that when I came into parliament I was not a surf lifesaver like the member for Bright, but I have taken action and I have taken steps to address and remedy that mistake on my behalf. As of the last summer season, I undertook my bronze medallion training. I am happy to report that I passed the exam and passed the test. I am now admitted as a member of the Moana Surf Life Saving Club and am looking forward to getting out and assisting, in a very junior capacity, the patrols at Moana this year.

It was also great to be doing it at the same time that my colleague the member for Reynell was also working through her bronze medallion at the Christies Beach Surf Life Saving Club. I am happy to report that we had our exam in the same group on the same day and both passed fantastically, which I have to say was a great relief because the training is a lot harder than you initially think when you get into it. I should note as well that the member for Colton, in his early days,

was a surf lifesaver. I have encouraged him to get back into it and get out patrolling with the Henley Surf Life Saving Club. Maybe next year I will be able to report that he has re-enlisted.

Another great experience I had with the member for Bright earlier this year was a day experiencing life up in the surf helicopter that the Surf Life Saving SA head office runs. It patrols mainly the Adelaide coastline, but it goes down to the South Coast as well, over the summer season, looking for sharks and providing warnings if needed, looking for swimmers who might be in danger and also providing important coverage and patrols when those big surf carnivals and big beach events are happening. The professionalism displayed by the volunteers who get up and provide that service in the helicopter was fantastic to see. It was also great, of course, to see our beautiful coastline from a very different perspective.

I am very happy to support this motion. I thank all the thousands of people who are involved as volunteers for Surf Life Saving SA. As a parliament, we cannot thank you enough and we cannot provide you with enough assistance to make sure that you have all the resources that you need. It is a tremendous role and something that we should all be very thankful for, that we have such committed, willing and capable people out there who, year after year, are willing to dedicate their hours and time and also put themselves at some risk to save the lives of members of the public.

**Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (12:18):** I also rise today to speak in support of the motion put forward by the member for Bright that acknowledges the incredible work of the Surf Life Saving SA crew and the 20 clubs within South Australia. My electorate runs parallel to the member for Bright's electorate. He has all the coastline and I have all the wonderful people who go to that coastline; hence, they are very heavily involved in the three surf lifesaving clubs that fit in the Bright electorate, so I have an association by default.

I follow the lead of the member for Bright, who is very actively involved in this area. I follow along on his coat-tails, and I am very happy to be working with him and supporting him and all the clubs in our local communities. I would like to talk about those three clubs. I have a bit of a personal involvement with all three, which is a great thing for me, as they are a great part of our community.

The Somerton Surf Life Saving Club, as was pointed out, was established in 1960 and has over 1,000 members—in fact, they reached that mark in 2014, which was a great achievement—360 nippers and 200 patrolling members. They offer a great social context to our community as well. I have been down to the club on Friday nights at their bistro. They have a great schnitzel and a wonderful cafe downstairs as well. If you are walking along the beach there, just go up the ramp and you can grab yourself a nice coffee and something to eat at any time. The president, Mark Williams, is doing a marvellous job along with vice president, John Stewart. Margie Brown is the secretary and Davey Taylor is the Treasurer. Club captain there is James McBride. This is a great group of people.

From the junior perspective, the activities officer is Gary Irvine, and the junior administrator is Francie Bourke. Sarah Hosking, who is a personal friend of mine, is the volunteer coordinator. There are so many more on the committee there. We know these clubs are made up of volunteers, and I have just mentioned a few, but they do a marvellous job and I thank them very much for all they do. I need to mention Adam Betterman, too. He is a friend of mine and he is also the boat captain.

My son this year has joined with a group of his mates down there. They are in the rowing crew, and it is a sight to see. These strapping young lads get out there doing plenty of training and looking fit. Just last week, they did their bronze medallion, which was fantastic to see. They will be looking forward to competing this summer, and I hope they go well and stay safe.

The Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club was established in 1930, and I have an affinity with them. Interestingly, when I talk about surf lifesaving clubs, I talk about their bistros and cafes first because that is where I like to go as I can watch what is happening on the beach. These clubs, as they have developed over the years, have set up wonderful facilities.

The Seacliff club is tucked away on the point and not many people know about it, but I can tell you that it is the place to go if you want to have a coffee on an afternoon and take a lovely beach walk. They are open on Thursday and Friday evenings, on Thursday to Saturday in the mornings and on Sundays from nine until late. It is a great spot where all people are welcome, and they hire

the venue out for functions as well. The president is Andrew Chandler, who is an old schoolmate of mine, and he is doing a marvellous job. He really puts a lot of hours into working with the juniors and the seniors at the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club, and he is doing a marvellous job in our community.

Glen Patten is the deputy president, Tanya Evans is the secretary, Gareth Gray is the treasurer and Russell Scott is the club captain. I am also very conscious of the junior committee, and the junior chairperson is Jacinta Day. As I mentioned, Andrew Chandler is the president, and he also runs a running club down there. My youngest son, Heath, has been involved with his running club, and I have been super impressed to see what they offer back to the community. The kids who engage with them are just outstanding, and what they give back to our community has to be commended.

I am not sure that the member for Bright mentioned this, as he is probably being a little bit unassuming, so I must say that, at the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club, he has rolled out the disability beach access mat, and I know all people in our local community are so appreciative of this. It is a fantastic idea championed by the member for Bright, and I follow behind him in giving him all the support I can for this great initiative. He has done a marvellous job, and I must commend the Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club for picking up this initiative, running with it and making it happen. I know it is greatly appreciated in our area.

As the member for Bright also mentioned, Seacliff was named South Australia's club of the year, which is a great achievement. They just missed out on the national honours, but they must be very proud of their efforts. The other club is the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club which was established in 1953. I was a member there for a stint while my kids went through the nippers program. My eldest daughter, Amy, went on and did her bronze there and patrolled the beaches for a little while. My two youngest kids, Heath and Brooke, also took part in the nippers, and I helped out on the beach on many a Saturday afternoon.

The cold days were not quite as enjoyable when the wind blew. The kids got in the water and, when they came out, the wind would just put the chill through them. It was hard to keep the kids engaged on those days, but the nice, warm, sunny days were fantastic, and we had loads of fun keeping the kids very active on the beach. Again, the number of kids that you see taking part is just sensational. They also run the Brighton Jetty Classic, which is a brilliant community event. The nippers had a come and try weekend—as did all of the clubs, actually—late in October.

Billy Jackson is the captain of the Brighton club. When I go there and catch up with people, it is wonderful to see so many young people, and some not so young people, coming through the club. Graham Cummings is a great man who has been around the club for a while, along with Marty Minear and Des Staite—a couple of personal friends of mine who are involved with the club and do great things. Chris Pearman is a youngster who puts back into the club along with Sarah Strudwick and Sophie Heath. Ayesha Hastings and her sister Olivia are very much involved with the club, as is Sophie Burns. Willis Hammond-Brown is another young lad I had a bit to do with in footy, and he is heavily involved in the surf lifesaving club. Max Wittwer-Smith and the Wittwer-Smith family are big contributors to the Brighton club.

They are great community clubs in our local area, and it is a pleasure to support them. More importantly, this is a great opportunity, as has been pointed out in this motion, to thank them for all the great work they do in our community. It is greatly appreciated. They do a lot of work on our beaches and they save lives, which is absolutely outstanding. What surf clubs do to develop young people, and older people for that matter, in our community is give them a great road to travel and a great path to follow, and it enables them to give back to our community. That is a great attribute of all the surf clubs that I have been involved with, but in particular the Somerton, Seacliff and Brighton clubs.

I look forward to continuing my relationship with them, as does the member for Bright. Whatever happens with the boundaries as they are redistributed in the coming weeks, it is great to have that association with these clubs. I thank all 20 clubs in South Australia and everyone involved for the great work that they do. I look forward to supporting them in the future.

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:25):** I, too, rise to make a contribution to the motion put forward by the member for Bright acknowledging the incredible work that Surf Life Saving South Australia and its 20 clubs do around the state. First of all, I would like to acknowledge my father-in-

law, who was a multiple Australian surf lifesaving champion. He was an outstanding lifesaver on the New South Wales Central Coast at Avoca Beach. He had many awards and tributes paid to him back in his day, and people still recognise him today when we visit Avoca Beach Surf Life Saving Club.

To give a bit of history, the first South Australian club was established at Henley in 1925, and it was initially affiliated with the Royal Life Saving Society. The emergence of more clubs along South Australian beaches—Seacliff, Glenelg, Port Elliot and Moana—and South Australian members competing at interstate surf competitions led to a push for the formation of a state centre for the surf lifesaving association in South Australia. In October 1952, representatives from five clubs—Brighton, Glenelg, Henley, Moana and Seacliff—met with representatives from Surf Life Saving Australia and Royal Life Saving Society, and the outcome was the formation of what is now known as Surf Life Saving South Australia.

Port Noarlunga, in 1952, was the first to join the original five clubs. Brighton and Semaphore followed in 1953, and then Christies Beach in 1954, and Grange and West Beach joined in 1955. Whyalla and Chiton Rocks, South Port, Somerton, North Haven, Aldinga Bay, Normanville and Goolwa also joined. For over 60 years, Surf Life Saving South Australia has patrolled the beaches in the state. There are now 19 clubs and 9,000 members to keep South Australian beaches safe.

The 2014-15 annual report of Surf Life Saving SA shows that volunteers provided more than 79,000 hours of service to our beaches, from Goolwa to North Haven and regionally in Robe and Whyalla. Last season, an estimated 9.2 million beach visits took place along South Australian beaches, and our dedicated lifesavers rescued 258 people, an increase of 42 per cent on the previous year.

In response to the Coroner's report into the three drowning deaths at Petrel Cove, Surf Life Saving SA is well advanced in its planning to establish a multiuse rescue hub at Victor Harbor. In 2014-15, they delivered 33 surf sports events and partnered with other sports on a further 12 major events. I am sure that one of those events was the True Grit event in the Riverland on the great River Murray. Surf Life Saving SA provided a service to keep those True Grit participants safe when they slid down the mudslide into the river and they made sure that no one stayed on the bottom, that they all surfaced.

The major highlight for Surf Life Saving SA was a successful bid to host the 2018 Lifesaving World Championships. In 2014-15, the season was unfortunately South Australia's most lethal in more than a decade, with twice as many people dying than the 50-year average and 14 coastal deaths recorded. All these situations occurred outside patrolling periods or where no lifesaving services were provided, which goes to show the great work they do. Their presence is a great asset for our beaches, for our visitors, for our beachgoers, as it keeps them safe not only by saving lives and pulling people out of the ocean when they are in distress but also with shark patrols and helping other people who are particularly in trouble.

I also note that a significant number of migrants are getting themselves into trouble, entering our waterways, and our ocean off our beautiful beaches, not able to swim and going out above their capacity. It is a growing trend, and we need to see more education, more resources put into those migrants who are going into our waters. Surf Life Savings SA members performed 79,000 patrol hours and 258 successful rescues, and that increase is testament to what they are achieving.

Beach-based patrols were supported by the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, jet rescue boats, water rescue craft and the Surfcom Communications Centre, and these were all operated by volunteers. Again, we have to pay homage to those volunteers who are not just on the beach performing the essential lifesaving duties but also behind the scenes, manning the radio, driving the boats, keeping our surf clubs in good shape and making sure that the equipment is in good nick so that, when it is used, it is used for the right reasons and it is there for the right reasons.

Of course, we have to acknowledge that last year the South Australian Club of the Year was Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club. I also acknowledge that from 2014 Surf Life Saving SA was successful in receiving funding to conduct VACSWIM across 39 coastal sites around South Australia. The program is aimed at providing children aged 5 to 13 with opportunities to develop a range of skills and confidence in water safety, emergency procedures and survival in the water.

As a young fellow, I remember vividly going out with a mask, snorkel and flippers on that I had received at Christmas. All of a sudden you would get out above your depth, and then you had to be on guard. It was always a challenge as a young fellow to swim or paddle out to the blue line because that was always the target: to get out and see what was out there. I remember a couple of my friends got themselves into trouble at Somerton Beach. Those young mates of mine were soon brought to their senses by the surf lifesavers who got them out of the water and gave them a bit of a stern talking to because they were not appropriately suited to going out in deep water. That was a reality check for me and for many others that day.

In 2013, Labor cut \$140,000 from the helicopter shark patrols, effectively reducing the helicopter's flying hours from 300 to 210 over that busy summer period. Back then, for the 2014 election, the state Liberals announced that they would reinstate that funding. It is funny how the government, some months later essentially backflipped on the decision and reinstated that funding to make sure that the helicopter service was there in full with the 300 hours.

In January this year, it was reported that Surf Life Saving SA wanted more schools to choose ocean safety lessons following the tragic drownings of two boys at Glenelg. Surf Life Saving SA Chief Executive, Clare Harris—a great asset to surf lifesaving in South Australia and does a great job—said that instructors taught about 5,500 students from 50 schools each year about assessing the surf, identifying rips and swimming between the flags.

The South Australian education department funds about 3.75 hours of swimming lessons per year from reception to year 2. From year 3, schools can choose between swimming and surf education sessions, usually 7.5 hours per year per student, with other aquatic activities also an option for year 6 students. South Australian Primary Principals Association President, Pam Kent, said the school time devoted to swimming was not enough to produce competent swimmers. The South Australian education department said that it employed 800 instructors to lead an efficient, cost-effective program.

Given the numbers of migrants drowning in South Australian waters, I think that one of the take-home messages is that we need to put more effort, exercise and programming into educating our migrants who are swimming in our seas and oceans and who are vulnerable to drowning. More importantly, I think we need to pay homage to and acknowledge the great work lifesavers in South Australia do and the great work that the lifesaving fraternity does right around the national coastline and all our waterways. They do a remarkable job.

Volunteers do a great service for the culture of South Australia and for those who enjoy a visit to the beach and enjoy our great coastal waters. Lifesaving in South Australia is strong. It could always do with more funding, and it could always do with more education programs, but all in all they do a great job.

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (12:35):** I have a wonderful length of coastline in my electorate and along that coastline I share the Somerton Surf Life Saving Club with the member for Bright and, of course, the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club and, currently, the West Beach Surf Life Saving Club, which, if the redistribution goes through, I will be very sadly losing.

The role of surf lifesaving in South Australia is one that none of us can overlook in any way, shape or form because the iconic picture of that surf lifesaver with hand on brow, looking out to sea into the sun for anybody at risk or in danger is one we all know well. We all know the red and yellow caps and the flags, and we know the message, 'Swim between the flags.' Surf lifesaving in South Australia is something that all of us respect and value, and certainly in this place, with this motion, we are imploring all South Australians to continue to support it, particularly through the parliament.

The membership of Surf Life Saving is diverse; in fact, I saw a very senior public servant at Somerton Surf Life Saving Club the other day. Surf lifesaving would be a wonderful diversion away from his high-pressure role in his department, and you can see that when you talk to him about the surf and what is going on—and you can see that right down to the nippers. At Somerton, there are over 1,000 members—over 1,000 members. Obviously, not all of them live in the wonderful electorates of Bright or Morphett. They come from all over the suburbs, but they come down to that beach. I think that this year over 400 nippers were enrolled at Somerton to learn how to be safe at the beach, to learn camaraderie and to learn all about the wonderful lifestyle that is surf lifesaving.

At Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club, we had the world championships a few years ago, and we have the world championships coming back in 2018. It is the first time ever that a location, such as Glenelg, has been selected twice to hold the world championships. It is a fantastic economic input for South Australia, and it is a fantastic driver for surf lifesaving in South Australia. Surf Life Saving SA's headquarters, Surf Central, is also in my electorate at West Beach, by the Adelaide Sailing Club.

The whole organisation is one of which we can be very proud. They get a lot of their funding from donations, and they get some from the emergency services levy. I would like to see some way of increasing the funding for surf lifesaving because their role is getting broader and broader; in fact, there have even been some discussions about using surf lifesavers and their inflatable boats in swiftwater rescue in times of floods, and we know the damage and the threat that floods can be in South Australia.

The expertise that has been on display at Glenelg at the world championships, and will be on again there in 2018, can not only be put into great use as a competition, building camaraderie and building community but also in the practical sense of saving lives at the beach and also inland in the case of swiftwater rescue. Funding surf lifesaving is something we really need to do.

Surf Life Saving is also involved with aerial shark patrols and the rescue helicopters, and these are very expensive. I know Surf Life Saving have been donated an aeroplane that they can use for surf patrols. For some reason, they did not get the contract—and I will let others explain why—even though they provide a lot of the volunteer hours for those aerial patrols. We certainly know that, given the little yellow and red helicopter that zips up and down our coast with the tea bags on board. The tea bags are the surf lifesavers who go down into the water and rescue people from distress. Hopefully people will not get into distress in the first place, but the surf lifesavers are there if they need to be rescued.

Glenelg is in a pristine location on the beach with multimillion-dollar views. It is just a great location for that club, and they are another great club. West Beach Surf Life Saving Club has a long history. There are currently some serious issues with the erosion along the coastline and there are talks of relocating the surf club and where it is going to go. There are some discussions about it going north, and there are other discussions about it going south onto the northern end of the Adelaide Shores Caravan Park.

I personally think this would be a very suitable location, when you consider that the thousands of holidaymakers who stay at Adelaide Shores are often very inexperienced in swimming in the sea. It is quite different from swimming in your backyard pool. You need to know where the rips are and how to handle the surf. If the chop comes up and the waves come in, you need to know how to handle yourself and know what to do. The sea can be a very dangerous place.

This is why having surf lifesavers there to watch over us, look after us and make sure that we all enjoy our day at the beach is something that we cannot underestimate. That is why this type of motion before the house is very important for all of us. It reminds us of what we have, it reminds us of how much we need to protect it, and it reminds us of how much we need to make sure that we never lose it.

There are thousands of volunteer hours put into surf lifesaving in South Australia. I cannot remember the exact dollar figure if those hours were to be translated into economic expenditure terms, but it would be in the tens of millions of dollars. Our surf lifesavers must have hundreds of combined years of experience, and they are there not only to look after us, but to pass that knowledge on to the Nippers, who will be our next generation of surf lifesavers. It is a fantastic organisation and I know every member in this place will be at one in supporting this motion, and supporting Surf Life Saving in South Australia.

**Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (12:42):** I would very briefly like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the house for making contributions on the motion I moved in the house this morning supporting Surf Life Saving in the state. As we heard from all members, many who have significant surf lifesaving communities within their electorates, this is an incredibly valuable volunteer organisation which makes a phenomenal difference to the culture of our society in Australia and to the safety of our coastal communities. With that, I will close.

Motion carried.

### MITCHAM HILLS ROAD UPGRADE

**Mr DULUK (Davenport) (12:43):** I move:

That this house urges the Weatherill Labor government to prioritise the upgrade of road maintenance and transport systems through the Mitcham Hills, prioritising Main Road and the Blackwood roundabout, in order to—

- (a) improve traffic congestion for residents living in the Mitcham Hills and Southern suburbs;
- (b) provide efficient access for emergency services vehicles;
- (c) improve traffic management in an emergency event;
- (d) create a safer environment for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians; and
- (e) meet the population growth needs of Mitcham Hills and the surrounding areas.

It is time for action. It is time for the state government to step out of the shadows of endless plans and strategies and actually deliver tangible benefits, not only for the residents and commuters of the Mitcham Hills but for all South Australians. South Australia's Strategic Plan was launched in 2004. It is supposed to be our 'go to action'—our blueprint for the future. Indeed, there are more than 100 pages outlining a plan for South Australia. But the Strategic Plan is not alone. The Strategic Plan is the overarching plan for South Australia, and it sits at the top of a hierarchy of plans.

We have the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, our plan for how Adelaide should grow to become more liveable, competitive and sustainable. I was particularly drawn to the following comment in the introduction to the plan for a greater Adelaide: 'Successful cities don't happen by accident. They need long-term strategic planning, coordinated action and sustainable investment.'

**Ms Digance:** What is your plan?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Elder, I have heard your voice all morning.

**Mr DULUK:** Let us be clear: we need long-term strategic planning, coordinated action and sustainable investment. The government has certainly been committed to the planning phase of the 30-year plan. The 30-year plan is a key plank in the government's planning strategy, which also includes the Strategic Plan for South Australia and the Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan.

A key theme of the 30-year plan is to deliver a more connected and accessible Greater Adelaide, but this will be realised under the government's Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan, which guides a number of more detailed strategies and action plans that include South Australia's Road Safety Strategy, the South Australian Cycling Strategy and Road Management Plans. So just to be clear—and for the member for Elder—we have the Strategic Plan, the 30-year plan, the Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan, the Road Safety Strategy, the cycling strategy and the Road Management Plans (of which there are eight, covering various locations). They are there to shape, outline, direct and influence better transport outcomes for road users.

It is fair to say that the planning aspect should be well and truly covered by now. Unfortunately, despite all the resources committed to the researching, developing and drafting of these various documents, there have been very few tangible benefits for the residents of the Mitcham Hills. The main road from Belair Road to the Blackwood roundabout and the roundabout itself have long been a source of frustration and concern for residents and commuters.

Main Road is an important and busy traffic corridor. It provides a connection to the city from Blackwood and the southern suburbs via Belair Road and Old Belair Road. The Blackwood roundabout has five approaching roads. It provides access to Coromandel Parade, Main Road, Shepherds Hill Road and Station Avenue. Shepherds Hill Road provides a link from the southern hills suburbs to South Road and the Southern Expressway via Sturt Road. These are all critical roads in the transport network within the Mitcham Hills, carrying a significant amount of traffic.

Main Road and Shepherds Hill Road are considered major peak hour and major traffic routes, in accordance with DPTI's A Functional Hierarchy for South Australia's Land Transport Network, another plan. DPTI estimates suggest that 26,400 vehicles use the Blackwood roundabout on a daily basis. Crash statistics also indicate that road users have difficulty in navigating the



roundabout. The roundabout received the second highest number of nominations through the RAA's 2013 Risky Road Campaign (it is no surprise that the Britannia roundabout was number one).

The main complaints for the roundabout are that the layout is confusing, there is poor signage, and there are inadequate pedestrian crossing opportunities, particularly along Coromandel Parade, Station Avenue and the southern side of Main Road. The RAA Risky Road Study found:

due to high traffic volumes in peak periods the roundabout is congested and vehicle movement is slow, which makes entering and changing lanes for exiting the roundabout very difficult and that the roundabout is too small and overcapacity...

Traffic volumes along Main Road vary. The stretch of Main Road examined by the Blackwood Road Management Plan is approximately 2.9 kilometres in length. Two-way average daily traffic volumes for different sections of this study area ranged from 6,000 to 20,400 vehicles. Last year, a study completed by AAMI Insurance found Main Road to be the fifth most dangerous road in Adelaide. The roadway is regularly congested, especially in peak periods. The single lane section crossing the railway line at Glenalta is a nightmare, especially when a freight train is passing, and traffic approaching the Blackwood roundabout regularly resembles a parking lot.

It is a source of constant frustration for commuters, with time and productivity lost sitting idle in traffic. Traffic volumes along Main Road and at the Blackwood roundabout are expected to only get worse as the population increases, especially with the rise in housing developments such as Blackwood Park and increasing urbanisation in the southern hills areas of Aberfoyle Park, Flagstaff Hill, Upper Sturt, Clarendon and Cherry Gardens. Data from the regional population growth estimates contained on the ABS website show that between 2005 and 2015 the population in the SA2 area of Blackwood alone grew by 8.45 per cent.

The Weatherill government continues to ignore the urgent needs of Mitcham Hills residents. The government has encouraged and facilitated housing and population growth in the area without investing in the infrastructure needs that accompanies such a development. At best, it is an embarrassing oversight; at worst, it is negligence. A smooth-flowing road system is important for people commuting to work, for industry and for the movement of fast and reliable on-road public transport to and from middle and outer Adelaide, which includes the Mitcham Hills and southern Adelaide Hills.

The Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan notes that 'our transport assets continue to play a central role in supporting the state's economy, connectivity and liveability'. Indeed, the importance of connectivity is emphasised repeatedly: between workplaces, between transport services, between towns and within the state. Yet, despite the endless discussion of the importance of an accessible, reliable fast-moving road system that connects inner Adelaide, middle Adelaide, outer Adelaide and regional and remote South Australia, residents and commuters of Mitcham Hills and the surrounding areas have had little to no investment in existing infrastructure and little to no investment in the improvements to their connectivity.

A key plank of the Integrated Transport and Land Use Plan is continued improvements to the public transport system, including upgrades to and the development of park-and-ride and bike-and-ride facilities to make public transport a more attractive option for more people, to increase patronage and enable us to offer more travel choices. I fully agree with this. I agree that park-and-ride facilities are vital to attracting more people to use our train services.

Increased usage of the Belair line would help reduce demand on the road system and decrease road congestion along Main Road, especially at peak hours. However, people will not take the train if they cannot find a car park at the station. Despite a Labor election promise to commit \$7.5 million towards future park-and-rides from 2015-16 at a number of sites around Adelaide, including Bellevue Heights, and despite the government's elaborate hierarchy of plans that all identify the need to improve public transport infrastructure, the Weatherill Labor government has failed year on year to invest in public transportation infrastructure in the Mitcham Hills. This investment would make public transport more attractive, accessible and actually improve patronage.

My constituents are fed up with the government's obsession with producing strategies and plans. My constituents want action. The road management plan for Blackwood was first prepared in 2006. Last year, a second edition was released. In this nine-year period there have been no major

works, no major infrastructure investment in the Mitcham Hills and no significant safety improvements for road users or residents. There have been no structural changes to the Blackwood roundabout and traffic congestion along Main Road and for all approaching roads to the roundabout is still rife.

This situation exists despite the urging of the Natural Resources Committee. In 2009, the Natural Resources Committee, chaired by the current Deputy Premier, released its interim bushfire inquiries report. Recommendation 1 stated:

The Committee recommends the provision of substantial funds to improve road infrastructure in the Mitcham Hills to be spent over 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 budgets.

The final report, released in 2011 when the member for Ashford was the Chair, contained the very same recommendation. I have previously asked the following question in this chamber and I will ask again: how much has the state government allocated to meeting the recommendations of the Natural Resources Committee? Unfortunately, the answer is still the same today: very, very little.

The government has failed to respond to the recommendations of this report. It has failed to respond to the committee's comments that 'steps should be taken to improve the capacity of the road network', and it has failed to respond to the evidence provided to the committee by then Sturt CFS group officer, Mike Pearce. If there was to be a major bushfire in the Mitcham Hills area on any weekend, Mr Pearce noted:

... we could have more than 8,500 vehicles fleeing from an approaching front. Of the six exits from the district, you could reasonably expect less than half to be suitable for this purpose due to bushfire impacts. This situation will cause severe traffic congestion throughout the district and leave road users in some areas at extreme risk.

Put simply, the Mitcham Hills road corridor will not carry the necessary traffic in the event of a bushfire. Mr Pearce also advised the committee during his testimony that on a good day:

There are traffic jams from the bottom of Old Belair Road to the centre of Blackwood every morning—peak hour—and then when the train goes through it just gets worse.

I can testify to it being like that again this morning when it took almost half an hour to get from the Glenalta station to Blythwood Road. Those comments from Mr Pearce were made back in October 2009. In the seven years since, traffic congestion has only intensified. Seven years on and no action, despite a critical need to upgrade the road network, a critical need to address road capacity issues and a critical need to improve traffic management in an emergency event.

The Weatherill Labor government may be willing to neglect the transport needs of the Mitcham Hills, but we on this side of the house are certainly not. We are committed to improving road safety, reducing peak hour bottlenecks along Main Road, addressing the structural deficiencies at the Blackwood roundabout, upgrading public transport infrastructure and developing an improved road network that can better respond in an emergency situation.

We will take action. We will invest in the infrastructure needs of the Mitcham Hills (for the benefit of the member for Elder). We have already committed \$20 million to the first stage of the Main Road corridor upgrade. South Australians are fed up with the government's endless stream of strategies, plans and other documents. Mitcham Hills residents want action. They want improvements to their road network. I call on the government to match the opposition's funding commitment and prioritise the upgrade of road maintenance and transport systems throughout the Mitcham Hills.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Minister for Investment and Trade, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (12:55):** Unfortunately, there are only a few short minutes before the end of this session during which I can point out to the house that while some of what the member for Davenport has said has merit, the majority of it is nonsense. First of all, the government has prioritised roads in the Mitcham Hills. There is a long list of achievements.

I could talk about the reduction of speed limits in the business heart of Blackwood; the installation of a painted median on Main Road, including new and upgraded bicycle infrastructure, upgraded lighting, and an indented bus bay opposite Parham Road; pedestrian refuges opposite the Belair Hotel and the adjacent Gulfview Road; a protected right-turn lane to the Wittunga Botanic Park; median improvements at the Glenalta level crossing to improve safety; advance direction signs

installed on three of the approaches to the Blackwood roundabout; and, of course, a major review of road needs in the area, including the Blackwood roundabout.

The government has done a lot up there. The problem, though, has been a lack of advocacy. There has been a lack of advocacy from local members in the Hills because some of them have been in opposition since 2002. And because they have been in opposition—

*Mr Duluk interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the member for Davenport says another thing, I will have to call him to order.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** When you are in opposition, and you remain there for almost 20 years, your ability to lobby on behalf of your electorate is seriously diminished. It is fine to get up and bleat and groan and complain; it is another thing to develop the sorts of relationships you need to develop to get results. We have had good outcomes in Waite in recent years: \$1 million into Springbank Road; the Grange Road upgrade has been quite a success, with a major intersection being attended to; and there have been STEM school grants to schools in the electorate. There has been a host of achievements.

That is because when you are in government, you are able to talk to the Minister for Transport and other ministers. When you are in cabinet, you are able to participate in the budget processes. When you are in government, you are able to get results for your electorate, and that is why we are all here. There is one solution to the member for Davenport's problem, and that is get yourself into government and get some results. Quite apart from that, the government has done rather well prioritising roads in the Mitcham Hills in any event because it takes a statewide approach to delivering outcomes regardless of who holds those seats.

There is hope, and that is because the very area the member speaks of is going to be redistributed shortly into the seat of Waite. For the first time since 2002, the constituents of Blackwood will have a member who is in government. I can tell you that that member, if that boundary distribution goes ahead, will apply the same diligence that he has in the seat of Waite, holding the same community meetings that I have held regularly in Waite, the same public meetings, asking the transport minister and officials from Transport to attend them, gathering up the needs of the community, costing those things most carefully and systematically working about arguing for change.

I am very aware, having before me right now the Blackwood Traffic Review, of the discussion paper for consideration by council. I am aware of all of the history of all of the issues in the Hills, my electorate of course currently going to Laffers Road and abutting the precinct. For the first time, the members of Blackwood now have, since 2002, an opportunity to actually get some results. My advice to the member for Davenport would be to talk to the senior group within the Liberal Party about whether or not you can get into government this time so that you can deliver some results for your electorate. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

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

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome to the parliament today pupils from The Heights School, who are guests of the member for Florey.

*Bills*

### **ELECTORAL (FUNDING, EXPENDITURE AND DISCLOSURE) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Message from Governor*

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

*Petitions***QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

**Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Presented a petition signed by 1,486 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to ensure that the two cardiac catheter laboratories continue to operate at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital to ensure quick and effective cardiac treatment in the case of emergencies and for chronic cardiac patients.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)—

Public Sector Act 2009, Appointment of Ministerial personal staff report prepared under section 71 of the—Report

By the Minister for Health (Hon. J.J. Snelling)—

Food Act 2001—Annual Report 2015-16

Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner of South Australia—  
Annual Report 2015-16

Safe Drinking Water Act 2011—Annual Report 2015-16

South Australian Abortion Reporting Committee—Annual Report 2014

By the Treasurer (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

BioSA—Annual Report 2015-16

TechInSA Charter

By the Minister for Ageing (Hon. Z.L. Bettison)—

Retirement Villages Act 1987, Activities Associated with the administration of the—  
Annual Report 2015-16

*Question Time***ELECTRICITY PRICES**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:03):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Does the minister expect power prices to increase for regional households and businesses following the closure of the Hazelwood power station?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:03):** I am—

**Mr Knoll:** Your time to shine, Jack.

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

*Mr Knoll interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** On behalf of the Minister for Energy, whose portfolio responsibility it is, I can advise the house that my advice, received shortly before question time, is that the Australian Energy Market Operator has released a statement saying that the closure of the Hazelwood station will not have an impact on reliability of electricity supply across the country. With regard to prices, we have a competitive market and, as any good capitalist would say, competition will always lead to good price outcomes.

**ELECTRICITY PRICES**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:04):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. What representations has the minister made in order to secure reliable affordable electricity for major regional employers, including Arrium, OZ Minerals, Nyrstar and BHP Billiton?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:04):** As the Leader of the Opposition is very well aware, there is a Minister for Energy in this state, and this government is doing all it can to get the best prices for electricity, and I would ask, Mr Speaker, if you could ask the member to redirect the question to the relevant minister.

**REGIONAL BUSINESS**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Can the minister guarantee that no major regional South Australian employer will be adversely impacted by the closure of the Hazelwood power station following the closure of the Northern Power Station earlier this month?

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:05):** I can only reinstate what I said in my answer to the first question, and that is—

*Mr Knoll interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —don't take my word for it, just refer to the statement that has been released today by the Australian Energy Market Operator, which goes through all the implications for the closure of this particular station in Victoria.

**ELECTRICITY PRICES**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Has the minister done anything to ensure regional households and businesses are not brought to their knees by further electricity price hikes in the wake of the Northern Power Station closure earlier this year?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:06):** I think this question has been relatively answered by the relevant minister in the previous question.

*Mr Gardner interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** The price of electricity, as we all know, is uniform throughout the whole of the state, and this government is doing everything they can.

*Members interjecting:*

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

**ELECTRICITY PRICES**

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06):** Supplementary: could the minister outline to the house specifically what he has done to represent these major regional employers?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:06):** Can I make something very, very clear to the house, and that is that regional South Australia has no greater advocate than the member for Frome who works tirelessly—

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —who works tirelessly advocating within the government on behalf of people who live in regional South Australia. I would say another thing: we are very, very proud as a government to have the member for Frome sitting at the cabinet table making sure—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —day in, day out, for the interests of people who live in regional South Australia. Whether it be in regard to energy, whether it be in regard to health, whether it be in regard to any of the other issues that this government deals with, day in, day out, the member for Frome is there advocating on behalf of the people of regional South Australia, not only those who vote Labor but those throughout regional South Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** I call to order the members for Hartley and Hammond and the deputy leader. I warn the members for Mitchell and Chaffey and the deputy leader, and I warn, for the second and the last time, the member for Kavel.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Is the minister aware of large regional employers who are moving away from fixed contracts onto the spot rate due to the increasing price of those contracts?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:08):** Individual employers will make their decisions based upon what are the best arrangements for their business, and any other detail I am happy to refer to the Minister for Energy for a response.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. What has been the effect of an increase of over 90 per cent in the spot rate for electricity in regional South Australia since the Northern Power Station was closed in May of this year?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:08):** Yet again, I am happy to refer to the Minister for Energy to come back to the house with a response.

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

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

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:09):** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development. Has the minister sought advice regarding the ongoing viability of projects which have received state government grants via the Regional Development Fund following increased regional electricity prices associated with the closure of the Port Augusta and now the Hazelwood power stations?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:09):** The Regional Development Fund across all of regional South Australia has been a great success. With the first two rounds for \$33 million we have created over 2,200 jobs in the long term, but the good thing about it is that the Regional Development Fund rounds one and two attracted \$933 million worth of private equity from the regional areas of South Australia. We are all concerned about life in general. We are all concerned about the future direction and where we are going. The members on the other side there, I don't hear any—

**Mr Gardner:** So what's the impact of the power prices?

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

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is warned for the second and final time for an interjection some moments ago.

**Mr KNOLL:** Point of order: the minister is now entering debate, standing order 98.

**The SPEAKER:** I'm sorry, how was he entering debate?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Harden up snowflakes!

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Mr Speaker, I travel extensively across all of regional South Australia and I hear nothing but optimism out there. There are challenges out there, we all know that, but one of the things I do hear is—

**Mr Gardner:** Nothing but optimism—who are you talking to?

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

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey is on his final warning, despite the member for Wright not being here today to dob him in!

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Quite—I warn myself.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Mr Speaker—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** If I could have a bit of quiet on the other side. People out there understand and they are understanding of how we came into the situation from many, many years ago. We can go back and hindsight is a wonderful thing, but one of the things that I am hearing from industries is that, yes, as the minister indicated previously, competition is good. However, one of the things that the general public are looking for is ideas. They are looking for cooperation between both sides of politics and the state. But we have one side speaking this economy down. We have enough challenges from people saying that this is—

**Mr GARDNER:** Point of order, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Is the point of order that the minister is entering into debate?

**Mr GARDNER:** The substance of the question related to electricity prices.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I uphold the point of order. Leader.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** Supplementary, sir: whilst the Minister for Regional Development is travelling around the regions, what are the major employers telling the minister about our electricity prices in this state?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:13):** Mr Speaker—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Wherever I go we are trying to work with those industries, and I go back to the Regional Development Fund and also some of the concessions that the Treasurer put

up in the last budget about the Job Accelerator Fund assisting employers who are looking to employ people.

The whole venture of this government is to create employment opportunities out there, and I will stand by what we are doing on this side to try to encourage everybody. One thing I will not do as a member of parliament and as a regional person is that I will not talk down this region, I will not talk down the economy. I will talk it up all the time and help those people through diverse opportunities and look at improving it.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:13):** Supplementary, sir: can the minister update the house as to whether the major employers in regional South Australia have in fact provided him with any information regarding the electricity price increases that are occurring in South Australia and the effects that this is having on the viability of their businesses?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:14):** I am more than happy to ask the Treasurer or the Minister for Energy to come back to the house with what has been said to him, what representations have—

*Mr Pengilly interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Finniss will not flatter the member for Fisher.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —been made to him about all these issues.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:14):** Supplementary to the minister: are the electricity price increases in South Australia affecting the viability of the Regional Development Fund grant recipients in this state?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:14):** That question has just been asked only a moment ago. I think the Leader of the Opposition has got the list that is given to him as he comes into question time every day and he has lost his place and he is asking the questions he already has asked. This is the way the Leader of the Opposition runs question time. He is given a list by his office, doesn't know what the questions are, doesn't know what they mean, and forgets when he has asked them and goes back to an earlier question he has already asked.

**The SPEAKER:** Point of order.

**Mr PISONI:** I ask that the minister return to the substance of the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is finished.

#### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15):** A further question to the Minister for Regional Development: does the minister agree with the public statements made by BHP Billiton and Nyrstar that issues with the reliability and affordability of electricity in South Australia are impacting operations, profitability and ongoing viability of economic activity and employment in this state?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:15):** I think the Minister for Energy has spoken long and eloquently about challenges facing our energy market and has worked in a cooperative way with the commonwealth government and his other state energy market colleagues to make improvements to the system. There is no doubt that there are challenges right across the nation with the National Electricity Market, and Minister for Energy has spoken long and eloquently about those challenges and how those challenges might be met.

Just talking down the South Australian economy and talking down our employers—significant employers—I think is very regrettable. As we speak, the Treasurer and the Minister for Energy, in a bipartisan way, with the federal minister (minister Hunt) is in Korea to make sure that we can secure



the long-term future of the Whyalla steelworks, and it is unfortunate that the opposition in this state cannot take the same bipartisan approach that we have seen in this particular matter—

**Mr GARDNER:** Point of order: debate.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The leader is called to order, and the member for Colton is called to order for that last interjection.

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

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

### ELECTRICITY PRICES

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:17):** My question is also to the Minister for Regional Development. Has the minister met with Nyrstar, as he has told this house on three previous occasions that he would; and, if so, has he been advised by Nyrstar (which is in the minister's own electorate) that increasing electricity prices may put the financial viability of their operations in jeopardy, even after completion of the current efficiency and environmental upgrades?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:17):** The member for Stuart has asked this question in this house previously and—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Calm it down. Slow down. I indicated at that stage I was meeting with Nyrstar afterwards.

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Three times, Geoff?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Yes: and those three times I met as the member for Frome, as the local member, and the discussion has been with Nyrstar and the Minister for Energy.

**Mr Gardner:** That was a different person, was it?

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** As the Minister for Health, on behalf—

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Can I also say—

*Mr Knoll interjecting:*

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

*Mr Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Morialta will depart the chamber for the next hour under the sessional order.

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** I told the member for Stuart before about that position and the information comes back to me and it has been relayed to the Minister for Energy. Nyrstar and others have been working with the Minister for Energy very closely and, as the Minister for Health representing the Minister for Energy has indicated, this government is working very collaboratively with the federal government.

**Ms Chapman:** What does that have to do with it? Tell us what you tell yourself.

**The SPEAKER:** The deputy leader will depart the chamber for the next hour under the sessional order.

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

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** As the members on the other side and as all of South Australia understand, electricity supplies were privatised many years ago and—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** The member for Finniss says we may be rocket scientists, but the electricity market in South Australia is now privately owned. The electricity market is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Slow down.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will be seated. The member for Kaurna is called to order. The member for Hammond is warned a second time and the member for Newland is warned a second time.

**Mr Pengilly:** He wants his ministry back, sir.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** As the Minister for Energy—

**Mr Pengilly:** Kaurna wants one. Reynell wants one. Fisher wants one and Brocky has got it.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Finniss has got one: a warning.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** He can have another one, too.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr van Holst Pellekaan:** Let him answer.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** Thank you, member for Stuart. As the Minister for Energy has said in this place many times, we have to have a true national market. Currently, it is not a true national market. The member for Stuart is asking those questions, but we have to work through this together, and I think we need to be a bit more proactive on the other side.

#### **ALINTA ENERGY**

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:21):** My question is again to the Minister for Regional Development. Can the minister confirm that a regional impact assessment statement was submitted to cabinet, along with the cabinet submission relating to Alinta's request for support to keep the Port Augusta power station operating, as is required under the government's own cabinet guidelines and, if so, will he make it public, as is required under the government's own cabinet guidelines?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:22):** I would have thought it would have been a bit more of a better question from the member for Stuart. Anything to do with cabinet, he understands, we do not divulge here, and I will make no comment.

#### **ALINTA ENERGY**

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:22):** Supplementary: was a regional assessment impact statement submitted, along with the cabinet submission, whereby Alinta requested support to stay open? If I may, I will make an explanation. The government—

**The SPEAKER:** No, you will make an explanation if you have sought and obtained leave.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** May I have leave to make an explanation?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I suppose so.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** By way of explanation, the government's own guidelines say that a regional assessment impact statement must be made and must be made public.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:23):** It is not the normal practice of any government around Australia to

divulge information that has been put to cabinet, and we won't be doing so this time. With regard to any supplementary information, I am more than happy to check with the Minister for Energy about what can be divulged.

*Members interjecting:*

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

#### NORTHERN FORESTS

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:23):** Supplementary: can the minister confirm that a regional impact assessment statement was submitted to cabinet, along with the cabinet submission, relating to the sale of the Northern Forests, as is required by the government's own practice and, if so, will he make it public, as is required by the government's own guidelines?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:23):** Once again, as we said before, we don't make a practice of releasing information that is being put to cabinet and, in any case, the member would have been better directing his question to the Minister for Forestry. In any case, as I said previously, it is not the government's practice to make public information that has been contained in cabinet submissions.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The members for MacKillop and Davenport are called to order, and the leader and the member for Finniss are warned.

#### NORTHERN FORESTS

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:24):** Supplementary: can the Minister for Health and the Leader of Government Business in the House advise the house whether the government's own 'Regional impact assessment statement policy and guidelines' have been changed?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:25):** I am more than happy to get a report back to the house. I can only repeat what I have said, that is, it is not the practice of the government, nor has it ever been of any government in Australia, to release cabinet information.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel will depart the house for the remainder of question time under the sessional order.

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

**The SPEAKER:** Remember what your father did to the Speaker.

#### SOLID WASTE LEVY

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:25):** My question is for the Minister for Regional Development. Has the minister asked for any of the accumulated funds from the solid waste levy to be used to support Nyrstar's e-waste project development?

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

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

**Mr Pengilly:** Do you want the question again, Geoff?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:26):** No, member for Finniss, I do not. To the member for Stuart, I have regular contact with the relevant minister for the waste levy and discussions regarding opportunities for employment opportunities through that levy.

#### SOLID WASTE LEVY

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:26):** Supplementary: do those discussions include asking whether the solid waste levy can be used for Nyrstar's e-waste project?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:26):** I am having discussions with the relevant minister, and when the finalisation goes through I am quite happy to have a briefing with the member.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMAL GATHERINGS

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (14:27):** My question is to the Minister for Local Government. Will the minister confirm why he did not provide the opportunity for the Local Government Association to consult with councils about the recently gazetted, and about to be implemented, regulations for council informal gatherings and conflict of interest, given that he committed to do so in a letter dated 1 July?

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:27):** These are the informal meetings? As the member for Goyder is very aware—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Health is called to order.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** —when we put this bill through, there was ample time for the Local Government Association to have the consultation with the councils.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Point of order, sir: I am not talking about legislation passed last year. I am talking about regulations the minister has just gazetted.

**The SPEAKER:** That was an impromptu speech, and I call the member for Goyder to order.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** The member for Goyder is very aware. We give him regular briefings on where we are with everything we are doing, including the regulations. The regulations have gone out there and, as you saw from the press release the other day, the regulations don't come in until 24 November. The issue is that we have gone out there, the regulations are going through currently at the moment and we have been communicating with the LGA, the parent body. The Local Government Association and councils have had ample time to make any comment.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMAL GATHERINGS

**Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (14:28):** Supplementary: the minister refers to ample time for comment to be made, but he has gazetted actual regulations. The implementation is later this month, but it will be the ones that you have put in the *Gazette*, minister, so there is no consultation opportunity.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government) (14:28):** Can I ask the member for Goyder whether he is talking about the informal meetings? We just gazetted some stuff here. In regard to the informal meetings, that went on through the Local Government Act. If I can just read through *Hansard*, I will not quote it, but in the conversation about that we made comment about open transparency and having meetings in the open, and the member for Goyder agreed with everything we were doing. It is on *Hansard*. He agreed with transparency and things like that. We have gone back on many, many occasions, and I have written to each of the mayors on three occasions explaining what we wanted. They did not do what we wanted, so I brought the regulations in.

#### REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:29):** My question is to the Minister for Health. As the ACH consortia consults with the community on the proposals for the Daw Park site, will the government maximise the opportunity for health outcomes by allowing the current Repatriation General Hospital services to remain onsite? Will you keep it going?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:30):** No, we won't be.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:30):** Again to the Minister for Health: does the minister stand by his statement that there will be no retail services on the Repatriation General Hospital site after the government's sale of the Daw Park site?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:30):** I don't know if that is quite the word I said. What I said was that there wouldn't be a bulky goods-type development on the site, because obviously that was a concern. Obviously, it would be well within ACH's remit to have cafes and things like that. So no, I wouldn't completely rule out retail, but I have always been quite clear that the government's intention was for the site to be re-used as a health/aged-care type of precinct and that is certainly what the ACH submission provides for.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:31):** Again to the Minister for Health: when was the minister first made aware that the RSL consortia deal was at risk of falling over?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:31):** We were formally advised that RSL LifeCare would not be in a position to proceed with the purchase of the site on the Monday before the announcement. Of course we had warnings beforehand, both formally and informally, that they may not be in the position to pursue or continue with the purchase of the site, and we made preparations accordingly. We spoke to the next-best tenderer, ACH Group, who as I said were very close. There was very little between the RSL submission and the ACH.

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** I am a bit disappointed to hear the Leader of the Opposition criticising ACH. They are an excellent and highly reputable provider of aged-care and community services in this state. They have an excellent reputation nationally and internationally for the work they do. It is very disappointing to hear the whinger-in-chief criticising such an excellent organisation as ACH, but—

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Health will not refer to another member as the 'whinger-in-chief'—

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** I apologise, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** —because that might sound like debate.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** Far be it. As I said, we had earlier formal and informal advice with regard to the ability of RSL LifeCare to continue with the purchase, and we made preparations accordingly. In terms of the actual formal withdrawal, that happened on the Monday prior to the announcement.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITAL**

**Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (14:33):** Supplementary: when did the minister first approach ACH about reinstating their proposal, and why were they rejected in the first place?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:33):** When you have a tender process there can only be one winner. The fact that you have chosen one bid over another—

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —is not a reflection upon an unsuccessful bid; it simply means that they were pipped at the post by another bid, which in this case was very slightly better and—

*Mr Pisoni interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** —only just beat, when we compared what we had before us, what was being offered. We were in the very fortunate position, when RSL LifeCare were unable to—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** It is extraordinary how sensitive the Leader of the Opposition is to anything from a minister, and yet—

**Mr KNOLL:** Point of order, Mr Speaker: standing orders 98, 127—whichever one takes your fancy.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I uphold 127.

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** We are in the very fortunate position to have ACH Group, who provided an excellent bid. We are talking about \$200 million, which is going to be invested in the Daw Park—

**Ms Sanderson:** Yes, for three years.

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** We are talking about \$200 million, 1,000 jobs created through the construction phase, hundreds of jobs on the site once the site is fully operational. This is a fantastic outcome. We are going to see a brand-new, redeveloped site. Unlike the opposition, who just wants to talk down our health system and talk down our state—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** If the Leader of the Opposition thinks whinging, whining and carping is going to provide a platform into government he is gravely mistaken.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister is warned for breaching the standing orders by debating the answer.

#### LYELL MCEWIN HOSPITAL

**Mr GEE (Napier) (14:35):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Could the minister tell the house about the planned increase to hospital services at the Lyell McEwin Hospital?

*Members interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:36):** I thank the honourable member for his question; he is a wonderful advocate for the Lyell McEwin Hospital. One of the major aims of Transforming Health is to ensure that people in the northern and north-eastern suburbs receive excellent care closer to home. We know that around only half of all northern and north-eastern residents who receive care in public hospitals receive this care in their local hospitals compared to nearly 90 per cent in their southern and central Adelaide suburbs counterparts.

People in the northern and north-eastern suburbs deserve access to the same health services as other areas of Adelaide, and that is why we are transferring significant additional facilities, clinical staff and services to the Lyell McEwin Hospital. This substantial boost to services in the coming months recognises the significant growth in population and demand for services in the north. I am pleased to say that around 200 nurses, allied health and administrative staff from our central hospitals have put their hands up to be considered to move to the Lyell McEwin or Modbury hospitals, and the first group of staff started moving a few weeks ago, on 17 October.

Changes will continue to be rolled out in a phased approach over coming months, with all staff and service transfers anticipated to be completed by early next year. This will see around 170 full-time equivalent employees transferring to the north, including doctors, nurses, allied health and admin staff. There will be increased services in the north in many specialities, including vascular, renal; urology; endocrinology; haematology; orthopaedics; stroke; ear, nose and throat; breast; medical oncology; and cardiology. The Lyell McEwin Hospital emergency department has been

strengthened, with a 24/7 emergency orthopaedic trauma service providing faster access to orthopaedic surgery. We know that previously patients who needed emergency hip fracture surgery used to wait up to 150 hours; under the new model, many patients are waiting less than 15 hours.

A new cardiac catheter laboratory is being built there, allowing more local residents with heart attacks and heart conditions to be diagnosed and treated closer to home. Specialist on-site stroke care services are being extended at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, ensuring faster treatment in a specialised unit, and a recently installed new radiation oncology planning CT scan is supporting faster access to cancer treatment, meaning patients in the north no longer need to travel to the city for the same treatment. The new scanner is located in the \$9.7 million Northern Adelaide Cancer Centre, which opened in 2014 and which houses a dedicated chemotherapy area, six clinic rooms and two linear accelerators.

The Lyell McEwin Hospital has almost doubled in size under this government, with investment of over \$314 million. Changes we are now making represent one of the most significant expansions in health services for our northern and north-eastern communities, ensuring they receive the same access to health services as their city and southern counterparts. While we have seen support from our nurses and allied health unions, it is a bit rich that the doctors' union on one hand cries out for more resources at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, yet has taken every opportunity to obstruct this major expansion and improvement to health services for our northern and north-eastern residents.

**Mr Marshall:** Are the nurses wrong as well?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING:** If you listened to the answer you would have heard 'unlike the nurses' federation'.

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE

**Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. What steps is the government taking to ensure that private instrumental music teachers are able to continue teaching students at public schools in 2017, as they do at present?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:39):** To bring other members up to date, what has occurred is that for some time private instrumental music teachers have been teaching at DECD schools, some during school hours and largely after school hours.

This has been the source of an industrial dispute for some time, and there was recently a consent decision made that required us to stop having the private tutors offering these subjects during school hours, unless certain steps have been worked through on each school site, which ensures that the Instrumental Music Service alternatives are fully considered beforehand and the employment of a teacher is considered beforehand.

We will be taking the remainder of this school year to work through site by site how that will affect different schools. The intention is absolutely that no student will receive any less music education than they do currently, and we will do everything that is required to reach that end point. I want to stress that most of this occurs after school hours and that isn't affected. What we need to do is work through each school site to make sure that those kids continue to get access to music teachers, whether they are private, whether they are IMS or whether they are school-based teachers, and that's what we will do.

#### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC SERVICE

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (14:41):** Supplementary: can the minister give a commitment that, where a music teacher is not available in a public school, there will never be an impediment for a private teacher to provide tuition in that instrument within school hours?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:41):** The guidelines that we now have as the subject of an Industrial Relations Commission consent decision require us to go through steps in order to exhaust those other alternatives. If those other alternatives are exhausted, then the employment of a private music teacher is permissible within school hours on a school site.

**WAIKERIE HOSPITAL**

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:41):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, can you explain why Country Health SA has refused to provide funding for compliance issues at the Waikerie hospital, meaning that surgery cannot be used in any instance where the air conditioner is required?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:42):** I am not aware of that issue, but I am more than happy to have a look and come back to the member for Chaffey with an answer.

**WAIKERIE HOSPITAL**

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (14:42):** Supplementary: minister, when you come back with that answer, are you prepared to close the operating theatre at the Waikerie hospital for the sake of \$140,000?

**The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:42):** With regard to any service our first priority is patient safety, and obviously we have to make sure that patients are kept safe and that any procedures that are done are done in a safe way. But, as I say, this is not an issue that I have been briefed on. I am more than happy to find out what the issues are and get back to the member for Chaffey.

**INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:43):** My question is to the Minister for Investment and Trade. Minister, what business experience do members of the International Engagement Advisory Board have?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH (Waite—Minister for Investment and Trade, Minister for Small Business, Minister for Defence Industries, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:43):** I thank the member for Kaurna for the question. The International Engagement Advisory Board's role is to guide, prioritise and advise on the state government's international engagement effort. Why did we form it? Because we had multiple boards—one for India, one for China—and we didn't want to have seven or eight boards, one for each country but, rather, one with expertise. So, we are actually making government more efficient.

The board has been operating since October 2015 and has met twice this year, with the final meeting for 2016 to be held in December. The board is chaired by the Premier, and membership comprises the state government's international strategic advisers and others with key responsibilities under economic priority 9: promoting South Australia's international connections and engagement.

There have been false claims that there is a lack of business representation on the board, and once again I find myself having to correct the misinformation being spread around by the member for Chaffey, who has taken a set against businesspeople in this state and clearly couldn't organise a Sunday barbecue. Speaking as the opposition's investment and trade—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will be seated. The minister will not debate the answer: he will provide pertinent information to the house.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Thank you, sir. Speaking as the opposition's investment trade spokesman, the member said the government had 'snubbed' business—

**Mr PISONI:** Point of order: the minister has ignored your instruction not to debate. By quoting the member for Chaffey, he is entering debate.

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

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen to the minister's answer, and meanwhile the member for Newland will depart for the remainder of question time.

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



**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The member said the government had 'snubbed' business by forming a board full of advisers and consultants. He said, 'I remain concerned about—

**Mr PENGILLY:** Point of order, sir.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Oh, they don't like it, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** I'm sorry, I was distracted by my ejecting a government member from the house. What's the point of order?

**Mr PENGILLY:** The minister is again debating the matter, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen carefully to what the minister has to say.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The member for Chaffey said, 'I remain concerned about a lack of business representatives.' He said that publicly. Well, he is wrong, and I will be writing to key businesspeople reminding them of how they are being misrepresented by the king of negativity. Each of the International Engagement Advisory Board—

**Mr PENGILLY:** Point of order.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Here he goes!

**Mr PENGILLY:** Reflection on another member.

**The SPEAKER:** The 'king of negativity'?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Is the clock still going?

**The SPEAKER:** Does anyone identify as the king of negativity and wish to complain about it? No? No-one wishes to object.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Each of the International Engagement Advisory Board members brings a mix of required skills, experience and expertise. Sean Keenihan is Chairman of Partners, Norman Waterhouse Lawyers and National Vice President of the Australia China Business Council.

**Mr TARZIA:** Point of order: sir, the people to which the minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr TARZIA:** It's a point of order. Sir, the CVs to which the minister is referring are well documented in the public forum.

**The SPEAKER:** I'm sorry? Are you saying that the information the minister is providing—

**Mr TARZIA:** It's in the public forum, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** —is already—

**Mr TARZIA:** Absolutely.

**The SPEAKER:** —readily accessible?

**Mr TARZIA:** Absolutely, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen to what the minister has to say. Meanwhile, the member for Schubert will look it up.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Mr Keenihan is also Chairman of the South Australian Tourism Commission. Bill Muirhead is the founding member of advertising company M&C Saatchi & Saatchi and as of 2015 continues as the company's executive director. He is a former CE and president of Saatchi & Saatchi worldwide. Tim Harcourt is the JW Nevile Fellow in Economics at the Australian School of Business at the University of New South Wales, one of the best in the country. Rob Chapman is Deputy Chairman of the South Australian Economic Development Board, Chairman of the Adelaide Airport, the fastest growing capital city airport in Australia, and Chairman of Fortis Ago, an independent—these people have no business experience whatsoever. Compared to the geniuses opposite, these people know nothing.

**Mr KNOLL:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Is the minister finished?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** No, I'm still going, sir.

**The SPEAKER:** Well, then, I will take the point of order. Member for Schubert.

**Mr KNOLL:** 127 again.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister's selection and arrangements of the facts are somewhat tendentious, but he is still offering the house information—

**Mr Duluk:** We don't want to hear it.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, that's the point, isn't it? The opposition doesn't wish to hear the information the minister is supplying, but that doesn't make the information out of order.

**Mr KNOLL:** If you would check your email, all the information the minister is referring to is in your inbox as we speak.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Thank you, sir. The fact is that members are appointed in an honorary capacity. They have significant business experience. They are helping the state to grow and support the 65,000 jobs that hinge on exports. And what have members opposite got—

*Mr Marshall interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Oh, Mr Wokinabox! Let's put Mr Wokinabox on the board. That would be fantastic. Doesn't he know a lot about business, Mr Speaker? The opposition expose their lack of credibility on business every day with such attacks. I strongly recommend to them that they get in touch with the business community.

*Members interjecting:*

**Mr PISONI:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, member for Unley, I can read the clock, and I warn for the second and final time the Minister for Health. The member for Adelaide.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Ms SANDERSON (Adelaide) (14:49):** My question is to the Minister for Education and Child Development. What is the current policy regarding the handling of tier 3 notifications and the use of family care meetings? In the 2014-15 year, there were 1,093 tier 3 notifications that were closed with no action. A further 1,312 tier 3 intakes were received, of which only 78 were given invitations to family care meetings, and only 33 attended. Thus, only 1.3 per cent were getting any help.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (14:50):** Again, just to give some context for the rest of the chamber, tier 3 notifications are the way in which the triage is created for notifications that come through the CARL, which is the Child Abuse Report Line. What occurs is that we have an enormous volume that come in initially—it's something like 60,000 that came in last year—then there is a screening down to notifications, and then screened-in notifications, which have remained stable at around 20,000 a year for the last two or three years.

Within those notifications—and that's where we pick up 19 per cent of children who by the age of 10 will have had at least one of those screened-in notifications, so a very broad number of children caught—we then attempt to determine the urgency and the seriousness, which are two separate but related concepts.

With tier 3, what we have been observing for some time is that it was difficult to get to tier 3—it is, in fact, difficult to get to all of the tier 2—and therefore there was a risk that families in that situation (which is a lower level of concern) would not receive any support and, therefore, might well

become more serious over time. So, we are constantly trying to work out ways of getting better early intervention.

What we established last year, and it is starting to have some effect, is the Linking Families team where the lower level notifications, which are unlikely at that point in time to require the heavy investigative approach that is pointed at leading families towards the court to determine in whose custody these children should live—that what we would do with the tier 3s is to re-create this Linking Families work where they could start to get some early intervention and support. That is only just starting to pay off, but it's important.

Members may remember that I had the intention to have some people who were not trained social workers but were, nonetheless, skilled individuals to come in and answer the calls in the CARL because we've had this increasing problem of wait times because of the increasing traffic into that service. Because Margaret Nyland categorically said that she did not want to have non-social workers answering the phones at CARL, what we did was take those people we are in the process of employing and put them into that Linking Families work to bolster that effort, and also to be able to move some social workers onto the answering of the calls and the emails that are coming through.

We are doing our best to balance the work through that office, and also trying to have a differentiated response, depending on the extent of the severity of the notification. At no point do I suggest that the notifications are all being handled in the way in which we would like, and there are recommendations in Margaret Nyland's report about that. There are also suggestions through the process of consultation on those recommendations that we are having. So we are constantly interested in different advice on how to manage it all, so we carry some vacancies that clearly I would like to see filled. As members would be aware, I have raised that previously. That is how we are attempting to support families and children who come to our attention through the tier 3 notifications.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Supplementary?

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

#### COUNTRY SHOWS

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (14:54):** My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Minister, can you inform the house about the role of country shows in South Australia?

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I was pleased to be at the Callington Show on Sunday.

**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) (14:54):** Thank you, sir. I was going to mention that you were at the Callington Show. I saw that you were on Facebook talking up the wonderful exhibits at the Callington Show.

I would like to thank the member for Light for the question, and acknowledge the hard work that he has done on behalf of the Gawler Show over many years as the mayor and also as a local member, and acknowledge that, in late August, the Gawler Show celebrated its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I know that the Governor opened the show, and it is—

**Mr Whetstone:** It's a two-day show.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** It is a two-day show, yes.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Yes, it's great, it's fantastic. I think that everyone in this place who has country shows in their area realises just how important they are for the local fabric—

**Mr Whetstone:** Where's the funding?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** We have increased some funding. We have taken the ambassadors' money which was \$60,000 and put it up to \$65,000, so that is good news. I must mention that the member for Chaffey is a show champion when it comes to jams. Congratulations again on the wonderful work you do in the blue ribbon manufacturing—

*Mr Whetstone interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I can't make jam.

**An honourable member:** Fig jam!

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I think we did the fig jam joke last time. We did. There is \$65,000 now for the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia's annual grant for the Rural Ambassador Award and Young Ambassador Award. I would like to congratulate the 2016 Rural Ambassador, William Bray, who works on his family's cropping and sheep farm near Jamestown, and Caitlin Marshall, the winner of 2016 Young Ambassador Award. Caitlin grew up in Coonalpyn.

It is terrific. As someone who grew up in the country, I know that our Glencoe Show does not happen anymore, but still we have the Millicent Show, which comes up next weekend, I know that the member for MacKillop will be there on the weekend at the Millicent Show. Mount Gambier is obviously a really important one as well.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Which one?

**Mr Whetstone:** Gerald Schultz from Pinnaroo.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Well, congratulations to Gerald Schultz on behalf of the member for Chaffey and the member for Schubert. It is very good to put that on the record in here that he won the national award. That is terrific news, indeed.

On Saturday I was delighted to open the 99<sup>th</sup> Kingscote Show on Kangaroo Island. The Leader of the Opposition was there as well as the local member, of course, the member for Finnis, and the member for Hartley. It was great to see people from both sides of the house out supporting country shows. It is good to see all the community come together, although, after all the rains this year, I spoke to some sheep farmers who could not make it along to Kingscote because they had to be out doing a lot of work because shearing has been put back. They had to make a few alterations about where they had exhibits because the oval had been so waterlogged.

I do want to put on the record my thanks to David Hall, the President of the Kangaroo Island Agricultural and Horticultural Society and all the committee members who, like so many people involved in the other 48 shows around South Australia, put in so much work all year to ensure that their town and their area's big show of the year goes off really successfully.

It was good to catch up with Jamie Heinrich down there. He is a sheep farmer and a recipient of one of the 2017 Nuffield Australian Farming Scholarships, and I know that we have a few Nuffield scholars in here. It was great to catch up with Jamie. I would also like to congratulate Jonas Woolford from Streaky Bay, who is also a Nuffield recipient, and Toby Bekkers from McLaren Vale. He is a great fellow, a great mate of mine and a really good winemaker. To all those people who volunteer and do so much at our country shows around South Australia, we thank you. It is an important part of not only bringing the communities together but also acknowledging the best in show for everything from jam and cakes to wheat and exhibits.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired. The leader.

#### CHILD PROTECTION

**Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:58):** Thank you, sir, my question is the Minister for Child Protection Reform. Three months ago the minister informed the people of South Australia that he would bring a new child protection bill to this parliament. It is now November, and I am wondering whether the minister can update the house as to when that draft bill will be available?

**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) (14:58):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for this very important question, and the government, of course, has been working with the findings and the recommendations of the royal commission, which was obviously presided over by Justice Margaret Nyland.

We have a couple of pieces of legislation, and I would like to acknowledge the constructive support of the Leader of the Opposition in respect of the passage now of the children's commissioner, and I think it is important that, when we have a really constructive engagement with the Leader of the Opposition, I acknowledge that because I don't like to be always critical; I like to be positive where possible.

**Mr Marshall:** I am positive that you are running two months late with the bill.

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** I am being positive about that. I also would like to say that the second bill in this important group of bills, which is the one concerning screening, I believe has also been passed in the other place, and again it is terrific that that has gone through. We have a third one now on data sharing; obviously, it is in the other place, and I am optimistic that will be dealt with quickly. The last piece of the puzzle, of course, is the child protection legislation, and I am optimistic that we will be in a position to put something in the parliament before the parliament gets up for—

**Mr Marshall:** You said September. What's holding it up?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** Well, it's a big job.

**Mr Marshall:** Why did you say September, then?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** I'm an optimist. Mr Speaker, I know that you would be familiar with this phenomenon: you are so interested in the topics with which you work that you think you can get it done in a certain period of time but, unfortunately, all the work isn't yours. There are people in the chain who have to be just as enthusiastic about it as you are, and sometimes that chain is quite long. In this case, there are many people to whom the government must speak. There are many people who have a very strong interest in this. We are very, very close, I can say that. What I would like to do is be able to produce a draft which, when I show it to the Leader of the Opposition, and I will, he will be able to say to me, 'This is terrific. We want to support this.'

**Mr Marshall:** Will you guarantee it will be introduced in time to be debated and decided this year?

**The Hon. J.R. RAU:** That depends on sitting weeks and everything else. My hope is that we will have it in here before the end of the year. If we can get it in here and I can have the support of the Leader of the Opposition to get the legislation through the other place, I will look forward to moving it through quickly. Sometimes, it is colleagues of the Leader of the Opposition in the other place who engage in what they call improvement, which renders the legislation in a condition that it gets stuck here for a very long time. So, if we can stop improvement, it will be an improvement.

#### **COST OF LIVING CONCESSION**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:02):** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion. How is the government's cost of living concession supporting low income households?

**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) (15:03):** When faced with cuts from the commonwealth, state governments require leadership. They require a strong voice to advocate for our state and a leader who stands up for its most vulnerable citizens. After the federal Liberal government cut the funding for the old council rate concession, our Premier acted to look after South Australian pensioners and low income earners who were left significantly worse off, and we as a government picked up the tab by introducing the new Cost of Living Concession.

It was disappointing to see that, rather than work with the government to get the commonwealth to reverse its cuts, the opposition sought to play politics with people's concessions. More than 150,000 home owner-occupiers received the Cost of Living Concession in 2015-16. The government also extended the concession to tenants, not just to homeowners. That meant that in 2015-16 nearly 29,000 South Australian households received support they could not receive through the former council rates concession.

I am pleased to inform the house that the government has already paid this important concession to more than 142,000 home owner-occupiers and retirement village residents for this

financial year. Of this number, more than 119,000 households received their payment by EFT. Applications from new home owner/occupiers will be processed by the end of December 2016, and tenants will receive their COLC payment by March 2017.

The government has made significant changes to the concession to make it even easier for recipients to receive and access the concession. Under the changes, people who received the concession last year did not need to reapply and received their payment automatically, as long as their circumstances had not changed since 1 July 2015. From July 2017, all payments will be made directly into recipients' bank accounts to make it faster for people to receive their concession.

I urge you all to remind your constituents that new applications for the cost of living concession must be submitted by the end of October to be paid for this financial year, which I am sure you did before the end of October. This government is committed to supporting low-income households with the cost of living through a number of concessions, including the COLC payments. In fact, this state government provides \$170 million worth of concessions every year to seniors and low-income earners.

#### *Grievance Debate*

### **ELECTRICITY PRICES**

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (15:06):** Today is a very unfortunate day for all South Australians, but also for the government, because today we have seen another example of the complete failure of the government's electricity and energy policy for our state. Before anybody says, 'It's a privatised market. There is nothing the government can do,' let me make it very clear. South Australia is a privatised electricity market and Victoria is a privatised electricity market, yet we have the highest electricity prices in the nation in South Australia and Victoria has the lowest electricity prices in the nation.

Unfortunately, along with the highest electricity prices in the nation, we have the most unreliable electricity in the nation. The government has a \$30 million per year energy policy department, which is actually meant to oversee government policy and the way South Australia fits into the National Electricity Market, and clearly that is not working. Along with the highest electricity prices in the nation and the least reliable electricity in the nation, we also have the highest unemployment in the nation, and it is no coincidence that they all go together.

Of course, we need to make a transition from fossil fuels towards renewable energy; no sensible person disputes that. Every sensible person wants a reduction in pollution, wherever that comes from, and a reduction in pollution caused by the generation of electricity is a very important place to start, but the problem is that our state government keeps stuffing up the transition by trying to take a completely hands-off approach. It has a \$30 million per year energy policy department, yet at the same time claims that it wants to have a hands-off approach to the electricity market.

There is no greater advocate in this parliament than me when it comes to solar thermal electricity and the possibility of that taking place in Port Augusta. That remains a very important objective, but the only way we will get there is if the government takes a hands-on approach to the electricity market. A perfect example of that is that Alinta approached the government in January 2015 and said to the government that it wanted help to stay operational for an extra 12 years. The government took a binary, black-and-white approach to that request and just said no. It thought the options were to say yes or to say no and it decided to say no.

The unfortunate reality is that there were other options. The government did not have to say to Alinta, 'No, we won't help you at all,' or, 'Yes, we will give you the 12 years' worth of financial and other support that you want.' The government had another option. Another option would have been to say to Alinta that the government would support Alinta to stay open at Port Augusta, perhaps for one year, two years or three years, and the determination of that time would have been about how to make the smartest, best planned, best implemented transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.

The government did not have to say no or yes for 12 years: the government could have said yes for one or two years. The important part of that is the government could have chosen when the coal-fired power station at Port Augusta closed. It could have chosen when it closed so that we had

the best opportunity to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy; chosen when it closed so that the people of Port Augusta, Leigh Creek and the entire surrounding area had the best opportunity to transition into other employment; and could have chosen when Alinta closed the Port Augusta power station so that we would not have suffered through the extraordinary increase in electricity prices that we have seen in this state.

Since Alinta made its announcement back in June 2015 that it was going to shut the Port Augusta power station, we have seen a 70 per cent increase, on average, of forward contract prices for electricity. Since the Port Augusta power station actually closed in May 2016, because the government refused to help it through a short-term temporary transition, we have actually seen a 105 per cent increase, on average, in the spot price of electricity in South Australia, a more than doubling of the spot price of electricity in South Australia. That could have been avoided.

It might well have been that through the government being proactive and choosing to allow the Port Augusta power station to stay open for a short period to get a better transition, electricity prices would not have risen the way they have, they would not have doubled the way they have. Today we have had the announcement in Victoria that ENGIE intends to close its coal-fired power station. That is one of four coal-fired power stations in Victoria, so that shows Victoria making a transition towards renewables, away from fossil fuels. The unfortunate feature of that is the government's energy policy in South Australia has meant that we rely upon base load electricity from Victoria to come into South Australia. We now will not have enough of it, and the government's policy will be exposed for being as poor as it actually is.

Time expired.

#### **ABERFOYLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL**

**Ms COOK (Fisher) (15:11):** Aberfoyle Park High School is in my electorate in Fisher. The school does a great job providing a diverse curriculum that covers arts, with its music and dance program, and also has a big focus on STEM. Recently I invited the Minister for Education to visit. Firstly, we were treated to a short concert in the music room during their rehearsal time. The room was extremely tightly packed with about 50 or 60 students and their various instruments squeezed into the room, including a bassoon, which was most impressive. I think perhaps we will have to have a conversation about how to better accommodate the music program in years going forward at Aberfoyle Park High School.

The crew were rehearsing for their very successful and high-quality annual music showcase at Elder Hall. I was very lucky to be able to attend that fantastic event along with a big crowd of families, friends, old scholars and teachers. We were treated to a variety of group and solo performances of a very high quality. The students clearly had put in a lot of work, and the dedication of the teachers, including Ms Vicki Holland and Mr Steve Reece, is reflected in the results. During the minister's visit to the school we were also able to visit teachers and students taking part in the school's Bright Sparks program.

A focus on the education priority of STEM is nothing new for primary students in the southern area, and many schools have been working towards this aim collectively in some very innovative ways. The Bright Sparks Science Club is an after-school science program for 25 to 30 year 5 and year 6 students from 12 to 16 various southern area primary schools. The free program runs for six weeks in term 2, and it aims to capture and grow primary students' interest in STEM. It gives them a taste of working in a laboratory and exploring subjects such as chemistry, coding and the environment.

As the Bright Sparks information booklet advises, 'If words such as chemicals, molecules, atoms and electrons excite you, this is the program for you.' Some of the topics explored over the six weeks include distillation, filtration, acids and bases, electrical conductivity, chromatography and environmental sustainability. The program challenges students to put their higher order thinking skills into gear to solve complex scientific problems through inquiry, methodology and problem-based learning.

The final session is a show-and-tell where students can showcase to parents all they have been learning over the past six weeks. Remember, these are primary students—these are quite

complex ideas. During our visit, the students were experimenting with coding to control the colours and intensity of a light. It was great to see them so absorbed in this activity and both the minister and I were very proud to see a team of girls being the first ones to get their code to work.

It is fantastic to see the high school promoting STEM not only to its own students but also creating an appetite for STEM learning among future students. We know that STEM skills will be a significant part of the jobs of the future, which is why we are investing in STEM facilities in schools around the state, and I know many members in here appreciate that investment. The high school is one of 139 public schools receiving a STEM Works grant, and I am really eager to see how the schools use this funding to build on the fantastic work that they are already doing.

Some of the Bright Sparks students will go on to join the IGNITE program at Aberfoyle Park High School, which is an accelerated learning program for gifted and talented young people. The Bright Sparks program actually captures the students' interest in STEM in a really practical way and takes it to the next level. It gives them the opportunity to be mentored into STEM and connect with others beyond their schools who share this interest. It also gives them a glimpse of what kind of STEM careers could lie ahead in the future. These kids also act as STEM ambassadors, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subjects back at their own schools.

Behind the Bright Sparks is an incredible team of dedicated staff who, on top of their own class loads, volunteer their time to give primary school students across the southern area a boost in their STEM learning. It is a really fantastic peer and teacher-led mentoring system. Thank you to the teachers. I want to recognise the Aberfoyle Park High School staff who deliver the fantastic program: teachers Kate Berry, Shannyn Siemens, Leigh Rayner, Jennifer Schinnick, Alyce Spicer, Delphine Cantin and Russell Johns. Thank you to each of them for their efforts. They are playing a vital role in setting up these kids for a rewarding and exciting future as STEM professionals.

This is not the first time I have talked about Aberfoyle Park High School in this chamber. At this point of the year, I would like to use the opportunity to congratulate retiring principal, Liz Mead, on a wonderful teaching career. Liz, you have made a huge difference to the outcome of so many students over the course of your career. It is with great sadness that Aberfoyle will say farewell to you at the end of this school year, but all in all, the school community is just so grateful to have had your guidance, care and expertise over the last seven years. On behalf of the government and the Aberfoyle Park High School community, I pass on congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

Time expired.

### **WAIKERIE HEALTH SERVICE**

**Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:16):** Today, I would like to speak on behalf of my constituents in Waikerie and the surrounding communities who, without being forced to dip into their own fundraising efforts, will be without surgery services at the Waikerie hospital. I was recently contacted by the Waikerie and Districts Health Advisory Council which, I would like to add, does a fantastic job in supporting health services in the town. The HAC have been advised by Country Health SA they do not have adequate funding to address several critical maintenance issues at the Waikerie hospital, that I am advised by the HAC are noncompliant.

The air conditioner in the operating theatre in the Waikerie hospital is no longer operating and needs significant upgrades. There are also issues with noncompliant doors, and the HAC advises me that the cost to fix these two compliance issues is around \$140,000. Without these issues being fixed, the Waikerie hospital operating theatre will have to close under any circumstance where the air conditioner would normally be turned on to provide ventilation. Essentially, this would leave the hospital without minor surgery and no operation of the birthing suite over summer, including for emergency caesarian births. When the temperature is warm enough that the air conditioner is required it can no longer operate. This is completely unacceptable.

The closest hospital to Waikerie residents is a good 40 minutes away in either Berri or Loxton. The HAC is also considering paying for it themselves to fix these noncompliance issues, as they know how important it is to have the operating theatre open. This would be money raised by the community and bequeathed to the hospital, and should not be used for general maintenance. That



is the state government's responsibility. It appears that the HAC may have no choice. The government's South Australia's Health Care Plan states:

If you need to have elective surgery, you'll want to do so as soon as possible and as close to home as possible...

You may no longer have to travel long distances...

This statement is true in that people want to have any surgery as close to home as possible, but if the state government will not come to the party to fix issues at the Waikerie hospital, patients will have to travel long distances. The Health Care Plan in fact names Waikerie Health Service as a surgery option. By not providing funding to fix noncompliance issues, is the government breaking its own commitment to Country Health? As the state pours millions of dollars into the new RAH, which earned the accolade of the world's third most expensive building and which has nearly doubled in construction costs since it was first commissioned, it appears that regional and country hospitals are now being left to suffer. It begs the question as to how many other regional and country hospitals have noncompliance issues.

Country Health SA has said to the Waikerie HAC that there is \$150 million worth of noncompliant issues in country hospitals here in South Australia, yet the government has allocated \$15 million towards those issues in the last financial year. It is just outrageous that it can actually allow these regional hospitals to go into a state of disrepair, turning a blind eye to regional healthcare services. Again, it begs the question as to how many other regional country hospitals have noncompliance issues. I know the Minister for Health will get a copy of this speech, and I urge him to look more closely into the issue than his department has, and not leave the burden of fixing maintenance and noncompliant issues at Waikerie with the HAC.

As I said, the \$150 million backlog in maintenance to country hospitals in South Australia is a blight on Country Health here in South Australia. It is also a disgrace to see that they were allocated only \$15 million in the budget for this financial year. Again, obstetrics, emergency caesareans, elective surgeries, accommodating visiting surgeons, it makes the theatre redundant. Until compliance issues are rectified Waikerie is either without an operating theatre or operating noncompliant.

It is totally unreasonable that, for the sake of \$140,000, the minister and his department will turn a blind eye to a hospital that is critical to that community and to neighbouring communities in the Riverland. Waikerie HAC has done a great job; it is currently trying to see how it can use community funds, bequeathed funds, that have been left to the HAC, but it really is breaking protocol in the government's own bottom line that it must maintain the hospitals to a satisfactory standard.

### **COPPER MINING**

**Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:22):** I rise to acknowledge an important event that is occurring today in the north of our state. The event represents one more step in the development of what is Australia's largest undeveloped copper deposit. The steps taken will ultimately lead, with board approval, to the creation of 500 direct jobs in the north of our state in addition to export earnings and a contribution to the prosperity of South Australia.

The event I am referring to is the formal element of the commencement of the Tjati decline, which will access OZ Minerals' Carrapateena copper deposit. OZ Minerals have contracted PYBAR Mining Services to build a 600-metre deep, 5.5-kilometre long decline. Construction of the decline will help de-risk the project and assist in the final decision-making process that, in all likelihood, will lead to the development of the mine and the related copper concentrate plant at Whyalla. The work that is now being done is part of the prefeasibility study. It is anticipated, assuming board approval, that the feasibility study will commence by April next year.

It is not lost on me that I stand in a somewhat grandiose chamber that was built on the back of the copper-derived wealth that gave South Australia a major boost the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Cornish copper miners who, through their labour and skill, contributed to the development of South Australia also played a pivotal role in the formation and development of the Labor Party in South Australia. Copper played a major part in our past, through Olympic Dam and Prominent Hill, it plays an

important role today, and copper will play an important part in our future—I believe an increasingly important part.

In order to make the most of that potential, our government's \$20 million PACE Copper Strategy represents a very positive initiative. I expect the PACE Copper Strategy to deliver the solid returns we have seen from the general Plan for Accelerating Exploration; PACE has generated returns on public investment of over 20:1. The investment in pre-competitive geoscientific data and financial assistance for exploratory drilling programs has been a major success.

We need look no further than Carrapateena to demonstrate just how worthwhile the PACE program has been. Carrapateena was discovered as a direct result of public investment in the drilling program, in partnership with a junior explorer. That public investment is likely to lead to the creation of 500 jobs. That is my definition of success. I think PACE Copper is an exciting initiative. The initiative will underpin the world's largest geophysical program. It will deliver:

- the world's largest high-resolution airborne geophysical and terrain imaging program as part of a 'regeneration' of exploration in the highly prospective Gawler Craton.

In addition to casting an eye over the Gawler Craton, the Eucla Basin in the far west of the state will also benefit from the investment in pre-competitive geoscientific surveys. The Eucla Basin is relatively untouched when it comes to exploration.

Another exciting initiative that is being pursued as part of the state's copper strategy is the development of the International Copper Technology Hub, which will be based at Tonsley. The proposed International Copper Technology Hub ticks a lot of boxes and, as such, deserves a grievance to itself. I have no doubt that, if the vision for the hub is realised, it has the potential to make an enormous contribution to our state and especially to regional South Australia.

The copper resource in the Gawler Craton represents 68 per cent of Australia's copper resources and 14 per cent of the world's copper resources. Through the initiatives outlined, adding to that resource will greatly benefit South Australia and help generate good-quality jobs in regional South Australia.

## POWER OUTAGES

**Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (15:26):** I rise today to talk about some correspondence I have undertaken with my constituency on the back of the significant power outage some three weeks ago. I took it upon myself to write to residents of Eyre Peninsula to seek their thoughts on the power outage and the impact that it had on them as residents and businesspeople of Eyre Peninsula.

I wrote a letter highlighting a couple of things in particular, such as the failure of the backup generators at Port Lincoln. I will come back to that shortly, but I do believe that, had they worked as designed, as intended and as contracted, the impact on Port Lincoln and the bottom part of Eyre Peninsula would not have been anywhere near as significant as it was. Of course, I recognise that the whole of Eyre Peninsula was off for a considerable period of time, but it need not have been as bad as it was.

I also made comment about the government's emergency response. You give credit where credit is due, and the government did set up two recovery centres, one at Port Lincoln and one at Ceduna, but it certainly seemed to be a little bit ad hoc, with nobody really knowing what was going on and what was available. Applications for \$700 hardship grants were there to be filled out, and I am hearing that some people at least have been paid. I am not sure who makes the judgement about hardship or need but, anyway, there you go. I have not heard of anyone at this stage who has been refused, but I was interested to hear about the experiences of my constituents.

I put a survey form on the back of the letter and I asked four questions. The first one was: how did the outage affect your household or business? The opportunity is there for constituents to respond. My second question was: did you apply for the loss of power grant? A simple yes or no. Question 3 was: have you been able to find information about the blackout and subsequent relief easily? Question 4 was: what action needs to occur to ensure our future energy reliability? There is plenty of opportunity for people to put their thoughts down there.

Of course, apart from the power failure, the single biggest issue was the failure of the communication systems, and not just the mobile phone communication but also landlines were going out, so it was really difficult for any reliable and considered information to be put out to people. I know that people are very concerned about the lack of information. As a result of that, they were not easily able to find out about the government's recovery centres or the grants that were available. Also, there is a vast distance between Ceduna and Port Lincoln (some 400 kilometres), where there are not insignificant communities, and a vast number of people did not have the opportunity to travel to either Ceduna or Port Lincoln.

We are getting about 12 to 18 surveys a day being returned at the moment. Part of my gripe today is about giving this survey a plug. I encourage people to fill this out and return it. We are finding that most people are upset particularly about the fact that they lost food from the refrigerators, that there was no fuel available (the service stations were not able to provide petrol or diesel for transport) and that there was no phone communication.

Many people did not know or did not hear much about the relief grant and said that it should have been advertised better. People have suggested in their comments that we reopen the Port Augusta power station and make better use of current wind farms. We have two wind farms on Eyre Peninsula at the moment, one in the Cleve hills and one west of Port Lincoln, neither of which can be used to capacity because of the poor state of the transmission lines.

Other options included having a backup generator that actually works, getting a nuclear power plant, updating the powerlines and interconnectors and not relying on Victoria for power. Some interesting comments will come in, I have no doubt, but I thought it was important to give people the opportunity to tell me and us, this parliament, about their experiences and what they see as a solution. This situation has not been resolved yet, and it could occur again later this week, over the summer, or anytime soon. I am also quite sure that there will be a significant number of comments about the price of power.

#### **EDWARDSTOWN REGIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

**Ms DIGANCE (Elder) (15:31):** Last night was cause for celebration thanks to a visionary group of businesspeople who, through modest beginnings, founded the Edwardstown Regional Business Association 10 years ago. I was there last night, and it was good to see the member for Mitchell there as well. The Edwardstown Regional Business Association began with just six members. There was agreement between these inaugural members that to offer a forum to support and connect business would be beneficial, and so Edwardstown Regional Business Association, more affectionately referred to as ERBA, began. The inaugural members, all bar two, I am told, are still involved in some way.

The vision held by the founders to foster and promote small to medium business through networking, shared knowledge, ideas and resources came into being. Last night, the founding members of ERBA, which was then known as Edwardstown and Melrose Park Regional Business Association (incorporated in January 2006) were present. They were Neil McNish, City of Marion; Glen Robertson, Signarama, Melrose Park; John Crase, Castle Plaza Shopping Centre; Kelly Keates, Zonge Engineering; and Roy Young, Terry White Chemist, Castle Plaza. All were duly acknowledged and recognised and applauded for their foresight and commitment.

The name of the group was officially changed to Edwardstown Regional Business Association in December 2010. Last night, co-chair Greg Garrihy announced that at their recent AGM members officially agreed to change its name to Southern Business Connections. The philosophy of the name change was based on the sound argument that this association did not just serve the interests of those businesses in the Edwardstown and Melrose Park areas but also had members from all over metropolitan Adelaide.

The aim of facilitating the development of businesses in the inner south of Adelaide and surrounds through engagement, connection and information has clearly captured the imagination and harnessed a need in businesspeople, as we now see this association having grown to 130 or so members. Amongst this membership, which incidentally is growing at a steady and constant rate, are keen promoters of the association through the avenues of gold, platinum and bronze sponsorship

and corporate sponsorship. Last night, we saw a popular choice when the energetic and committed Paul Williams, managing director of Comace, recognised as the second only life member of ERBA.

Also named and recognised last night were ambassadors of this association, people who have gone the extra mile for the association to promote and welcome new people and new members. Those recognised were Paul Williams, Comace; Kosette Lambert, Advanced Focus; Kelly Keates, Zonge Engineering; Ines Patrilli, Patrilli Wines; Cathy Buttfield, Sar Major Canvas Goods and Trailers; Peter Koster, Wayville Telstra Business Centre; and Neil McNish, City of Marion.

Last night, as is the routine of this group, one business also had the opportunity to showcase what they do, and so it was that Neville, from Australian Welding Solutions, demonstrated one of their drones as he offered a description of the use of the drones in their work of surveying, qualifying and quantifying contracted work. We were privy to learn that the responsibilities of engaging drone technology requires the user to have obtained a pilot's licence and also, prior to flying the drone, notify and gain permission on relevant airspace. The drone also took a group photo of the gathering while it was hovering near us in the sky.

This year, ERBA has championed many forums of all aspects to support and educate businesses, plus it has arranged business-to-business visits. Among the forums and guest speakers have also been the Treasurer, minister Koutsantonis, post budget to give an update and to have a conversation, and in an important and very well-attended forum of over 250 attendees to discuss and confront mental health issues of business owners and those in business.

I am really happy to be associated with this wonderful group of people who are passionate and committed in promoting and progressing South Australia through their focused innovation, collaboration and positive determination. I am privileged to work with them and enjoy their contagious energy and attention to advancement. Congratulations, ERBA, on turning 10. I look forward to watching the association grow and develop over the coming years and also continuing my involvement supporting, promoting and advocating to ensure our small to medium-size businesses develop and evolve to be their best.

### *Bills*

#### **ADOPTION (REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2016.)

**Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (15:37):** The Adoption (Review) Amendment Bill, which I rise to support, is one of a series of bills the government has put on the table to test the conscience of the members of this parliament and to force us to look deep within ourselves at some of the most serious and fundamental questions parliamentarians can deal with. I, for one, have chosen to dive as deep as I can into these issues, realising that, whilst maybe they were not the first and foremost issues that I thought we could and should be dealing with, now that they are here it is incumbent on each of us to make an informed decision.

The bill comes as a result of a review done by Professor Lorna Hallahan PhD and, whilst the review looks to the operations of the act, the real problem I have with the review is that it was quite narrow. It looked at technical aspects of how adoption works, but it did not look at adoption in a more broad sense, except where the professor puts her views fairly and squarely on the record. At 1.3.2, she states:

The latest statistics show a steady decline in adoption in Australia over the last 30 years. Based on what I have learned throughout the review via consultations and the current literature, I state clearly here that I think this is a good trend.

So, she has put very clearly in the opening outline the fact that she does not support adoption as a viable method, or at least she supports it in much more limiting circumstances, and I think that is a real shame. It is a real shame because I think it then makes presuppositions further down the course, except, of course, where the professor then goes on to say that, even though she does not agree

with adoption, adoption should do anything other than be decreased in its use; she would like it opened to more forms of people.

I cannot stress strenuously enough that there have been significant wrongs done in the past when it comes to adoption practices—huge wrongs. This is an extremely sensitive topic, perhaps one of the most sensitive topics, and the bonds that parents should and do have with their children, regardless of their ability to look after them or other issues and complex needs that they have, do exist. Where governments have been insensitive, even though they may have had good intentions and acted in ways that have not been sensitive to that bond, mistakes have been made.

I know that this parliament in 2012 stood up and tried to do what it could to right those wrongs and to give an apology and ask for forgiveness from those who have some awful stories as a result of practices that governments did, and we need in this place to learn from those mistakes. We must ensure that we do not repeat history, and that is why we as parliamentarians need to look into the history of these things to ensure that we are fully across these issues when looking forward.

However, the issue that I have is that we can learn from the mistakes of these issues in times gone by. We are a more evolved society, and I think that we are mature enough to be able to tackle this issue with courage and to take a new look at the use of adoption within our society. I firmly believe that adoption is a legitimate process, a legitimate tool in the toolbox not only of the government but also of individuals and families in finding loving and stable homes for children who are in otherwise in more adverse circumstances.

I think sincerely that, especially where the government has sought a guardianship order to be under the care of the minister, and in those situations where children are going to be in the care of the government until they turn 18, the use of Other Person Guardianship or the use of adoption are legitimate forms to be able to provide better outcomes for children. If indeed, as I talked about earlier this morning, the government is serious about looking after the best interests of the child, I would contend that being able to place a child with two loving parents in a more permanent and stable environment and a more legally secure environment has to be something that we can look at and do so in a way that does not in any way denigrate or take away from the past wrongs that have been committed.

I want very briefly to talk about a friend of mine I spoke to recently who was adopted at a very young age. I know her to be a wonderful, loving parent and somebody who is a great friend and lovely person to be around, and one would not know looking at her that she came from an adopted family. She shared with me her experiences, the fact that she has had a great adoptive experience and that if adoption had not been an option for her that she would have spent her time going through the foster care system and that that almost certainly would have had more adverse outcomes than she did.

I know that this is not always the case, but it can be the case, and for reasons that I will detail later I think that the stringency with which getting on to the adoption register is used I think is extremely valid. Adoption in Australia has been reducing at a very quick and significant rate. In fact, my office got together some statistics on adoption in South Australia versus Australia and it shows that in South Australia in 1989-90 we had 174 adoptions and then in 2013-14 we had only 15 adoptions. That is basically saying that we have less than one-tenth of adoptions in South Australia than what we had 25 years ago.

At a national level, we have gone from just under 1,300 adoptions in 1989-90 to only 300 now, so a reduction of 75 per cent. Interestingly, in New South Wales, the reduction has only been 50 per cent, so it does say to me that some states are making different decisions when it comes to how they use adoption as a form of providing a family unit for children who otherwise cannot stay with their biological parents.

The two contentious parts of this bill are around gay adoption and single parent adoption. It is interesting that in this review the professor says, 'I think that the reduction in adoption is preferable and a good trend but I still want adoption to be opened up to different forms of parental relationships.' Before I make further comment on those two issues, I would like to go to the Adoption Regulations 2004 which say that if a couple want to be put onto the adoption register, the chief executive must

order for an assessment report to be undertaken as soon as possible and have regard to the following factors:

- (a) the parenting skills or potential parenting skills of the applicant;
- (b) the capacity of the applicant to provide, throughout the child's childhood, the standard of care necessary to safeguard and promote the physical, intellectual and emotional welfare of a child of the kind in relation to which registration is sought;
- (c) if the applicant has the care of any other child—the effect that may have on the welfare of an adopted child or on the applicant's ability to care for an adopted child;
- (d) the emotional warmth, maturity and stability of the applicant;
- (e) the physical and mental health of the applicant;
- (f) the capacity of the applicant to deal with difficult or stressful situations;
- (g) in the case of a joint application—the length and quality of the relationship between the applicants;
- (h) the economic position and financial management skills of the applicant;
- (i) the criminal record (if any) of the applicant;
- (j) the nature of the childhood experiences of the applicant;...
- (l) the attitude of the applicant to children and in particular to the discipline of children;
- (m) the attitude of the applicant to the status of an adopted child, to the birth parents of an adopted child and to an adopted child's access to information about the child's origin;...
- (o) the motivation of the applicant to adopt a child;

That is most, but not all, of the things that an assessment report needs to have regard to. Can I say that that is an extremely exhaustive list of questions that people need to answer in order to get on the adoption register. I am not in any way suggesting that is inappropriate but I am suggesting that this is extremely rigorous. This gives me confidence that, if you can get onto the Adoption Register, you are much more likely than the average potential parent to be a good parent.

I look at some of these things and struggle to see how I would answer them and whether or not my answers may or may not be viewed as appropriate by those who have to consider that assessment report. As I said yesterday, there are those who are conservative and therefore understand what they think. I am not one of those. I understand who I am, and it just happens that most of the time I end up being a conservative. Conservatives would say that a loving mother and father combination provides the best form of upbringing for a child.

To a large extent, I would agree with that, when we are dealing in the abstract and averages and numbers. But this bill before us does not ask us to look at things in the abstract. It actually asks us to look at things in a real and personal way, and I would say this. It is not about the averages. It is not about looking at society as a whole. We are talking about a very specific cohort and subset of society, and that cohort has had to jump through a huge number of hoops in order to get onto the adoption register.

If you are a gay couple or a single parent who can pass these tests, I think you are much more likely to be a better parent than parents in the situations that these adopted children would have potentially come from, whether that be from poor financial circumstances overseas, parents who are incapable of looking after their child or, indeed, a foster care system (which, as we have seen over many years, has not provided the best outcomes in all situations to children); and, surely, this has to be a better answer. If we are genuinely here to think about the best interests of the child, if a highly vetted, loving gay couple wants to adopt a child, surely that has to be better for the child than sitting, potentially, under the guardianship of the minister or the other circumstances in which they find themselves.

I will not be seeking to have a vote on the two more controversial elements of the bill. If there is a division called, I will be voting in favour of those provisions because we must be consistent in looking at the best interests of the child and we must look at the practical aspect by asking: is what we are seeking to let children come into better than where they come from? If the answer is yes, everybody needs to look in their heart and realise that this is a worthwhile measure to support.

The other aspects of the bill—that is, vetoes and the application of the act—I am not an expert in, and I certainly cede to the experience of those who have put forward submissions on this bill because they are the ones who have lived those experiences. But I would plead with the government to allow us, as a parliament, to find ways to find better outcomes for children and let us not use our previous wrongs and fear of looking again at issues that need to be ventilated, based on previous prejudice, to not allow adoption to be used in circumstances where it is appropriate and necessary and in the circumstances where it can provide for better outcomes for children.

Please let us have the courage to ventilate the issues that exist around it and, in conjunction with GOM18, Other Person Guardianship and permanent foster care arrangements, let it be another tool in the toolbox to ensure that we get the best outcomes for children that we can and have the consequence of having better, more well-adjusted, contributing members of society. Providing that better outcome for those children will in turn provide better outcomes and ease of government in potentially not having to interact with these children later on in life. Hopefully, they will have better, more independent, fulfilling lives and government will not need to continue to try to support these people if they turn out with more complex social, economic and health issues as a result of having gone through a more inferior childhood upbringing.

With those words, I am happy to support this bill in the parts that seek to have an honest conversation about adoption in South Australia, but I implore everybody to have the courage to think about what is in the best interests of the child, even if that means that we must have some difficult conversations in order to get there.

**Mr DULUK (Davenport) (15:52):** I also rise to speak on the Adoption (Review) Amendment Bill 2016. I will make a very small contribution. The path to the legislation before the house has been a long, emotional and, in many cases, painful journey for the many people who underwent adoption in the pre-1988 era of closed adoption practice. I have no doubt that when the original legislation was debated, and subsequently enacted by parliament, it was done with the very best of intentions for the children who would undergo adoption, for the parents who would surrender their children and for the families who would welcome those children into their homes.

However, sometimes best intentions do not reflect best outcomes. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of members of parliament, the interpretation, application and effect of legislation can have unintended consequences. It does not matter how many changes you propose to make to a bill, or the extent of efforts to strengthen its intention, perhaps even reintroducing it in another form, sometimes the very people legislation intends to assist and protect are actually the ones hurt most by the decisions made in this house and those of the other place.

The extent of the hurt and suffering of those who were adopted in the closed adoption era was first brought to my attention by a constituent of mine. Her courage to share her experiences as an adoptee with me is to be commended, as is her passion for change in this area. What really struck me from the first meeting was her excitement at being issued with her first ever identification in her birth name—something most of us would take for granted. Having undergone a closed adoption, her original birth certificate was cancelled and a second birth certificate issued with a new identity.

It is an identity that continues to be recognised legally, meaning that she has no choice but for her passport, Medicare card and driver's licence, amongst others, to carry her legal name as listed on her second birth certificate. But, for her, this is not her identity: it is not her name, it is not her parentage and it is not a recognition of her ancestry. To finally receive a means of identification that carried her birth name was an enormously significant moment for her and one she is very proud of.

Whilst I would never propose to fully understand the personal cost of adoption, I am grateful to have been provided with such a personal insight. To this end, I was very pleased to see the inclusion of discharge of adoption orders in this legislation. It is a positive step for my constituent, and the many others who feel as strongly as she does, that the right to discharge the adoption order be available to adoptees. The ability to return to their birth identity is a momentous step in their personal journey.

I acknowledge the concerns that exist in regard to the court-ordered investigation into the circumstances relating to an application for a discharge, and I am sympathetic to fears of the

potentially intrusive nature of such an investigation and a fear of being pathologised, but I am mindful that access to extensive case management may provide crucial support for some adoptees in carrying out this decision. The lack of detail surrounding the structure and requirements of a court-ordered investigation has certainly heightened the fears of those opposing this provision.

Efforts to ensure a fair and transparent process would help to ease their concerns, and this is something that could potentially be explored going forward, I hope. The ability to discharge an adoption order is certainly an important step towards righting the many wrongs that transpired as a result of the original legislation. Let's hope that the unintended consequences that resulted from the Adoption Act 1988 serve as an important reminder for us all in our consideration of other legislation before this house.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Education and Child Development, Minister for Higher Education and Skills) (15:57):** While I will speak extremely briefly and will continue when we have more time, I do want to grasp this opportunity to thank everybody who has made a contribution. Every speech I have heard has been thoughtful and considered, as befits not only this chamber but the issue itself. As the member for Schubert said, this is one of the most emotive and sensitive issues that this state, the government, can deal with—that is, the parenting of a child and the parentage of a child. I am grateful for the quality of the contributions that have been made. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Auditor-General's Report*

**AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

In committee.

(Continued from 2 November 2016.)

**The CHAIR:** Member for Adelaide, would you like to indicate where you are going to start the questions while we get ourselves together?

**Ms SANDERSON:** I refer to page 90 of Part B, Agency audit reports. My first question is regarding salary overpayments. Page 90 reads:

As at 21 April 2016 salary overpayments totalled \$2.1 million...with \$1.4 million managed by SSSA and \$707,000 managed by DECD.

Can the minister explain how and why \$1.4 million was overpaid to Families SA staff?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Salary overpayments do occur with reasonable frequency in the sense that rather than being errors—and I was just confirming that we are not aware of any incident that caused errors in payments—it is largely about people who are on leave coming back and returning to a position that is lower than the position they have been acting in. What happens is that is then caught up with over the period of paying the salary, so that the person does not end up having been overpaid, but there is a point-in-time overpayment that has been identified here.

**Ms SANDERSON:** \$1.4 million is obviously an incredible amount of money. Given that Families SA staff represent only 8.2 per cent of the FTEs in the whole department yet the \$1.4 million represents 66.6 per cent of the error, what arrangements are being made to recover the \$1.4 million and how long will it take to recover the amount in full?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We will come back if there is any need to correct what I am about to say, but our understanding is that that is not explicitly only for Families SA; it is for DECD as a whole, which is obviously a significantly large workforce. Our understanding is that in fact relates almost exclusively to Education staff. In terms of how the money is recovered, as I indicated in my previous answer, the payments are modified to staff in order to recover those funds. It is a point-in-time matter. If there is any further clarification that is required, I will take any further detail on notice, because that is the best advice we have in the chamber today.

**Ms SANDERSON:** The description in the Auditor-General's Report notes it as 'Salary overpayments' and says:



CHRIS payroll – Families SA (FSA)

FSA payroll was processed through the CHRIS 5 payroll system on the same database as staff of the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion until late January 2016. From this date FSA payroll transitioned to the CHRIS 21 payroll system on a separate database.

The FSA payroll function is provided by SSSA.

That is the part that has the \$1.4 million which is managed by SSSA, as opposed to the \$707,000 managed by DECD, which I imagine is for the education department's staff.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I think the confusion may be that DECD's payroll function was already being provided by Shared Services and now the FSA payroll function in this period of time was also being provided. We are reasonably confident at this point that the \$1.4 million does refer to the entire department but, as I say, that is the best advice we have in the chamber. If there is any clarification or correction that is required, I will obviously return to you and to the chamber.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Thank you. I move to page 93 regarding annual leave balances. There was an increase of 39 (or 66 per cent) Families SA staff with annual leave balances above two years' entitlement between June 2015 and October 2015. A total of 25 of the 59 Families SA staff with excess annual leave balances in June 2014 still had excess balances in October 2015, with 21 of these staff increasing their balances over this time and 11 by more than 80 hours. My questions are: what is Families SA policy regarding accruing leave, and what is the minister doing to enforce this policy?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I will just point out that in my judgement, and without any specific advice on the point, it is quite likely that those levels of annual leave balances are a signifier of the dedication of the workers of Families SA, and being reluctant to take leave when there is so much work to do. However, as the member rightly points out, it is not appropriate for staff to be carrying that level of leave balances: it is contrary to policy.

What we have done in this financial year is implement a quarterly monitoring system so that we are able to be far more adept at drawing to the attention of staff members, and their managers, when they are beginning to be over their leave allowance.

**Mr PISONI:** With your opening statement, on what basis do you make the claim that the leave is not taken because of the dedication of the staff? Do you have any evidence that leave is actually taken that is not authorised, or that staff members are absent from work on private matters and are not claiming leave? Do you have any evidence that is not happening in the department?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I think I made it pretty clear that my opening comments were not on the basis of any specific evidence that had been presented; it was just a sense I have when I go to the Families SA offices, now the Department for Child Protection offices, of the incredible dedication of the staff. It was more by way of an editorial comment. Regarding how leave is monitored, there are monthly leave statements that are monitored.

**Mr PISONI:** Are there any departmental staff who have either been warned or who are under investigation for taking unauthorised leave?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We do not have that information here. I will take that on notice and return with an answer if we have any information to that effect.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Regarding my previous question, I am assuming that annual leave is allowed to accrue for two years (you did not actually state what the policy was). Is that right?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** That is correct.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Is leave paid at the rate it was accrued or is it paid at the rate when it is taken? Obviously, as people move up the pay scale accruing leave has significant financial costs.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** It is paid at the level when leave is taken.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Can the minister estimate the cost of having so many people accruing leave? Is there a budget figure for that, an amount?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I think it is highly unlikely, but I will take it on notice and see if we are able to do that.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Is that a government policy? I have not been an accountant for many years, but when we used to accrue annual leave or even dividends or anything you would actually go back to the time at which it was accrued and that would be the value of it when you were putting it in your financial statements. I am wondering why you would pay it at a higher rate, knowing that you have minimal budgets to work with already. You are wasting a lot of taxpayers' money by paying it at the higher rate.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I think that question is properly directed towards the people who are responsible for the Public Service as a whole and for the payment of public servants. We operate under the rules that are established; we are just one agency following policy as best as possible.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Just confirming if that is the rule for all government departments, there could be millions and millions being lost with that policy.

**Mr PISONI:** I refer to page 93, Purchase cards. Are you able to provide a detailed list of the number of purchase cards that there are in the entire department and the credit limit on those cards? The credit limit will vary, so I want to know how many cards there are at each credit limit. Can you also provide how much has been identified as being spent on entertainment using department credit cards and how much has been identified as being spent on alcohol using department purchase cards? Is there any mechanism to prohibit any type of purchase on a credit card?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Clearly, I will take all that on notice and provide you with the information that we have.

**Mr PISONI:** Are you also able to bring back—you might know this with your adviser there—the number of transactions that were identified in the department where the purchase was split in order to circumvent the limit? What the Auditor-General has said here is:

Our sample testing found an instance of a purchase being split into two smaller payments which meant each purchase was within the cardholder's transaction limit.

Obviously there is a maximum amount of money per transaction, but a single purchase has been made by more than a single transaction. That is obviously what the Auditor-General has identified. What I would like to know is the number and value of such transactions, and what the purchases were.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We do have a policy, obviously, against splitting. Not just the person who does the credit card purchase but the person who authorises that is required to identify any instances of a breach of that policy. We will have to take the remainder of your question on notice to give you answers on that.

**Mr PISONI:** I do understand you have a policy, minister, but the Auditor-General has identified that it is happening, that the policy has been breached in your department, and that is why I am asking for those numbers. I would also like to ask some questions about the domestic travel procedure requirements. The Auditor-General says that approval from the relevant executive director, deputy chief executive or the chief executive before travel is undertaken is required.

The Auditor-General says that he has previously reported instances where approval was not given prior to travel. Can you bring back to the committee the number of occasions where authorisation for travel was approved after the travel, are you able to advise the parliament as to the number of investigations there were last financial year for inappropriate use or inappropriate claims for travel and how many department employees were required to repay travel that was paid for using their purchase cards?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Yes, we will take all that on notice and provide to the parliament what data we have.

**Ms SANDERSON:** I refer to page 95, Carer registration. For a number of years the Auditor-General has noted that Families SA has not confirmed that a number of registered foster carers have been annually reviewed by a foster care agency. The 2015-16 review noted that the annual reviews for 55 carers were past due at 30 June 2016. They also noted that 123 reviews were in progress but

not completed, with some of these reviews being outstanding for a number of years. My question is: what is the minister doing to ensure that all foster carers are reviewed annually, as required by the Family and Community Services Act of 1972?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** This question is a legitimate and serious one. I want to make clear that what we are talking about is the renewal of registrations rather than initial registrations. It is a case of management in between Families SA and the non-government organisation that is responsible for supporting the foster carers in not sufficiently quickly undertaking this review. What we have done, in recognition that it is a challenge, is first of all require of foster care agencies valid reasons for their overdue reviews. We have recruited an additional seven positions into our carer registration team in the last few months in order to address these outstanding carer reviews and in order to have fewer, if not none, as quickly as possible.

**Ms SANDERSON:** How many care concerns are currently under investigation and how many of the 123 reviews that are in progress have been sent to the Carer Assessment and Registration Unit?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We do not have that information here, so we will provide it in due course.

**Mr PISONI:** I refer to page 99, total expenses for 2015-16. Could I have the figures for compensation payments made to students and/or families who were victims of assaults, whether sexual assaults or general assaults, that were subject to either negotiation or legal processes? Also, can I have the total value and the number of them for each of those years?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We will provide that information to the parliament in due course.

**Ms SANDERSON:** I refer to page 96. Two instances were found where funding approval from a financial delegate for children to remain in existing commercial care arrangements was provided after a period of care. In one of these instances, projected costs for the period before authorisation was provided totalled \$350,000. Can the minister explain how this can happen and what she is doing to make sure this does not happen in the future?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I am advised that, recognising that we need to improve our processes, we undertook an external review towards the end of the financial year. That external review has generated a number of recommendations in changing our processes, which we are currently in the process of implementing in order to tighten those processes.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Could you please outline any of the suggestions and processes that are being changed?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I will give you some highlights, but I am also happy to provide further detail by taking the remainder on notice if there are some more that we can provide to you. In brief, the question of at what point is approval sought and given and who has the power to do that has at its heart the centralisation of the payments. Where payments have previously gone through offices, they have now been centralised in order to have tighter procedures and controls.

**Ms SANDERSON:** I refer to page 96. Given that the cost of emergency care for 2015-16 was \$82.9 million, up from \$55.4 million in the previous year, what processes has the minister put in place to ensure all hours, rates and invoices are fully verified and crosschecked?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** The same external review that I mentioned in the previous answer looked at all of those matters and has given its advice that we are now in the process of implementing.

**Ms SANDERSON:** What is the estimated increase in cost by the government accepting the royal commission's recommendation to no longer have single-person shifts?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Considerable is a version of the answer, but I will take that on notice and get you some better advice.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Still on the same page, in 2015-16 it was noted that 33 care and protection service agreements had expired on 30 June 2015. Can the minister please inform the committee how many have expired as of 30 June 2016, or if there are any outstanding?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We do not have that in the chamber today, so I will have to take it on notice.

**Ms SANDERSON:** Are any of the 33 from the 2015-16 year yet to be executed? They would have obviously finished because it is 18 months ago.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** We will confirm and bring that answer back.

**Mr PISONI:** Just one more on DECD, minister, before we move to your responsibilities under the DSD, at page 303, there are movements over the past five years for workers compensation payments. Can I have a breakdown of the type of compensation payments? I am particularly interested in payments that relate to psychological claims that generally could relate to stress or bullying, or non-physical reasons for the compensation claim.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** Yes, and clearly I will take that on notice.

**Mr PISONI:** I am now looking at page 498 in Part B. The Auditor-General found 90 cases where students who had withdrawn from a course were refunded 50 per cent of the fees and were still awarded a pass grade. Grade entries and accuracy are a fundamental part of education, so how on earth has this happened? How is a student given a pass grade when they have withdrawn from a course, or not completed that course?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I am advised that in relation to the grading of withdrawn and refunded students, TAFE SA is considering a policy change whereby any student who withdraws from a class will be issued a no-start (NS) result. It is also investigating system changes to restrict the ability for a student to withdraw themselves online after the classes have been completed—which is one way in which a result might be generated for a student who has withdrawn—and considering process changes around the review and approval of grade changes. So as I read this, TAFE recognises that there is an issue that has been drawn to their attention, and they are taking steps to address it.

**Mr PISONI:** In what qualifications were those 90 cases that were identified by the Auditor-General?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I will take that on notice and return it to the house.

**Mr PISONI:** I am particularly interested in the Auditor-General's findings that 300 hourly paid instructors and 150 permanent staff are working in TAFE without a child-related employment screening check. This is page 497. My question in relation to that finding of the Auditor-General is: do any of these instructors work with students under the age of 18, and do any of them work in school-based apprenticeship programs?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I have asked TAFE for an explanation exactly along the lines of your question, about whether any of those who were not covered with a screen were, in fact, working with children under 18. When I have that answer, I will provide it.

**Mr PISONI:** Are matters like this taken into consideration when awarding an executive bonus? It seems extraordinary to me that we would have a situation, in the current environment that we have in South Australia in child protection, that you, as the minister, do not know the answer to this question. Those of us listening to this committee at the moment could rightly presume that there are students under the age of 18 or school-based apprentices who are being instructed by instructors who have not passed child-related employment screening checks.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I do not think that is necessarily a fair conclusion to draw, but it is a fair question to ask, and I have asked it and I will return to the house with an answer.

**Mr PISONI:** Did Mr Murt received his \$50,000 bonus this year?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** As the member is well aware, the chief executive does not report to me: he reports to the board. The board has made a determination on the way in which the chief executive will be remunerated. His total salary, including any bonus he may receive, is within the normal bounds of executive pay in the Public Service and the public sector. A judgement is reached by the chair of the board on whether the performance has been sufficient to reach that limit or whether

it will be a lower pay for that year. I am yet to receive advice from the board about a decision that has been made on that in this financial year.

**Mr PISONI:** Will you report to the parliament whether Mr Murt receives that \$50,000 bonus, or part thereof, when you are advised?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I will seek advice about the appropriateness of that. I appreciate that employment matters are very sensitive and subject to confidentiality, so I will not make a misstep in that. I will take appropriate advice and I will provide advice. I am using the word 'advice' too often but, if I am advised that it is appropriate, I will provide that information.

**Mr PISONI:** On page 497 again, purchase cards, could I have a breakdown of the number of purchase cards that are still being operated in TAFE, the number of holders of purchase cards and, again, the limits that apply to those purchase cards and the total spend on those purchase cards for the 2015-16 year?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I will take all that on notice and provide what information is available to me.

**The CHAIR:** The time having expired for the examination of this particular area, we thank the minister and her advisers and the members for Adelaide and Unley for their questions and ask for the next group of advisers to move into place as quickly as possible. Member for Hammond, would you like to indicate where you are going to start your questions so we can open our book at the right place.

**Mr PEDERICK:** A-G's Report, Part B, pages 421 and 422.

**The CHAIR:** We have the minister and the member for Hammond has just advised he is going to start questions at page 421 in Part B. Would you like to perhaps start your first question, member for Hammond, as people move themselves into position.

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

**The CHAIR:** Order! I can hear the whip's voice.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I refer to Part B, South Australian Tourism Commission, pages 421 and 422 of the A-G's Report. The report mentions that there is a \$529,000 doubtful debt resulting from the collapse of the Elite Systems contract, which related to the purchase of the old grandstand. Who was in possession of the old grandstand and does the state government or a private entity own this grandstand?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** The South Australian Motor Sport Board owns 16,000 grandstand seating assets, which were last used at the 2015 Clipsal 500 Adelaide event. These assets were transferred to the South Australian Tourism Commission on the Motor Sport Board's abolition on 30 June 2015. Elite were contracted to purchase these assets as part of its contractual arrangements with the South Australian Motor Sport Board.

The contracted purchase price for the Clipsal 500 grandstands (12,694 seats) was \$634,698 (ex GST), to be paid in six equal instalments of \$105,783 in each of the six years of the contract. Elite made payment of the first payment of \$105,783 (ex GST), leaving an amount owing of \$528,915, which is still owing to the South Australian Tourism Commission. The South Australian Tourism Commission has retained possession of all these assets, which are stored in its warehouse on Churchill Road, Kilburn.

The South Australian Tourism Commission has not received a formal report on Elite's circumstances from the administrator, but it would appear unlikely there will be sufficient resources for Elite to complete the purchase of these assets. The South Australian Tourism Commission is considering its position in relation to recovery of the purchase price and the future of these assets.

**Mr PEDERICK:** With regard to that, if you do not go ahead with Elite purchasing it, will you be refunding that initial payment to Elite?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** No-one has asked us to repay any money that has been paid to us by Elite.

**Mr PEDERICK:** On page 419, the report cites a \$27 million increase in event operation expenses, \$25 million of which is related to the Clipsal 500. Which events were the additional \$2 million attributed to?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** As you may know, South Australia, for the second year in a row, was named the event state of Australia at the national awards, and we have introduced new festivals, such as the Adelaide Fashion Festival. We have also put more money into existing events such as the Santos Tour Down Under, which continues to bring tens of thousands of people into the state, and it is a huge boost for our economy.

In the last two budgets, we have put additional money into the South Australian Tourism Commission to be used for getting new major events, for upgrading the ones that we have and for marketing purposes, as well as attracting more and more visitors here from interstate and overseas. So far, that is paying dividends, with 4,000 extra jobs created in the visitor economy in the past two years. We have put an extra \$600 million into the tourism sector as it has grown from \$5.3 billion to \$5.95 billion in the past 12 months.

**Mr PEDERICK:** So, what you are saying is that there was a broad distribution of that \$2 million.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Yes, that is right, and spread across existing events, like the Santos Tour Down Under, and also a new event last year, the Adelaide Fashion Festival.

**Mr PEDERICK:** What is the total cost to the South Australian Tourism Commission of delivering the Adelaide Fashion Festival?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** We do not disclose that for commercial-in-confidence reasons and to have that competitive edge that we do over other states and territories. I stood next to the premier of Victoria at the time, Mr Napthine, when the Cricket World Cup was announced for all the Australian cities. We were being interviewed side by side, and the media were asking him how much the Victorian government had contributed to get the world cup matches to the MCG. He said, 'I'm not going to tell you that because it's commercial-in-confidence, and we have all the other states here, all lined up.' We are in the same boat.

It is a competitive process. South Australia is a good example of this. We cannot compete with the other states, particularly New South Wales and Victoria, in terms of how much money they put into their budget. They throw a lot of money into their budgets each year to go out and win major events, but we seem to be beating them to the punch a fair bit, no pun intended—we just won the biggest fight in Australia's history with Danny Green versus Anthony Mundine.

I am not sure that we had the biggest pile of cash to put up, but we do have a very good team in the South Australian Tourism Commission, particularly in the major events area, who sit down and come up with a really personalised package that will make the promoter and those people competing feel right at home here. We do have advantages in the size of Adelaide. It is a great city in a great state to host major events. But what we do not do is go out and tell people what we have paid for something because it is too easy, once we have declared our hand to our opponents, for them just to emulate all the good work we do.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Page 420 of the report cites a \$4 million increase in employee benefits expenses due to additional employees for the motorsport organisations. Can you give me a total of how many FTEs are incorporated within the total motorsport group? How many of those work within the Clipsal 500 group and how many work within the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** That additional \$4 million went across 26.2 FTEs, and 19.2 of those FTEs came from the Motor Sport Board, so we were already paying for them anyway in a different part of government. Those 19.2 people have come across into the South Australian Tourism Commission. They work on both the World Solar Challenge as well as the Clipsal 500.

**Mr PEDERICK:** So, they work for both events; it is not a direct split?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Yes.

**Mr PEDERICK:** On page 420 again, the report cites that event entry fees for the Clipsal 500 Adelaide event were \$12 million. Does the Clipsal 500 event generate any other revenue and, if so, how much?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** The Clipsal 500 also generates catering and sponsorship revenue as well, and of course the wider revenue and economic benefit for the state. The Australian Hotels Association constantly tells us it is the one event that fills every hotel room across Adelaide and in the outlying areas of Adelaide each year. There is a massive economic return to South Australia well beyond the ticket sales.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Does the Clipsal 500 generate direct revenue to government?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** The government supports the race. If you look at the whole event, there is actually a cost to government to put it on, but we do get money back through those revenue sources that we have mentioned—the ticket sales, sponsorship and catering contracts. As I mentioned, the real benefit comes to the hotels, taxis, tourism operators and restaurants and bars around town as well. They do very well out of the tens of thousands of people who come here each year for the Clipsal 500.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Minister, what is the total annual cost of delivering the Clipsal 500 event?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Again, we do not go into the total cost of that because there are other events out there that we are in competition with. We are definitely seen as putting on the best and biggest domestic motorsport event anywhere in Australia. I want to pay tribute to those people who work within the South Australian Tourism Commission and motorsport division for the great work they do and the really good relationship they have with James Warburton, who runs the Supercars, and all the teams and drivers.

These people are genuine when they come here and say this is their favourite race of the year. Bathurst is seen as the great classic race in Australia, but this is seen as the best race in terms of its organisation, being a street circuit right in the heart of the city. It is the first race of the season and they really launch it here. While we do not disclose how much money we spend on it, the return on investment is fantastic for South Australia in terms of putting South Australia on the map on the national motorsport calendar, into New Zealand, and more and more into places like Malaysia and Singapore. It is also about the money that comes into our economy as well.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** We will go to page 310, Land, buildings and facilities. As part of the decrease in value of land, buildings and facilities, there was a decrement of \$34 million for recreation and sports infrastructure. What infrastructure was this and why did the value decrease?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Thanks again, member for Chaffey. We had our properties across the board revalued and there had been a depreciation in the value of some of the sporting assets that we have.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Can you just elaborate on land? I do not see land decreasing, but I can see infrastructure devaluing. Can you give me some idea of where the devaluation was?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** It was just across the board on infrastructure. Obviously the land did not go down in value; it was just the infrastructure that went down in value across the board.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Still on page 307, total expenses and the fourth dot point, grants and subsidies increased through the Office of Recreation and Sport. Can the minister provide a breakdown of the extra ORS grants referred to?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** We have a total there of an additional \$16.155 million. The increase in grants paid in 2016 was predominantly due to the following one-off grants payments in 2015-16:

- \$10 million to the Football Federation South Australia to develop high-quality pitches and upgrade soccer facilities across the state;
- \$5 million to the Port Pirie Regional Council for the Memorial Oval redevelopment;

- \$2 million to the City of Marion council for a regional level BMX facility at O'Halloran Hill Recreation Reserve. Of course, that will be named the Sam Willoughby International BMX Centre. While it is not in the tally here, Onkaparinga council and Marion council have each put \$750,000 into that as well, which is, I think, a great example of two councils working together with the government to come up with a \$3.5 million facility; and (one that might be of interest to you, Chair)
- \$750,000 to the Modbury Bowling Club to upgrade their facilities.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Regarding the sports grants, which department will be paying for the \$10 million upgrade to build female change rooms in the sporting club and who is administering it?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** It is actually in this year's budget, so it would not be in the Auditor-General's Report.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** It is in the extra grants. The extra grants include the \$10 million to FFSA. Is it correct that almost all that funding, under this grants program, has been awarded to clubs in Labor-held seats?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I do not know which seats it has gone to. It has gone to where the Football Federation South Australia identified the greatest need and where they have the biggest growing pains. The Football Federation South Australia, Michael Carter, first came to me about three years ago and just said, 'We need a whole lot of artificial pitches because we have increasing numbers of women and men, boys and girls who are out there playing the world game.'

When you are on waterlogged pitches, of course, you are restricted in your ability to train and play games, but with these artificial pitches you can have more people out there more of the time. You can play during the day and night time, if you have the lighting, and I know that we have put some extra funds into getting lighting for some of these projects as well.

It was not really a well-developed plan, but I did say, 'Can you please go back and identify where the greatest need is and come back to us so that we can get the maximum value with the dollars we spend in terms of getting men, women, boys, girls out there playing soccer and training for soccer.' So, where these have been identified, it has been up to the Football Federation South Australia.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Just for clarification, of the eight synthetic pitches that are being presented West Adelaide is in Enfield, Seaford Rangers is in Kaurana, the South Adelaide Panthers are in Reynell, the Parks Football Centre is in Enfield, Adelaide City is in Torrens, the Modbury Soccer Club is in Florey, the West Torrens Birkalla Club is in Ashford, and the White City Football Club is in Cheltenham. That is just to verify where all that money is being directed. It is disappointing, but it is a good outcome for soccer, yes.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I want to go to some PIRSA questions now, minister, and I refer to Part B, Primary Industries and Regions SA, page 333. The report refers to the Farm Finance and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Schemes. Can the minister confirm who is responsible for a bad debt if a farming operation is unable to repay a concessional loan? Is it the state or federal government?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I am advised that at the moment it is the federal government that is liable, unless the state government has made a mistake in allowing money to be given to an entity that was outside the rules that are set by the federal government, and then we could be liable for that.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Is that why, especially in the drought concessional loans for dairy, you do not classify stock or water as an asset when other states do?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** There are different approaches, I suppose, between the different states but, as I have mentioned in here before, in South Australia we have a combined valuation on the property, so it is not considered a dryland farm and then the water assets sit outside of that. So far, with the dairy concessional loans, we have about 64 farmers who are eligible and we have had applications from nine. We have had two approved, one knocked back and the rest are pending.



We did have New South Wales looking at the one that had been knocked back here and, even under their rules and the way they go about their assessment, that would have been knocked back in New South Wales as well. One of the things with this scheme—and Barnaby Joyce says it as well—is that, if you know someone cannot pay it back, it is not a loan, it is a grant, and he is not in the business of giving out grants. However, he is happy to help people with a loan at low interest to make sure people can get back on their feet. Like any business, if a business is overextended in what they owe and the assets they have then we cannot lend them money.

**Mr PEDERICK:** So, minister, you are saying that stock and water are not attributed as a single asset, but they are valued in the total asset of the farm assets. I want to get that perfectly clear for constituents, because water has been separated from land since 2009.

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** Breaking news: we have now had three loans approved. Another dairy farm loan was approved today, which is good news for those people. We do look at the farming operation in its entirety, so the farm with its water and stock as a going concern, when the valuations are done. We have been talking to my counterpart, the minister for water and the environment, and my understanding is that South Australia does have a different system. I am trying to get to the bottom of this, but there was a change in some of the other states, with some assistance from the federal government a couple of years ago. I think that scheme stopped, but there are more negotiations now going on with the federal government as well to see whether things can be changed and whether it will make a difference.

**Mr PEDERICK:** How much money has so far been approved under these three schemes and how much has PIRSA charged to administer these three schemes?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I think that is in the Auditor-General's Report. I think we are talking about stuff that happened today and not something that happened last financial year.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I am sorry, minister, but this report does refer to the Farm Finance and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans Schemes. Can you give me a breakdown of any concessional loans that were granted that concern the Attorney-General's Report. How much was approved and also the equivalent cost for PIRSA to administer those schemes?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I can give you the figures up to 30 June, but there has been more money paid out since then. The total amount approved was close to \$7 million. In terms of what it costs to administer these loans, there is a fufpy getting around that it has cost \$2.5 million to administer the loans. The federal government gave us that money for 10 years of administering the loans. There are lots of costs involved in advertising the loans and having people out in the field talking to people about the loans. We want to get as much money as we can to these people and get them back on their feet.

That \$2.5 million cannot be divided by the number of people who have received loans at this stage. It is reported that each loan has cost X hundred thousand dollars. It is not fair and it is not right. That money is to be spent over a 10-year time frame, and we do need to spend it on administration and we do need to have people out in the field who can go out and visit farmers and sit down with them and help them through the process. That is where that money is being spent. The total direct administration costs incurred by PIRSA in the reviewing and processing of applications has been less than half a million dollars to the end of October 2016.

**Mr PEDERICK:** How much was the actual administration cost above that, minister?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** I just said it was less than half a million dollars to October 2016. That involves people who are going out and visiting farmers, spending time with them and helping them through the process. What has happened here is that people are starting to self-assess, and they think they will not be eligible, and we do not want them to do that. We want them to come and sit with experts who can talk them through it so that they have the very best chance of getting access to this money. As I said, Barnaby Joyce is the federal minister and I am the state minister, and we are really keen to get that money to people.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I will go to a fisheries question. On page 332, regarding the Lincoln Marine Science Centre, the report cites an increase in property of \$9.2 million as a result of PIRSA taking full ownership of the Lincoln Marine Science Centre. Can the minister provide details both about how

many PIRSA full-time equivalents are currently based at the centre and whether this is expected to increase in the future. If so, how many FTEs does the minister expect to be based there, or will this excellent centre be totally under-utilised?

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL:** We paid a dollar for it so I think we got pretty good value when we bought it from Flinders University. It is one of the best located government structures anywhere in South Australia, right on the water in beautiful Port Lincoln. I have been in there and seen the sort of research that they are doing and it is world leading.

We want not just people from SARDI and PIRSA in there but people from universities and other sectors so that it becomes a hub where everyone can collaborate and work together on building the very important seafood and aquaculture industries that Port Lincoln is renowned for. Obviously, it is the seafood capital of Australia and the more we can help industries over there to grow, the better it will be for the people of Eyre Peninsula and also the people of the whole state.

When the POMS virus hit Tasmania on 1 February this year, that is the centre we went to to have a meeting with all the oyster growers to nut out what our response should be. It is an excellent facility and one that we have used several times for industry meetings. It is terrific to go in there, see the science labs and see the hard work that people are doing. There are about 26 FTEs in Port Lincoln all-up and the majority of them are at that centre. As I said, it is a wonderful facility and the more people we can get in there, whether government or non-government, the better. I think we did a very good deal picking it up for a dollar.

**The CHAIR:** Time having expired for the examination of this particular portion of the Auditor-General's Report, we thank the minister and his advisers, and the members for Hammond and Chaffey for their questions. Member for Stuart, can you give us your page number and we can be ready to roll?

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** The first one is Auditor-General, Part B, page 85.

**The CHAIR:** Which portfolio is this in?

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Defence industries. I think we will start with defence industries followed by investment and trade and small business after that.

**The CHAIR:** We are on page 85 of statement B. Member for Stuart.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Minister, at the bottom of page 85 it states that in February 2014 the Treasurer approved the asset not being independently revalued—that is, the Techport Australia asset. Why was the decision made not to revalue the asset until 2024? On what grounds was that decision made and is it standard practice? It seems like a very long time.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I thank the member for his question. I am advised that the answer is that it is normal government practice where an asset or an infrastructure item is not a commercial or a transactable item in the normal course, that they are deemed to be specialised assets rather than market assets. For example, if the government owned a high-rise building in the city in which it had office space, it could be put on the market and sold as a normal commercial transaction, and then there would be a protocol that required regular valuations.

Where it is a less tangible asset, a little harder to fix, not something that would be likely to ever be sold and something which has no like item anywhere, it is quite normal government practice for that not to require ongoing valuation. Because it is not a tangible asset, it would be marketable in the normal course. I understand that is a normal Treasury requirement and a normal process of government that has been in place for many years. I understand that the Auditor-General understands that arrangement and has been comfortable with it this year and in previous years.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Does that mean that Defence SA and the government rule out any possibility that that asset might be sold to any potential shipbuilder or the federal government, or any other body, at least until 2024?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The government made this investment as a strategic investment in order to win the air warfare destroyer program, and everything else that has followed has been built on that. I thank the opposition for their support for that throughout the process because that was bipartisan throughout. It could have been made into a political football at the time and it was

not—back some years. It has always been the intention of the state government to retain ownership of that site as a strategic asset to attract further maritime investment, and that has occurred. We have no plans to part with that investment.

As has been publicly reported, the commonwealth is in a conversation with us about the future ownership arrangements down there because the commonwealth owns some of the land through ASC. We own the CUF and a lot of the land to the west that might subsequently be used for future submarines or future frigates. We are having a conversation about it, but neither the commonwealth nor the state government have any intention of letting go of that site.

The ruling goes out until 2024, so it is probably a bit early for those sorts of conversations. No-one has approached the government with a view to purchasing it. We have no intentions of letting it go and, by the way, we see it as an important investment to ensure that state government keeps a seat at the table on all future decisions to do with naval shipbuilding. So, the answer to your question is no. It is not a 'never ever' because you just do no do 'never evers', but we have no intention, no plans to sell it.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Given that it does have a value, and that it just will not be independently valued, how is the internal value assessed periodically?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The infrastructure has a book value based on what we spent in order to build it. As you know, it includes the CUF, certain parcels of land and other buildings and infrastructure, including the wharf area. We know what we spent; it has been depreciated over time, so we know the book value. Its market value, though, in terms valuation, depends on a number of variables.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** The contract.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Exactly. Once the commonwealth has made decisions about who is going to build the future submarine and the arrangements for that, and how the commonwealth structures—and this is a very good question, and I would just encourage the shadow minister to raise this with minister Pyne as well—the arrangements down there is very important.

A transparent way to structure them, and I think a way the commercial sector would structure them, would be with cost transfer arrangements. For example, the Future Submarine program should run as a business and probably pay rent to the infrastructure holder, whoever that is—the commonwealth or the state government—and there should be transparency in that. The future frigate builder should probably pay a commercial rent to whoever owns the land, whether it is the commonwealth or the state government so you have transparency. Of course, if you had those sorts of structures, that would have an impact on the value of the site because, if it is generating rent, then you can value it.

We do charge a rent—a small rent, a modest rent—to the commonwealth for use of the CUF, and all that is mentioned in the papers. It is nowhere near enough to cover the investment we have made down there, but I think, as these arrangements evolve and the commonwealth spells out what it is doing, the more transparency the better. I think a poor way to go would be to try to cover the real costs up by, for example, not charging people rent and just trying to cover that in some other way so you do not get visibility of how the businesses are running. In essence, it will depend on what the government decides in regard to structures down there and what the value of the land is.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Following on from that then, has the state government received advice from the commonwealth government regarding the infrastructure upgrades required to Techport for the OPV project?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Apparently, we have received a consultant's report from the commonwealth carried out by a consultancy firm known as FMI. This is work that the commonwealth commissioned and have given to us that does pick up some of the issues the member has questioned but it is fairly elementary. We are yet to know exactly what the government's plans are for OPVs. We met with each of the three designers recently at Euronaval and I met with Damon as recently as this week. They were here with the Dutch mission.

The time lines for that program generally are that we want to see a down-selected choice by the middle of next year, then the contract being signed sometime towards later next year, and then cutting steel in 2018, and we will need that to cover the gap. In the process of that, the commonwealth should give us a clear indication as to exactly what the needs will be down there. As you know, the commonwealth said we will build as many OPVs in Adelaide as are required to cover the gap before frigate commences, so frigate comes into play.

We could finish up having to build three or four OPVs down there, or even more if frigate is delayed, and that would impact on what we need for wharfage and what investment we need to make. Who makes that investment is the next question. The commonwealth taxes the good people of Australia to provide for our defence needs, including defence industry needs, and there would be a very powerful argument that the program should pay for any infrastructure improvements that are required, perhaps paying a rental for the use of those, but that is a discussion we have to have with the commonwealth to determine the structures that will be used.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** At this point in time, are you confident that OPV will be cutting steel in mid-2018?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I am hopeful, I am always confident, but essentially these things are in the hands of the commonwealth. They need to move on and they need to get some decisions made. Can I commend the commonwealth for the decisions they have made so far in down-selecting the submarine DCNS and the three frigate builders and identifying the patrol vessel designers—that is good—and breaking up the ASC—that is good. What we need now, though, are clearer decisions about OPV. As the member points out, until we get those decisions we cannot really map out what is next. I would say, if OPV is not cutting steel in 2018 and we have not started, we are going to have a real problem because we are already in the valley of death.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Minister, can we go back to page 84 and I will ask about the service level agreement with the urban renewal authority that the Auditor-General found had not been renewed. What is the nature of the service agreement between Defence SA and the urban renewal authority, please?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I thank the member for his question. He rightly points out the Auditor-General identified that the service level agreement between Defence SA and URA expired on the 20 June 2015 and had not been renewed. Defence SA policy requires contracts to be renewed where services are provided to another organisation. So, Defence SA forward an agreement to the URA for negotiation and signature to renew the arrangement for provision of specialised project managing services by the URA to Defence SA and has subsequently followed that up.

To date, the URA has not signed the agreement. Given that the value of the services being provided is currently very low, and the arrangement is between two government departments, the risk to the state is minimal. However, the Auditor-General's observations have been followed up and actioned by Defence SA and the URA, and they are aiming to fix it ASAP.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** What is the nature of those specialist service agreements? What is actually the agreement between the two state government bodies?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The services provided are related to project management capabilities and services down at Techport for the purposes of Techport's daily operations. It is really project management services.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Daily operations.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Yes, daily operations in regard to AWD, but also in relation to ensuring that Techport can manage future growth. It is one government agency talking to another about project management and how that might unfold.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Minister, I would like to ask you about investment and trade, and I refer to the annual report, Volume 5, page 72, Expenses and Income, Activity 9. Under Globally Integrating the SA Economy, Expenses, Grants and subsidies, what were the reasons behind the reduction of \$7,643 for the year 2015, down to \$5,712 in 2016?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I thank the member for his question. I am advised that grants and subsidies have reduced by 1.9 million under that line for the following reasons:

- a one-off expenditure in 2014-15 for the Hewlett-Packard Innovation and Collaboration Centre of \$5.5 million, which of course was not again repeated the following year, partially offset by higher grant payments in 2015-16, consisting of funding provided to Investment Attraction SA (this was in the early stages);
- higher Export Partnership Program activity of \$0.5 million;
- change in corporate overhead allocations between financial years of \$0.2 million; and
- a higher payment for Education Adelaide of \$0.2 million and higher education scholarships of \$0.1 million. Those higher payments were in 2014-15 and were not again repeated in 2015-16.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Minister, there have been some concerns within the business community that an exporter is more likely to receive an EPP grant if they are taking part in the government's trade mission. Would that be true?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The quick answer is no. I found that the previous grant scheme was not working well, and I know that the shadow minister is aware of that. I have reorganised it, with the support of the agency, and we have improved it now. It is working extremely well. We have more demand than we can meet. Thanks to the excellent work done by my predecessor, we were able to hit the ground running, and we will build on that foundation.

When we review applications, what we essentially are looking for is that the business making the application has a plan to market its goods overseas and go overseas and sell its products. As part of that, we obviously make them aware of the trade missions that are scheduled, and some companies take that up, but it is not a prerequisite of receiving an EPP that you come on a government trade mission. In fact, a number of companies that I have visited that have received EPPs have made their own arrangements to go overseas because often they want to participate in a specialised trade fair or in specialised marketing activities tailored for their individual business and the trade missions format does not work for them.

The trade missions format does not work for everybody, successful though it has been, so there is no mandated requirement that they need to come. In fact, in terms of attending trade missions, we say no to companies that we think are not serious. That would not include EPP grant recipients because we would have vetted them and know they are serious. Some of them have come and some of them have not, but there is no requirement that they be a part of it, and a lot of them have not been.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Minister, can you outline how much was allocated to the Export Partnership Program in 2015-16? How much was provided through the program and when will the next round of grants be announced?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I thank the member for his question. The EPP was launched on 5 March 2015. The revamped EPP was designed to allow much greater flexibility. The EPP covers export marketing costs of a dollar-for-dollar basis. Companies can apply for up to \$50,000 over a two-year period. More than one application per company can be made until the \$50,000 limit is reached, so they match the money. Since March 2015, the EPP has provided 87 grants totalling over \$2 million in support of SA exporters, with 75 of these grants issued in 2015-16 for a total of \$1.65 million. Reported outcomes include an increase in SA jobs and ongoing revenue and investment achievement.

There has been a significant increase in applications: 144 applications were received in 2015-16, bringing the total to 240 applications since the inception of the EPP. The demand for the program outstrips the available budget, making it very competitive; so a lot of people are told no. There were 15 unsuccessful applications in round 3 of the EPP and 29 unsuccessful applications in round 4 of the EPP. The budget for 2016-17 is \$1.726 million. Given the continued high level of interest, this is expected to be fully expended.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Minister, page 93, Supplies and services, can you explain the \$28,000 reduction in overseas trade representation in 2015-16, being payments made to Austrade, and what is the budget for Austrade overseas representation in 2017?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I will answer the second part of your question first, if I may. The South Australian government operates a one-person office in Jinan and we are looking to increase that, primarily in support of the state's relationship with Shandong. The Shanghai office officially closed in June 2013. Overseas staff played a key role in the delivery of business missions and were essential for the establishment of new chapters of the South Australia Club in Shanghai and Hong Kong. They provided an effective transition of the TradeStart adviser network and helped generate new investment leads for Investment Attraction SA.

We prefer the model of putting people into Austrade because it saves us money. If we take Shanghai as an example, the operation of the office was extraordinarily expensive and it did not deliver the results that we wanted. That was true in the other offices we were operating. Chennai was, frankly, ineffective.

**Mr Whetstone:** Was it understaffed?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** No, it was very well staffed in Chennai, India. We even had our own trade commission appointed. We had a dedicated office and, frankly, we just did not get the value out of it. These things are very expensive. Victoria operates an office in Jakarta. I think it has 17 people in it. We are putting one person into Austrade and I reckon we will get pretty good value out of that.

We spend very little, compared with other states, on overseas offices, but we get very effective support from Austrade as a consequence of having someone inside the tent. When we go there, we have all the people of Austrade helping us. We pay a fee for that service, but effectively they help us and then, when we do not need them, we are not paying them, whereas when you put those people in an office, you are paying for them all year, even though you might only have a mission there once or twice. You asked for the total cost of overseas representative offices. It increased by \$0.183 million—

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Not offices, officers.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** The offices include the officers because our offices are really a person.

**Mr WHETSTONE:** But you have Austrade helping to organise trade missions and delegations?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Yes, Austrade does assist us from Adelaide to do things, that is true, but when I say offices, I am including the people. For example, in Jinan there is an office and in London there is an office, but in other places, like Shanghai and Mumbai, we have a person. It went up from \$0.386 million in 2014-15 to \$0.569 million in 2015-16, mainly due to operational support provided by the Jinan office for the China trade missions in April 2016.

The department funding increased by \$0.064 million, from \$0.396 million in 2014-15 to \$0.460 million in 2015-16, and the funding was used to cover office operations. I could go through who we have and where. In fact, I will explain that in Shanghai we spend \$252,000. This is the total cost of the person. We pay a rental to Austrade. They need equipment and all that goes into it, so this is not salary cost. This is the all-up cost—

**Mr WHETSTONE:** Overall cost.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Yes, overall cost. It is \$252,000 for Shanghai, \$220,631 for Hong Kong, \$210,125 for Mumbai and \$256,250 for Singapore. From September 16, we had someone in Malaysia for \$174,250; Thailand, from January 17, \$168,100; Indonesia, from January 17, \$153,750; the Philippines, from January 17, \$164,000; and Vietnam, from January 17, \$174,250. Of course, that is provisional because we have not expensed that yet. Four new staff are being appointed in 2016-17 in Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, with recruitment well advanced.

Investment Attraction SA contributes \$164,000 towards the operation of these offices, with a focus on Singapore and investment attraction facilitation. Compared with what other states are spending, this is a drop in the bucket. Yet the advice I receive and the review and reassessment we are undertaking suggests that, on a return for dollar basis, we are light-years ahead of any other state, in terms of the results we achieve for the dollars we invest.

**Mr WINGARD:** We will turn to Small Business now, if we can.

**The CHAIR:** Can you provide a page number while we change over.

**Mr WINGARD:** It is Part B, Agency Audit Report, Department of State Development, page 447. The Auditor-General identified a number of grant reporting requirements that:

...were not promptly monitored to ensure the grantee complied with the terms and conditions of the grant. We identified similar issues for several grant programs reviewed.

Given that the Minister for Small Business is responsible for the administration of a number of grant programs, can he outline his grant programs and whether or not any were, as was described, not promptly monitored and compliant?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Let me explain that within DSD we have a division that handles small business and there are other divisions that handle energy, health and a whole lot of other matters. Of course, we have the small business agency and the Industry Advocate, and there is a red tape reduction unit as well in DPC. None of the grants to which you refer on that budget page apply to the small business portfolio. None of those grants were managed by me or the people who report to me. I think you will find they apply to other areas of DSD's functions: energy, and certain other areas of DSD. You might want to ask those questions of other ministers.

**Mr WINGARD:** Can I confirm there are no small business grants under DSD that are administered by you as the Minister for Small Business?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** There are grants, but the criticisms made by the Auditor-General in his report do not refer to those particular grant lines.

*Mr Wingard interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** They were included, they were reviewed, but ours were all in wonderful shape. We do a fantastic job in small business. It is those other people in DSD.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The Executive Summary, Part A, page 55, refers to the Industry Participation Policy. At about point 6 on that page, it refers to the non full compliance by four agencies, and two contracts that were tested but did not comply. It states:

In one of these cases, related to an ongoing contract, the agency is working with the Industry Participation Advocate (IPA) and the vendor to amend ongoing reporting to be fully compliant.

What is the agency that has defaulted in this regard, and what is the nature of the ongoing contract?

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** Sadly, today I do not have with me the Industry Advocate, who would be able to add some detail to that question. I am happy to take it on notice and I will make sure you get a detailed and thorough reply.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** On page 122 of the Appendix to the Annual Report, Volume 5, which incorporates the financial accounts of the Department of State Development, note 39 refers to the ownership and transfer of TAFE SA properties to go from your department to Renewal SA. It says the independent valuation of these properties was planned for completion in September 2016. Has that been completed, is there a value, and what is it? Secondly, have those properties yet transferred, and if they have not transferred the title, when is the expected transfer date? At budget estimates it was to be at the latter part of this year.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** I understand the answer has to do with valuations being completed, but it is not a matter that reports to me; it is a matter that reports to minister Close under the TAFE portfolio. If she has not yet come before this committee, that might be a question best referred to her.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** She has.

**The Hon. M.L.J. HAMILTON-SMITH:** She has already, has she? In that case, I will pass the question on to her and ask her to ensure that you are provided with an answer.

**The CHAIR:** The time having expired for examination of the Auditor-General's Report in this particular section, we thank the minister and his advisers for attendance, and the members for Chaffey, Hammond, Mitchell, Stuart and the deputy leader for their questions.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

*Bills*

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MOBILE FOOD VENDORS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

(Continued from 1 November 2016.)

Clause 4 passed.

Clause 5.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I will try to make sure that we use our 24½ minutes expeditiously and get through this; I have a general question, though. Given that clause 5 refers to the fact that the council must grant a permit, subject to the regulations, I have a general question which has been posed to me: would a permit be issued for the area surrounding Adelaide Oval? It is a roadway, so it meets the Road Traffic Act, but I do not know if there are contractual obligations that might exist with the Oval management authority which might prevent that. Therefore, is that a decision that local government thereby determines, in being required to grant the permit under the regulations? Does the Adelaide City Council have to have, as part of its own regulations, the ability to refuse any request for a permit or not to grant one for that area and not have that identified on their plan?

**Mr PICTON:** As we have outlined previously, all the location rules for where food trucks can go are up to the council, so the council would look at its area. I expect the Adelaide City Council would devise areas very much like it has at the moment, and I do not believe that that area (although we can check) is one of the areas they have available for food trucks to operate in.

**Mr KNOLL:** My first question is about how costs were arrived at, and I only caught it briefly. From the vague bit I heard, parliamentary secretary, you said that it was basically somewhere between this and that. Was any attempt made to actually understand what the actual cost of providing these permits was to council? Would that have included some sort of contribution towards infrastructure provision?

**Mr PICTON:** What we did—and this is in the draft regulations that we have circulated, but they are not in the bill yet—in devising those draft regulations is look at the work that Adelaide City Council did in determining its original permit fees and its current permit fees. They looked at what the council rates would be to apply to a very small premises in the Adelaide City Council area, which I believe from memory was a range between \$900 and \$4,000 that they estimated, and they came up with an original figure that was lower than what we are setting as the maximum, and then in their revised figure it is slightly higher than what we have set.

Most of the other councils that have these permits, although bearing in mind our previous discussion about how a lot of councils do not allow these things, have their permits set at a much lower level than what we are contemplating as the maximum here. We have seen this as a balance between the work that the Adelaide City Council have done, bearing in mind that they looked at their council fees and all the work that might be associated with that.

**Mr KNOLL:** My second question is around the discussion paper that was put out originally on this topic in which you talked about exploring the option of having a single statewide audit process for business. The process currently is that you have to go to every council to get a food identification number, I think it is called. Essentially, it is a council by council process and you were looking to explore whether or not there was the ability to have a statewide food safety permit.

**Mr Griffiths:** 'Passport' is the word used.



**Mr KNOLL:** Yes, passport. Why is that not part of this legislation?

**Mr PICTON:** I will just decouple that slightly. In our original discussion paper we put out about a year ago, we proposed two options for the permit of operation of the food truck on streets, one either being a statewide permit for that or the second being the action we are now taking under the Local Government Act. There is a variety of reasons that we have gone for the Local Government Act, particularly so that the council can play a role in a number of the ways we have outlined already in the debate, particularly in regard to location rules. I think those things are best worked out on a local level.

In terms of the Food Act, we have never proposed to amend anything about the Food Act and how that would apply to food trucks. What we have said, though, is that we think that there is a role to have something like a health passport that could best record previous inspections that would apply to a mobile food business whether or not they are actually registered under this bill. There might be things that just go to festivals, events, Royal Shows and things like that where it would be useful for those local councils to see the history of previous inspections in other local councils.

That is something the councils are interested in, and SA Health is currently working with a working group of local councils to develop that. We are hoping that is going to be developed by early next year.

**Mr KNOLL:** If that does come to fruition, and if that would genuinely be a reduction in red tape, is there any opportunity for that to be extrapolated out to all food businesses who operate across multiple council sites?

**Mr PICTON:** Potentially, that would be something to look at. Obviously most food businesses operate from a fixed site. There are businesses, like food trucks, but there might be other people who operate at multiple sites. I am very happy to raise that idea with SA Health.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I will expand on a couple of things. The parliamentary secretary has been rather generous to talk about these things when they relate to a different area of the regulation, and I appreciate that. If we can talk about the fees, no doubt the parliamentary secretary is having chats with people as part of his responsibility to get this bill through the other place, as I have had chats with some people. There is a variety of opinions about the fee structure. One person I have spoken to, and the parliamentary secretary probably has as well, believes that the fee should be much more.

*Mr Picton interjecting:*

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Yes, true. Others believe that there should be a removal of the upward amount and that the council should have the ability to determine the structure of that. I presume that the parliamentary secretary has done that to ensure that it is not set at such a rate that it makes it financially impossible for the business to achieve, so I can understand that. As part of his ongoing discussions, has he given consideration to a review of what the regulations state as to what the fee structure will be?

**Mr PICTON:** We have put out our draft regulations and we are happy to continue to talk to people about them. I have already outlined the process we looked into for developing them. Some people say, 'You should add up the rent plus the council rates, plus water, plus electricity, plus every single business cost that there might be and make that the permit cost.' I think that would be slightly unreasonable on the basis that these vendors have to pay for the truck.

Obviously, if you are renting something, you do not have to pay for a truck in that case, but you are also not getting all the benefits of a rented premises, such as toilets and places to sit when it is raining, which makes it slightly less attractive. There is also the fact that there is no electricity and gas on site, and there are a lot of costs involved in doing that. I think you have to look at the whole continuum of costs that a food truck might have to operate. That is how we have arrived at what we have here, but I am always happy to talk to people about ideas that they might have.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** It is interesting because, while I do respect the parliamentary secretary's comments just then, for those who rent a structure there are fit-out costs, presumably, as part of their commencing operations in an establishment. No matter which method is pursued by the entrepreneurs out there—God bless them and the fact they are actually pursuing business

opportunities—there is a cost structure in place, too. I think this is likely to be an area that is going to require some further discussion. No doubt it will be a focus for the person who represents the parliamentary secretary in the other place when it comes to a debate about this too.

If I can come back to the health inspections, which the member for Schubert also referred to, there is nothing in the regulations that determines a fee structure. So, it is just part of the policy and decision-making of local government to determine, as it does for many different operations, what the fee would be for that. I understand and support the principle of the passport system, but does it allow councils that have not done the initial inspection and have a mobile food vendor operating in their area to undertake inspections at random? If so, the regulations appear to me to be silent for a fee structure in place. If a council wants to determine a deed as part of its own regulations and wants to be assured of the cleanliness of the facility, for a health inspection to be undertaken, is it deliberately missed out so a fee cannot be charged, or is that an accident?

**Mr PICTON:** Again, to be completely clear, we are not changing any requirement under the Food Act. Any person who gets a licence to operate a food truck has to comply with the Food Act, and that includes any fees that a council might wish to impose under the Food Act as they currently do already. They will do that no matter whether the food truck is on the road under this regulation, whether it is in a park under a council permit, or whether it is on private premises. The council will still need to inspect, as is currently does, so there is no change in terms of fees that councils can do for their Food Act regulation at the moment.

Clause passed.

Clause 6.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** For the benefit of the parliamentary secretary, the questions I have in relation to the regulations that have not already been raised will be within this clause. Under 24A, a council is prohibited from imposing a condition restricting the operating hours of the mobile food vending business. Why is that in place?

**Mr PICTON:** This is one of the things that was raised with us in the original discussion and then the original consultation around the bill. There were limits put in place around saying that food trucks could not operate during particular hours and this was limiting the way that those businesses would be able to operate. We took the view that that is something for people to work out on the basis of what the best time for them to do that is, as well as the fact that the council would be able to work out the location guidelines to address whatever other concerns there might be.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Is the parliamentary secretary saying he is concerned that some councils that were granting permits were putting in place time restrictions that made the permits unworkable? Is that why the condition is being attached in regulations?

**Mr PICTON:** Yes.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I have a question about health inspections. It has been raised with me and it is a valid question. While I understand that some mobile food vendors actually prepare their food at a fixed property—and that has been referred to—the question has been put to me about those that involve a process that has waste fat. Because of the potential health issues associated with that and the disposal of the fat, has the parliamentary secretary given consideration to how that disposal in particular is to be dealt with? I do not think any of us want to see a situation where a mobile food vendor who does not have a fixed venue to prepare food—how will it ensure the disposal, and what is an alternative method for the disposal of that waste?

**Mr PICTON:** In terms of the disposal of waste, we have made it clear in our draft regulations that, if there is any doubt, the Food Act would apply to these businesses as part of getting a permit, as well as any other legal or legislative requirements relating to health, safety and the environment. People have to dispose of the waste in an appropriate way within the law, as you have to at the moment.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I appreciate the words, but I am not sure how that is intended to work in a practical application. The easy equation is from a fixed premises where they have a regular waste disposal they pay for as part of their local government rates, or they have a different form of waste disposal that is required to remove waste from the site. Given that this relates to properties that, by

their very nature, transit between the locations they operate from, ensuring that disposal is done appropriately is very important. I do not think there is a need to set up waste disposal sites all over the city or the state, but I would hate us to come to a situation where illegal disposal takes place.

I am not sure if regulations can even encompass this and how it is done. It might be that it is part of local government; if it is a review of a permit that has been granted, it can ask those sorts of questions about how waste is to be disposed of. I know the regulations set the opportunity for council to determine the range of conditions it might have, but could there potentially be a template prepared for local government to use, and is that part of the negotiations and discussions that the parliamentary secretary and the government will have with the Local Government Association on behalf of all councils?

**Mr PICTON:** We have had discussions with the Local Government Association and I am not aware that this issue has been raised specifically. I think they have seen what we have put in the draft regulations around needing to comply with environmental and other conditions as part of the condition of having a licence. The member talked about the illegal disposal of waste; if you were to illegally dispose of waste that would be a breach of the conditions of having a licence—and a serious one, I would think. So, that is a concern.

If you look at Adelaide City Council, for instance, they have detailed guidelines, a lot of which they will be able to maintain, and at the moment they include maintenance, cleaning and waste. It might be that other councils see what Adelaide City Council have done and look to adopt that. That is something that we can certainly talk to the LGA about.

*Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. Z.L. Bettison.*

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I now go to the third page of the regulations, up the top under (d). It says that the council must ensure the permit is subject to insurance of a kind specified by the council. This one really intrigued me. I would have thought there would have been a public liability put in place, at the absolute minimum, which would have stipulated a dollar figure of insurance that was required. Can the parliamentary secretary just expand on that?

**Mr PICTON:** The Adelaide City Council, for instance, has, in their guidelines, that you need to have public liability insurance to the value of \$20 million. This is another area where we have made it important about insurance but have given the councils the flexibility in terms of the type of insurance they might want to add. They might want to go further than that and require other types of insurance. That is something we are happy to work with the LGA on, but I would have thought that what the Adelaide City Council have got would be appropriate for most other councils to do as well.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** As would I, but based on the explanation I can understand that you are giving some flexibility to be in place, so I accept that. If I can ask the question now, which I also flagged during my second reading contribution, on car parking and time limits that were in place. I am sure that the parliamentary secretary is dying to give me a response that alleviates the fears that I expressed at that time.

**Mr PICTON:** Yes, I am very happy to. A food truck will have to comply with whatever the car parking rules and regulations are for wherever the space is. There is no exemption from signs and other car parking regulations. If it is a timed space, they can only be there for that time. If it is a no standing space, they cannot be there.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** The response actually gives me some questions. If I can work on the basis that the mobile food vendors will be approximately 11.30am until about 2pm, presumably, so that they can maximise the peak need opportunity, given that, yes, there are many public parking spaces that do not have time restrictions on them within suburban areas—that is a very different scenario—if it is, for example, a one-hour restricted space, how do you deal with that? There is a requirement to get there, to have the space, to set up, to have the food hot and to be in a position to serve it to people. Presumably, your whole time limit is just about taken up in that.

**Mr PICTON:** This is where common sense would prevail, in terms of the council looking at their location guidelines to determine some locations that correlate with what the parking restrictions for that time would be. I absolutely get the member's point, that an hour would be too short, but the council may not look to make their location rules apply for food trucks in an area where there is only one-hour parking. They may look to put them in another area.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I will finish on this one now. If I consider the extrapolation of that, does that mean that, where it might have been required to issue a fine or an expiation notice for staying beyond the required time, as occurs, there is a need for some form of legislative change in another act of parliament to ensure that a council has the flexibility in this scenario, on a discretionary basis or as part of their regulation and permit requirements, not to issue a parking fine?

**Mr PICTON:** My advice is that councils would have the ability to look at their own council rules and to apply them and, if they wanted to, they could change their own permits for particular locations.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I have some other areas now. Right down at the very bottom of that page it states that, a mobile food truck does not engage in the sale of ice-creams, that they are removed from it. Can the parliamentary secretary give me a brief reason as to why?

**Mr PICTON:** Yes, absolutely. This is not the most elegant of sections we have put in our draft regulations, but I was conscious that by setting clear location rules—for instance, if a council determined a particular map of areas where food trucks could operate—we are not restricting the wonderful experience of being a kid and having Mr Whippy come down your street and stopping. I did not want to be the member of parliament who banned Mr Whippy. That is why we have put that section in there.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is there such a thing?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Absolutely—I have seen them. On the version of the draft regulations I have, and I am over the page now—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Goyder, but you are still on regulations, aren't you?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Yes, I am.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We do not have a copy of that in front of us. We only have two pages.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I am talking about location rules now. I note that there is an explanation at the very front that talks about three months for it to come into place, and therefore one would assume that it provides local government across all 68 councils with the opportunity to determine within the next three months. Presumably, that is going to have to be a matter, though, that they will have to consult on with the community, too, in some cases, because there might be some fixed business operators who have a very strong opinion about what the distance from them or others should be before it applies. Is there any flexibility on that three months and can it be longer?

**Mr PICTON:** Yes, we have spoken to the LGA and said to them that we think it is appropriate that councils have some time to consult on the particular location rules that they would want to adopt. That is why we have tried to be clear with members that we would not see this being enacted and the regulations coming in until at least three months afterwards. We are always happy to talk to councils. If they need slightly more time, we would be happy to discuss that, although I imagine that a consultation process would be able to happen within three months.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I presume there are some that already have their requests in place and have permit systems that are already running and others that do not and never have been approached but probably should be. I am really concerned that some might just consider, 'We have never been asked this.' It is a very low priority of the staff of councils to actually progress this matter but for those who actually deal with the issue it is more of an urgent need. So I would suggest to the parliamentary secretary that there might need to be some discretion regarding that. And for those who have not had the need in the past to do it, it might be a slightly longer period not because they do not want to do it, or they do not respect the fact that the legislation would demand it, but because there has never been a need for them to have it so they do not see it as a priority.

**Mr PICTON:** I think for those councils that have never seen the need, and it might be unlikely that people might want to apply for them, our suggestion might be to them that they adopt a broad metre rule, so they would not have to identify a particular location but they could satisfy existing bricks and mortar businesses in their area that, if there were to be applications, they would be sufficiently away from those existing businesses. But I am happy, as always, to talk to any council or the LGA further about that matter.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** If I could ask a question on (4)(b), where you talk about requirements relating to the minimum distance. I can only imagine that this will vary considerably from council to council. I am not saying it would have been appropriate to put in a suggestion on what it is, but it will be a really difficult one because potentially there will be councils that might not be quite as supportive of the parliamentary secretary and would like to see them be on this and put a longer distance in as a way of stopping opportunity. I raise this point on the basis of (5), where it talks about 'A council's location rules must comply with any requirements specified by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*'. To me, that still very clearly gives a minister, and I am not sure which minister it actually is, the ability to say no—

**Mr PICTON:** The planning minister.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Is it? Okay. The parliamentary secretary puts on the record that the planning minister has responsibility for it. Because it is an unknown area that a minister can insert into a *Gazette*, via regulation, and change how local decisions are made—and I know they are disallowable, I can appreciate that—that is of concern to me. Is there going to be not a policing unit but some authority that will review the conditions attached by councils on their permit regulations to determine appropriateness and therefore make a recommendation to the planning minister if they believe that a change needs to occur?

**Mr PICTON:** I can assure people that there is not going to be a new policing unit established to look into this. It will be something that the Office of Local Government will look at, as they look into this whole act from time to time. Really, that has been put in our draft regulations—it is not in the bill—as a sort of just-in-case provision if somebody really goes out of their way, to a particular council, to cause trouble, to try to limit it, far more than is necessary. We are hopeful that councils will not play games with that and we will not need to use that provision.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Just to clarify, in relation to (5) and the minister being able to specify any requirements, is that in the form of a regulation that is disallowable? I know I posed this question to the parliamentary secretary during the earlier discussion we had about this. I hope I am not misrepresenting you, but you were not sure at that stage, but you got back to me and said that you believed that it was going to be a disallowable matter.

**Mr PICTON:** I do not believe I said that. I did check that after you raised it, and I am advised that something that goes in the *Gazette* in such a way is not usually disallowable, but the whole regulation is disallowable, and that is how parliament has the ability to get rid of that.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I have leapt over the page, and 10 is the area. I have notes here about sizes. The member for Unley talked about vehicle registrations, trade plates, and all that sort of stuff, but I do not want to go into that area. What if it occupies more than one parking space? Some entrepreneurs might want to set up an enormous thing. Does that become an issue, or is it fixed within any type of vehicle that would occupy a single parking space?

**Mr PICTON:** What we have in our draft regulations is that you cannot unduly obstruct the roadway. That is something that would obviously need to be looked at in the context of the area and the particular vehicle that is being used. One example put to me was that if you were to have a double-decker bus as a food truck in a narrow laneway with overhead poles and wires and things like that, then that might obstruct. If you were to have something that is unduly large for the roadway, then that might unduly obstruct as well. We have to use common sense in terms of the interpretation and management of that section.

**The CHAIR:** This is not really normal practice to examine regulations in such depth. How much more do you have?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I have about two more questions.

**The CHAIR:** Two more questions, and that is the very end, or just this clause?

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** Just this clause.

**The CHAIR:** We are going to have to nip it right there, then, because it is not normal to ask questions on regulations because they are not part of my two-page bill. We might give you two more questions and you can pick them from either clause. That is generous.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** I have a question about the cancellation of permits. When I read through it, some sections confused me. If during the prohibited period a person who has lost a permit applies to another council for a permit for the purposes of a mobile food vending business, the person must inform that council of the cancellation. Therefore, it becomes self-regulating, does it not? Even with the passport system that is in place for the health inspections, when council has cancelled a permit, how do you ensure that other councils are aware of it? Is the intention to rely on the operator to advise other councils that they do not have permission to operate? What is the likelihood of that?

**Mr PICTON:** Because they have separate permits in those separate councils, we have said that, if you do lose your permit, you are obliged to inform the other councils where you might have a permit. The onus is on those people to do it, and it is an offence if you do not do that and comply with that section.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** This is an important area for me. I can understand, when a council removes a permit opportunity for any reason other than health reasons where it is a health issue and the concern about it therefore translates across to other councils in which the mobile food vendor operates, it is important for me to ensure that those other council bodies know that it has been cancelled. There is a need for them to ensure that, before it operates in that area, it has corrected the problem. The issue then becomes that, if you have lost it, you cannot reapply for six months. I believe the regulations state that. It is a confusing area for me, parliamentary secretary, and I think work needs to be done on it.

**Mr PICTON:** Again, I clarify that this does not change any of the requirements under the Food Act. If I were to run a food truck—and some people have suggested that maybe I should do that—and if I were to breach the Food Act, then the penalties under the Food Act would apply. That would apply no matter where I was operating or in what context I was operating.

The penalties there are much more severe in terms of this regulation which is really about how the on-street trading works. If I can give the member some confidence, it is that those Food Act provisions about significant breaches of the Food Act apply. No matter where my food truck was to go, I would not be able to trade if I had breached that significantly.

**Mr GRIFFITHS:** This relates to the last question also. For me it is the six-month issue, too. I am not sure if the parliamentary secretary is responsible and I apologise if I was distracted. It actually makes it clear in my mind how it is to work if the reason for which the council denied a permit to be available is fixed within a six-month time period that cannot be re-sought again. No, it says 'not exceeding six months'. Is it the case, if an inspection is undertaken to ensure that the issue has been rectified, that another permit can be issued straightaway if all the authorities are happy with it then?

**Mr PICTON:** Again, I stress that there are two issues: there is the ability to get a permit under this act and our proposed regulations for trading on the street, but then there is the ability to run a food business in general which you need to apply for under the Food Act. Those penalties, and obviously I do not have the details in front of me now, can be severe and I believe can include even imprisonment as a more severe penalty.

In terms of the on-street trading issues, there would be a lot of the things that could cancel your permit, such as if you were obstructing a road or pedestrians and things like that. If they were significant, they could be grounds for the breach of a permit, or perhaps if you did not have insurance. Then we have added a six-month time frame so that you cannot necessarily go straight back to apply. However, if you were to reapply, you would have to confirm to those councils that you have met all the requirements to reapply. For instance, if you breached it for not having insurance, six months later, when you reapply you would have to confirm to the council that you did have insurance in order to apply for a new permit.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (7), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (18:13):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**CONSTITUTION (DEMISE OF THE CROWN) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 18:15 the house adjourned until Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 11:00.

*Estimates Replies***WORKFORCE SUMMARY**

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised all Office of Science Technology and Research staff are based at 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.

**BIO INNOVATION SA**

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised Bio Innovation SA FTEs are not included in the Department of State Development Agency Statement as they are not a controlled entity of the Department. The FTEs are reported in the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment's Annual Workforce Information Report.

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

In reply to **Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised that there are other organisations, aside from universities and research institutes, that receive grants from my portfolio areas.

From 2015-16 the Goyder Institute has been funded for \$2 million per year over four years, to end 2018-19, through the Minister for Environment and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

**STOLEN GENERATIONS REPARATIONS SCHEME**

In reply to **Ms REDMOND (Heysen)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** The Department of State Development—Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation has advised:

The amount of \$300,000 itemised on page 68 of the Budget Paper 4 refers to the general administrative costs in 2015-16 associated with the establishment and implementation of the individual Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme.

**APY LANDS**

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** The Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse has advised:

The Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA) Substance Misuse service on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands) provides a mobile assertive outreach service to Anangu that focuses on harm minimisation, information and education, regular assertive outreach, referral and liaison services.

This includes alcohol and other drug assessments, development of individual and group based treatment interventions, assertive case management, assertive follow up support, referrals to community based programs and specialist residential services.

This service is delivered to individuals, families and groups affected by problematic substance misuse through a client-centred, step up and step down approach. This includes those who identify as ex petrol sniffers as well as those who might relapse back into petrol sniffing or use opportunistically when aromatic fuels are brought into the communities.

The DASSA Substance Misuse service provides appropriate referrals to service providers who deliver disability, youth, and other health and welfare interventions. While some people self-refer, other referrals come from the community, government and non-government community services. DASSA also provides harm minimisation, counselling, education and information by delivering services to community members in their own homes.

DASSA provides information and education into schools and to other APY Lands based service providers in the communities, such as youth specific services and job network providers. DASSA work closely with Child and



Adolescent Mental Health Services, South Australia Police, Nganampa Health, Catholic Care, NPY Women's Council, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, Housing SA, Country Health SA Local Health Network, APY Lands general business managers and the Anangu community to ensure a co-ordinated response.

Since 2006, and the introduction of Opal fuel there has been a significant reduction in the misuse of petrol on the APY Lands, and in this ten year period there have been an estimated 33 clients (6.8% of total clients) who have identified petrol use as a primary or secondary drug of concern.

With regard to correspondence between Country Health SA and the Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division, departmental staff have investigated this claim and are unaware of correspondence regarding this matter in November 2015.

#### COMMERCIALISATION FUND

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised implementation costs of the South Australian Early Commercialisation Fund will be absorbed within existing agency resources.

#### MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised the Manufacturing Technologies Centre (MTC) is expected to engage with more than 300 businesses in its first year of operation. This will be measured via engagement activities that will include face to face meetings with companies at their premises or the MTC, workshops with business and researchers under the banner of the MTC as well as demonstration events and visits to research facilities.

#### MICRO FINANCE FUND

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

1. Similar to the Micro Finance Fund, the South Australian Early Commercialisation Fund will also provide grants to eligible early-stage companies with a novel product, service or process looking to commercialise their intellectual property. Grants will be available to companies from proof of concept stage, through to product development and early commercialisation.

2. The South Australian Early Commercialisation Fund is scheduled to begin accepting applications towards the end of 2016.

3. The payment due for the final delivery of the Implementation Plan for a South Australian Commercialisation Fund Report is \$93,200. The cost of the work Mr McCreadie undertook to produce the Implementation Plan for a South Australian Commercialisation Fund Report was \$186,600 ex GST.

4. Mr McCreadie was selected on the exceptional strength and relevance of his management and finance expertise and credentials. His achievements include:

- Founding, managing, advising and investing in a number of early-stage businesses in the profit and not-for-profit sectors
- Constructing and managing institutional investment portfolios
- Advising a number of the largest superannuation funds in Australia, including consulting to AustralianSuper and managing its venture capital and direct investment portfolio
- Head of Research in venture capital/private equity, global bonds and hedge funds for JANA Investment Advisers
- National and international investment banking experience at ABN AMRO, National Australia Bank and ING Barings
- Extensive board experience as a non-executive director on early-stage private enterprises in the profit and not-for-profit sectors.

Having a non-South Australian expert, particularly one of Mr McCreadie's calibre, added to the depth and breadth of the qualitative and quantitative data collected for the report.

Mr McCreadie's work has received broad support within the South Australian innovation ecosystem.

**MANUFACTURING WORKS**

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

The Frost & Sullivan report commissioned by the Department of State Development in 2015 evaluated the overall performance of the Manufacturing Works strategy including employment outcomes. It did not measure the employment outcomes of individual programs.

The Frost & Sullivan report found Manufacturing Works had generated significant outcomes for manufacturers including an estimated 290 new jobs created to April 2015, \$88 million of additional revenue by participants and \$26 million of value-add at an economy-wide level.

Based on its four-year funding period, Frost & Sullivan estimated the total future impact of Manufacturing Works will be 847 new jobs, \$229 million of additional revenue and \$56 million of value-added in the wider economy.

Frost & Sullivan defined value-add at the company level as 'the net output of a company after adding up all outputs (including opening inventories) and subtracting intermediate inputs (purchases of goods and materials, labour costs, closing inventories, etc)'. At the economy-wide level it was defined as 'Using a multiplier to estimate the broader economic impact of incremental value-added at the firm level'.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

1. The estimated result of 28 companies participating in applied research engagement programs in 2015-16 was achieved through the delivery of the following advanced manufacturing technology programs by the Department of State Development:

- Innovation Voucher Program;
- Medical Technologies Program;
- NanoConnect Program;
- Photonics Catalyst Program; and
- Big Data Connect Program.

The lower target of 10 companies in 2016-17 is the result of a profiled budget reduction for the NanoConnect, Photonics Catalyst and Big Data Connect Programs.

By contrast, the target for applied research engagement program awareness events and industry tours of research facilities is forecast to increase two-fold in 2016-17 to 26 compared with 12 recorded in 2015-16 as a result of the commencement of the new Manufacturing Technology Centre initiative.

2. The lower target of 16 business transformation projects in 2016-17 compared with 24 in 2015-16 is also the result of a profiled budget reduction for the Business Transformation Voucher Program from \$1.75 million to \$1 million.'

**CAREER AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

In reply to **Mr WINGARD (Mitchell)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised that:

Since opening, an average of 30 people per month have attended the Career and Workforce Development Centre to access scheduled appointments, information and referrals including: career and transition planning; career coaching; skills profiling; assistance to identify training courses, tickets and licences; and resume and job search support. Two departmental staff are available to assist people.

The centre has an annual operating budget of \$200,000, which includes rent of \$135,450 per annum.

**AGENCY STATEMENTS**

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and**

**Information Economy):** I am advised the total 2015-16 budget for the Department of State Development published in the 2015-16 Agency Statements matches the total 2015-16 budget published in the 2016-17 Agency Statements. Variations between programs have occurred in the 2016-17 Agency Statements as a result of changes in ministerial responsibility and departmental restructuring.

#### PREMIER'S RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY FUND

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

The Premier's Research and Industry Fund (PRIF) budget allocates funding for existing commitments (grants awarded in previous allocation rounds) and new commitments (funding available for commitment in the current financial year).

During 2015-16, approximately \$4.33 million was spent on existing projects that have been committed in previous funding rounds and \$976,350 was spent on new projects committed.

I am advised that the actual expenditure for PRIF in 2015-16 equated to \$5,236,322.

Due to a review of the programs under the Premier's Research and Industry Fund and the announcement of the Research Consortia Program (round 1) on 31 March 2016, the funding allocation for 2015-16 was smaller than previous years.

Estimated expenditure and commitment changes due to variation in the numbers of expected versus actual grants awarded, variation in the scheduled payments from year to year, or budget reshaping in response to emerging strategic priorities.

#### BIOSEA PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

1. The 27 provisional patent applications were all supported through BioSEA's (now TechInSA) Intellectual Property Management Initiative and received State Government funding.

2. The targets represent South Australian provisional patent applications and International Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications supported by BioSEA (now TechInSA) and filed by South Australia's three main universities. Australia's patenting process starts with an Australian provisional patent application, creating a priority date for the invention but not a full patent. The next step is a full Australian patent application and an international PCT application for patent registration overseas. PCT applications cost three times more than provisional patent applications. Accordingly, the reduction in the number of provisional patent applications filed reflects universities increasingly using grant funding to convert provisional patent applications to PCT applications.

#### WORKFORCE SUMMARY

##### AGENCY STATEMENTS

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised:

Actual FTEs and roles at 30 June 2015:

Position Title	FTE
Manager Digital Productivity & Industry Engagement	1.00
Principal Policy Officer	1.00
Briefing Officer	1.00
Principal Business Coordinator	1.00
Principal Policy Officer	1.00
Senior Policy/Project Officer	1.00
Director OSTAR	1.00
Senior Policy Officer	1.00
Senior Policy Officer	1.00

Position Title	FTE
Project Officer	1.00
Senior Policy Officer	1.00
Principal Policy Officer	1.00
Principal Policy Officer	1.00
Manager Science and Research	1.00
Policy Officer	1.00
Senior Policy Officer STEM	1.00
Overhead component	7.0
Total	23.0

Actual FTEs and roles at 30 June 2016:

Briefing Officer	1.0
Director OSTAR	1.0
Manager Digital Productivity and Industry Engagement	1.0
Manager, Adelaide Smart City Studio	1.0
Policy Officer	1.0
Principal Business Coordinator	1.0
Principal Policy Officer	1.0
Principal Policy Officer	1.0
Principal Policy Officer	1.0
Project Coordinator	1.0
Project Officer	1.0
Senior Policy Officer	1.0
Senior Policy Officer	1.0
Senior Policy Officer	1.0
Senior Policy Officer	1.0
Senior Policy Officer	1.0
Senior Project Officer	1.0
Overhead Component	10.0
TOTAL	27.0

The budget presentation in the Agency Statement requires costs of functions that service the agency as a whole to be allocated across programs. Whilst the functions are essential for the effective delivery of programs, these areas have traditionally been called 'overhead areas'. An overhead component has been allocated to programs based on the percentage of total expenditure.

#### GRANT EXPENDITURE

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):**

1. I am advised that payments made to companies in 2015-16 were:

Abregen Pty Ltd	\$60,000
ACPFPG	\$125,000
AIB Labs (LIEF)	\$50,000
AIB Labs (non-LIEF)	\$50,000
AIB labs/FMMP	\$60,000

ANZMBS	\$5,000
Ati Implants	\$31,500
AusMedtech 2018 Sponsorship	50,000
Beta Cell Technology ('Skin 3')	\$45,000
BioAngels	\$10,000
Coolsan	\$15,000
CPIE Pharma Services	\$125,000
CRC CTM—Spin-off	\$50,000
Flinders Partners—IP Fund	\$100,000
GD Pharma	\$150,000
ICMStemcell	\$18,000
IP Fund extension—UniSA Ventures	\$35,000
LBT Innovations	\$60,000
Muradel	\$10,000
Mylexa	\$20,000
Personify Care	\$230,000
SinoSA	\$9,000
Skin 2	\$10,000
TRC	\$110,636
UniSA Ventures—Doug Brooks	\$10,000
UniSA Ventures (CDK9)	\$45,000
UniSA Ventures (CDK9_2)	\$100,000
UniSA Ventures (Magnetic Probe)	\$110,000
University of Adelaide (Timber Tracking)	\$20,000
Ziltek	\$30,000
Total	\$1.74 million

2. I am advised that companies created in 2015-16 were:

- Beta Cell Technologies Pty Ltd
- Biocea Dermaceuticals Pty Ltd
- Carina Biotech Pty Ltd
- Ferranova Pty Ltd
- ICM StemCell Pty Ltd
- Mini Probes Pty Ltd
- Rezolve Scientific Pty Ltd.'

#### STEM POLICY STRATEGIC REFORM PRIORITIES

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** The reform priorities follow-on from the National School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Strategy, for which the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) is the lead. This strategy identifies five areas for action:

- Increasing student STEM ability, engagement, participation and aspiration
- Increasing teacher capacity and STEM teaching quality
- Supporting STEM education opportunities within school systems
- Facilitating effective partnerships with tertiary education providers, business and industry
- Building a strong evidence base.

DECD is currently working on the implementation of STEM initiatives that address the national strategy with support from the Department of State Development (DSD).

DSD is taking the lead on engagement with local universities that deliver initial teacher education. This work has led to a pilot project involving STEM student teachers from the University of South Australia and Flinders University partnering with local STEM-based companies to identify how STEM skills are utilised in the workplace. The student teachers work to develop STEM learning resources for school students based on the real-world context they have experienced with companies. Subject to the success of these pilots, the universities will look to embed industry engagement as a core requirement for teaching students.

#### STEM ENGAGEMENT

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised that the Department of State Development's Office of Science, Technology and Research (OSTAR) has two officers that work with the State's Chief Scientist to support science awareness, including working with the Department for Education and Child Development on STEM education matters.

As part of this work, DSD is working with local universities that deliver initial teacher education to enhance new teachers' contextual understanding of STEM skills. This work has led to a pilot project involving STEM student teachers from the University of South Australia and Flinders University partnering with local STEM-based companies to identify how STEM skills are utilised in the workplace.

Other engagement programs and projects being delivered by OSTAR in support of the STEM strategy include:

- Initiating a new four-year agreement with the Australian Government that sees the SA Museum lead implementation of Inspiring Australia (badged locally as Inspiring South Australia) in our State, in collaboration with the State's three public universities, to increase the community's understanding and appreciation of science and the role it plays in our lives and our future prosperity.
- Establishing a series of regional science education hubs across South Australian government regions.
- Supporting the development of the University of South Australia's Science | Creativity | Education Studio.

#### STEM EDUCATION

In reply to **Mr GARDNER (Morialta)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy):** I am advised that prior to 2014, commencements in STEM courses between 2007 and 2013 grew 49 per cent over this period. Therefore despite the decline in 2014, STEM commencements remain at a high level (still 46.3 per cent above what was recorded in 2007).

The Department of State Development (DSD) is working with the Department for Education and Child Development to improve student participation and performance in STEM disciplines. This work is being overseen by the state's Chief Scientist and the state's Chief Education Officer. A focus of this work is the state's implementation of the National School STEM Education Strategy and the national Inspiring Australia program to raise the community's understanding and appreciation of science.

DSD is taking the lead on engagement with local universities that deliver initial teacher education. This work has led to a pilot project involving STEM student teachers from the University of South Australia and Flinders University partnering with local STEM-based companies to identify how STEM skills are utilised in the workplace.

The student teachers work to develop STEM learning resources for school students based on the real-world context they have experienced with companies. Subject to the success of these pilots, the universities will look to embed industry engagement as a core requirement for teaching students.

Relevant education pathway programs and projects being delivered by DSD in support of the strategy include:

- Initiating research pilot projects with the University of South Australia and the Flinders University Schools of Education to test models for incorporating industry engagement in STEM pre-service teacher training.
- Supporting South Australia's Science Council in its considerations of the national Higher Education Standards Panel's review on options to improve the transparency of higher education student admissions policies.
- Establishing the national Digital Careers program in South Australia.
- Supporting the Northern Advanced Manufacturing Industry Group (NAMIG) Concept2Creation student engagement program.

- Supporting the national annual Science and Engineering Challenge competition which is run in various regions across the State to engage local high school students.

#### DISABILITY SA

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I am advised by the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion, as at 5 August 2016, there were 3 people aged under 40 years of age, 29 people aged under 50 years and 238 people aged under 65 years, of those registered with Disability SA residing in residential aged care.

#### DOMICILIARY CARE

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I am advised:

During 2015-16, waiting times to supply wheelchairs, following receipt of the request at the Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES), ranged from an average of less than two days for basic, readily-available wheelchairs to an average of 80 days for more complex, customised wheelchairs.

All repair calls from clients are responded to by a 24-hour hotline. During the four months between the 1 March 2016 to 30 June 2016, the average repair completion time for all equipment types was 2.2 days. Delays can arise if spare parts are unavailable, but at all times DES staff and contractors attempt to keep clients informed about delays and can arrange emergency loan items in urgent situations.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I am advised:

The maximum standard charge set by the government is 87.5% of a standard pension. However, this rate may vary depending on individual's financial circumstances.

#### WORKFORCE SUMMARY

In reply to **Mr DULUK (Davenport)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I am advised:

The number of full time equivalent staff employed by each Local Health Network (LHN) is as follows:

	Budget 2015-16
Central Adelaide LHN	695.81
Northern Adelaide LHN	630.20
Southern Adelaide LHN	604.40
Country Health LHN	384.51
Women and Children's LHN	266.84

#### JUVENILE DETENTION

In reply to **Mr DULUK (Davenport)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. L.A. VLAHOS (Taylor—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I am advised:

Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provides mental health services for young people detained in juvenile justice facilities.

In 2016-17, a total of \$942,000 from recurrent budget has been allocated to working with young people with mental health issues in the forensic system.

Of this total, \$647,000 has been allocated directly to work undertaken by CAMHS clinicians in Secure Care, with a further \$295,000 committed to working with the courts and young people who have offended or are at risk of committing sexually related offences.

In addition, \$664,000 short term funding has been committed through the Closing the Gap program for Journey Home, a CAMHS program specifically designed for young Aboriginal people in the correctional system.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

In reply to **Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

I received a copy of the Local Government Association's 2016-17 state budget submission. While I noted the issues raised that are of importance to Local Government, most of the recommendations fall outside the area of my portfolio responsibilities and are matters for other Ministers to comment on.

One of the recommendations raised in the submission seeks a commitment to ensure adequate resourcing of the Office of Local Government commensurate with its role and functions. As stated during my Estimates hearing, the actual number of full-time equivalent staff within the Office of Local Government has remained consistent in the last three years.

**ATTRACTION AND RETENTION ALLOWANCES**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

There were no attraction, retention and performance allowances as well as non-salary benefits paid to public servants or contractors within Regions SA.

(a) 2014-15:

Dept/Agency	Position Title	Classification	Allowance Type	Allowance Amount
PIRSA	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

**ATTRACTION AND RETENTION ALLOWANCES**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

I advise the answer to this question regarding the portfolio of Local Government will be contained within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure response by Hon. S Mullighan MP.

**GRANT EXPENDITURE**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

(a) Grant programs administered by PIRSA across the current forward estimates period include:

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Regional Development Fund	28.908	18.869	15.065	15.000
Regional Development Australia	3.108	3.145	3.333	3.222
Jobs Accelerator Fund	0.800	0.373		-
Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund	1.479			
Regional Economic Development Projects (formerly known as Save the River Murray Levy)	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
USG & Outback Futures Program	1.500			

These budgets may be revised based on carryovers and timing of milestone payments between years.

(b) The following provides information with regards to grants of \$10,000 or more:

Please note that the question asks whether expenditures made were subject to a grant agreement, as required by Treasurer's Instruction No.15 (TI 15). Grants that have been made to other state government agencies, universities or are \$10,000 or less are not required to have a grant agreement and are reflected as 'Not Applicable' in the appropriate column.



## Department of Primary Industries and Regions—controlled)

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (YIN)
Department of Treasury and Finance	5,832,000	2015-16 contribution to the Whyalla Interest-Free Loan Scheme, administered by the South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA).	Not applicable
Almond Board of Australia	1,000,000	Contribution to an extensive research program at the Almond Centre of Excellence in the Riverland Region of South Australia.	Y
Local Government Association of SA	800,000	Regional Youth Traineeship Program.	Y
Local Government Association of SA	27,000	Regional Youth Traineeship Program promotional and professional development opportunities project.	Y
Indigenous Land Corporation	800,000	Funding for the North West Indigenous Pastoral Program.	Y
Riverview Lutheran Rest Home Inc.	800,000	Construction of twelve serviced retirement living apartments at the Riverview Lutheran Rest home.	Y
Charlie Ppiros Pty Ltd	13,341	Extension of packing shed, upgrading existing fruit grader, and increasing production facilities and cool storage.	Y
Sundrop Australia Unit Trust	2,500,000	Infrastructure works associated with the 'Port Augusta Solar Desalination Greenhouse Development' project.	Y
Thomas Foods International Murray Bridge Pty Ltd	1,995,000	Upgrade the Beef Boning Facility at Murray Bridge.	Y
Como Glasshouse No2 Pty Ltd	1,870,000	Upgrade to existing facilities and the construction of a new glasshouse.	Y
Treasury Wine Estates Vintners Ltd	1,750,000	Extension of the Wolf Blass Winery and Packaging Facility.	Y
Department of State Development	1,400,000	Contribution to the expansion of Orora Ltd glass manufacturing plant at Gawler.	Not applicable
Pernod Ricard Australia	713,854	Construction of a cellar door complex for St Hugo brand wines and associated site development.	Y
Hunter Poultry	450,180	Construction of two farms for production of free range broiler chickens on the facility.	Y
Lenswood Cold Stores Co-operative Society Ltd.	410,000	To support the commercialisation of three new apple varieties and one new pear variety from Lenswood Cold Stores Next Fruit Generation Australia division by establishing a juice and cider and food processing facility.	Y
Regional Development Fund program	355,350	Regional Development Fund funding, administered through the Department of Treasury and Finance (SAFA)	Not Applicable
Regional Development Australia—Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Incorporated	55,515	Connected Food and Wine trails project in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island.	Y

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (YIN)
Regional Development Australia—Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	40,000	Food and Beverage Ambassadors program.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Yorke and Mid North Incorporated	40,000	Southern Flinders Ranges Grass Roots Project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Barossa Incorporated	22,960	Next Level Barossa Regional Dining Experience project.	Y
Bowmans Intermodal Pty Ltd	326,000	Expansion of the freight facility and the duplication of the existing rail line to marshal longer and more frequent trains associated with a number of mining contracts currently being pursued.	Y
B.-d Farm Paris Creek Pty Ltd	300,000	Extension of the current factory to house a new extended shelf life milk processing line.	Y
JT Johnson & Sons Pty Ltd	300,000	Upgrade and expansion of the Kapunda feed mill.	Y
Days Eggs Pty Ltd	225,500	Expansion of Free Range production facilities at Port Germein.	Y
Ashwood Estate Pty Ltd	225,000	Commissioning of an onsite bottling line, a beverage canning line and installation of packaging equipment to support the increased cider and bulk wine production in the Adelaide Hills.	Y
Arts SA	200,000	Establishment of the James Morrison Academy of Music in Mount Gambier and other Regional Arts and Cultural initiatives.	Not applicable
Messamurray Property Trust	200,000	Construction of sealed gas storage for the South East Region of South Australia's malting barley industry.	Y
Joyson Orchards	145,000	Gumeracha vineyard redevelopment recycled water storage project.	Y
Whitty Engineering Pty Ltd	140,000	Construction of a new operating facility including a shed/workshop, office facility and a training area.	Y
Ceravolo Orchards Pty Ltd	135,000	Installation of a new grading system to increase the company's processing capacity.	Y
Arts SA	100,000	To support Regional Development Arts and Culture Grants Program.	Not applicable
Big Bird Investments Pty Ltd	100,000	Construction and fit-out of 12 free to range broiler chicken sheds.	Y
Town of Gawler	80,000	To showcase regional food production and demonstrate sustainable and clean farming practices such as effective water re-use programs in the town centre of Gawler.	Y

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (YIN)
Kangaroo Island Food & Wine Association Inc.	68,355	Eat Kangaroo Island: forging lifelong relationships to grow regional food and wine industries project.	Y
Australian Pure Fruits Pty Ltd	50,000	To assist with the production of a new range of vegetable and fruit juice products.	Y
Rockit Performing Arts	31,470	Installation of various therapy equipment and to engage an occupational therapy consulting service to support the needs of the dance class participants.	Y
Burra Community School	30,000	Purchase and assembly of cardiovascular equipment, free weights and associated benches for the fit out of the Burra Community Gym which is to be located at the Burra Community School.	Y
Loxton Netball Club Inc.	30,000	Re-development of the recreation centre stadium at the Loxton Sporting Precinct.	Y
Wilson Pastoral International Pty Ltd	30,000	Development of Saltbush Livestock Pelleting Plant.	Y
Australian Red Cross Society	26,000	To assist in creating a local voice in Aboriginal communities and facilitate the sharing of positive local stories around culture, health, law, public space and entertainment with the world.	Y
McLaren Vale Grape Wine and Tourism	25,480	McLaren Vale Epicurean Way project.	Y
The District Council of Ceduna	23,790	To assist in the purchase and installation of a new industrial dishwasher and a motorised stage for the Ceduna Memorial Hall.	Y
SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum Inc.	20,000	Establishment of a memorial wall for the fire fighters who have lost their lives while fighting wildfires across South Australia.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Yorke and Mid North Incorporated	356,250	Creating the Right Conditions for Economic Growth project in Yorke and Mid North.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	352,500	Economic Capacity and Capability Builder project in Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Murraylands and Riverland Incorporated	337,500	Economic Development project in the Murraylands and Riverland.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Incorporated	318,750	Realising our Potential project in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Far North Incorporated	300,000	Economic Growth and Investment project in the Far North region.	Y

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (YIN)
Regional Development Australia—Limestone Coast Inc.	300,000	Economic Development and Investment project in the Limestone Coast region.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Barossa Incorporated	285,000	Targeted Economic Growth project in the Barossa Region 2015.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Barossa Incorporated	32,750	2014-15 Accelerating Strategic Investment projects in Regional South Australia.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Investment attraction project—deliver jobs and investment for economic growth in Adelaide Hills Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Region.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Barossa Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Targeting Quality Jobs project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Far North Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Deliver jobs and investment for economic growth in the Far North Region project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Limestone Coast Inc.	30,000	2014-15 Deliver jobs and investment for economic growth in the Limestone Coast project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Murraylands and Riverland Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Deliver jobs and investment for economic growth in the Murray lands and Riverland project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Deliver jobs and investment for economic growth in the Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula project by participating in a regional consultation network.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Yorke and Mid North Incorporated	30,000	2014-15 Cultivating Investment and Security in Regions Support project.	Y
Regional Development Australia—Limestone Coast Inc.	22,398	2014-15 Limestone Coast Economic Diversification and Strategic Initiatives Support project.	Y
Department of State Development	250,000	PIRSA contribution towards supporting projects that promote investment, job creation and community capacity building in the Upper Spencer Gulf.	Not applicable
Regional Development Australia—Far North Incorporated	20,000	Development of the Beyond Alinta economic growth strategy for Port Augusta project.	Y
Department of State Development	14,250	Regions SA 50% contribution to the 2016 Regional Summit costs.	Not applicable
Regional Development Australia—Yorke and Mid North Incorporated	120,000	Funding for the Peterborough Community Development Officer.	Y
Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group	75,000	Collaboration on understandings of the challenges and opportunities in the Upper Spencer Gulf regions and its immediate hinterland, and to work towards the successful economic transition of that region.	Y
	3,211,138		

**GRANT EXPENDITURE**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**  
I have been advised:

For the Local Government Grants Commission, for each year of the forward estimates:

	BUDGET
Name of Grant	Program 2016-17
Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC)—Finance Assistance Grants	150,776
Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC)—Roads to Recovery	9,807
<b>TOTAL GRANTS BUDGET</b>	<b>\$160,583</b>

Total indicative grants forecast for the forward estimates (\$'000) are:

- 2017-18: \$156,379
- 2018-19: \$160,287
- 2019-20: \$164,294

For the Outback Communities Authority, for each year of the forward estimates:

Name of Grant Program	2016-17 \$000
Outback Communities Authority (OCA)—Community Affairs & Resource Management	293
Outback Communities Authority (OCA)—Outback Economic Growth and Community Projects	71
<b>TOTAL GRANTS BUDGET</b>	<b>\$364</b>

Total indicative grants forecast for the forward estimates (\$'000) are:

- 2017-18: \$373
- 2018-19: \$383
- 2019-20: \$393
- 2020-21: \$403

Note that:

1. Not all grant funding is allocated to a specific grant program. Allocations are made during the financial year as a result of the finalisation of agreements between the department and relevant stakeholders.

2. Budgets for the forward estimates are not allocated to individual grant recipients as the majority of grants are provided / allocated to recipients during the financial year in which the grant is applied for. Budgets are subject to the annual budget process and final cabinet endorsement.

For the Local Government Grants Commission, grants paid during 2015-16, greater than \$10,000 were:

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (YIN)
Various councils and community authorities	76,570,000	Finance Assistance Grants to Assist councils to provide important services and critical infrastructure	N

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant \$	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (Y/N)
Various councils and community authorities	11,975,000	Roads to Recovery Grants to Assist councils to provide infrastructure investment.	N
<b>TOTAL GRANTS PAID 2015-16</b>	<b>88,545,000</b>		

For the Outback Communities Authority, grants paid during 201516, greater than \$10,000 were:

Name of Grant Recipient	Amount of Grant	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Grant Agreement (Y/N)
Various Indigenous and outback communities	162,000	Community Affairs & Resource Management to support regional development initiatives, community maintenance and activities.	Y
Various Indigenous and outback communities	54,000	Growth and Community Projects. To support regional sports projects, youth programs and other small community projects	N
<b>TOTAL GRANTS PAID 2015-16</b>	<b>216,000</b>		

#### **TARGETED VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PACKAGES**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

There were no TVSPs offered to staff employed within the Minister's portfolio for Regional Development

#### **TARGETED VOLUNTARY SEPARATION PACKAGES**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):** I advise the answer to this question regarding the portfolio of Local Government will be contained within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure response by Hon. S Mullighan MP.

#### **MINISTERIAL STAFF**

In reply to **Mr KNOLL (Schubert)** (3 August 2016). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome—Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Local Government):**

I have been advised of the following:

For a list of ministerial staff and salaries please refer to the Government Gazette. Non-ministerial appointments are as follows:

FTE	Classification
1	AS07
4	AS05
2	AS04
2	AS02