

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 23 October 2018

The **SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 11:01 and read prayers.

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

### *Bills*

#### **EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 20 June 2018.)

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:02):** I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition on the bill. It is a welcome return of this bill, as was acknowledged by the minister in introducing it. The bill went through this house before the last election, but the election intervened before it could be considered in the upper house. The bill has in fact been many years in the making. It has been talked of often but only finally surfaced in parliament last year. Let's hope and expect that it has resurfaced and will be carried through substantially in both this chamber and the other place.

It is a substantial bill and I do not propose to go through it in enormous detail, having already done so once last year and having heard the minister's speech, which similarly only lightly referred to the intricacies of the bill. However, it is worth highlighting the chief purposes for which the bill has been constructed. It is essentially a modernisation of our approach to education in the larger sense, comprising not only the school years but also the years leading up to school, which we increasingly recognise as being significant and, in many ways, almost completely determinative of the quality of education that students receive in their school years.

Those early childhood years—including how children are treated by their families, the services they receive and their early childhood educators—make an enormous difference to the experience of young people throughout school and into the rest of their lives. This bill brings together the legislation relating to those early years and the legislation relating to the school years and does so in a way that makes the services and approach as seamless as possible.

I say 'as possible' because there is of course the confounding challenge of federation, which means that early childhood is a shared responsibility, with so much of childcare services being funded and managed through the federal government. This funding is usually provided through giving tax relief to parents who send their children to child care. This results in some complexity over the capacity of the state to really drive a strong early childhood agenda, but I think we on both sides of the house have given it as good a shake as possible through this bill.

The bill was extensively consulted on, which is unsurprising given its very long gestation in the last government, but particularly leading up to the final formulation of the text that was presented last year. There are changes in the bill, and I will be asking for clarification, which may come through the closing second reading speech from the minister or in the committee stage. I will be asking for clarification on the extent of consultation that has been undertaken on those parts of the bill that have a significant or substantial change in meaning from that which was presented here. Obviously there are some editorial and consequential changes, but there are some changes that are worth discussing, and I would like to understand the degree to which consultation had occurred.

The overall thrust of the bill—the overall objective of the bill—is to simultaneously improve quality of education experiences and accessibility for our young people. There can be nothing more important for a society and a government to deal with than how we ensure not only that there is some

quality that some young people have access to but that there is quality that all young people have access to.

We cannot be in a situation, which occurs in many parts of the world, where the elite are well educated, the elite are well cared for but the majority or even a substantial minority of young people do not receive the quality that they deserve and we are in fact dependent on their getting for our future prosperity. The bill certainly makes an attempt within its framework to help deliver that quality and accessibility.

Importantly—and again I appreciate that this is an utterly bipartisan approach—it also supports the promotion of the involvement of parents, caregivers, wider family and communities. It is a hackneyed phrase, which I hesitate to yet again put into *Hansard*, about it taking a village to raise a child, but I think it is used so often because it is so true. To simply be alone in trying to raise and educate your child with no external help is not the way that we conduct ourselves in our modern society. We appreciate there is a collective effort that is required for health services and for education services as well as additional supports, and it is absolutely essential that that not then bifurcate into, 'Well, when the kids are at school it's their business, nothing to do with the parents, the community or the wider family outside.'

The bill, both in its original form and in the form that has been delivered by the government, seeks to ensure that we fully recognise that this is a relationship between families, communities, schools and other education facilities in early childhood. We need to give that priority and weight so that as a team we provide children with the support and the education they need and deserve.

It also acknowledges the contribution of staff. A great deal of modernisation work that occurred in the version that was presented last year to parliament has been retained, simply making sure that the ways in which staff are acknowledged, recognised and supported are very clear and straightforward. On that matter, this bill and the previous legislation have increased levels of protection for staff. It is not acceptable for teachers in a school, in their place of work, to be threatened or assaulted by parents or other caregivers or by other people, who may not have a relationship with children, coming onto school property. That is simply not acceptable and of course everybody feels that way. This piece of legislation gives some more oomph, some more legislative weight, to dealing with those matters, which do occur all too frequently.

Children need to be at school. It is an obvious phrase, and we have excellent attendance numbers. Statistically the attendance has a good record when you take into account those who are either there or have a good reason not to be there. Children get sick. Every so often, parents can negotiate with teachers and principals to have children go on an educative family holiday and not attend school, but children not going to school for days and days in a term and children having a relationship with school that is regarded as optional and intermittent is extremely unhealthy. It is obvious that you cannot learn if you are not at school. It is also obvious that, if you are so disengaged as a child or as a young person that you do not want to be at school, and even when you are showing up, you are unlikely to get much education.

There was some media and other attention last year on the first prosecution that was advanced in many years under my ministerial leadership. It is a difficult one. Prosecuting parents for not supporting their kids to go to school is complex because frequently what we are talking about is a family that is struggling and needs support, rather than additional punishment. I will always support that occurring first, and hopefully that is the only ingredient that is needed.

Both ourselves and the now government—but last year the opposition—supported increasing the number of attendance officers, for example, to ensure that that level of support and engagement was indeed available through the public system, but the prosecution that we took up as the first one in a long time was a parent being wilful. It was a parent who had a business and he wanted his child to be working at that business. He sought permission for the child, who was only in year 8 and year 9, to be regarded as an apprentice, and he had been told that it was not acceptable for that age of child, but he did it anyway. I believe that is a case where prosecution is absolutely warranted.

We need to make sure that the law is as up to date as possible in regard to the extent of the punishment that awaits a parent who thinks so little of their child's education. Obviously, I do not

have more up-to-date information, but I was pleased that the child was immediately back at school. The child had a positive attitude towards their education and was benefiting whenever they were able to get to school and benefiting from the result of that prosecution.

In the last piece of legislation—again, I signal this for the minister for consideration in his closing speech or in the committee stage—there was a question of whether we allow an expiation notice in order to allow for more of a gradation of escalation from support and family conference, which is included here and was included in my legislation, before you hit prosecution and the court having to make a decision and whether there was room for an expiable offence—I always try to avoid saying that on *Hansard*, as it is a difficult expression—but that is not in this bill. I think some of my colleagues might wish to discuss that more. I certainly think we need an answer on the advice that has been received that has led to that decision.

The other area of some question and reform of both the previous and the current bill is how we manage the teaching of religion in schools. The old legislation—the legislation currently in place that this will replace—allowed that to be done by regulation, but the regulation is extremely out of date. The regulation was created in a time when there was an expectation that essentially all students would be likely to be religious and Christian, although they might be of different denominations of Christianity, and the clergy would be able to have a list of the students of their particular denomination in the local public school. Clearly, that is not what has been taking place for a very long period of time.

We need to make sure that the legislation has caught up with that and reflects what we expect not only of a secular public education system but also of a deeply multicultural society, a society where we see children in schools who proudly have posters with their name, usually on a hand, attached to different parts of the world where they trace, if not their own birth, their parents' birth or their grandparents' birth. As the Governor so often says, we are the most multicultural nation on earth. We have the highest proportion of people who were either born overseas or at least one of their parents was born overseas. We need to acknowledge that that is a reality in our school system.

Religion itself is taught in our schools. It is part of the Australian Curriculum. Teachers teach religion—absolutely essential. If we are to understand what it is to be human, if we are to understand our current society and our history, we need to understand religions. No-one, I believe, would make an argument over that. There has, however, been this lingering question arising from the old regulation that the clergy, as it is termed in that regulation, have access to teaching students their own faith as a teaching from a non-teacher to the students in the public school system.

Our bill talked about religious and intercultural instruction—intercultural being reflective of the fact that what might be a religion for one person is just an interesting feature of a culture for somebody else, but that it was about instruction. This bill has changed that terminology to talk about activities. I will be interested in committee to inquire of the minister why that change occurred and what protections are in place to make sure that we do not start treading into activities that are absolutely part of the modern life and the historical life of our schools, which is to celebrate activities, to celebrate events that are of deep cultural significance to all of us. We will interrogate that and look at whether or not there are any amendments that might be required in the upper house.

The bill of course also puts children first. If you do not spend much time working in the field of education, child protection, or other child services, it seems to make perfect sense that of course children come first when you are talking about it. It is actually worth articulating, though, and I am glad that the government has maintained that emphasis in the legislation. I say that because I have observed how quickly adults start talking to and about other adults, and the needs and demands of children, the opinions and their views, can so easily be overlooked.

That does not mean that you have an entirely child-driven education system. When I was education minister, one of my children, who will be nameless, frequently bemoaned the fact that he did not know anyone with any power in the education system who might be able to get rid of homework. Sarcasm, good, a good skill to have. You cannot necessarily make a determination based on the desires of the moment of an individual child, but it is worth listening to and understanding what it is. One of the greatest developments that has come from South Australia in the approach to teaching and learning is TfEL, Teaching for Effective Learning. What that is about is saying that,

when we are working out how to teach this, and this, and this in the Australian Curriculum, we ought to include students in how they would best learn that and how they want to explore it.

A couple of years ago, I went to Craigmore High School and was so impressed by the student leaders of that school telling me how they had not only worked out how they wanted to learn various parts of the curriculum—so in mathematics, how they wanted to apply that to working in fast food, working in the grocery store, having to purchase things at the grocery store—and how that would make it real for them, but also that they were leading discussions with the local primary school on how primary school students might have an engagement and involvement in how they would make sense of what is being provided to them through the Australian Curriculum. This idea of 'child first' has enormous power and weight, but we as adults have to make room for it. We have to explicitly choose that listening to children in their engagement and what they get out of their education and early childhood services matters.

The last element which I will raise in the context of the bill is the area for which I have already filed amendments, and that is the question of the role of the union in participating in decisions. I will talk more to that, clearly, when we get into the committee stage, about why the two amendments might make sense. There are two areas where the union is currently involved by law and, under this piece of legislation, would be excluded.

One relates to decisions about the promotion or tenure of the appointment of leaders in a school. I think that there is a role for the union in that, but where I think that there is absolutely essentially a role for the union is on the committee that a minister can set up to close a school. I have heard nothing from this minister about forcibly closing schools, so I do not make any assertions that he might be contemplating that, but I look back to the current Treasurer, who was a minister for education and he closed an enormous number of schools against the opposition of the school community, the parents, the teachers and the union.

If you are going to have a review to consider whether a school should be closed down—and it is an acceptable piece of legislation to have—then what you ought to do is have the best and strongest advice about the future of that school around the table of that review committee. At present, that means having the union there. If you exclude the union and say, no, there will just be a teacher there to represent the school, you risk taking away the power of that voice because the teacher inevitably has a view about their own future and what other school they might want to go to.

They may fight like anything for their school but ultimately be disregarded as a teacher. If the union delegate is there, though, then there may be some serious consideration of the consequences of closing the school. I will be advancing amendments to that effect in this chamber and in the other place but, overall, I want to commend the government and the minister for bringing back this piece of legislation. It was the most significant piece of legislation that I brought in as education minister.

I was disappointed that the other place ran out of time. As happens towards the end of the year, it had such a big legislative agenda backlog that it was unable to consider the bill. I know that the then opposition spokesperson, and now minister, shared my disappointment that that was the case. There was no blame thrown at any political party. It was a circumstance that we lamented but accepted. I am pleased that it is back, and I largely commend this bill to the house.

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (11:22):** I rise to support this bill, which will improve the support and futures of our young people in schools in South Australia. The Education and Children's Services Bill 2018 will modernise legislation for education and children's services, providing a contemporary framework for the delivery of high-quality children's services and compulsory education within South Australia. This bill incorporates amendments on a range of matters that the Liberal Party flagged in opposition are necessary for quality education in South Australia.

In particular, this bill fulfils the Marshall government's election commitments to remove the previous government's proposed central controls over school governing councils. It will entrench a legal fund for governing councils in dispute with the department, as proposed by the DeBelle recommendations, and it will increase fines to deter chronic truancy. The bill repeals and replaces the Education Act 1972 and the Children's Services Act 1985, establishing a contemporary legislative framework for the delivery of high-quality education and children's services in our state.

Our children deserve access to the best schools, preschools and children's services. This bill aims to establish the conditions necessary for teachers, parents, families and communities to work together to give our children the best start in life. A key improvement is that the bill removes the central controls over school and preschool governing councils that were proposed by the former Labor government in the previous iteration of the bill. Our government believes that, by empowering school communities, we will deliver better student outcomes and have happier and more efficient school communities.

We have removed provision for the minister to direct, suspend, dissolve and establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances. We have also introduced changes to ensure that parents, or other persons responsible for children and students at schools, preschools and children's centres, will form the majority of the members of the governing councils of those schools and services. I speak firsthand about the value of our governing councils, having served on the Golden Grove High School governing council. I am now in my third year on the Golden Grove Primary School governing council and I regularly meet with other governing councils in the seat of King.

The bill includes provision for governing councils to access funds for independent legal advice when they are in dispute with the department. This was a specific recommendation of the DeBelle royal commission. At this point, I want to take a moment to acknowledge my friend and fierce child protection advocate Danyse Soester, who was the school whistleblower whose efforts helped lead to a royal commission into sexual abuse and how we handle it in our South Australian school system. The royal commission found significant failings within the department over the handling of a sexual abuse case at a school in Adelaide's western suburbs, which had grave and long-lasting effects on the community there.

The parents and constituents of this state expect us, as a parliament and as a government, to do everything in our power to ensure that children are protected. Under this bill, the Crown Solicitor, or a nominee of the Crown Solicitor, will make a decision on whether a governing council's request meets the necessary requirements to be funded. The relevant funds will be administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

The bill will impact committee membership. This government believes that the needs of the school, preschool or children's service are not necessarily served by having staff representation on decision-making groups only available to members of the Australian Education Union. The bill removes the exclusive right of the Australian Education Union to nominate members of the relevant committees formed under the bill, including selection committees for promotional level positions in the teaching service, reclassifications and review committees considering the amalgamation or closure of a school.

The members of selection committees will now be appointed by the department's chief executive, and at least one member will be a person elected from the teaching service to represent them on such committees. For the purposes of amalgamations and closures of schools, review committees will include a staff member of each school to be nominated by their respective staff.

The bill retains the opportunity for schools and preschools to participate in religious or cultural activities. This could include a pastor coming to the school to conduct a session explaining Easter, or an imam explaining Ramadan, or perhaps a group of students attending a community prayer breakfast. These matters are dealt with in existing legislation under section 102—Religious education, of the Education Act. Subsections (1) and (2) provide:

- (1) Regular provision shall be made for religious education at a Government school, under such conditions as may be prescribed, at times during which the school is open for instruction.
- (2) The regulations shall include provision for permission to be granted for exemption from religious education on conscientious grounds.

At clause 82, the new bill proposes some reforms that provide some greater clarity about how this will work in practice.

Importantly, the new bill clarifies that, if such a religious or cultural activity is to take place, parents should be notified. It retains arrangements under which a parent can seek to have their child exempted from participation in such activities on conscientious grounds. A child who is exempted

from such activities would be provided with an alternative activity related to the curriculum during the period in which the activities are conducted.

The bill proposes retaining the opt-out principle for families seeking that their child should be exempted. Importantly, the act will make it clear that Christmas carols may be sung in South Australian government schools and preschools. I believe this will be very well received by many King constituents, and this was certainly an issue raised with me by many constituents numerous times in my 10 months of doorknocking.

Education is key to providing opportunities for children to prosper and to contribute to their communities. Regarding attendance, the Nyland royal commission found truancy to be a significant risk factor in child protection concerns. In addition, research consistently alerts us to chronic non-attendance as a risk factor for ongoing social and economic disadvantage across a child's lifetime. The bill has multiple measures that support a student's attendance and reduce chronic truancy. The bill includes increased penalties for parents of children who are chronically absent from school and provides a broader range of measures to deal with non-attendance, including the provision for family conferencing. The purpose of family conferencing is to enable school staff to work in partnership with families to improve the attendance of their child at school.

The bill does not include a provision for the issuing of expiation notices for non-attendance as proposed by the previous Labor government. The issuing of expiation notices for these types of offences would undermine the benefits of early intervention through family conferences and support work. In addition to these strengthened provisions, the government will be auditing the attendance policies at all government schools, taking steps to ensure that children in out-of-home care are engaged in education. The government will also be increasing the number of truancy officers employed in the department by 50 per cent.

Regarding safe learning environments, the government is supportive of strong measures to protect students, teachers and other staff acting in the course of their duties from offensive behaviour or the use of abusive, threatening or insulting language. Included in the bill is the provision to suspend, exclude or expel a student from a school if a student has perpetrated violence, acted illegally or persistently interfered with the ability of a teacher to conduct their lessons.

Other measures aimed at promoting safe learning and working environments include the provision of a power for the chief executive to terminate the employment of an officer of the teaching service if the officer is not a registered teacher within the meaning of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act, or if an officer is a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016, and the provision for a person to be barred from a school, preschool or children's service if that person has behaved in an offensive manner while on the premises, or threatened or insulted staff, or committed or threatened to commit any other offences on or in relation to the premises.

Further measures include dealing with trespass in all schools, preschools and children's services sites; strengthening provisions for authorised persons to deal with people behaving in an unacceptable manner on a premises; mandating working with children checks for adults returning to study at schools; prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in all preschools and schools; and providing a power for the chief executive to direct a child who may pose a risk to the health, safety or welfare of other students or staff.

In relation to employment provisions for staff, staff employed within our schools, preschools and children's services are integral in providing high-quality education services to South Australian children. Staff work tirelessly to understand and respond to the learning, wellbeing and safety needs of all children in order to provide them with the best opportunity to succeed. This bill brings together and strengthens the employment provisions for teachers and support workers in government schools, preschools and children's services under a single act. The bill also enables the attraction and retention of high-quality teachers to public schools experiencing challenges in recruiting the high-quality staff they require to achieve outcomes.

This bill supports schools and preschools to retain quality leaders and teachers, including enabling the extensions of teachers in promotional appointments initially made through a formal merit selection process without having to undergo a further merit selection process when the staff member

is performing well. This provides the opportunity also for the chief executive to employ a broader range of staff in schools and preschools, including nurses, social workers, youth workers and allied health professionals to provide support services to students.

This will provide flexibility to schools to respond to the needs of their local community. It also continues to provide access for teachers to the South Australian tribunal for a review of the decision or determination of the CE made in relation to their employment. This ensures that teachers are not subject to any unreasonable or arbitrary decisions by their employer.

Another great thing about this bill is the improved information sharing. It will ensure that students experience continuity with their learning, safety and wellbeing, which is vitally important in providing a high-quality education service. This bill includes a number of provisions to improve information sharing between government and non-government schools, preschools, children's service centres and the department where necessary to support the education, health, safety or welfare of the child. This is another area where I have had direct feedback from principals when they have had concerns over the safety of a child and other children who might be impacted by that child moving between schools.

The bill also includes important safeguards to protect personal information from unauthorised disclosure or misuse. This bill resolves a number of operational and legal issues associated with the current legislation. Significant public consultations on the reform of the Education Act and Children's Services Act have occurred to get the bill to this point. Successive attempts to modernise the Education Act have suffered in the past from half-hearted interest by former governments.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill today to improve the learning outcomes of South Australian children and I thank the Minister for Education for fulfilling the Marshall government's election commitments to the people of South Australia. Again, we are delivering. Teachers play such an important role in the development of a child and I am so blessed to have been able to have such a fantastic network of schools across the electorate of King. I commend the bill.

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (11:37):** I welcome the opportunity to speak to the Education and Children's Services Bill before the house today. We know from the tremendous contribution of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Port Adelaide, that this bill in its current form is a reintroduction and, in essence, the re-establishment of a bill of the former Labor government that was introduced into this place in 2017 and lapsed in the upper house prior to the election.

The bill seeks to overhaul and modernise the legislation governing both school and preschool education in South Australia and combines the Children's Services Act with the Education Act. In government, Labor undertook extensive consultation with the sector—with unions, teachers, principals and parents—to ensure that our legislation was fit for purpose and in the interests of those at the coalface of education in South Australian schools, teachers and students.

Of course, the 2017 bill was delayed. It ultimately did not progress to the vote required in the other place due largely to extensive amendments that were moved by the then Liberal opposition, movements that sought to divorce the Australian Education Union (AEU) from key sections of the act. It is unsurprising that, come to this iteration of the bill in 2018, again the Australian Education Union has been targeted and maligned in this bill, with the Marshall Liberal government seeking to remove the AEU from the legislative review process currently used to determine the sustained viability of schools throughout South Australia, including decisions involving the operation of a school and a selection panel process overseeing the employment and promotion of schoolteachers and principals.

What we are seeing is another sad attempt by the Marshall Liberal government to destroy the AEU and, in general, the union movement more broadly. The AEU is a union that has worked tirelessly to improve educational standards and working conditions in South Australian schools for decades. Regardless of what those opposite might be interjecting, the AEU is an unaligned union. They are no Labor stooges, nor are they in any Labor member's pocket.

*Mr Cregan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel will not interject.

**Ms COOK:** The AEU has a long and proud history of advocating for policy positions against governments of both political persuasions, and I recall from our time in office that the AEU often took a stance against Labor government policy. They protested most loudly around instrumental instruction in schools and changes in that regard, and of course changes were made to how we were undertaking the assessment of competency of numeracy and literacy.

I recall some loud protests about the transfer from the written form to online assessment. It has been proven now that it can be done successfully, and it is being undertaken in schools, but they were very loud in their protests about that and other ways of assessing numeracy and literacy in schools. There is a whole range of examples of how they protested against things that we were doing.

The relationship between the labour movement and the Australian Education Union has at times been a difficult one. They certainly have their own priorities and positions, and I have mine, but I forever respect them for taking up the fight to any government—Liberal, Labor, state or federal—and prosecuting the case for what they believe to be in the best interests of teachers and students.

Under the government's proposal, the role of the AEU will be supplanted by a teacher, with which we on this side of the house do not agree. This is because school review committees undertake the extremely critical role of reviewing a school's educational offerings and making key recommendations to the minister about the future of the school, including any possible amalgamations.

Without this key input of the AEU into the process, we are likely to see ministerial bias creep into the review process, with small schools, schools with decreasing enrolments or schools located in supposed safe Labor seats at risk. The Marshall Liberal government also wants to remove the AEU from the merit selection panel utilised to hire principals and teachers applying for promotion. The presence of an identified AEU representative on specific merit selection panels—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Ms COOK:** It was very quiet before you came in here this morning. The presence of an identified AEU representative on specific merit selection panels has ensured that principals and teachers of merit are rewarded and that fair and proper processes are adhered to. It is a very important process. For merit selection to be truly successful, there must be a high level of trust and faith in the entire process, including from the point of view of establishment of the panel.

Through the provision of AEU representation on merit selection panels, the Education Act currently provides a layer of protection against manipulation in a merit process. In order to be eligible to participate in any merit selection panel, AEU representatives are required to attend a full-day education training session with the department, followed by follow-up retraining, at least every five years.

The Department for Education does not have the same requirement for non-AEU panellists, which can often result in panellists who have not received any merit training being involved for up to 15 years. It is clearly a poorly conceived and executed attempt to stamp out unionism from the South Australian education sector. Should this bill succeed in its current form, our schools, teachers and students will be a force for it.

I am getting also very tired of hearing the rhetoric about Christmas carols being in danger of being cut from our education system. The only people who seem to be predicating this argument are Liberals and some other Independent people around the place.

*Members interjecting:*

**Ms COOK:** Indeed. Carols are a very popular part of Christmas for children in our schools. I look forward to celebrating Christmas in a number of my excellent local schools in Hurtle Vale and attending as many Christmas functions as I can. I look forward to sharing, for many years to come, my extraordinarily terrible carol-singing voice with every single one of them in the seat of Hurtle Vale. I look forward to hearing both the shadow minister for education, and the Minister for Education should he wish to come down, sing carols alongside me at any of our wonderful schools.



We should take this opportunity to commit to ensuring, in an informed manner, that everybody understands what everyone's individual rights and cultures are, that the celebration of Christmas is a respectful process across a whole range of multicultural backgrounds and that everyone has the right to share in their celebrations of a whole range of festivals, as we did most recently with Diwali.

I thank my schools in the electorate of Hurtle Vale, and more broadly in South Australia and, with discussion around amendments, I commend the bill to the house.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:46):** I rise to speak to the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018. After hearing the comments of the member for Hurtle Vale, I commend the Minister for Education because, obviously, this piece of legislation is a large and imminent threat to the Australian Education Union. If that be it, that be it. I declare up-front that my wife is a public servant and works for the Department for Education. She has worked in schools in both metropolitan and country areas, which gives me a little insight into some of the things that go on in our education system.

Last week, I was a bit intrigued with *The Advertiser* outing, so to speak, our Register of Members' Interests, as if that was news. It is a public document. Everyone can see what we have registered as our interests. I guess it was news. It is available on a public website and you can see all our interests, including the fact that my wife works for the Department for Education.

Right across the board, from talking to people across my electorate and across the education system, I must say that I have a very good relationship with the current Minister for Education, and across that stark political divide I have had a reasonable relationship with the former minister, the member for Port Adelaide. I have learnt that when you are in opposition, the only way to get on is to try to negotiate with ministers. We had some great wins, including \$20 million for the Murray Bridge High School.

Having said that, I recently met with minister Gardner, the member for Morialta, regarding Meningie Area School. There was a funding shortfall and, much to the delight of the chair of the governing council, the money came through. I was very pleased with that outcome. It will give the right result for a school that has a high number of Aboriginal students but is also a vital part of the state connecting to students—obviously because it is in MacKillop—from MacKillop and Hammond to make sure that we get the right educational outcomes.

What I have observed over time is interesting. I heard the discussion about the fear of this legislation knocking out everything the Australian Education Union has done. Some of the information I have heard is about how some teachers—and we have some very good teachers, do not get me wrong; we have some excellent people working in the education department—for a range of reasons are only present about 50 per cent of the time for their classes. People can challenge that, and that is fine, but I do not know of another job in the world where you can have that amount of extended leave and keep your job—but if that is the way it works, that is the way it works.

However, in my mind, what that does not do is uphold the mantra of education of putting the children first. We should always be cognisant of that fact—that we should be putting the children first at all times. I think interruptions of teachers gives plenty of opportunity for temporary relief teachers (TRTs)—and they do great work filling in when they need to—but I am intrigued at the amount of time some so-called permanent staff do not turn up, and that is a fact.

I would also like to comment on what the member for Hurtle Vale tried to portray as the evil that the Liberal Party is putting onto education across the state, when against some strong discussion in the party room and elsewhere we have put \$100 million into what is essentially a safe Labor seat in the electorate of Giles. That is hardly partisan politics. There is \$100 million for a new school at Whyalla because we are the Marshall Liberal government and we do not just govern for Adelaide, we do not just govern for part of the regions, we govern for the whole of South Australia.

To hear the fallacy that everything is partisan and that we are only here for certain sectors is just fabrication. I am also glad to see what minister Gardner is doing as far as working through a new antibullying program in our schools and keeping our kids safe. The safe schools program was totally inappropriate and only looked after a minority of students. People can challenge that if they like—

that is fine. Our policy of looking after schools right across the state, no matter whether they are in Labor or Liberal electorates or marginal seats, is that we want to look after all the children to make sure that they have a safe education, a valued education, and work through all the issues of the modern era. I commend the minister for working through those proposals as well.

Education generally is challenging. It is the second most expensive portfolio, the one with the second highest budget behind health. That shows how serious governments of both sides take education, and so they should because we need to sow the seeds in young people and get them up to speed, whether they become university graduates or tradies. No matter where they land, we want to make sure that there is not only a future for those students but also a great future for this state.

This bill is about getting the legislation modernised to provide a contemporary framework for the delivery of high-quality children's services and compulsory education within our great state. It is certainly similar to the former government's bill that was debated last year in this place, but there are a number of amendments that we on this side of the house flagged when we were in opposition. In fact, part of the election commitments we have made is to remove the previous government's proposed central controls over schools' governing councils and entrench a legal fund for governing councils in dispute with the department, as proposed in recommendations from the DeBelle inquiry, and also to introduce legislation to increase fines to deter chronic truancy.

As I said, our children deserve the best access to our best schools, preschools and children's services. This bill aims to establish the conditions necessary for everyone involved, whether they be teachers, parents, families or communities, to work together to give our children the best start in life. This bill removes the central controls over school and preschool governing councils. We on this side of the house also believe that by empowering school communities we will deliver better student outcomes and have happier and more efficient school communities.

We have also removed the provision for the minister to direct, suspend, dissolve and establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances. There are also changes introduced to ensure parents or other persons responsible for children and students at schools, preschools and children's centres will form the majority of members of the governing councils of those schools and services.

I must commend the many parents and caregivers from right across the state who give up their valuable time to take a leading role on governing councils to seek the best outcomes for their children and the children they care for. The bill also includes provision for governing councils to access funds for independent legal advice when they are in dispute with the department. This was another specific recommendation of the DeBelle royal commission.

In regard to committee membership, we certainly believe on this side of the house that the needs of the school, preschool or children's service are not necessarily served by having staff representation on decision-making groups available only to members of the Australian Education Union. That is because, quite frankly, we do not think the Education Union should have a stranglehold on those positions. We are the party of freedom of choice. Why not open it up?

I know the member for Hurtle Vale is shaking in her boots and thinking that this bill is just going to destroy the union. Well, if it does, it does, but I would be a little surprised. What this legislation does is remove the exclusive right of the Australian Education Union to nominate members of the relevant committees formed under the bill, including selection committees for promotional level positions in the teaching service, reclassifications and review committees considering the amalgamation or closure of a school.

I am not sure what the member for Hurtle Vale was concerned about, because why not have representation from across the board, whether they are union members or not? If these positions are based on merit, surely merit should be the winner of the day in these committee positions or promotional positions being discussed at this level. If merit was the one true arbiter, why do we have to be less prescriptive about who is on those committees and who prescribes whether or not someone has the ability?

Regarding the discussion around religious and cultural activities, the bill retains the opportunity for schools and preschools to participate in religious or cultural activities. Obviously, that could involve education around Christian activities, or it could be other religious instruction, but there

will be the obvious protocols for parents and their students as to whether they attend, and they will be put in place so that people can get the right outcomes for their family. I think we have to enshrine that right for religious participation.

It was interesting to hear the member for Hurtle Vale's contribution about Christmas carols. She is trying to make it sound as though the possible future of Christmas carols is a big beat-up by Liberals and some crossbenchers. Funny as it may sound, I was not born yesterday, and there are moves from some on the left to get Christmas carols out of schools. I contend the relaxed view of the member for Hurtle Vale that Christmas carols are not under threat because there has been intense media discussion at times and over many years around Christmas carols.

One thing that really disappoints me in life is when people decide that their way is the right way and they do not have an open mind to other discussion. They say, 'How dare we have Christmas carols. How dare we have religious instruction.' Seriously! It is good to see that this legislation upholds both Christmas carols and the rights of religious education at schools, and this is dealt with in existing legislation under section 102 of the Education Act.

I talked about attendance. Education is the key to providing opportunities for children to prosper and to contribute to their communities. In regard to royal commissions, I talked about Debelle, but the Nyland royal commission found truancy to be a significant risk factor in child protection concerns. In addition, research consistently alerts us to chronic non-attendance as a risk factor for ongoing social and economic disadvantage across a child's lifetime.

I know that to assist students who may not fit in the mainstream of attending the standard classroom arrangement a range of things have been put in place. For example, Murray Bridge High School has the EDGE program, and I hosted them here in Parliament House not that long ago, and there are also other programs where children are taught off site because that is how they work. I commend everyone involved in these programs for making sure that kids with those requirements can be educated because we get one chance to get these children through, whether it is at those places or in what we would call our more traditional education system.

What I will say in my closing brief comments is that we must always do what we can to make sure that we put the children first because if we do that we will be putting our state and our community first.

**Mr BOYER (Wright) (12:04):** I rise to add my broad support to the bill, which, as other speakers have already said this morning, is a much-needed modernisation of a very important act. I think it is a great shame that it did not successfully pass the other place in the last term of the parliament. I understand that the sticking point was the representation of the Australian Education Union on the committees that make a recommendation to the minister about whether or not a school will amalgamate or close. I think it is a fairly minor point in what is an otherwise very large bill that deals with a lot of very serious matters at schools, and it is a great shame that this bill was not enacted and in place at the start of the 2018 school year because of such a minor disagreement.

Nevertheless, I would like to talk a little bit about, first, those committees. My understanding of how a school can be closed or amalgamated is that it can happen in two different ways. The parent community of the school that is to close or amalgamate with another school can ask for a vote of the parent community, so it can self-initiate its own amalgamation or closure. However, if the government of the day—the minister or the education department—wished to override the decision of that parent body, if their decision was not to close or amalgamate or they wished to initiate their own closure or amalgamation separately, they could ask the committee that has been the source of much discussion this morning to hold a review into that planned closure or amalgamation.

Why do I think this provision in the bill is so important this time around and why is it potentially more important in this term of government than the last? As the member for Port Adelaide and the deputy leader said earlier, I do not know whether or not this government has an agenda to close schools, but the now Treasurer of South Australia, the Hon. Rob Lucas in the other place, was education minister in the 1990s and certainly a lot of schools were closed then, so I do not think it is too much of a leap to say that this government has some ideas around closing schools as well.

There are a couple of things that could potentially make that a lot easier to do. The first is the movement of year 7 into high school, probably the biggest education policy this government took to the last election. What it will mean is that all those primary schools that currently have year 7 students studying on their campus will have them progressively moved to a neighbouring high school campus. As many members in this place will know, at many primary schools the year 7 cohort is often the biggest cohort of students at that school.

We have a lot of small schools in South Australia; that is the nature of being a very large state with a lot of rural, regional and remote areas. Quite simply, if year 7 students were taken away from those primary school campuses some of them would become unviable in terms of their numbers. So although this government may say it does not have an agenda to close or amalgamate schools, the policy to move year 7 students to high school, coupled with the changes to the review committee that removes the Australian Education Union from that committee, is a very effective Trojan horse in terms of having closures or amalgamations of schools under the guise of simply moving kids from a primary school setting to a secondary school setting.

As previous members on this side of the chamber, the member for Port Adelaide and the member for Hurtle Vale, have said, it is really important to keep representation of the Australian Education Union on those committees. They play a very important role and are fierce advocates for public education. I know that no-one on this side of the house would like to see primary schools closed, and I am sure there are no members on the other side who would like to see primary schools closed in their electorates either.

I would like to offer my support for the provision in the bill that deals with offensive behaviour directed at teachers in different settings. As local members of parliament, many of us spend a lot of time at schools talking not just to students but also to staff, and in particular to principals. I have been making an effort to get around and have regular meetings with the principals in my area, and I have asked them what the big issues are for them. What is coming up more and more often is the way teachers are treated now, particularly by parents.

This is something I was intimately aware of, given that my father was a high school teacher in public schools for 40 years. He recently retired from a regional school, and he also told me that what he had noticed had changed most over his 40 years as a public school teacher was the way teachers are treated now, particularly by parents.

Yes, behaviour from students had changed too, and not always for the better, but he said there was a time when, if you were to call the parent of a student in your class and say, 'I'm John's (or Jane's) English teacher. His (or her) behaviour hasn't been up to scratch. Marks are down and he (or she) is disruptive in class,' that parent would take on face value that the teacher was telling the truth and providing that feedback to the parent in the best interests of the child.

The principals in my area tell me, and my father told me of his experience, that that has changed greatly. What you see now is parents who become verbally abusive to teachers if the feedback is given on the phone or who sometimes even become physically threatening towards teachers if it is provided face to face. They always tend to take the side of their child, and in many cases they accuse the teacher of having some kind of vendetta against the child. Not only is that incredibly disrespectful to the teachers themselves but it is also not in the best interests of the child when the teacher is actually trying to provide some honest feedback about how the behaviour of that child needs to improve.

So I am very pleased to see that this bill keeps the provisions around what constitutes offensive behaviour towards teachers. It is now quite rightly expanded beyond what I think was probably the only method in which parents could, for want of a better word, abuse teachers in the past, which was probably on the phone or face to face. Now, unfortunately, in an age when we have social media and kids at school with text messages and things like that, often it is directed towards our teachers in different forums—it might be online forums or in SMSs and different things like that.

It is good to see that this bill is seeking to expand the protection, which is quite rightly afforded to those teachers, to those other forums as well. After all, we have probably heard in this house already, just in this term of parliament, that people on many occasions praise our teachers for the

role that they perform. We can all admit that the role they play in our society is undervalued, and we need to make sure that we preserve or enhance the role to be something that people aspire to doing.

With the way that teachers are treated by parents and others in this day and age, and often with the behaviour of students that teachers are responsible for mediating, I think there is a very great risk that teaching is not really a profession of choice. That is why it is so important to have clauses like this in the bill that protect our teachers so that they feel safe in their workplace and feel respected and welcomed. In the future, that will lead to us being able to attract a very high quality of graduate and applicant for the roles in our schools.

Other members today have also touched upon the improved information-sharing clauses in the bill, which I would also like to briefly speak to. As you get older, one year in your life is not such a great deal. However, if you are eight or nine years of age and at primary school and moving from your school to a different school, if for some reason the academic results and the information about your development are not passed on to the new school, as they should be, it can affect one year of schooling at your new school, which can be extremely detrimental and derail your entire education.

I am very pleased to see that the bill keeps the provisions from the bill that was before parliament in the last term of parliament around making sure that the principal of the school to which the student is transferring can request information from the principal of the school that they are leaving to make sure that their education picks up exactly where it was left off and that nothing is missed.

Regarding truancy, I will refer to my earlier comments about the treatment that teachers receive at the hands of parents. One of the issues that is born out of that ordinary behaviour from parents and the abuse that is sometimes projected towards teachers is that it is now even more difficult to deal with kids who are chronically truant from school. I note that there are some changes to this bill compared with the bill that passed this place in the last term of parliament. Notably, I think they are around the previous government's proposal to have an expiation system for cases of chronic truancy, where parents were refusing to make sure that their kids were attending school.

I know it seems like a very heavy stick to use. I understand that expiating people for things like that is a big step, but that proposal was born out of years and years of data and attempts to motivate these parents through other methods to play a role in making sure that their child actually attended school. I think it is fair to say that those other methods failed.

Whilst I welcome the government's focus on increasing by 50 per cent the number of truancy officers, or attendance officers, in schools—that is fantastic, and it is always important that, where we can, we use positive methods to encourage school attendance—there is a really tight, hard cohort of parents who are recklessly unwilling, I guess, to play any role at all in making sure that their child goes to school. In the example used by the member for Port Adelaide, a parent was actually trying to use his 14-year-old child, I think it was, who would otherwise have been attending year 8, as part of his business as an apprentice.

The point I am trying to make is that the attendance officers, as good as they might be in some cases, are not going to have any effect on that cohort of parents who are reckless as to their own child's education. The expiation notices were recommended to try to have some kind of effect in those really difficult cases, and I am disappointed to see that they are being withdrawn from this bill because at the end of the day it is not, of course, the parent who really suffers; it is the child whose education is completely forsaken who suffers. That is what we are going to see here because these attendance officers are not going to have any success with that really difficult cohort of parents who just refuse to engage or to encourage their child to go to school.

In closing, I think it is good to see that the government has moved swiftly to reintroduce this bill. It is good to see that there is support from both sides of the house. In a lot of the matters dealt with in this bill, I think it is important to put party politics aside and to work together. I look forward to seeing these provisions enacted. Once they are in place, I will certainly be out in my community, in the electorate of Wright, talking to principals and teachers to see what the effect is. I hope there are positive effects, and I look forward to speaking at a later date in the house about how successful this bill has been.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (12:17):** I rise to speak on the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018. It is a bill that repeals the Education Act 1972, and also the Children's Services Act 1985, and substantially reforms a number of other areas of legislation that deal with the administration, the registration of teaching and the like to support the educational institutions and the standards of those in South Australia.

I commend the Minister for Education for bringing this bill to the parliament. It follows some comprehensive work done by the former government, and I think it is to their credit that they did, in the final dying days of the 16 years of Labor administration, finally act on the reviewing of this legislation. In 1972, I was still in school, and it is very concerning to me that it has taken decades to actually review this.

When I first came into the parliament in 2002, the then member for MacKillop had just completed a major inquiry in relation to the review of the act. One of the stumbling blocks appeared to be reforms in relation to child care. That was an area of interest to me because in my pre-political life, at the time as a young mother, I served to support the establishment of family day care in South Australia, which I am proud to say is still operating today. It is an important form of child care available to parents. It is also something that is critical, and often the only available child care, in country and regional parts of South Australia, so it was a very important initiative.

It was established by 1979 into the early 1980s in order to enable management and regulation by the state administration. In other states, it had been developed under local government management. We felt it was important, not necessarily for child protection in those days but in relation to the significance of ensuring a high standard of care was provided by those who were going to undertake this work in their homes. We on this side of politics, and I personally, have always supported rigorous regulation in this area, so it has been developed.

I have to say that childcare centres were embryonic in the 1970s, other than in community-care settings, but they have certainly been a very important available service. Again, they have been regulated by the state to ensure that parents and families are able to pursue their employment and other activities. They also provide backup and security for vulnerable families who need support in that regard.

A lot happened back in the 1970s, but not much has happened since. Under the Brown and Olsen administrations, there was a significant strengthening of school governing councils, and I applaud that. I applaud the current minister for ensuring that our governing councils are able to operate with a level of independence but also with support, and that parents have the chance to have a real say in relation to their children's education.

Many members know that I spent 11 years at Parndana area school, and I am very pleased to have had an excellent public education. Year 12 was not available at that school at the time. Parents had fought a long, hard battle to get year 12 at the school and they finally won, but it was not available in my day. If you wanted to study year 12 or matriculation, it was known that you would come to Adelaide. I think it was a sad day when, under the previous Labor government, Parndana area school became a campus under the Kangaroo Island school structure. We now have children who travel to the Parndana campus and then have to get on a bus to travel to Kingscote for some of their lessons. Sometimes, staff and/or students from the other campus do that travelling.

As I said, I think that was a sad day. Parents fought very hard against that, and now the Parndana campus no longer offers years 11 and 12; in fact, I think even year 10 is at risk. For local communities, it means that parents of children who are 10, 11 or 12 years of age have to start making decisions about where they are going to live and whether they might have to leave a regional centre because the education facilities are simply not available for their children. I can remember one of the members of the former government's education committee coming over—what was her name? She had red hair and thought potholes were a tourist attraction.

**Mr Pederick:** You're kidding me?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I do not mean to be disrespectful. This former Labor member was commissioned to go to Kangaroo Island and look at how they might try to shut down the Parndana campus to make it—

**Mr Pederick:** Gay Thompson.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Ms Thompson. I do not mean any disrespect; I just cannot remember her electorate. She was in the southern area—

**Mr Pederick:** The former member for Reynell.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Reynell, I am advised by the whip. She was sent to Kangaroo Island to try to restructure all of this. At that stage, the proposal of the then government, under minister Trish White, was to shut down the Parndana campus from years 1 to 5. That was going to be it. Ten-year-old children were expected to sit on a bus for 2½ hours in the morning and 2½ hours at night, to go back and forth. They had no understanding of the importance of education facilities for children in regional areas.

Concerned as we were, I have to say that I think the decision made by the government of the day, under minister Lomax-Smith, to sell off a whole lot of campuses and build superschools was most devastating to education. Some have been reasonably successful, but many of the children in them are not able to succeed because they are living in an environment where there are thousands of children on campus and it just does not suit every child. It is so typical of the Australian Labor Party. They have a mantra of one size fits all, and the result is that not all children, especially if they have high needs, have an opportunity to obtain the best outcome.

I commend the previous government for at least starting to get active in repealing this act and giving it some reform, giving it some contemporary focus, but they threw it in during the last session and of course it lapsed and did not progress. I was privileged to be appointed as the shadow minister by the Hon. Rob Kerin when I first got into parliament. Sure, I had children of my own go through the public and independent sector, and they enjoyed a good education. My grandchildren are now in the sectors, and I have been very impressed with the level of education and support that they have had in their schools, first at Glen Osmond Primary School and now at others.

I just make this point, though: my electorate has changed in the last 16 years. I have been very privileged to represent areas covering Crafers Primary School and Uraidla Primary School, which were beautiful little Adelaide Hills schools, but they were not at their fullest capacity and there was an opportunity for further attendance there. Boundaries change, and I have lost the representation of those schools, which are now ably represented, of course, in the electorates of the members for Heysen and Morialta.

I can recall an occasion when the member for Cheltenham, then minister for education, visited the Uraidla school, and I attended with him, to welcome the children from Inverbrackie, whose families were in detention there for a temporary period. The minister, I am pleased to say, at least went to meet with these children. These were highly articulate and often multilingual children who were coming to the school, and they added a very big change of dimension to the children at the school.

They were welcomed, and I cannot commend the community highly enough for welcoming the children. I must say that I did arrive with a box of cherries, which, in the area around Summertown and Uraidla, are as big as peaches. I saw lots of very happy Inverbrackie children with red mouths and cherry juice running down their faces. I think the member for Cheltenham said to me, 'Yes, you have outdone me on that contribution.'

Under recent boundary changes, Rose Park is a primary school that I have been extremely proud to represent. It is symbolic of Burnside, Linden Park and Marryatville primary schools, all schools in my electorate that are overloaded. We have children on the rafters. We have regular lessons in the resource centres because there is no adequate classroom space. Every inch has been built on. We have multistorey buildings, for example. There are now over 1,000 students at Linden Park Primary School, a school campus that was built for 300 to 400. It has had some magnificent redevelopment on it, but it is to accommodate the fact that it is extremely popular.

People move into South Australia, into Adelaide, into the seat of Bragg, so they can get access to these schools. Zoning is something that has to be enforced, like High Court Rules. It is necessary because it is such a popular area for public education. I do not want to in any way detract from independent schools in the electorate that are also regulated effectively under this act by the

minister and the department, but I make the point that these are very attractive schools. Marryatville High School is highly sought after, especially when such schools and the neighbouring Glenunga International High School have an extremely good international reputation. They are highly sought after.

I thank the new minister for advocating and convincing the Marshall team in the run-up to the election and now in government to advance the transfer of year 7 to middle or high school campuses. It will give immediate relief in my electorate. There is not a lot of room at Marryatville High School because they are also so popular. Obviously, we will need to have some immediate relief in our primary schools because they are chock-a-block. I thank the minister because it will give us some immediate relief. We will have to work on where they are going to go to high school.

The city campus, which is a new school that is being established near the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site, is an important initiative of the former government because Adelaide High School is already full again. There was no provision for the children of the northern suburbs and North Adelaide and surrounds for a public school, so we clearly needed a city campus. That is all well and good, but it is already subscribed.

The new development on the Glenside Hospital site neighbouring my electorate is going to have multiple dwellings, but there is absolutely no provision for education services in the new city campus because it is going to be filled up with other children who are already on their way to being registered there. We have a high demand. We have a high standard. Whilst we want to maintain that, we are going to have to think about how we deal with that in the future.

Obviously, having gone into government after 16 years of opposition and seen myriad reports in relation to the development of child protection laws in this state, our educational facilities and childcare centres not only have a role in providing for education and are the great equaliser of opportunity for our children but they are also a place of sanctuary for our children. We as parents and those of us in the parliament who are in leadership roles should never underestimate the significance of education, the advancement and employment opportunities and the value of work and the contribution our children and grandchildren will make in due course. It is also a sanctuary of protection.

Our teachers, amongst others, have a mandatory reporting obligation in relation to child protection and they are trained in identifying where children may be at risk. Whilst there has been a spotlight shone on institutional child sexual abuse in the last decade covering South Australia in the royal commission and the more recent national royal commission, we know full well that the stranger danger talks that were given to our children in their early years deal with just a miniscule profile of child abuse behaviour.

Whilst institutional abuse in educational, church or charitable facilities has had that spotlight shone on them, the overwhelming and significant area of protection that is demanded for our children in this area is familial abuse. I say that today in the context of this bill because it is not only the greater proportion of where our children are at risk but it highlights for us the need to ensure the safety of a child who presents at school, where they spend a very large portion of their daylight hours between the ages of three to four and up to 16 or 17 and sometimes beyond.

It is an area where, if there is a problem in that child's life in their family and home life outside of the school, our teachers are trained and alert to pick up the indicia that might shine as an aspect of risk for those children and enable that to be reported and acted on. That is a very important role because children largely like and trust their teachers; sometimes, they do not like them universally. I can think of one or two I was not too keen on at school, but largely there is a high level of respect for them. Very often, they forge a relationship in the school community that enables them to convey or seek out some support to ultimately disclose things that are happening in their home that should not happen.

Whether it is in an abusive model or whether it is direct neglect, these are things that are important. I cannot express how much appreciation I have for the many good teachers and staff in the school environment who take that role very seriously and act to try to ensure that children are not only protected but nurtured through an opportunity to be able to safely grow up and of course achieve their greatest opportunity and outcomes for their future.



The other thing I would briefly say is that contemporary issues are important. Bullying in schools is an area where it is a very effective catchment to enable us to help children be protected against cyberbullying, particularly between children. This is not something we are looking to overcriminalise, although there are about eight different offences under the Criminal Law Consolidation Act which could actually relate to many acts of bullying, even between children, and obviously if aged over 10 they can be prosecuted. We need to set up structures that deal with this and deal with the very harmful aspects of bullying via a device between children.

We are working with the Minister for Education, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Human Services and our very own member assisting in relation to domestic and family violence to make sure that we have an environment within our schools. We are looking at family conferencing and a number of other areas in this regard, together with the backup of the police, where required, to make sure that we provide that sanctuary of safety.

Whilst there are a number of other contemporary issues, members have raised the continuation of other important aspects of this bill, including the protection of parents, staff and other children in relation to unacceptable conduct by others who come onto school grounds. The former government's insistence, having foreshadowed a reinstatement of the union representative rather than recognising and respecting the rights of teachers to be able to nominate their own representative, whether they are a union representative or not, I think is very narrow minded. I am disappointed that they have not recognised the importance of what parents and teachers want in relation to their advocates in this area.

Finally, part 11 sets out some appeal processes, which are an important protection for parents if they are unhappy with a decision of a chief executive or a minister—appeal to the District Court and, for people employed as staff, to the South Australian Employment Tribunal. I thank the Minister for Education for presenting the bill, and I look forward to seeing it pass.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:38):** I rise to speak briefly on the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018, which, as I understand it, will repeal and replace the Education Act 1972 and the Children's Services Act 1985 and is in fact a combination of these acts with some changes. I would like to begin by acknowledging the work carried out by the former minister, now Deputy Leader of the Opposition and shadow minister, the member for Port Adelaide, who, like me, is passionate about the role of education for all.

There are, however, in the bill before us today some significant changes to the bill that was introduced last year by Labor. One that causes considerable concern among many of the teachers I have spoken with is the removal of a nominee of the AEU, the Australian Education Union, on committees formed under the bill, including review committees, considering the amalgamation or closure of a school, and for selection committees for promotional level positions.

The AEU has as its staff and in elected positions within its structure those from the education workforce. Its representatives include experienced teachers and SSOs, and as a former teacher and having served as a workplace representative on the area and state councils and various committees, I know that the education of children in our schools is at the forefront of everything the Australian Education Union does.

The significance of having an AEU nominee on those committees should not be undervalued. AEU reps are trained in the department's joint training on the merit selection policy and procedures, and they adhere to the proper process for merit selection panels for principal and teacher promotions. That is their role: they are on that committee and they ensure that these processes are adhered to. Each AEU representative has a full day of training carried out at least every five years. The other representatives on those committees do not necessarily have that recent, up-to-date training.

Removing the AEU from these committees, the merit selection panels and panels looking at school closures and amalgamations is not in the best interest of our schools. The minister has representatives on the committees looking at school amalgamations. The principal of the school is on the committee. The school governing council has a representative on the committee. The AEU has one nomination, so how the member for Hammond can speak about the AEU having a stronghold on these committees defies reality. Perhaps he should go and speak more widely to the teachers at his local schools to see what their views are.

An AEU representative on these panels provides another layer of protection to ensure that the process is not manipulated. Having spoken with teachers, I know that they feel that having the AEU on merit selection panels for teachers and leadership positions is, in fact, a positive thing. The current situation of the AEU representative being the only panel member not selected by the school principal or the chair of the panel makes this very necessary in itself.

There are a lot of positives in this Education and Children's Services Bill 2018, including expectations of parent behaviour towards our hardworking teachers, as outlined in the offensive behaviour clause. Of course, we all support ensuring safe learning and working environments in our education facilities at all levels, from preschool through to university. Another aspect of the bill relates to school non-attendance, commonly referred to as truancy. We all know the importance of children attending school. While this bill does not reflect what Labor had in place in the 2017 bill, it goes some way to ensuring that the issue of non-attendance is addressed to the benefit of our students.

A lot more is included in this bill that other members have already spoken about today. I would like to conclude by saying that, having spoken with many teachers, the government wanting to remove the AEU nominee from the relevant committees—someone who is likely to be a teacher or former teacher and who has been recently trained in the merit selection policy and procedures—is really just the government adhering to their ideological opposition to unions and not in the best interest of our schools.

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:43):** I rise to speak in support of the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018. This is a long-overdue initiative to provide a modern, 21<sup>st</sup> century legislative framework for the delivery of education and children's services in our state, repealing and replacing acts that are decades old. I acknowledge the work of those opposite in the previous parliament to modernise our legislation in this space. An important difference in this updated version of the bill is the empowerment of school communities. This recognises that every school is different, with different needs and different priorities, and that local stakeholders, not centralised bureaucrats, are best placed to understand and prioritise those needs.

In debating this bill, it is important that we focus entirely on the delivery of public-funded education and children's services, so let those opposite take note that there is no virtue or inherent expertise in being a member of the Australian Education Union and, therefore, no reason for union input in education provision to be enshrined in legislation. The bill sensibly removes the AEU in this respect. Our children require nothing less than the best education and services that can be provided, be that from the public or private sector. Let's stay focused on the public sector in this debate.

The bill removes the central controls over school and preschool governing councils proposed in previous iterations of the bill by the former Labor government. The government believes that, by empowering school communities, we will deliver better student outcomes and have happier and more effective school communities. We have removed provisions for the minister to direct, suspend, dissolve and establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances. We have also introduced changes to ensure that parents or other persons responsible for children and students at schools, preschools and children's centres will form the majority of members of the governing councils of those schools and services.

The bill includes provisions for governing councils to access funds for independent legal advice when they are in dispute with the department. This was a specific recommendation of the DeBelle royal commission. Under the bill, the Crown Solicitor, or a nominee of the Crown Solicitor, will make a decision as to whether a governing council's request meets the necessary requirements to be funded. The relevant funds will be administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

This empowerment of local school communities has particular relevance in regional areas such as Finniss. Schools in the electorate of Finniss provide very different learning options and environments. It was great to have the Minister for Education visit our region this month and for him to see it himself. We visited the Mount Compass Area School and we discussed its unique agricultural and environmental programs.

In these programs, we see students raise and prepare livestock for competition at the Royal Adelaide Show. They spend many months teaching animals to lead, feeding the animals and making sure they are in prime condition. They also learn where our food comes from because these animals

are destined, in most cases, for the food chain. We see these animals raised and entered in the on-hooks competition. They are first judged alive and standing and then they are judged as carcasses. This is a great learning for the students of Mount Compass.

Mount Compass also works very closely with the dairy industry, placing children on dairy farms to understand how a dairy farm works and allowing them to have some greater understanding of the community in which they live. The students learn all about animal husbandry and land management, while also observing and learning about the environmental impacts of farming practices.

This is not just about the environment itself: it is also about the sustainability of agriculture operating in the environment. It is understanding that there is more to sustainability than just caring for the plants, the trees and the soil. It is also about caring for the people and the economic basis of the businesses that operate—without all those things, those businesses are not sustainable—so it makes sure that students understand all those necessary parts.

We also visited Port Elliot Primary School and saw some students with learning difficulties and the great work the staff at the school are doing in working with these students. They had some students who required at least one-on-one teachers—if not, in occasional cases, two-on-one teachers—to help them through the education system so they are able to learn. It is a very high demand and pressured environment for the staff involved and it is a wonderful thing they are doing there.

Many in the community continue to flock to the school for the way in which it is improving educational outputs of the school across the board, not just for those who are struggling with their learning disabilities. It is a very interesting school. Looking around, there are very few desks, and in some classrooms there are no desks—not even the teacher has a desk. It is a very different learning experience for some of those students in that school.

Regarding committee membership, this government believes the needs of schools, preschools or children's services are not necessarily served by having staff representation on decision-making groups only available to members of the Australian Education Union. The bill removes the exclusive right of the Australian Education Union to nominate members of the relevant committees formed under the bill, including selection committees for promotional level positions in the teaching service, reclassifications and review committees considering the amalgamation or closure of the school. The members of selection committees will now be appointed by the department's chief executive and at least one will be a person elected from the teaching service to represent them on such committees. For the purpose of amalgamations and closures of schools, review committees will include a staff member of each school to be nominated by their respective staff.

As to religious or cultural activities, let's be clear that it will still be okay for Christmas carols to be sung in public schools. It is so important that children can be children, enjoy the things we all enjoyed as children and partake in activities like singing Christmas carols and the joys around doing so. The so-called 'war on Christmas' is a fanciful invention and has no place in this debate. Schools and preschools may participate in religious or cultural activities, and this bill provides some clarity in this respect, especially that parents be properly notified in advance of such activities and be given the opportunity to exempt their child or children from them, rather than the other way around of having to give permission to attend.

The bill includes multiple measures supporting students' attendance and reducing chronic truancy, including penalties for parents of chronically absent students; however, the framework is to support students and their families, not to punish them. The bill provides for measures in this respect, including family conferencing. There are many causes of chronic truancy, and we must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to understand individual circumstances and develop strategies to address them. Everyone—students, families, schools and the community—benefits from children attending school at all times.

It is very sad to see children roaming the street on school days, avoiding going to school. It is something that is going to affect them for the rest of their lives, and it is going to affect the community in the future as well. Not having an education that is sufficient to partake in a community

in a way in which you can be a part of that community and deliver for that community creates enormous pressures going forward.

We need to make sure that we do everything we can to encourage children to attend school and make schools places where children want to be. It is such an important part of life to get an education. Everyone—students, families, schools and the community—benefits from children attending school all the time. The Nyland royal commission identified truancy as a significant risk factor in child protection issues. In addition to these strengthened provisions, the government will audit attendance policies at all government schools and increase the number of truancy officers by 50 per cent.

As to safe learning and working environments, the government is supportive of strong measures to protect students, teachers and other staff acting in the course of their duties from offensive behaviour or abusive and threatening or insulting language. Included in this bill is the provision to suspend, exclude or expel a student from a school if a student has perpetrated violence, acted illegally or persistently interfered with the ability of a teacher to conduct their lessons.

Other measures aimed at promoting safe learning and working environments include providing powers for the chief executive to terminate the employment of an officer of the teaching service if the officer is not a registered teacher within the meaning of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 or if the officer is a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016.

The measures also include a provision for a person to be barred from a school, preschool or children's service if that person has behaved in an offensive manner while on the premises or threatened or insulted staff or committed or threatened to commit any other offences on or in relation to the premises. Other provisions deal with trespass on all schools, preschools and children services sites; strengthen provisions for authorised persons to deal with people behaving in an unacceptable manner on premises; mandate working with children checks for adults returning to study at schools; and prohibit the use of corporal punishment in all preschools and schools. That is certainly something that has changed from my schooling days.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**Mr BASHAM:** I was a very good boy at school. No, I did not! Another measure provides a power for the chief executive to direct a child who may pose a risk to the health, safety or welfare of other students or staff to be enrolled at or attend a specific government school program, after taking reasonable steps to consult with their parent or caregiver.

In my concluding remarks, I want to again thank the minister for coming down to the Finniss electorate to visit the schools to see firsthand the issues that are facing the schools. Particularly of interest was going to the Mount Compass Area School, where the chairman of the school council made the comment that the funding towards the STEM project that is being implemented there at the moment was a bit like giving a child an Xbox when they did not own a television. So the basics of what was needed at the school were not up to scratch, but they were given the gold-plated part first.

We need to make sure that the community within that region has the ability to have some control. There are few responsibilities of government more important than education and child services and it is great to see the commitment of the Marshall Liberal government. I commend this bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Cowdrey.

*Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.*

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (SAFETY) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

His Excellency the Governor assented to the bill.

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I welcome to parliament today year 11 students from St Michael's College, the member for Mawson's former school, who are guests of the member for Colton. I welcome the workers and volunteers from Midway Road Community House, Elizabeth, who are guests of the member for Elizabeth. I welcome the Seenager Group, who are guests of the member for Hurtle Vale. I also welcome the students from Ingle Farm Primary School, who are guests of the member for Florey.

*Petitions***NAIRNE ROAD, WOODSIDE**

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel):** Presented a petition signed by 81 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to resurface Nairne Road, Woodside.

**SERVICE SA MODBURY**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey):** Presented a petition signed by 203 residents of Adelaide and greater South Australia requesting the house to urge the government not to proceed with the proposed closure of the Service SA Modbury Branch announced as a cost-saving measure in the 2018-19 state budget.

*Parliamentary Procedure***ANSWERS TABLED**

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

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General—Health Budget Performance 2017-18 Report 8 of 2018  
[Ordered to be published]

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. V.A. Chapman) on behalf of the Premier (Hon. S.S. Marshall)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Aboriginal Lands Trust—Miscellaneous

By the Attorney-General (Hon. V.A. Chapman)—

Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the—Annual Report 2017-18  
Summary Offences Act 1953—  
Dangerous Area Declarations Authorisations Report for Period 1 July 2018 to  
30 September 2018  
Road Blocks Authorisations Report for Period 1 July 2018 to 30 September 2018

By the Minister for Education (Hon. J.A.W. Gardner)—

Carclew—Annual Report 2017-18  
Child Development Council—Annual Report 2017-18  
History Trust of South Australia—Annual Report 2017-18  
Windmill Theatre Co, Australian Children's Performing Arts Company—  
Annual Report 2017-18

By the Minister for Industry and Skills (Hon. D.G. Pisoni)—

Construction Industry Training Board—Annual Report 2017-18

By the Minister for Child Protection (Hon. R. Sanderson)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Children and Young People (Safety)—Miscellaneous No. 2

By the Minister for Environment and Water (Hon. D.J. Speirs)—

Animal Welfare Advisory Council—Annual Report 2017-18  
Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Board of the—Annual Report 2017-18  
Dog and Cat Management Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
Heritage Council, South Australian—Annual Report 2017-18  
Lake Gairdner National Park Co-management Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
Parks and Wilderness Council—Annual Report 2017-18  
Pastoral Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
Stormwater Management Authority—Annual Report 2017-18  
Witjira National Park Co-management Board—Annual Report 2017-18  
Yumbarra Conservation Park Co-management Board—Annual Report 2017-18

*Ministerial Statement*

**CHILDREN IN STATE CARE APOLOGY**

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:05):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** On 22 October 2018, the national apology to victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse was delivered by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, from the House of Representatives at Parliament House, Canberra. Apology events were subsequently held across Australia to mark the significance of the day and to acknowledge that more needs to be done to prevent and protect children from sexual abuse in institutions.

I would like to thank the Hon. Rachel Sanderson MP, Minister for Child Protection, who hosted an event yesterday acknowledging those who experienced abuse here in South Australia in our institutions. I am very proud that our Premier prioritised the signing of the National Redress Scheme soon after forming his government, which is now in the process of being commenced, and also established a ministerial role solely dedicated to child protection. As the Prime Minister stated to the Australian parliament yesterday, and I quote:

The scheme is about recognising and alleviating the impact of past abuse and providing justice for survivors. The scheme will provide survivors with access to counselling and psychological services, monetary payments and, for those who want one—I stress 'for those who want one'—a direct personal response from the institution where the abuse occurred. It will mean that, after many years, often decades, of denials and cover-ups, the institutions responsible for ruining the lives admit their wrongdoing and the terrible damage they caused.

Yesterday was an historic day for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and also marked the full commencement of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act in South Australia, enshrining the principles of children's safety and wellbeing in our laws. I put this government's full support behind the initiatives of the commonwealth, which expand upon those at a South Australian level, including primarily the Prime Minister taking direct responsibility for child protection and the response to the national royal commission.

*Question Time*

**RENEWAL SA**

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:10):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Did ICAC commissioner, the Hon. Bruce Lander QC, authorise the Attorney-

General to make a public statement on 27 September regarding an ICAC investigation into Renewal SA executives?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:10):** As the Acting Leader of the Opposition is well aware, I have made very clear my position on this matter, which was raised in this parliament last month and which we have made absolutely clear as to the government's position on this.

What I have to say is that it was scandalous behaviour by the member for West Torrens in the estimates committee during that week, but, nevertheless, in relation to the matter which is the direct subject of the question I confirm that I have received advice on this matter, I have read it, I am satisfied with it and I am confident—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I am answering the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Would the Acting Premier please be seated for one moment. Point of order.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Relevance, sir. The question was whether she had received advice or whether she had received authorisation from the ICAC commissioner.

**The SPEAKER:** Permission, it is about permission. I have the point of order. I will allow the Acting Premier some scope. I believe at the moment the answer is in order, but I will listen attentively.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** I have read that advice, I have considered it, I have accepted it and I am satisfied that there has been no breach of the act or offence against it.

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

**The SPEAKER:** I think the Acting Premier has finished her answer.

#### RENEWAL SA

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** My question is again to the Acting Premier. Did the Attorney-General ever seek written authorisation from the Hon. Bruce Lander QC to make a public statement on 27 September regarding an ICAC investigation into Renewal SA executives?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:12):** The acting leader is aware that I made a statement on that day, and I am satisfied that there has been no breach of the act in relation to making that statement.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Light is called to order, as is the Acting Premier and the member for Lee

*The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** And the Minister for Transport.

#### RENEWAL SA

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:12):** My question is again to the Acting Premier. Why won't the Attorney-General provide to the house a copy of the written authorisation by the ICAC commissioner to issue her statement regarding an ICAC investigation into Renewal SA?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:13):** Well, I don't accept the assertions made in relation to the base of the question, but I have answered that question. I have made absolutely clear what my position is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —and I have made that position very clear. I refer the acting leader to my previous answers in this house.

**The SPEAKER:** I call the member for Badcoe to order, as I do the member for Giles, and I warn for a first time the member for Lee. The member for Hammond. I will come back to you, acting leader.

### TAFE SA

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:13):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on measures being undertaken to better support TAFE SA and advise what challenges the organisation is dealing with?

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:13):** Thank you very much, sir, and I am very pleased to have this important question from the member for Hammond, who understands how important TAFE SA is not just for the students studying but also for the needs of South Australian businesses that have workforce needs and for the South Australian economy as a whole.

TAFE SA has a proud history of delivering quality vocational education and training to help South Australians gain the skills they need to undertake their careers. It is important for the economy. It is important for business as well. But there are a range of challenges that TAFE has found, and the Strategic Capability Review undertaken by the former government described it as 'the last four years have been a lost opportunity for TAFE SA and for South Australia as a whole'. After 16 years of Labor, TAFE SA was left in a challenged state, I can tell you. The Strategic Capability Review went on to say:

The corporate structure, operational business development strategies and focus on cost savings and external revenue targets have diminished TAFE SA's emphasis on education.

That emphasis on education is critically important, but the decisions made by those opposite, the appointments made by those opposite and the budget measures taken by those opposite emaciated, wrecked and ran the wrecking ball through TAFE SA over a series of years.

Even in December last year, in the last Mid-Year Budget Review, a \$70 million savings task was left on TAFE SA by the treasurer (member for West Torrens) and by the member for Port Adelaide, who was then the education minister. The Liberal Party has a new approach to TAFE SA. We want it to have a fresh chance so that it can be strong. In this year's budget, we have provided a \$110 billion rescue package for TAFE SA.

We have undertaken reforms already to improve its quality educational offering by establishing an academic board, as per our election commitment, and the appointment, which has already been underway, of an executive director of quality teaching and learning, who is ramping up the internal processes and strengthening the quality processes there. Courses must be responsive to industry, and they must of course align and be compliant with national training packages.

The Nous report into quality at TAFE SA, undertaken by the previous government, reported that the internal auditors of TAFE actually reported TAFE SA's noncompliance up the line, but these internal audit findings revealed that a high degree of exposure was not given proper consideration at either the executive or the board level. That is under the former Labor government. Alex Reid, the interim CE of TAFE, her team and the interim board have done an enormous body of work to improve this.

Nous also reported that TAFE SA's board membership was unbalanced. The wrong structures were in place to effectively monitor risk to regulatory compliance and reputation, and performance metrics for executives were skewed—so much for the oversight of those opposite and the former minister and the acting leader today. The government has, in recent weeks, made first appointments to the ongoing board membership.

Jacqui McGill, Sam Scammell and Craig Fowler are outstanding appointments, who will lend credibility, weight, integrity and capacity to the board going forward. They enjoin with members of the interim board—largely senior public servants of relevant expertise—whom I thank for the work they have done this year. I single out Jo Denley, who continues from the former board and whose work has been acknowledged by the reports, by the shadow minister and by the government. Further



long-term appointments to the board will be made in the coming weeks and months. They will be made on merit, and that is very important going forward.

I finish by reminding members that we also benefit from the commitment of staff, who have largely been extremely positive in their response to the fresh start for TAFE SA provided by the government. As the Nous report said:

There is a large contingent of highly-motivated and loyal staff who want to help restore confidence in the institution of which they are very proud, but who have felt alienated from and unclear about the overarching strategy and role of TAFE SA in the wider system.

That is what was left by those opposite: a wrecking ball through TAFE SA. This government is restoring TAFE SA to the proud place which it had before and which it will have again.

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

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:17):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Has the Attorney-General received any advice that she is in breach of section 54(1) of the ICAC Act? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Dr CLOSE:** The Hon. Ray Finkelstein QC, former Federal Court judge, in his legal opinion states:

Except as required or authorised by the ICAC Act or the Commissioner, a person who has been engaged in the administration of the ICAC Act must not disclose information relating to the subject-matter of a complaint or an investigation under the ICAC Act, and that a breach may result in a fine or a term of imprisonment.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:18):** I thank the acting leader for her question. I haven't read the report from which she has made the quote, or whether it is legal advice or a commentary on our state legislation, but, nevertheless, I have had advice on all of the matters during the course of last month's events. I have received that advice, I have read it and I am satisfied there has been no breach.

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:18):** My question is again to the Acting Premier. Has the Attorney-General received any advice that she is in breach of section 56(a) of the ICAC Act? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Dr CLOSE:** The Hon. Ray Finkelstein QC, former Federal Court judge, in his legal opinion states:

A person must not, except as authorised by the Commissioner, publish information suggesting that a particular person may be the subject of an investigation under the ICAC Act, and that a breach may result in a maximum penalty of \$30,000.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:19):** Again, I haven't read the commentary that's been referred to by the acting leader, but I repeat my position, and that is that I have received advice, I have acted on it and I'm satisfied.

#### TEA TREE GULLY TOY LIBRARY

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:19):** My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister advise the house about the details of grants to the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library and, in particular, whether the government has or has not increased funding to the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library over what the previous government was providing?

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Is the member for Lee interjecting? He is called to order and warned.

**An honourable member:** Chuck him out.

**The SPEAKER:** I might do that. The Minister for Education has the call.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:20):** I am very pleased to receive this question from the member for King, who is a firm advocate for the needs of young people in her electorate. The member for Newland has also written and spoken to me on a number of occasions about the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library. It was a pleasure to visit the toy library with those members and deliver on the government's commitment—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left and right!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** —which did indeed increase funding over and above what was made available by the former government. There were some further questions about this during estimates, so I think it's useful to provide further information to the house. The Tea Tree Gully Toy Library has been receiving funding from the South Australian Department for Education in its various forms for a number of years. Going back to 2014 and earlier, \$19,300 per year was provided to the library. In January 2016, a new agreement was provided for the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library to receive \$19,000 a year. That agreement was for three years. It started in January 2016 and ends in December 2018.

I am advised that there is one payment left of \$9,500 to meet the contract of that agreement, and that payment is underway in this financial year. In addition to that, prior to the last election, on 16 February, the former minister for education and child development, the member for Port Adelaide, approved an allocation of \$84,000 over four years to the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library, which was to start in the previous financial year. That agreement was increased from \$84,000 to \$100,000 as a result of the approval I gave on 23 May this year. The execution of that agreement was undertaken on 8 June this year.

So one agreement was coming to a conclusion at the end of this year. There is an agreement that started at the beginning of this year, and that second agreement has been increased. The effect of that increase and the overlap, if you like, in the grants, is that this year the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library was set to receive \$40,000 under those opposite. Next year, it was set to receive \$21,000 and \$21,000 for the two years after that. Under this government, this year, the Tea Tree Gully Toy Library is, in fact, receiving \$44,000 and next year will receive \$25,000 and \$25,000 for the two years after that.

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** The shadow treasurer just said that there is a cut, I believe.

**The SPEAKER:** No.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** That was the suggestion that the member for Wright made during estimates.

**The SPEAKER:** Please do not respond to interjections, minister.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** If that were the case, then the member for West Torrens' last budget should have identified that the original \$19,000 grant was going forward, or the shadow minister for education, as the minister for education she was before the election, might have indicated that that \$19,000 was going forward. I have received no advice from my department that any such instruction was given. There was \$19,000 this year, and that grant was not provided past the end of December this year. That was not provided by the former government.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left!

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** It's worth noting that there are two other toy libraries supported by the Department for Education: Clare, which receives \$9,600 a year, and Goodwood, which receives \$7,000 per year. I believe that those toy libraries and those communities are very grateful for that support. The Tea Tree Gully Toy Library will continue to receive \$25,000 a year, as this government committed before the election, which indicates \$4,000 more this year than they

would have received under the former government, \$4,000 more next year and \$4,000 more for the two years to follow.

**The SPEAKER:** I call to order the members for Hammond, Playford and Wright.

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Has the Attorney-General engaged private legal counsel in relation to the matter of making a public statement on 27 September regarding an ICAC investigation?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:24):** No.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is called to order.

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** My question again is to the Acting Premier. Has the Attorney-General been advised to engage private legal counsel in relation to this matter?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:24):** No.

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:25):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Will the Attorney-General stand aside while this matter is investigated?

*The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:25):** Definitely not.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education is called to order. Sorry, I didn't get that answer, Acting Premier.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** Definitely not.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (14:25):** My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Can the minister update the house on the recent completed consultation period for the natural resources management reform?

**The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (14:25):** I thank the member for Finniss for that question. I know he has a great interest in the back-to-basics reform that the state Liberal government is pursuing in relation to natural resources management in South Australia. He is correct to highlight that our consultation period closed last week, on 15 October, following a period of a couple of months where we had statewide consultation sessions starting off in Port Lincoln on 7 August and concluding in Marion on 4 October.

In between times, there were sessions all around the state. A very significant portion of those were held within regional South Australia because we know how important natural resources management is and getting the balance between sustaining our natural environment and being able to gain economic productivity out of our natural environment through particularly our agricultural landscape.

Getting that balance is so important, particularly in regional South Australia—getting out and about, talking to regional South Australians about their interests and gaining their knowledge and understanding of the natural environment. We know that with their experience—day in, day out, making a living from our natural environment—they are so well placed to tell us what they want out of the government's policy settings and support mechanisms around natural resources management.

That is what these consultations were about. It was good to be joined by many people from the government benches.

When I was attending those consultations, I was joined by the member for Hammond and the member for Finniss, of course. I know that the member for MacKillop and the members for Kavel, Heysen and Narungga were involved, and the member for Flinders joined me in Port Lincoln. What we found from those sessions was a consistent feeling from people in regional South Australia that they wanted a natural resources management system that was back to basics, that looked at sustainable agriculture and supported sustainable agriculture programs, that had effective water management programs and pest, plant and animal control programs to get those basics right, and then on top of that build a climate-resilient landscape and a landscape that is thriving with biodiversity. That was clearly from regional South Australia what people told us.

The conservation sector were also heavily involved in our consultations. A similar feeling came from the conservation sector, but they put forward very clearly that they wanted to ensure that in the high-level aspects of the bill there was appropriate adherence to the principles of biodiversity. We will certainly be taking that feedback on board and embedding it into the new landscape South Australia act.

We made great efforts to connect with traditional owners and ask what they wanted from natural resources management and how we can ensure that their culture is respected and embedded into this act as well. We will be taking that feedback and we will be using it to shape the new landscape South Australia act, and of course the aim is to bring that into the parliament for debate early in the new year.

#### ICAC INVESTIGATION

**Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:29):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Will the Attorney-General fully cooperate with any SAPOL or Anti-Corruption Branch investigation into her public statement on 27 September relating to an ICAC investigation?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order, sir: the question is entirely hypothetical.

**The SPEAKER:** Will the Attorney-General do something in the future? Yes, it does presuppose that there is some kind of investigation before us at the moment or that will be before us in the future. I uphold that point of order; however, I will allow the acting leader to rephrase the question. If not, we will move on. The member for West Torrens.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:29):** My question is to the Acting Premier. For how long will Renewal SA chief executive, John Hanlon, whose contract is with the Premier, be on leave with full pay, amounting to a sum of \$395,000 per annum?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:30):** Again, I think the member for West Torrens has had many an opportunity to prosecute the argument he has chosen to make through the estimates process. I think the statement—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** I have already answered this question through the estimates process. The answer is that—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** The answer is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! I have the question and I'm listening to the minister's answer.

*The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Light is called to order and warned.

**The Hon. A. Piccolo:** He did; he gave ridiculous non-answers, as *The Advertiser* said.

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

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** As I said during estimates, Mr Hanlon is on leave. He will be on leave until he is no longer on leave. At that point—

*The Hon. L.W.K. Bignell interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —if there is anything further that is appropriate to update the house on, we will do so.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:31):** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. For how long will Renewal SA executive Georgina Vasilevski be on leave with full pay?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:31):** I would like to refer the member for West Torrens to the previous statements I have made on this matter.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:31):** A supplementary question, sir: why are Mr John Hanlon and Ms Georgina Vasilevski on leave with full pay?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:31):** I would also like to refer that to the previous statements I have made on this matter.

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe, I am sorry but you are on two warnings now. Member for MacKillop.

#### PENOLA BYPASS

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:32):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Can the minister update the house on the benefits to the township of Penola from the completion of the bypass?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:32):** I am very glad to stand up and answer this question from the fantastic—

*Mr Odenwalder interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. A. Piccolo:** We've heard this before, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind the member for Light that he is on two warnings.

**The Hon. A. Piccolo:** Two warnings? Since when?

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, two warnings.

*The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education is also called to order.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** I would like to thank the member for MacKillop for his hospitality. On 5 October, I had the opportunity to go down and see his neck of the woods and look at some of the infrastructure challenges that exist down there—and there certainly are a number of challenges in relation to heavy vehicle productivity improvements and in relation to road quality concerns,

especially some road safety concerns relating to future works required for shoulder sealing and some other basic infrastructure requirements.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** A fantastic thing we put forward in our first budget, and a commitment we took to the election, was to complete the Penola bypass.

**The Hon. A. Piccolo:** We've heard this before. He's wasting your time and our time.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Light will leave for 20 minutes under 137A.

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

**The SPEAKER:** I am trying to listen to the minister's answer; I can't do it when I hear objections.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** As I was saying, the current situation in Penola is that they have half a bypass. To explain to the house how useless half a bypass is, it is the fact that you drive—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left! Minister, please do not provoke the opposition.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —around the first half of the bypass and then cruise back into the centre of town, an entirely unsatisfactory position. What the Liberal government took to the election was to finally fix up this mess and complete the Penola bypass. It's something we delivered on in our first budget and something I was really excited to go and see firsthand with the member for MacKillop.

In doing so, can I say that we all understand the reasons why we needed a completed bypass, and that is there is a lot of heavy-vehicle traffic that currently goes down the main street of Penola. We need that traffic to get out of the main street of Penola, and completing this bypass is going to do that. It is a project that we are actually working cooperatively with the federal government to deliver, something that those opposite couldn't achieve because they have found a lot more benefit in throwing stones and throwing mud rather than actually just getting on and being a responsible adult government. But more than that, what this is going to do is to improve—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —the amenity of the people who want to visit from a tourist aspect the town of Penola. This is the birthplace of Mary MacKillop. This is a place that is very special and dear to those who see that St Mary MacKillop is a fantastic part of the Roman Catholic Church and who want to go and visit some of the great work and see some of the great sites that exist down in Penola. If you're visiting Penola, odds on you haven't stumbled across it by accident. It is a destination to go and visit from a heritage sense and from a historical sense.

What I really want to impress here is the fact that getting heavy-vehicle traffic out of the main street of Penola is going to make things better and easier for tourists and hospitality operators in the main street. We know that when you get the trucks out of a main street, you actually create a more inviting outdoor cafe scene for those people who want to come and visit.

What I'm really looking forward to as part of this project is to make sure that the heavy-vehicle and bypass traffic go around the outside, and those who want to enjoy what is a beautiful little town of roughly 1,300 people in a beautiful part of the Coonawarra—not the best wine region in South Australia but it's pretty close—and visit that beautiful part of our state can enjoy it without hearing the roar of heavy vehicles going down the main street as they enjoy their afternoon coffee.

#### **MARY MACKILLOP**

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:36):** A supplementary, Mr Speaker: does the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure stand by his assertion to this house that Mary MacKillop was born in Penola?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:36):** To clarify—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! We have the question. I would like to hear the answer.

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens, I'm not a kid.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens, please cease interjecting. The minister has the call. The member for Kaurana is called to order. The member for Hurtle Vale is called to order as well. Minister.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** Rather than being born in Penola, that is where Mary MacKillop was helping to educate young people and had a school and founded an order of nuns and also worked to improve education in the South-East.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:37):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Is Mr Mark Devine, while acting as chief executive of Renewal SA, receiving an increased salary equal to the amount Mr John Hanlon was receiving as chief executive while he is acting in the position of Chief Executive of Renewal SA?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:37):** In the usual way when acting executives are put into those positions, there is an allowance arrangement that goes along with that. That's something that is standard and, as I understand it, has existed wherever we have had acting CEO positions. Certainly I understand from my own departments in DPTI and Renewal SA that in those instances where you have an acting CE in place there is an allowance that is paid that sort of tops up what would be the fallback position that that executive holds normally. That is the case in this instance. I don't know off the top of my head what the amount is, but certainly that's the normal and usual course of things.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:38):** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. Who is acting in the place of Renewal SA executive Georgina Vasilevski, and is that person on an increased salary also?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:38):** I clarify here that Mark Devine is the acting chief executive. Damian De Luca, who was the acting chief executive, has now gone back to his normal substantive—

*The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for West Torrens will cease interjecting. He is warned.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** Damian De Luca has gone back to his normal executive position. But no other acting executive arrangements have been put in place formally at this time. As to how Renewal SA is managing essentially when people take leave, it is a matter for Renewal SA. We've made a specific appointment in relation to the acting chief executive, but it's up to the acting chief executive how leave is dealt with when it comes to executives more broadly, or even the broader general manager team and senior executive team within Renewal SA.

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Davenport. The Minister for Industry and Skills is called to order. The member for Davenport has the call.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

### OZ MINERALS

**Mr MURRAY (Davenport) (14:39):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister please update the house on recent developments for OZ Minerals here in South Australia?

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:39):** Thank you to the member for Davenport for his question—a very objective, thorough and well-researched member he is, representing his electorate, with a strong interest in the mining and resources sector. OZ Minerals has recently announced that they are concluding a deal to purchase electricity, which will save them approximately 20 per cent of their electricity costs every year.

That is an outstanding achievement for OZ Minerals. Any company would be very pleased to do that, but it is also a very positive development for the resources sector and also for electricity consumers across the board. For a company such as OZ Minerals to acquire electricity for their two main operations at Prominent Hill and Carrapateena, and to see a 20 per cent decrease in their electricity costs through contracting, is very positive with regard to the direction of the market and forward contracts in general. So we are seeing, under a Marshall Liberal government, that the tide has turned. We are seeing that the market—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Giles!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —is factoring in our policy, which was announced—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Picton:** Your policy was to support the NEG; it doesn't exist any more.

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

**The Hon. J.W. Weatherill:** Say it with a straight face.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Cheltenham! The minister has the call.

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** The market is factoring in our policy, which was announced over 12 months ago, and the rollout started after the last election in March. We are already seeing benefits from, among other things, the market factoring in our energy policy. So OZ Minerals are very pleased, the entire resources sector is pleased and all electricity consumers in the state will be very pleased to see a downward trend in electricity prices, which was never seen in the dying years of the former Labor government.

**Mr Hughes:** Well on the way.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Giles!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Another very important development for OZ Minerals is the actual construction work, the hard physical work that they are doing on their Carrapateena site. In addition to the runway, which was in place a while ago, and in addition to the enormous—

*Mr Hughes interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Giles!

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** —distance of underground tunnels they have already developed and continue to develop, they have poured the concrete for their processing plant. They have their accommodation site up and running, and their communications facility is nearly complete as well. OZ Minerals are a tremendous company doing a fantastic job, working well with



local pastoralists, working well with local traditional owners, working well for the benefit of South Australia and, of course, as they should, for their shareholders.

They have a very bright future. They see downward electricity prices into the future. They are getting on with the job. They are doing a fantastic job, and all South Australians will benefit from their ongoing operations at Prominent Hill as well as their newly developed operations—not into production yet, but not too far away—at Carrapateena.

#### RENEWAL SA

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:43):** My question is to the Acting Premier. For how long will Renewal SA have two public servants receiving a chief executive salary while one is on indefinite leave?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:43):** The current situation is as it has been described in the statements that I have made publicly before, and that situation will continue until it changes.

#### MINISTER FOR HEALTH

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (14:43):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Why hasn't the Acting Premier asked the Minister for Health to resign after he publicly admitted to misleading parliament on two occasions?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The Acting Premier has the call.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:43):** I thank the member for the question because it does give me the opportunity, which I am sure the Premier would endorse if he were here—the answer to the question is—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —because the Minister for Health is an outstanding Minister for Health. He has been at the stewardship of a difficult portfolio left in an appalling mess by the former government, completely corroborated by the Auditor-General's Report today, which identifies in the 'Health budget performance' as clearly abysmal and under major need of reform. So I have every confidence—

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Lee!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —as I know the Premier does, in not only the performance but the operation and the dedication of the Minister for Health in addressing a difficult portfolio to deal with an absolute cacophony of layers of neglect and incompetence in the health administration of this state—

*Mr Picton interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Kurna!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —together with decisions—

*The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —which have utterly failed the people of South Australia, like the closure of the Repat Hospital by the former government. We on this side will not be lectured about the standards of ministers, when our Minister for Health is one of the most outstanding ministers, completely dedicated to the rebuilding—

*Ms Stinson interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Badcoe!

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** —of health services in this state and he will continue to have our confidence.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Kavel has been patiently waiting; he has the call.

### STRAWBERRY INDUSTRY

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (14:45):** My question is to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Can the minister advise the house on how the state government is supporting the strawberry industry as the season starts in South Australia?

**The Hon. T.J. WHETSTONE (Chaffey—Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development) (14:45):** Yes, I certainly can. I thank the member for Kavel for his 'berry' important question. What I can tell the house is that the reckless behaviour of some, nationally, contaminating strawberries has brought consumers to high alert and high attention right around the country. Right around the country, we saw tonnes and tonnes and truckloads of strawberries dumped through a sheer fear campaign.

Here in South Australia the local strawberry season is about to kick off. On Saturday morning, I will be at the Central Market to launch the season. Earlier this month, the Premier and I were at the South Australian Produce Markets with a grant of up to \$50,000 that was initiated on behalf of the government working with industry and with the South Australian Produce Market to reassure consumers right around the state that we are doing everything we can to make sure that our fresh strawberries are contaminant free.

It is also very important to note that the \$50,000 is there to install a metal detector to give certainty to the consumers. That detector is about making sure that the future of the strawberry industry is underpinned by collaboration between the industry and government, making sure that the produce market has the necessary levers to give that certainty to the industry.

The South Australian strawberry industry produces about 6,000 tonnes of strawberries a year. It is worth in the realm of \$42 million a year to South Australia's economy. It is really important that both industry and government work together, not only to underpin the security of that part of our economy but to make sure that when people visit supermarkets they have that surety that they are buying safe, fresh produce.

One of the greatest things that South Australian consumers can do is support the local strawberry industry, just like the nation supported the strawberry industry because of the reckless behaviour of some who put needles in strawberries, which was highly controversial. What we are asking consumers to do, to give themselves more surety, is to 'cut 'em up, don't cut 'em out'. It is important that we stand behind the strawberry industry.

While I was at the produce market, I met with longstanding family businesses—second, third and fourth-generation strawberry producers: the Chassiotis family, the Ceravolos and the Parkers, who have been longstanding fresh fruit suppliers to our marketplace. They also supply some of the nation's best produce, particularly cherries, strawberries, apples and pears. They are outstanding citizens within the fresh fruit industry.

As you see South Australian strawberries on the shelves, please buy them and support the industry to make sure that the strawberry industry is supported by consumer demand, because hashtag #RegionsMatter.

### MINISTER FOR HEALTH

**Mr PICTON (Kaurua) (14:49):** My question again is to the Acting Premier. Has minister Wade's conduct breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr PICTON:** On 5 June and 3 July, minister Wade misled the parliament as to when he was informed about the installation of anti-media screens at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. A report in *The*

*Advertiser* and the *Sunday Mail* has now revealed he received an earlier briefing on the screens, which he signed off on on 29 May. The Ministerial Code of Conduct states:

Ministers must ensure they do not deliberately mislead the public or the Parliament on any matter of significance arising from their functions.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:50):** I'm happy to answer that question. I think the member has actually answered his own question in reading out the explanation, but the answer is no.

#### MINISTER FOR HEALTH

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:50):** My question is to the Acting Premier. When was the Attorney-General first informed that the Minister for Health had misled the parliament?

**The SPEAKER:** Acting Premier.

**The Hon. A. Koutsantonis:** Are you the Acting Premier?

**The SPEAKER:** The member for West Torrens is warned.

**The Hon. V.A. Chapman:** Something you will never be again.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**Mr Pederick:** You're not. You're just an actor.

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

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:50):** I don't recall specifically when I was informed, but I'm happy to take that on notice.

#### COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:50):** My question is to the Minister for Police—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr ELLIS:** —Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister update the house on the Marshall government's commitment to expanding the CFS aerial capability ahead of this year's fire danger season?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:50):** I thank the honourable member for his question. As a regional member, I note that the member for Narungga is very, very interested in the Country Fire Service, all that their volunteers do and the resources that they have. Like many members in this house, he knows that CFS volunteers are critical over the summer months. Many give back time and time again and our regions would not be the same without them, that is for sure.

I am pleased to have the chance to confirm our commitment to the Country Fire Service ahead of the fire danger season, which is on our doorstep. The member for Narungga, who does an outstanding job, will be pleased, as will all the members on this side of the chamber and I hope the other side as well, to hear that, on top of the funding we are investing in the CFS stations, which I talked about last week, the Marshall government is providing over \$9 million in additional funding for the CFS over the next four years for an increased aerial firefighting capability. That funding will be spent on nine additional aircraft available to the CFS, boosting its fleet from 17 to 26 during this fire danger season, which I know is greatly appreciated.

In fact, I was at Aerotech, the company based at Parafield Airport that is supplying a number of these aircraft, a couple of weekends ago where I met with Sam McCabe, the Managing Director and chief pilot, who does an outstanding job. He had some of the aircraft on the runway that we got to have a look at. They look outstanding. They are first class. They have actually just improved the

livery. In the past, we would have seen a lot of yellow aircraft. There will be red aircraft involved in the fleet, as they are changing over the colour. They look outstanding and have that extra capability, which I know everyone on this side is very appreciative of. I hope they are appreciative on the other side as well because it is a great announcement announced in the recent budget handed down by the Liberal government.

I know those on the other side might have talked about it. This side of the house is delivering. The Marshall government recognises the importance of providing the CFS with the equipment that they require, enabling them to respond whenever an emergency comes their way. This investment comes at a critical time, ahead of what is expected to be a challenging fire danger season. We know they all are and we touch wood and hope that this one will be a very safe season, of course.

I am pleased to inform the house that the extra government funding will also create a new aircraft base at Hoyleton in the Mid North and establish a fourth base for the CFS. I know the member for Frome will be very happy with this. I know he cares about this side of the government investing—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Reynell! Member for Elizabeth!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —in his region. Again, they talk about it on that side. The member for Frome knows that we are delivering on this side. We are delivering for the regions. Residents in the member for Frome's electorate will be pleased to hear that the government is investing in his community, increasing the CFS capabilities, particularly given the significant bushfires experienced in previous years. Of course, this includes the devastating Pinery bushfires in 2015.

The new Mid North Primary Response Zone will see two firebombers, a tactical coordination helicopter and an intelligence helicopter dispatched wherever a fire is reported during the exclusive-use period. This will be the fourth primary response zone adding to those already established in the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Lower Eyre Peninsula and the Lower South-East. So now we have four zones keeping our state even safer.

The increase in the number of firefighting aircraft will provide greater support to ground-based CFS firefighters across South Australia, and we wish all them all a very, very safe summer ahead and hope and know that this increased fire capability delivered by this side of the house in the recent budget will be beneficial to all South Australians.

**The SPEAKER:** The 20<sup>th</sup> question for the opposition. The member for Kaurna.

#### **MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

**Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (14:55):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Acting Premier. What advice did the Attorney-General seek to satisfy herself that the Minister for Health had not deliberately misled the parliament?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:55):** I think that the Minister for Health has made statements very clear in the other place today and on other occasions in relation to this matter, and I am entirely satisfied with those statements.

#### **SERVICE SA MODBURY**

**Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:55):** My question is to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government. Given that the operational costs per customer at the Modbury service office is around \$9, while the administration fee charged for most Service SA transactions is \$17, how will the decision to close the branch and encourage online transactions deliver the government's desired budget savings?

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:56):** I thank the member for Florey for her question, and in answering the question can I say that I will have to check the figures that you provided. In fact—

*Ms Bedford interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —the information I have is that, across the Service SA network, when somebody goes into a Service SA centre to undertake a transaction that costs government, off the top of my head, somewhere around the \$17 figure. When that same person chooses to complete a transaction online that costs 40¢. So for every customer we are able to encourage to use an online option that is a 39<sup>th</sup> out of 40<sup>th</sup> fraction that we save on the total cost of providing that service, or thereabouts.

Can I tell you that I have not met anybody yet who has told me that they enjoy lining up at a Service SA centre to get a transaction done. It is a thing that we have to do. We have to get licences renewed. We have to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —renew registration of vehicles and do those kinds of things—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Ramsay is warned. The member for Reynell is warned for a second and final time.

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —but it's a basic function that everybody needs to go through. But nobody has said to me, 'I prefer to go to a Service SA centre than spend time with my kids,' or go for a walk or spend some time cleaning up a garden that has been a bit neglected—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —as is the case at my house. Can I tell you that here is an opportunity for us to create a win-win scenario, and that is to save government money. We only have a certain bucket of money that we are able to spend, and if we are spending money on this it means that we can't spend money on other things. The opportunity for us to be able to save some money in this area—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —that can be redirected into spending on more worthwhile priorities, I think, is a good outcome, but more than that, it can actually save people money and time, instead of—

*Ms Bedford interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Florey!

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —having to actually get in a car and drive to a Service SA centre, line up, undertake a transaction and then go home. The ability to be able to do it on your phone or do it on a laptop or iPad in the comfort of your own home at an absolute fraction of the time seems to me to be like a good way to try to encourage people to provide that service.

There is more work that needs to be done because, more than that, you can actually use a phone line. Instead of having to go in, again, and line up at a centre, you can get on the phone, again negating the need to have to undertake that expensive and time-consuming travel. There is also the opportunity to go to an Australia Post, which is very likely to be closer to where you live than the Service SA centre.

This is an opportunity for us to be able to deregulate a part of government, which has historically been very regulatory, by providing a much broader range of opportunities for people to undertake these transactions. Yes, there is more work that we need to do to be able to encourage people—

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

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

**The Hon. S.K. KNOLL:** —to help them to understand what the broader opportunities are to be able to transact. Yes, we are dealing with a budget pressure, three-quarters of which was left to us by the former government, but this idea that lining up at a Service SA centre is the only way to be able to undertake this transaction is wrong. The reason I say that is that, like many of the MPs who sit on this side of the fence, if you live in a regional area in South Australia there isn't a Service SA centre. In fact, in my entire electorate there isn't a Service SA centre.

There are other opportunities to be able to save individuals money and to be able to save government money and to take that money and then spend it on doing much more worthwhile things. I think that that's a great outcome. I know that it's causing some concern for people, and we acknowledge that we have more work to do in that area, but we will communicate and we will help people to take advantage of those other options and, in doing so, create, I think, a good outcome for government as well as the individuals themselves.

**Ms BEDFORD:** Supplementary, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** No, no supplementary. Member for Kaurana.

#### MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

**Mr PICTON (Kaurana) (15:00):** My question is to the Acting Premier. What is the Attorney-General's definition of 'deliberately misleading the parliament' in relation to the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:00):** I haven't given legal advice previously to the parliament. I know the member for Enfield consistently refused to give legal advice—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my left! I am trying to hear this answer.

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN:** If the member would like to identify or seek some legal advice, he is of course entitled to do so in relation to that matter, but I can't assist him.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FILM INDUSTRY

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:01):** My question is to the Minister for Industry and Skills. Can the minister update the house on recent facility upgrades at the South Australian Film Corporation?

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Industry and Skills) (15:01):** I do thank the member for Heysen. He is a very cultured man. There is no doubt that he has an interest in the creative industries here in South Australia. Last week, I was pleased to open the Made in SA showcase as part of the Adelaide Film Festival. The showcase is a celebration of the next wave of exciting and passionate screen and production talent. We are strengthening the industry here in South Australia.

New entrants into the industry come through a variety of pathways. They might have joined the industry as a graduate from one of our universities or perhaps taken a screen apprenticeship and skilled up across a variety of roles required in the film industry. The Adelaide Film Festival's opening night film, *Hotel Mumbai*, showcased many extremely talented South Australians, including Anthony Maras, Julie Ryan, Nick Matthews and Tilda Cobham-Hervey, just to name a few, many of whom premiered their work previously through the Made in SA showcase.

Those working in the industry, particularly new entrants, will continue to develop and refine their skills, especially as the industry embraces new technology. The Made in SA showcase celebrates the best that South Australia's emerging talent has to offer: new directors, new writers, new producers, directors of photography, crews and on-screen talent. It's terrific to see so many young people choosing a career within the creative industry sector here in South Australia. The challenge for us as a government, of course, is to ensure those opportunities remain for them in South Australia as their careers blossom and as they become professionals in the sector.

The Adelaide Film Festival, in general, has always provided a valuable platform to launch and celebrate new South Australian talent. To harness the strengths and economic potential of the screen industry, we are very pleased now to have the film industry within the industry and skills

portfolio. We see it as a significant industry here in South Australia, so it only makes sense that it be treated as a serious business that has a huge potential to grow, and it can do that in the industry and skills department. The complexity and breadth of talent and skills required to create great films are not always appreciated, from music composition to writing and from carpentry through to animation, special effects and cinematography.

The Marshall Liberal government is a strong supporter of the screen industry through the South Australian Film Corporation, and the Adelaide Film Festival and the film festival fund, and is delighted to enable and to support the careers of new entrants into the South Australian industry.

#### MINISTER FOR HEALTH

**Mr PICTON (Kurna) (15:04):** My question is again to the Acting Premier. Acting Premier, did you find it believable when the Minister for Health suggested to you that he had—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members on my right! The Minister for Transport is warned. I am trying to hear the question.

**Mr PICTON:** Did you find it believable when the Minister for Health suggested to you that he had forgotten about a briefing that he had signed off just two days before?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:04):** Unfortunately, the premise of the question is wrong because he hadn't made the statement to me as per the question.

#### MOTOR ACCIDENT COMMISSION

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:04):** My question is to the Acting Premier. Can the Acting Premier advise the house whether the police commissioner was consulted on the abolition of the Motor Accident Commission?

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** What, when you decided to privatise it?

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Education is warned.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:05):** As the member for Lee would be aware, the previous Labor government did sell the Motor Accident Commission and invariably signed its death warrant when they did that. As a result of that, as the Treasurer made public yesterday—

*The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Lee, be very careful.

**The Hon. S.K. Knoll:** Yes, fully funded up until the middle of the year.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport! The Minister for Police has the call. I would like to hear this answer, please.

**The Hon. S.K. Knoll:** Just a bit of *Magic Pudding* economics.

**The SPEAKER:** The Minister for Transport is warned.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** As I was saying, the previous government, the previous Labor government, sold the Motor Accident Commission, signing its death warrant. As a result, as the Treasurer pointed out yesterday, the responsibilities of the Motor Accident Commission, as far as the sponsorship, advertising, research and other programs along those lines are allocated, will be done in future by SAPOL and by the Department of Transport and Infrastructure, along with the Office for Recreation and Sport being involved as well with some of those sponsorship and advertising arrangements. The answer to the member's question is, yes, it was discussed with the police commissioner.

**MOUNT GAMBIER PRISON**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:06):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Can the minister update the house on the Mount Gambier Prison expansion and the government's investment in our prison system?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:06):** I thank the member for Morphett for his appreciation and interest in our prison system. The member for Morphett knows that the government is making one of the largest infrastructure investments in the state's public prison system in our generation. This is an investment that those on this side of the house can be very proud of.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** If they can be a little bit quiet on that side, they can listen to this answer.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, I agree. Members on my left, please.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** The expansion of Mount Gambier Prison, significantly the opening of the Kanawinka unit, comes at a time when the Marshall government is investing \$200 million in our public prison system, creating 270 high-security beds at Yatala and 40 beds at the Adelaide Women's Prison. Construction of the 160 beds in the Kanawinka unit at Mount Gambier Prison was completed in August 2018 and will be officially opened next week, consisting of five stand-alone accommodation complexes.

Each complex contains four independent living units for eight prisoners. Services, including program rooms, an officer station, a gym, a satellite medical clinic and a prisoner library, have all been added. The expansion involves a new high-security perimeter fence and replacement of the analog security equipment with a digital system. It was quite disconcerting to find out how many prisons were still working on analog equipment, and to be upgrading those across the board is something that the Marshall Liberal government is very proud of. Metal and woodwork will now take place in the two industry sheds, and it's great to see our prisons increasing their industry programs to make sure that people have the skills to get jobs when they leave prison.

The opening of the Kanawinka unit of Mount Gambier Prison is a reflection on the former government's priorities when it comes to accommodating our prisoners. They recognised the cost-saving measures of privately operated prisons and chose to invest in Mount Gambier Prison. I must say that I was a little curious that the opposition, despite bankrolling hundreds of beds in the private prison of Mount Gambier over the years, would suddenly do an about-face and protest this government's decision to transition the Adelaide Remand Centre to a private provider.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** If you've ever wanted to see an ideological backflip—

**The SPEAKER:** There is a point of order from the member for West Torrens. Could the minister be seated for one moment.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** It's clearly debate.

**The SPEAKER:** I will listen to the answer. Minister, please do stick to the substance of the question about Mount Gambier Prison.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Certainly. Talking about the private prison in Mount Gambier, I make the point that it was quite unrealistic when the former government protested against our transition of the Adelaide Remand Centre to a private provider. It was very interlinked—

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: how is that not debate, sir?



**The SPEAKER:** I do have the point of order. I am listening to the answer in its entirety. I will ensure that the minister keeps to the substance of the question. Minister.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I do want to make the point that the opposition, the former government, as they protest this, really are showing that they are Olympic contenders in the hypocrisy gymnastics. While those on this side of the house welcome—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD:** —the desperately needed investment in our prisons, we are committed to investing in our public prison system with our better prisons program.

We want the public prison system to be the best it can be, which is why we have committed \$200 million to commission 310 new high-security beds at the Northfield precinct, 270 at Yatala and 40 at the Adelaide Women's Prison. When I came into this role, the previous government had us on track to have more prisoners than prison beds by 2020. Their only option was to put up a full, no-vacancy sign. That was their solution, but we are delivering the prison beds we need.

It's the largest single investment in the public prison system in a generation. If that isn't a demonstration of our commitment to the public prison system, I don't know what is. This government is delivering more prison capacity, more prison investment, more prison jobs and more prison infrastructure and technology.

Time expired.

#### *Grievance Debate*

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

**The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (15:11):** I rise today to talk about local government elections once again. Many people throughout South Australia will start to receive their voter packs, as all local government election voting is done by postal vote these days. If they did not arrive in letterboxes last night, they should be there over the next few days.

Last week, I rose to discuss a matter in the Onkaparinga council election, where mayoral candidate Erin Thompson was censored by the Electoral Commission of South Australia in using such words as 'fresh start' and 'a clean slate' as the ambitions that she had for the City of Onkaparinga should she be elected as mayor of the city where I live and which many constituents of Mawson also call home.

I wrote to Mick Sherry, Electoral Commissioner of South Australia. He has written back claiming that the commission is enforcing a regulation that candidates cannot comment on decisions or actions that have been made or taken by the council, or on the decisions or actions of past or present members of council. I have had a chat to a few people on both sides of this chamber, including some Independents and some people in the upper house as well.

I do not think that anyone in this place, when this was put through back in 1999/2000, intended that those who were standing for office could not say that they wanted to bring a fresh start to a council area, or a clean slate, or provide better outcomes for the people of the area. It was probably designed to stop people saying defamatory things, but certainly not things that they were offering up as someone who had never been on council. Erin Thompson is the only one of five candidates who has not been on the Onkaparinga council before or who is currently on the council. She is a cleanskin, if you like, and that is where she sees her point of difference. It is not being critical of the current council: it is just offering up a point of difference.

I will be writing back to Mr Sherry to ask him whether he has correctly interpreted this regulation because I do not think he has and I do not think the public think he has. If you listen to Will Goodings and David Penberthy of FIVEaa, they are outraged by this and their listeners are outraged by this, as are the people of Onkaparinga I have spoken to. This is just censorship in a society where we absolutely celebrate free speech and the ability for each and every citizen of this state to say what they feel as long as it is not defamatory and as long as it is not hate speech. As

Will and Dave mentioned on radio this morning, to say that you are coming in with a clean slate or a fresh start is hardly hate speech. I hope that we can rectify this.

I did ask Mick Sherry, Electoral Commissioner of South Australia, to issue an apology to Erin Thompson and also to post out the original profile that she wanted posted out with the Electoral Commission information that will be going into people's letterboxes this week. So stay tuned: this is not over yet.

Last night, I was at a candidates forum—there have been a few of these around Onkaparinga as well as, I am sure, other council areas around South Australia—and it was terrific to see people come out and listen to those who are putting up their hand for a pretty difficult job, whether it is running for mayor or running to be a councillor. I was very encouraged by a group of young people there who have put up their hand to be councillors: Luke Wagner, Gem Robertson and Saskia Gerhardy.

They all did a magnificent job in their allocated five minutes, talking about what their vision was. In particular, I handed Saskia the Sir Douglas Mawson Environment Award—which I instigated as the member for Mawson—in our electorate for the student at Willunga Primary School who showed the most dedication and most interest in our environment. It was great to see Saskia get that award 10 years ago and now, at the age of 22, she is putting up her hand to serve her community and her environment on Onkaparinga council.

I want to wish everyone who is running for council, who is running for mayor or for positions right around this state, all the very best for the upcoming elections. As I said, it is terrific to see people who are prepared to put their time, their efforts and their passion on the line to represent their local areas.

### KING ELECTORATE

**Ms LUETHEN (King) (15:16):** I would like to take a couple of moments to acknowledge the great teachers and schools in King. Teachers play such an important role in the development of our children in our community, and my community is so blessed to be able to have such a fantastic network of schools and choice across the electorate of King. Whether it is the public schools in One Tree Hill, Salisbury Heights, Salisbury Parks or the non-government schools in Golden Grove, Greenwith and Salisbury East, we are so blessed for choice.

Recently, I was pleased to be able to invite a number of school delegates, including principals, senior leadership and members of the governing councils, to join me for a special King networking dinner in Parliament House. The Minister for Education, the Minister for Industry and Skills and members of the Legislative Council the Hon. John Dawkins and the Hon. Dennis Hood were also gracious enough to join us for the night.

The night was a networking opportunity for school leaders in my electorate to come together and discuss the key challenges faced by teachers today in the electorate of King. I have to say that the points of discussion were quite thought-provoking and some even eye-opening. I was surprised to learn there was such an issue with younger children in primary schools and their access to mobile phones. My eight year old often tells me he is the only one without a mobile phone and I say, 'I'm sure that's not true,' but from what the principal had to say there might be more truth to it than I thought.

A very interesting point was raised on the night about the responsibilities of teachers, the responsibilities they have with the ever-changing technological landscape we live in today. One school leader raised how hard it has become to police the use of mobile phones at school. One of the major challenges discussed, which may go unnoticed by members of the wider community, is when there is an issue between two students that occurs online.

It does not matter whether it happens within or outside of school hours, or on or off the school premises, it was discussed that more and more the first point of contact for the concerned parents is to school, the teachers, the principals. This presents a challenge for members of the teaching fraternity as not only are they tasked with educating and providing a safe and positive learning environment for our children within a school's boundaries but more and more these days it is also

what they are doing outside those boundaries. It puts further pressures on the school's policies and the teachers' capabilities in dealing with a student issue regardless of how it presents itself.

Also under discussion was bullying, the definition of bullying and parents' understanding of what is bullying. I shared that we have currently reviewed the policy on bullying at Golden Grove Primary School, where I am on the governing council, and that we had just redefined bullying, emphasising that it is a repeat pattern of behaviour.

I encourage any parents in King who have concerns about bullying to go directly to speak to the teachers and the governing council members. On the night of the dinner, one thing I found inspiring was the attitude of my local school dignitaries and parent representatives. They were not throwing their hands up, saying it was simply too hard and dusting their hands, because it did not happen during school time. They were using this opportunity to speak with the other schools and discuss how each school deals with the issues and they were working together to identify a solution that would be good for our community.

Social media, and the bullying that can unfortunately occur, was not an issue that teachers of yesteryear had to deal with. But I believe our schoolteachers and parents working together are up to the challenge these days. Thank you to my colleagues, ministers, principals and parent representatives for attending the forum. They came from across the Greenwith Primary, Our Lady of Hope, Golden Grove High School, Tyndale Christian School, Pedare Christian College and Gleeson College for this networking opportunity. I look forward to continuing the conversations with staff that started last week and with each of the schools in the future. Our children are precious and we need to do everything we can to ensure they are given every opportunity to strive, grow and become the best they can be.

### OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

**Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale) (15:21):** We as local members can support our communities and realise the importance of time spent outdoors from the very young to the very old and everything in between. I have been looking constantly for opportunities to improve access to outdoor spaces in my community since elected in 2014. About 18 months ago I sat down with the mayor of the City of Onkaparinga to discuss potential locations for a high-standard nature playground in our community.

The result of that conversation, and then my work with our government at the time, was a commitment of \$1.3 million to a nature playground to be established at Wilfred Taylor Reserve. I was able to announce that nearly 12 months ago now. This commitment was matched by my political opponent, so I knew regardless of the outcome of the election the people of the southern suburbs would benefit from this new purpose-built nature playground in the heart of Hurtle Vale at Wilfred Taylor Reserve. I am told delivery is around 12 months away.

Other developments in Hurtle Vale have seen the completion of the Waverley playground. Thanks must be given to local resident Toni Dal Santo for her relentless pursuit of a thoughtful and fun playground to be enjoyed by all ages in her neighbourhood. Toni started her relentless rallying of the City of Onkaparinga council before even having children when moving into the area about nine years ago. She noticed that the local park was lacking amenities, and equipment that was deteriorated seemed to be disappearing and not being replaced. Her inquiries revealed that this should not have been the case, and as a result, birthday parties and other family gatherings were not happening in the area and the playground was just badly utilised.

Toni, with the support of her hardworking federal member Amanda Rishworth, sent letters on behalf of the community and got a commitment from the council; work started in January this year to rejuvenate the playground. I have been watching this develop with her and it is now open. My children, her children and many more in the community have really enjoyed using this playground, which inspires more creative play in a safe environment while they can still challenge themselves and really enjoy it. It is a great family space. I am going to hold a sausage sizzle there on 8 December at midday to welcome people to use that playground and come along and have a chat. I look forward to seeing many local residents there.

I look forward to seeing the completion of the installation of a shade sail and water fountain at Investigator Drive playground in Woodcroft. I successfully secured \$30,000 for this upgrade after

I had met with many kids at the park, especially over long hot summers, and saw there was nowhere for them to get a drink of water and there was no shade available for them at all. So I talked to members of the government at that point and we secured that funding. The work is now being undertaken. I look forward to that work being finished and the kids being able to enjoy play at the skate park, not just on hot concrete but with somewhere to sit and somewhere to get a drink.

I would also like to briefly talk today about the Labor initiative, Fund My Neighbourhood, which has since been cut. I have had many, many conversations with people in the past few months because projects are now starting to have work undertaken and completed. It was a really popular program, with about 120,000 votes cast by 33,000 South Australians, making a difference in their local community. There were 1,600 nominated projects, with 200 making the final cut. In fact, interestingly, more projects are being completed in Liberal-held electorates, which I noticed when I had a look, with many of them proving that regions do matter as they are happening out in the regions. I must say that there is something to be said for the organisations of the regions being able to get these votes together.

In Hurtle Vale, there is a \$50,000 project happening, which again meets those criteria. It is an outdoor exercise space, which I look forward to seeing and using. There was \$150,000 for the Reynella Sports and Social Club to upgrade the canteen, which will help them raise more money and serve their community. Next door, in Davenport, there are a couple of other projects that are really important. In particular, at Minton Farm a circular bird of prey cage will help them to release birds of prey back to the wild.

It is devastating that the program has been cut. Today, I am launching a petition to let the government know exactly how many people in the community want to see Fund My Neighbourhood restored as a way of taking control over outcomes in your own community.

#### **NAIRNE ROAD, WOODSIDE**

**Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (15:26):** As the house is aware, I brought forward a petition concerning Nairne Road, Woodside. The petition urges the Department of Transport and Infrastructure to resurface a section of Nairne Road in the township zone of Woodside. Eighty-one local residents have signed the petition. It is right for me to acknowledge the diligent and tireless work of Mr Brian Trotman, a community leader and CFS volunteer, who lives along the road. Mr Trotman has been a patient advocate for improvement of the road. Mrs Faye Wachtel has separately contacted me concerning the issue. I appreciate her advocacy, too, and I place it on record.

Following civil construction works, including the laying of a new water main by SA Water and stormwater management by the Adelaide Hills Council, the surface of the road is uneven and, with the passage of traffic, noise and vibration affects local residents. They find it difficult to sleep and the vibrations can be felt in dwellings along the road. It must be remembered that this road carries a substantial amount of traffic, including trucks servicing the wine and agricultural sectors and some local quarries and travelling to destinations throughout the Onkaparinga Valley and elsewhere.

At the southern end of the Woodside-Nairne Road, where it meets the old Princes Highway at Nairne, a significant increase in heavy vehicle movements has been measured by the department. It is reasonable to assume that many of these vehicles also traverse the section of the road within the Woodside township zone, and that has been my observation. I travel the road frequently.

Mr Trotman and other residents have informed me that, before the civil works I have outlined, there was no noise disturbance from road traffic. Local residents believe that the road can and should be resurfaced to the standard it was prior to the civil works. Those works were necessary to mitigate significant flooding issues. I want to reflect briefly on the state of country roads, not just those in the Hills.

After 16 years of substantial underinvestment by the former government, country roads in this state are in an appalling condition. Over time, I know that the new minister is working to improve Hills and country roads. It is a big task. A great deal has been left undone. Almost one in four South Australians lives in our regions, including in the Hills. Our regions contribute over \$25 billion a year to our gross state product and produce more than 50 per cent of our merchandise exports. We need safe and efficient roads.

The government's Royalties for Regions scheme is very significant in this context. Each year, 30 per cent of the state's mining and petroleum royalties will be paid into a fund, estimated to be \$750 million over 10 years. I thank the minister and the department for giving consideration to this matter. I acknowledge recent work by the Adelaide Hills Council to construct a concrete lip on the same section of road to better manage some related water run-off issues. The importance and value of improving Hills roads should not and must not be underestimated.

### SHOPPING CENTRE SAFETY

**Mr BROWN (Playford) (15:29):** I rise to speak about an ongoing concern in my electorate, and also in the state more generally, and that is community safety in and around shopping centre districts, particularly for retail workers. The SDA retail workers' union has reported an increasing amount of violence and abuse towards staff in shopping centres across the state. This is also an issue that has been raised with me personally by constituents. Over 85 per cent of retail workers have experienced abuse from customers at work.

This abuse goes beyond verbal abuse, as damaging as that can be in its own right, to abuse of a physical or sexual nature. Staff report being spat on, objects being thrown at them, physical assaults or being inappropriately grabbed or touched. In one case, a man had been stalking a female employee for a period of several weeks and at one point attempted to get into the passenger side of her car. In another example, a man snuck up on a young woman after she had finished her shift at a fast-food restaurant and broke her jaw. This abuse does not affect just retail staff.

Many in my electorate have told me that they feel increasingly unsafe when they go shopping. Shoppers often have to walk long distances from their car to the shopping centre and back. Shopping centre car parks have become a haven for thieves, creeps and weirdos in general who hang around all day causing grief for people who just want to go about their daily business without being harassed. This is especially a problem at night, when reduced visibility makes people a target for assault or harassment without interruption. Women are especially at risk. I note that the government's promise to increase trading hours to a 24/7 basis will potentially exacerbate this issue.

One of the best deterrents for this behaviour, particularly outside in car parks, is CCTV cameras. CCTV cameras are useful in three ways: they can deter crime from occurring by being placed prominently throughout shopping areas, they can record crime by collecting video evidence for later use by police and they can provide a rapid response to crime when cameras are monitored by security staff. Not long ago, a woman was slashed in the face and suffered serious face and back injuries at Parabanks Shopping Centre, just north of my electorate. The incident was caught on CCTV and a man has subsequently been charged with attempted murder.

Many local residents and business owners at Mawson Lakes have also spoken to me about the need to improve the coverage and quality of CCTV in the area. As part of the upgrade of the Parafield railway station, initiated by the previous government, the CCTV is also being upgraded. Another important deterrent is appropriate lighting. Crime is higher at night due to decreased visibility, and programs that improve both CCTV and lighting in shopping centres are of great benefit.

It is easy simply to say that CCTV and lighting are the responsibilities of private owners or councils. As areas frequented by high volumes of shoppers and staff, they should also be an issue of considerable interest not only to the state government but also to members of this house. The former state Labor government had a proud record of rolling out programs that addressed violence in our communities. The CCTV grants program provided hundreds of thousands of dollars towards CCTV and lighting upgrade works across the state. The City Safe CCTV network provided safe avenues for people to traverse across the CBD.

The crime prevention and community safety grants program provided resources to community organisations to reduce the incidence of crime across the state, particularly youth crime. All these programs have been cut. It is actually quite staggering that a Liberal government would think that it is fine to cut a program entitled Crime Prevention Grants, which should be a primary bread-and-butter issue for any state government to address, yet the Liberals have no plan, no desire and no intention of acting in this area.

Unlike those opposite, Labor will continue to advocate for retail workers, shoppers and those who operate businesses so that we can find ways to reduce crime in our suburbs. No shopper deserves to be harassed or robbed as they enter a shopping centre. No business owner deserves to be robbed by someone who cannot be identified because of a lack of CCTV. No worker deserves to be slashed in the face as they go about their work.

### **GLENELG DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB**

**Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:34):** The Glenelg District Cricket Club, known as the Seahorses, was established in 1907 and is located at Glenelg Oval on Brighton Road, Glenelg, and has just started playing matches for the upcoming season. The club held its annual general meeting on 10 September, and at that meeting club president, Bob Snewin, retired after 28 years in the role as president. That represents a lot of overs bowled and many runs scored.

Even before becoming president, Bob had been heavily involved with the club. Bob first served on the board in 1970, 48 years ago. When he first joined the board, Dick Niehuus, Sam Starling, Leith Jacob, Brian Illman, Murray Sargent and Martin Chappell were also members of the board and were his mentors. In Bob's words, 'These people engendered into me the spirit of the club.'

Martin Chappell was a hard taskmaster. You may recognise the surname, as he was the father of two famous products of the Glenelg Cricket Club, Australian captains Ian and Greg Chappell, both of whom played for Glenelg in the late sixties and early seventies. Ian and Greg first batted together in a semifinal in 1966. This was prior to the professional era that sees full-time cricketers rarely play for their district cricket club. Bob can recall the exciting times when he was first on the board having Ian captain Australia between 1971 and 1975, while Greg debuted for Australia in the 1970-71 Ashes series.

The 1973-74 season saw Glenelg win the A-grade premiership for the first time since 1953-54. Around this time, Bob had a young family and was running a business and stepped down from the board for a number of years, before returning to the club in the 1980s. The cricket clubrooms were built in 1978 and located on the north-western side of the oval, with the club raising \$50,000 and taking out a \$120,000 loan.

Bob stepped up to the role of club president in 1990, originally advising the board that he would give them five years and review it then. At the time, the club was in some financial turmoil, with the facilities being rundown. In spite of this, Bob set about setting the club's finances in order, which in 1993 saw the loan that was taken out to build the clubrooms finally paid off. To help improve training conditions, the practice wickets were moved from behind the existing football scoreboard near the primary school entrance, which did not get much sun, over to the existing location at the north-eastern end along Rugless Terrace. Bob has sought to put resources into the juniors, as they are a good feeder into the senior teams.

In 1996-97, Glenelg were runners-up in the A-grade and, in 2002-03, Bob still recalls the heartbreak of scoring 367 runs against Kensington and not being able to break the partnership between Greg Blewett and Dean Waugh. That score would have won in any other year of the decade; however, the club did have success, winning five one-day premierships while Bob was president. Finally, in 2012-13, Glenelg won the A-grade premiership, with Bob saying, 'It was the reward all the volunteers, including myself, ever wanted.'

Since then, the club has introduced women's teams into the club, and the inaugural captain was Bob's daughter, Gemma, who is also involved in the club assisting with sponsorships. Bob's involvement has also led him to chairing grade cricket and he is the club delegate on the SACA Board. He has recently been reappointed for a further two-year term, so he is not lost totally to grassroots cricket here in South Australia. Glenelg's leading run scorer and club legend, Tom Plant, cannot speak more highly of Bob, saying:

Bob Snewin has been president for as long as I've been there. He's a close friend of mine and he has done more than anyone, and there are a lot of other good people.

Bob agrees, saying about his long time as president, 'The best part is the lifelong friends I have made in the role.' My best wishes go to incoming president, Jarret Moyse. Congratulations, Bob, on being

a fantastic servant for the Glenelg Cricket Club, starting 48 years ago. It goes without saying that he would like to thank his wife, Jenny, and family for their support.

*Bills*

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:39):** I rise to commend the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018 to the house, and I observe at the outset the support of the opposition. I had the opportunity to listen closely to the remarks earlier today of the member for Port Adelaide in supporting a bill that indeed did come to the house in the dying days of the 53<sup>rd</sup> parliament.

I was not going to dwell too much on it, but it pays to note, if only briefly, that this new bill comes before the house in the first months of the new Marshall government and will have the significant effect of providing a long overdue reform of the legislation in this area—indeed, repealing and replacing the Education Act 1972 and the Children's Services Act 1985—and has been, in my humble observation, far too long coming.

It may be that those opposite in indicating their general support for the reform also referred to the fact that some work was done in the dying days of the previous government. However, the fact is that these steps, these attempts to modernise the bill, have been raised over many years but apparently suffered from a significant amount of half-heartedness in the past, particularly over the last 16 years of the former government.

That prefaces my delight and my words of congratulation and endorsement to our new Minister for Education, who will now take forward this new piece of legislation, which will lead the way insofar as the experience of our children in this state in the very important and formative experiences they will have in the course of their schooling in South Australia is concerned.

In the short time available for me today in debating the bill, I wish to focus my attention on one broad aspect of the key improvements that this bill introduces and the way it differs from the bill previously brought before the house, and that is as it relates to the independence of governing councils, the removal of central control of the minister of governing councils and the important decisions and deliberations they will participate in as far as their important role in leading school communities is concerned.

It is important to emphasise that this bill of the new government removes central controls, which were proposed under the previous bill and which would have left the minister empowered to direct, to suspend and also to dissolve and establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances. We have done away with all those aspects in a concerted endeavour to ensure that what we are doing is empowering governing councils and ensuring that school communities can act so as far as possible on their own initiative and according to their own commitments.

Those provisions that were contained in part 4, division 4 of the 2017 bill, which was brought before the house by the previous government and which were set out in clauses 28, 30 and 31 respectively, are no more. In their place, we find—in part 4, division 2, which deals with governing councils—provisions that will ensure that there is a degree of ministerial oversight. That is important, but we as a new government are taking deliberate steps to ensure that there is autonomy.

Where the rubber hits the road in this regard is all the more borne out by the fact that we are not only saying to governing councils that the minister will not be looking over their shoulder and enforcing measures such as directing, suspending or dissolving them but, more than that, in line with recommendations of the DeBelle royal commission, we are taking it a step further and establishing a legal fund, to be administered by the Attorney-General's Department, which will be accessible by governing councils to ensure that they have access to funds for independent legal advice when they find themselves in disputation with the department. So we are committed to empowering, to independence and to ensuring that we reward community engagement.

I have had the honour and privilege on many occasions to represent the best part of our great state of South Australia in the seat of Heysen. It is an area that is uniquely blessed with a wide variety of community schools spread throughout the Hills that benefit from a very high degree of commitment and engagement by members of school communities, whether they be parents, staff, friends, old scholars or those in the neighbourhood. People in the Hills recognise the contribution to the fabric of community life that strong and healthy schools provide.

I will give a few examples. On this Saturday just past, I had the honour and privilege of representing the Minister for Education at Crafers Primary School to officially open stage 1 of the nature playground at the school. It is an excellent example of what a school community can achieve when acting together. I had the opportunity to thank and to recognise the key individuals, who, unsurprisingly, include the school principal, Garry North; the chair of the school's governing council, Colin Koch; and leaders of the school community, from parents to those who offer their services professionally and those who participated in working bee activities to bring the playground to fruition.

It was a particular pleasure to see the school community come together to celebrate exactly the sort of thing that we want to see happen more and more under an independent and empowered governing council structure under this new legislation. I had the pleasure, also on this weekend just past, to attend the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Scott Creek Primary School. It is an example of the diversity of the schools within Heysen. Just a small number of students who presently attend at Scott Creek Primary School were joined by old scholars, many of whom are still residents of the near surrounds, going all the way back through the history of Scott Creek Primary School.

I encourage those who were not there but who want to see an example to look at my Facebook page, where I have put up a photograph of old scholars of Scott Creek Primary School who gathered for one of those unique photo opportunities that perhaps comes along only every 125 years or so, amply illustrating what a marvellous contribution a school in a district can provide to the fabric of the community.

I have already had the opportunity, in these first few months of this new government, to visit Mylor Primary School together with our Minister for Education. It is another example of a wonderful, creative, innovative and committed group at a Hills school. I point out in particular their commitment to an innovative science program, led by the principal and backed by parents, friends and those involved in the governing council.

There are two examples of outstanding high schools that I will take the opportunity to mention in this light. Firstly, Eastern Fleurieu School at Strathalbyn, including associated campuses, is a unique R-12 school model that is flourishing in the south of Heysen. The campuses at Ashbourne and Milang have been brought to a great fruitful result by their association with Eastern Fleurieu School. A new principal commences this year who, with the support of a governing council appropriately empowered in accordance with the provisions of this new legislation, will have the opportunity to build on, in this case, the really extraordinary steps that have been taken over recent years, in particular under the leadership of the recently retired principal, Mr Trevor Fletcher.

It is a large multicampus model that further illustrates the diversity of the school environment in the area of Heysen. Sitting alongside it is the equally successful private model of Tyndale School. Together, Eastern Fleurieu and Tyndale in Strathalbyn are creating a campus atmosphere, and both teachers and students are deliberately looking to be nearby so that they can participate in the environment of those two marvellous schools.

I have also had the opportunity to visit Bridgewater Primary School with minister Gardner. It is yet another example of a school that benefits from not only the tremendous commitment of its principal but the support of a committed governing council. Whether it be the educational experience of the students or the infrastructure within which they are educated, those responsible for the school are committed to ensuring that the life of the school is as vibrant and successful as it possibly can be.

There are many other examples through Heysen. I could go on to catalogue the range of schools I have had the opportunity to visit. One thing that characterises each of them is their diversity. The provisions of new part 5, division 2, of the bill are therefore important, as they will further encourage their independence and their vibrancy. Meadows Primary School, Kangarilla Primary



School, Heathfield Primary School and Aldgate Primary School are all wonderful learning environments for the students who are fortunate to attend there.

Heathfield High School is another fine example of the sort of great outcome that can be achieved where there is a commitment to creativity and opportunities for students. I have spoken before about the wonderful efforts of DaDux at Generations in Jazz at Mount Gambier. It is well known that Heathfield High School enjoys a wonderful reputation for its volleyball program. So the strengths and activities of schools throughout Heysen are indeed varied and diverse.

At this time of the year, and in the context of the commitments made by staff and school communities, it would be remiss of me not to mention one activity that unites the bulk of our schools not only in Heysen but throughout the state, and that is the Festival of Music. The festival recently concluded at the end of term 3, immediately prior to the holidays. We all know that the Festival of Music is a great tradition in this state. It has been running successfully for a very long time, but never more so than now. It is an opportunity for schools throughout the state to unite in a combined performance. I emphasise that we see on display the wonderful efforts of students in that wonderful Festival of Music week.

However, in the many months leading up to the Festival of Music we see extraordinary volunteer efforts over and above the call from the staff of all those schools, who give up their time to contribute to the unique and wonderful experience gained by students when the Festival of Music comes around. It is another great example of why, wherever we can, we look to promote and empower the initiatives of school communities in all their diversity.

In the short time that is still available to me, I wish to acknowledge—and it could not be more appropriate than in the context of a great commitment to the life and success of a school—the service of Gail Stewart of Stirling East Primary School. Gail was an office administrator at Stirling East who, very sadly, died in recent days. I wish to extend my condolences to her family and to the wider community of Stirling East Primary School. I commend the bill to the house.

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:59):** I rise to make a brief contribution to the Education and Children's Services Bill. It is pleasing to see this bill before our house; it replaces previous acts from 1985 as well as 1972, so it has been quite a while in its making. I would like to refer to a couple of points in the bill, which will, of course, be teased out more in the committee stage as this bill progresses.

I commend the government for the increase in attendance officers by 50 per cent. Back in the early 2000s, I took up a role as an attendance officer, and I would like to talk a little bit about that to give the minister some perspective on issues around attendance. Whilst increases of 50 per cent are definable, I suppose, and perhaps desirable from a government's point of view, there are complexities around attendance that the government needs to be aware of.

Non-attendance can be for a whole range of reasons. It could be neglectful parenting; I have certainly seen that, and I cautiously endorse the increased fines for those who are wilfully neglectful. However, non-attendance can also be a result of family situations that I would not categorise as wilful indifference or deliberate neglect on the part of the parent, and I will give an example shortly.

Sometimes non-attendance is due to issues going on for a student that the school may or may not be aware of and that the parent or parents or caregiver may not even be aware of. I have seen lots of examples of extreme bullying and harassment, particularly in a digital form, now more than it was perhaps in the early 2000s, when I was an attendance officer. We need to empower schools and parents to come together and work through solutions around those issues as they present themselves.

Until you have a child who experiences bullying—and I do not want to categorise it from the female point of view, which I have certainly experienced—it is very difficult to put a finger on a solution and a way forward. It is constantly evolving and, in some instances, moving school or changing circumstances for either the perpetrator or the victim needs to be considered among the strategies that could be looked at. I would hate to see that ruled out.

Regarding the difficulties associated with being an attendance officer, the first is the number in your caseload. I had around 150 to 200 students where the school could not re-engage the student

back into their school. The second relates to the geographical location. As it was a country area, my boundaries went from Murray Bridge right down to Port MacDonnell. Think about 200 cases; taking out weekends, you could do one a day in an intense fashion. So caseloads need to be looked at and a reasonable caseload apportioned to these attendance officers.

I had a young family where the young dad was probably not coping too well with three very young children. That popped up on my case list and I went and did a home visit. People would probably shake their head now at many of the things we did in the early 2000s; I am not advocating these, just talking about a real-life example. This young dad was unemployed; there was no electricity, no gas, a large number of cats (if there were not eight cats in the household I would be very surprised), a large number of dogs and three great kids. I would pick those three kids up in my government car every day and take them to McDonald Park Primary School where Bronwyn, who was the front office lady, would have a spare set of clothes. They would be showered and given new clothes. The kids had lice and health problems.

These were early primary school students, so the first thing was to get them out of the house and get them to school. They were not going to go on a bus or any other transport because of the condition they were in. There was no electricity, so that meant no hot water; no washing facilities meant clothes did not get washed. So Bronwyn would take the clothes home, wash them and then the next day there would be a fresh set of clothes for the students.

This continued while I engaged Families SA to provide some support for this young dad around how to look after young children. It included nutrition because the kids were pretty much eating either fish and chips, if they were lucky, or packets of chips more regularly. That continued for about three or four weeks. We got to the point—at Families SA there was a fantastic caseworker who worked alongside me to work with the dad—where it was a very unsustainable model because you cannot have a government worker picking kids up when I had another 199 cases on my list spread from Murray Bridge down.

In about week 4, these kids just disappeared with their dad. We do not know to this day where they went. We went around and knocked on the door; they were not at home. We called the police. The police came and opened the door and, whilst most of their possessions were still there, they clearly were no longer living in the house. They did not pop up at any other school and we suspect that they went back to New South Wales, where the family originally came from. Because of departments working in silos, there was no way of passing on information to any New South Wales school to say that there would be three young people, two girls and a boy, probably aged 6 to 9, who would be lobbying up with a father who was not coping and needed some assistance.

When you get into the issues of attendance and non-attendance, it is not as cut and dried as politicians or people who have come from a background like many of us here might think to understand why a family is not sending their kids to school or why a student is not rocking up to school. I firmly believe schools have the greatest ability to change people's lives, not just through education but through care and compassion and modelling different behaviours that may not be modelled at the home environment or within the nucleus of their existing family.

I believe support needs to be given to the schools wherever possible because there are great people in schools who will work beyond what is clock-on and clock-off time to support vulnerable people. That extends all the way through. I applaud the government and this bill for increasing attendance officers by 50 per cent, but I caution that it is not an easy road and there is not one solution that is going to satisfy everybody.

In terms of clause 74, I want to point out to the government something that does concern me. Clause 74—Employment of children of compulsory school age or compulsory education age, makes it an offence for a person to employ a child of compulsory school age or compulsory education age during school hours or in labour or an occupation that renders, or is likely to render, that child unfit to attend school, etc., or obtain the proper benefit from doing so.

On first reading that clause, you would think that is fair and reasonable, and in many, many cases I support that clause 100 per cent. However, I want to point out that there is a difference between 'compulsory school age' and 'compulsory education age'. If you read the clause quickly, you may not pick up the subtleties. Compulsory school age in South Australia is between six years of

age and 16 years of age. Compulsory education age, which this clause refers to as well, is students aged 16 and 17. Normally, for ages 16 and 17, compulsory education age means that you need to be in approved learning.

One of the issues I have with this is that I know a number of 16 and 17 year olds whose approved learning also involves some form of work, whether that is through a VET and SACE program or a school-based apprenticeship, in which case they would need an exemption for that level. For disengaged kids and for kids who have perhaps dropped out of school and are re-entering education through an independent learning centre or some form of alternative curriculum, employment is one of the key aspects for achieving their SACE.

I would like to see in that clause an exemption or some mechanism where the principal of the enrolling school can apply to the minister for an exemption so that those students are not caught up in what I think is a very sound and reasonable set of circumstances but may encapsulate a group that it was not intended to encapsulate.

Obviously, governing councils are very important, and I fully support any strengthening and autonomous moves for governing councils. Andrew Hunter, from Reidy Park Primary School, has been on the governing council for as long as I can remember when my kids were students at Reidy Park Primary School. The number of working bees and the number of decisions where the governing council assisted the principal in arriving at very sound conclusions needs to be commended. In fact, if a principal has a functioning and supportive governing council, schools can achieve far more than without them.

In terms of positions related to this bill, I would like to talk about suspension from school. I do not think this bill goes far enough. We have certain situations where a student who is suspended from school, particularly after numerous suspensions, perhaps without parental support at home—in fact, in some cases parents condone the behaviour—sees it as a reward for the student and a cop-out for the school. The easiest thing for a school to do is to remove the problem or a problem that a student is creating. It sets up a reverse reward for that student, particularly if they like Fortnite or some computer game at home. Four or five days of sitting at home, with your parent or caregiver not at home because they might be working, sets up a reverse incentive for some students.

I agree that this is a minority of students, but I believe we should be empowering schools to cater and care for every student in their cohort. That, unfortunately, goes as far as students who are, or potentially can be, disruptive. Of course, I agree that they need to be removed from certain situations and classrooms if they are affecting the learning of others, but we cannot set up a situation where schools can wipe their hands of their responsibility, particularly in some secondary schools where they might be waiting until that student turns 16 or 17 and is no longer an issue for that school.

That needs funding and specialist intervention. In an ideal world, I do not think any school should be able to suspend a student. I think there should be programs, support and assistance. Removal from a class is definitely an option, but the school needs to work with that student, their family and their support until their behaviour can be modified and they can re-enter the school.

I would like to see the bill go further in terms of NAPLAN. I would like to see it mandated that any student who fails NAPLAN has intervention and support mandated under a bill, under an act of parliament, because all NAPLAN does is identify that there may be an issue with a young person's learning: reading, writing, arithmetic or comprehension, etc., NAPLAN does not mandate anywhere that the school has to do anything about it. I am not saying that schools do not. In fact, many schools do an outstanding job of identifying issues and then putting programs into place, but I would like to see it actually mandated through the Education and Children's Services Bill.

In terms of the quality of our teachers, we have 35,000 teachers registered with the Teachers Registration Board. If we are serious about raising the standard of teaching and wanting to set a minimum Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER), we as employers, as a state government, can mandate what TER level we want our teachers to achieve. There is no reason why we, as employers, cannot set what that level should be.

That might be a step too far just now, but the power we have as an employer of thousands and thousands of teachers—in fact, about 1,500 per year come into the system—is immense. We

can set the standard for our public education and we can set that by having a minimum TER score for our teachers to achieve.

In closing, I acknowledge Scott Maxwell, a music teacher at Grant High School. Scott Maxwell came from Reidy Park Primary School, where my kids went to school. Grant High School is a school at which I taught for a number of years. Scott Maxwell has been nominated by ARIA as one of the country's most outstanding music teachers in Australia and he is in the finals. Guy Sebastian attended Grant High School a week ago to inform Scott Maxwell that he was nominated; if he is successful, he will attend the ARIAs in the coming weeks.

This is an outstanding achievement for an outstanding music teacher—you only have to go to one of his musicals, which he writes himself. The music program at Grant High School would be the envy of many public schools. I give due recognition to Scott Maxwell and the music curriculum he has developed at Grant High School.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (16:19):** I would like to make a small contribution to the debate in support of the bill. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise that bills like this are very important because they set up the framework for schools in our community. The reality is that schools in our community play an important part in the lives of the people in our community.

All of us can remember a very good teacher and the positive impact they had on our lives. Equally, we can remember those teachers who perhaps were not so positive as well. It just shows how important schools are to our lives, and that is why we need to make sure that schools and schoolteachers have the resources and tools to do the job the best they can. It is a little bit cliché, but what we invest in young people today, we will reap tomorrow, and the reverse is true: if we do not invest today, we will reap all the negative rewards later.

As a local MP, I am fortunate and blessed to have a very close and positive working relationship with all the schools in my electorate. I certainly enjoy visiting my schools when they have a number of activities and events. It is quite enjoyable, particularly when I visit my old school, which is now called Gawler and District College, and also my children's preschool. My primary school is no longer there; unfortunately, it is now houses. I remember that, when I was campaigning, I was telling people how their house was actually my year 7 class and things like that.

In addition to attending various events in schools like every other member here, I also make time at least once a year to meet with principals to sit down and have quite a lengthy discussion with them about the issues they face, the challenges facing their community and also the wonderful things they are doing and some of the innovations they are performing.

Because we are on school holidays on 5 October, unlike the rest of the world we celebrate World Teachers' Day this Friday. I would like to pay tribute to all the teachers in the schools in my area and also the teachers who teach students who come from my area. I would like to provide a small overview of some of the issues that the schools in my area confront and also some of the wonderful things they do.

The first school I would like to talk about briefly is St Patrick's Technical College. It is not physically in my electorate. It is actually in the member for Taylor's seat. It is a regional school and a number of the students who attend come from my electorate. St Patrick's excels in vocational education. In addition to providing what you might call traditional trades, like construction, etc., they also excel in the areas of defence and electronics. They are raising the standard of vocational education to make sure that the graduates from this college meet the requirements of the industries of tomorrow. I am very fortunate to have been invited to their school on a number of occasions to see their good work in practice.

Another school that is not physically in my electorate but serves my community is Northern Adelaide Senior College. It is what you might traditionally call a re-entry college for adult students. This college plays a very important role in the area because it gives young people a second chance. This school is for those young people who, for whatever reason, have left school at an early age but understand that obtaining their SACE is very important for them to go on to post-secondary education and also university education.

In addition to providing an opportunity for young people to re-enter, it also provides opportunities for young mums—and I mean quite young mums—who can bring their children with them while they are taught. If we are to avoid the constant cycle of poverty in our communities, we need to make sure that these young parents get the skills and education required to fulfil a meaningful life and work life and for their children as well. This school does a wonderful job in what you might call the creative industries. When it comes to music and other creative arts, this school does very well with their students. It does serve that student body very well.

Mark Oliphant College is one of the newer schools in my electorate. This school has a high influx of young people from Africa and the Middle East. The school works very hard, as the student body works very hard, to make sure that these young people are integrated into the school and also that their education does not suffer because of any racism or any other issue. I was fortunate enough recently to attend an event at the school which was run by its student representative council and which talked about the life and experiences of refugees and what they have gone through. I think that those sorts of stories help those students born in Australia understand those experiences and also help to integrate these students.

One of the things, though, I recently found out about the school was that this school, like other schools, likes to go on school excursions but, because of some rule within the Department of Transport, if you get on a train—and most school excursions go by train—before 9.30 you have to pay a fee. If you get on the train after 9.30, you do not pay. This school, because of its location, cannot get its students onto the train after a 9.30 service because they then cannot get back in time.

So you have a school which has quite a few students disadvantaged economically, which is further disadvantaged by government policy which actually makes them pay more. The inner city schools, which generally are wealthier, get free transport, and those schools in the peri-urban areas actually have to pay more. I am now in constant discussion with the department and the minister's office to change that policy because it actually further disadvantages a school community that is already disadvantaged.

The adjacent children's centre, the MOC (Mark Oliphant College), is doing a wonderful job in sometimes very difficult conditions. One of the things I have found when you talk to the various directors of the children's centres and the various community workers at community centres—and I have three children's centres in my electorate, that is, the Mark Oliphant College, the Gawler Children's Centre and also the LCI—is that they highlight a couple of things. It is not so much the difficulties but the challenges they face with young people who are part of the NDIS scheme, as well as the problems that families are experiencing trying to get appropriate funding throughout the NDIS to support the children.

In addition, there is an increasing number of young children who come to the preschools with language problems, and by that I do not mean that they speak a different language: they actually have problems with verbal skills. An increasing number of young people who are going to the preschools do not have verbal skills, and that is a real concern. That is why we need to make sure that we invest heavily in these early years to ensure that these young people get to a level where they do not always have to play catch-up later in life. Often a lack of language skills, and those other things, are associated with a whole range of traumas in the home.

I attended the spring fair of one of these schools on Sunday. Another school is the Munno Para Primary School. Over 30 per cent of this school's student body has either significant learning or behavioural issues, which pose quite a few challenges to the teachers in terms of providing a really good education, in the sense that children come in with a range of issues that need to be addressed even before they can start learning in the classroom.

One thing I admired when I visited the school was the dedication of these teachers to make sure that these young people get the best education possible. This school had to fight really hard to get some additional funding to actually reflect the student body and the disadvantage of the student body. I am also impressed by how hard the school has worked. I would also like to particularly mention Sandra Watherston. Sandra is the chairperson of the governing council and works very hard, as do other members of the governing council, to raise funds to invest in these young people.

Briefly, I would also like to mention the Trinity schools in my area. I have Trinity North, Trinity South and Trinity Senior. In fact, I should mention that I used to work at that school before I became an MP. I was a business manager at that school for six years, and also my children attend that school. Those schools continue to provide a broad range of academic, VET and extracurricular programs and are achieving some excellent results.

Yesterday, I was fortunate enough to attend their VET awards ceremony, where they recognised a number of young people who have excelled in their vocational education. This school does a really good job in providing a range of programs to meet the different needs of different students. One of the things I should also mention about VET education, particularly at St Patrick's but also at other schools, is that I think we need to stop seeing VET as a lesser program or as an inferior program to university study. It is just a different program.

**The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes. The VET option is a good option for some students, and it should be seen as that and not something that is not as good as university education. In fact, some young people who start off in VET programs start businesses and do very well, so we should make sure that young people, if that is their bent, are supported through the VET program. With the pathways that are available these days, you can start with a VET program today, literally work in that area and then, later on, do other studies as well. I think the VET program can provide a good grounding.

In fact, the guest speaker at the VET awards yesterday had done some VET programs herself. She went on to say how she did VET programs but now has gone on to other studies. She said that even though she is not working in a vocational education area, the VET program was a really good foundation for her later in life.

St Brigid's School places a huge emphasis on developing the whole student and the student's place in the world. For a number of years, they have been running a really strong program on environmental sustainability. They are trying to make sure that their young people understand that we all have a contribution to make to the environmental sustainability of our planet. In fact, to some extent it reflects Pope Francis's encyclical of recent times, where he refers to humankind as having an obligation to make sure that we care for the planet. That sort of philosophy goes not only through St Brigid's but also through Xavier College, which I will talk about in a moment.

At Gawler East Primary School, I met with the principal, whose main message was that they are focusing quite strongly on literacy and numeracy. They make sure that their programs are getting better and better to achieve better outcomes. It sounds like an old adage, but basic literacy and numeracy are the foundation blocks of a sound education. You need them for anything you study later in life.

Hewett Primary School is bursting at the seams and, as a result, often finds it difficult to run some programs. Apart from being a defence school, it is one of the few schools in the area that has a special allocation of funding to help defence families. That is a good thing, but it also offers challenges because defence families often move from community to community and, as a result, bring their own issues with young people having to attend numerous schools. Often, defence families lack family support because they move from state to state. The school is one of those with a disability learning unit and, like many other schools, it is facing an increasing number of students who present with a range of learning and behavioural issues. I do not think that we as a society have quite understood that, and it is certainly not reflected in terms of the funding we give those schools.

Gawler and District College is doing some wonderful things in its new programs around reading and literacy. One of the good things they have found is that their new program has not only resulted in better literacy skills but has also improved the behaviour of students. It is interesting to note that often we spend time trying to get kids to behave better, rather than doing the academic stuff. This is a school that said that by doing the academic stuff they were getting better behaviour.

On the day I visited, I met with Peta Tooley, one of the reception teachers. I am very proud to say that Peta Tooley recently won the early education teacher of the year award in South Australia. Clearly, the work she is doing in her classroom, and the work the school is doing, has been recognised at a state level. More recently, the school has also been keen to make baseball one of

its strong sports and become one of the strongest baseball schools in this country. I wish them well in that area.

Gawler Primary School is one of our oldest schools, and last week I had the pleasure of attending its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It continues to provide a sound education for students, and it is doing really well in the area. Xavier College was in my electorate; it is on the other side of the boundary now because of boundary changes, but it serves quite a few students in my area. It has been doing quite a bit of work in recent years with project-based learning, which is delivering really good results in helping to teach students about food sustainability—not only about how food is produced and food wastage but also about understanding the impact of unequal distribution of food in our society and the impact it has on people in our community and across the world.

I quickly read a report published in the last day or two that analyses the NAPLAN results. I think it was by the Grattan Institute, if I remember correctly. One of the findings of this study is that the biggest determinant of a student's success in education is their postcode, more so than whether they attended a Catholic, independent or public school. The message is that we need to ensure that, in those communities where there is a high level of economic and social disadvantage, there are resources in those schools to make sure that those children get a fair start.

It is not only in the schools, because schools can only do so much in the life of a young person, but also in those communities. The government has ceased some quite intensive programs that support families on a one-to-one basis to make sure that they are functioning well, which means that their children function well, which means that their children do well at school. I think it was called the 'family to family program'. It is one of many programs that have been cut, but it was also one of many programs, particularly in my area in northern Adelaide, that was doing great things to support those families to make sure that the next generation of young people is not lacking in literacy and numeracy skills.

We can talk about the economy and the importance of the economy but, unless we actually invest heavily in these communities and schools, the reality is that we will always be chasing our tails. The next generation over the next decades will have a whole range of behavioural issues and other issues that come from young people being frustrated by not having a sound education.

I hope that I have not painted too bleak a view, and I think I need to make it very clear that, despite some of the challenges facing the school communities, I have the utmost admiration for the hard work and contribution of schoolteachers in my area. They work really hard to make sure that the young people in their care get the best education possible. Schoolteachers work closely with SSOs and governing councils to ensure that every dollar is spent wisely for the maximum benefit of the young people in their communities. With those comments, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those teachers in my community and wish them a very happy World Teachers' Day this Friday.

**Mr COWDREY (Colton) (16:39):** I rise to indicate my support for the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018, as have many who have gone before me today. I also note the broad support for the bill and the indication that it is bipartisan in nature. I think that we all recognise the importance and the need to improve and update the legislation for education and children's services and to provide a modern framework for the delivery of high-quality children's services and compulsory education here in our state.

As has been mentioned many times, the bill is based upon a similar bill which was introduced by the previous government in 2017 but which unfortunately did not become law. However, it does incorporate a range of amendments on matters raised and flagged by the Liberal Party in opposition. In particular, the bill fulfils the Marshall government's election commitments to remove the previous government's proposed central controls over school governing councils and to entrench a legal fund for governing councils in dispute with the department, as proposed in the Debelle recommendations. It will also introduce legislation to increase fines to deter chronic truancy.

As already mentioned, the bill repeals and replaces the Education Act 1972 and the Children's Services Act 1985 to establish a contemporary legislative framework for the delivery of high-quality education. I think that members on both sides of the chamber would also agree that our children deserve access to the best schools, preschools and children's services, and this bill aims to

establish the conditions necessary for teachers, parents, families and communities to work together to give our children the best start in life.

I am especially fortunate to be a community representative on a couple of school governing councils in the local area, namely, the Henley High and Henley Primary School governing councils. From current and prior personal experience, it is very fair to say that those who choose to dedicate themselves to the governing council are often passionate, engaged and well-informed servants of their school communities. As a collective, we certainly owe a debt of gratitude to those willing to put their hand up to serve their community and school in that way.

However, the issue has been raised that at times there has been a hamstringing by the central controls that are in place. The bill seeks to remove those controls over school and preschool governing councils that were proposed in the previous iteration of the bill by the former Labor government. We on this side certainly believe that empowering school communities will deliver better student outcomes and result in happier and more efficient school communities.

As has been noted on a couple of occasions, this is evidenced by the removal of the provision for the minister to direct to suspend, dissolve or establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances. We have also introduced changes to ensure that parents or other persons responsible for children, students at school or preschool and children's centres will form a majority of members of the governing councils of that school or service. The bill also includes provisions for governing councils to have access to funds for independent legal advice when they are in dispute with the department. As noted, this was again a specific recommendation by the DeBelle inquiry.

I am very fortunate to serve in the western suburbs of Adelaide. We have a fantastic area surrounding Henley Beach, with Henley Beach South, Lockleys, Kidman Park, Fulham, Fulham Gardens, West Beach and Glenelg North. It is a fantastic part of South Australia. In fact, it is so fantastic that I think we were a hidden gem for a number of years, but the population has increased in our area over the last number of years. That has meant that there are now a number of young families in the area. They have reached that point in time where their children will soon enter school. That has been raised as a concern by a couple of people and a couple of schools in regard to primary schools in the area.

From my personal experience, that is why a number of schools and governing councils have raised their support for the Marshall Liberal government's commitment to transition year 7 to high school—purely because it will allow them some extra flexibility in their existing infrastructure and classroom arrangements and also deliver outcomes in terms of learning opportunities for those year 7 students in a middle school or senior school setting. I will talk in some detail about a number of the schools in my electorate, although I will not focus too strongly on the private schools, St Michael's and St Francis'. They are both fantastic schools in their own right; in fact, we had some visitors here from St Michael's just this morning during question time.

I want to touch on a couple of things raised just recently by the member for Light in regard to the importance of VET and vocational education here in South Australia. It has been identified as a key priority of the Marshall Liberal government and is also recognised, I think, by both sides as an important area for our state moving forward, particularly given future opportunities in defence and other sectors. That is why I was very happy to attend St Michael's just last week to present the Mary Colton Award for efforts in the VET area at the school.

A young man by the name of Marco Romano, who was awarded the Mary Colton Award at St Michael's, had completed a certificate in electronics, and the school made a significant point in calling out Marco's demeanour and work ethic as being two things that were integral to his success in both the VET sector and at school. I think that is something that is sometimes overlooked; a work ethic is an incredibly important skill for our young people to understand and to have in regard to their study, whether that is in the school setting or at university. The importance of a work ethic, of setting yourself a task and working to achieve it, is a skill that is perhaps overlooked at times. There are some fantastic schools in the Colton area within the suburbs I outlined just before.

*The Hon. A. Piccolo interjecting:*

**Mr COWDREY:** They are all fantastic, absolutely. One I want to specifically mention is Fulham Gardens Primary School, a school I have had the opportunity of visiting on a number of



occasions, and their special education unit. The set-up at their special education unit is quite unique in that they teach conductive education. I have been involved in the disability sector for a long time, and have relatives involved in the education sector, but conductive education was not something I knew a lot about prior to visiting Fulham Gardens Primary School.

It is an excellent program, one that sees young children with severe disabilities have the opportunity to really focus on physical, cognitive and communication development—important skills for any young person but particularly for those with severe disabilities. They are able to come into a setting where they have a number of people with similar conditions and where together they are able to work on their journey around the physical nature of what they are developing in terms of skills and communication, two critically important things.

The value of that, not just for those students involved in the program but also for the whole school community, cannot be understated. I am an advocate for young students being able to see and be educated about disability from a young age, but for them to also have the opportunity to see these young children grow and develop in an absolutely inclusive setting is something to be congratulated. I am very grateful to have the conductive education conductors, as they are called, out there working every day with the great people from the Fulham Gardens Primary School.

We also have the West Beach Primary School and we are working through with the governing council a couple of improvements at the school. They do a fantastic job of integrating with the local community around a number of different things. It is also the home of the West Beach Neighbourhood Watch, which meets there quite regularly. It is a fantastic school. They had a Christmas break-up presentation late last year that involved a number of their students and was very well received by the local community. Their oval is also well utilised by a number of local sporting groups.

St Leonards in Glenelg North is a smaller primary school but nonetheless important to the local community of Glenelg North. I was recently at the sports day, which was a fantastic day, which culminated in a relay race between the four houses of the school, and it was a race I had never seen before. They are a reception to year 7 school and the relay race involved a girl and a boy from each of the year levels, progressing from reception right up to year 7. We had the receptions to the year 7s all in one team, which I think was quite a novel event, and I quite enjoyed watching that.

Henley Primary School: we have a fantastic school down there. The principal, Shane Misso, does a fantastic job. They have just recently had some new flags delivered, which I am sure they will be raising with pride at that school. Also, at Fulham North Primary School I want to recognise Steve Marshall, for his namesake as well, which is important to raise, who recently left as the principal of Fulham North. I want to acknowledge his contribution to the school community at Fulham North Primary School. Interestingly, it is also the primary school that my wife attended, so I have a soft spot for Fulham North. Henley High has its graduation ceremony later in the week, and I believe we have a graduate of that great institution here in the member for Enfield. It is certainly a fantastic school.

**The Hon. J.R. Rau:** There's about three of them, I think.

**Mr COWDREY:** There are a number of graduates, I believe, from Henley High in the parliament: the member for Cheltenham—

**The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan:** Chaffey.

**Mr COWDREY:** The member for Chaffey.

*The Hon. J.R. Rau interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.C. van Holst Pellekaan:** There's one other somewhere.

**Mr COWDREY:** There are a number of Henley High graduates who have gone through the parliament over time. I would also like to recognise the former member for Colton in regard to his setting up of the Mary Colton Award. I think that was an absolutely fantastic idea to recognise the contribution of Mary Colton to our great state. It is something I am very happy to continue in our local area. It pays homage to a great South Australian and is something we should be happy about, considering the plight of women's suffrage and her contribution to that.

Kidman Park Primary School—I think I will just about cover the full gamut, as some have before me as well—celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. I was lucky enough to attend that celebration with the federal education minister at the time, Mr Simon Birmingham. It was a fantastic celebration. We also went back with the education minister earlier in the year in June when they had the Crows Growing with Gratitude program being launched with Paul Seedsman and Brodie Smith. I must admit that the education minister and I were not the most popular people in the room on that occasion. The Crows players were certainly better received than we were, but that is always going to be the case.

In regard to attendance, I wanted to make specific note of the provisions contained in the bill around attendance at school. It is something that I think everybody in this house sees as a critical part of ensuring the future of our children's education. It is ensuring that they are in the classroom, so I certainly welcome the strengthened provisions around attendance and chronic truancy, including the 50 per cent increase in truancy officers employed by the department.

In regard to protecting teachers, I know that this is something that has been raised in debate previously, and I know the member for Wright touched on it in some detail. The expansion of provisions to protect teachers from abuse, both verbal and physical, is a critically important part of this legislation, and I certainly support the member for Wright's comments in that regard. Like many in this place, I have a number of friends and relatives who are teachers, and the member for Wright's comments regarding the changing nature and treatment of teachers by parents and students alike certainly rang true with me. In a digital age, sometimes abuse is not seen by anyone and the impact often does not take a physical form. With forums online and commentary available, I certainly welcome these provisions, and I am glad that they have been included around eradicating offensive behaviour towards teachers.

I also want to touch on the provisions around improved information sharing between schools, which aims to improve student outcomes. Whether a child changes schools from the private sector to the public sector, moves between schools or goes to an interstate school, regardless of the changing circumstances, it is often one of the most difficult times in any child's life. Ensuring that a student experiences continuity within their learning, with the safety and wellbeing that that provides, is absolutely essential.

The provisions in this bill to allow for and improve information sharing between schools, whether public sector or non-government, preschools and children's service centres, and the department, is absolutely necessary. I note that there are obviously provisions and safeguards involved to ensure that privacy is respected but, where we can, shifting as much information as possible to help the development of a child in regard to their learning and where they are at as an individual is absolutely critical to ensuring that our children see a high level of continuity in the education they receive.

Finally, I want to touch very briefly on something that obviously both sides agree on, that is, that the importance of education is absolutely paramount, as is respect for our teachers, as they do an incredibly important job day to day. I look forward to the coming weeks, when all members of this house will attend graduation ceremonies, award ceremonies and end-of-year festivities at each of their schools. I look forward to getting out and attending those events.

I must say that it has been a privilege to represent the local community. Each and every day, it is an absolute privilege to have greater opportunities to engage with our schools and our local communities. I thank them very much for their open invitations to attend because the connection we have as local members to our community is often focused on those over the age of 18, but communicating with those young people is just as important as communicating with those over the age of 18.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this debate. I certainly acknowledge the Minister for Education and the work that has been done on both sides of the chamber in previous years to get us to the point of introducing this bill to the house.

**Mrs POWER (Elder) (16:58):** I rise in support of the Education and Children's Services Bill. The bill will modernise legislation for education and children's services, providing a contemporary framework for the delivery of high-quality children's services and compulsory education within

South Australia. It is similar to and based upon a bill that was introduced by the previous government in 2017, so I acknowledge them for their contribution in beginning this work.

However, it is important to highlight that this bill goes further and incorporates the amendments on a range of matters that the Liberal Party flagged in opposition. Importantly, it also fulfils our election commitments to remove the previous government's proposed central controls over school governing councils and entrench a legal fund for governing councils in dispute with the department, as proposed in the Debelle recommendations. It also introduces legislation to deter chronic truancy.

Our children deserve access to the best schools, preschools and children's services, and the bill aims to establish the conditions necessary for teachers, parents, families and communities to work together to give our children the best start in life. Creating the conditions for teachers, parents and families to work together to give our children the best start in life is absolutely crucial. This has been reinforced to me through my recent visits to meet with principals, teachers and governing council members of the early learning, primary and secondary schools within my electorate of Elder.

Our local schools play an important part in building and shaping our community. In the seat of Elder, I have been continually impressed and inspired by our school communities. I would like to share with you some of the highlights of just a few of my local schools and in doing so you will see how committed the leadership teams, governing councils and the wider school communities are in educating our younger generations and how the bill, by empowering our school communities, will only serve to help them to deliver better outcomes for our students and have happier and more efficient school communities.

Pasadena High School, soon to be known as Springbank Secondary College, is one school that has demonstrated its resilience and flexibility over time. Under the experienced and expert stewardship of principal, Wendy House, and its governing council, chaired by the capable Jody Moate, it is a vibrant school with a clear vision and multiple pathways leading to a future for all students. Everyone in my local community is aware that Pasadena High School has been through a period of transition, and soon they will realise that this period of transition could be more accurately described as a period of transformation.

Speaking with Wendy House, I have been advised that the school's curriculum and the school's culture have been reviewed and improved. Further, in the last 18 months, staff and students at Pasadena High School have worked extremely hard to redesign and create a new school on this site. New partnerships have recently either been formed or significantly strengthened with Flinders University, the Australian Science and Mathematics School, Daws Road Centre, Basketball SA and the Sturt basketball club.

Considerable cooperative work, professional learning and exploration of rich learning and task design have occurred, as the school has developed the state's first science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics—that is, STEAM as opposed to STEM—focused secondary school. Amazing outcomes have been achieved through innovation, collaboration and creativity. Whilst the new name and school, Springbank Secondary College, will take effect from term 4 this year, the official launch will occur at the commencement of the 2019 school year.

The name is a respectful acknowledgement of the Springbank RAAF camp that operated on the school site during World War II. Westbourne Park Primary School, under the leadership of—

*Mr Picton interjecting:*

**Mrs POWER:** —your old school—well, lucky you!—principal, Julie Gallaher, and its governing council, chaired by Ben Preston, has a wonderful sense of community, tucked away in the picturesque suburb of Westbourne Park. The school is focused on the development of the whole child and recognises that its students are individuals who have a variety of talents and skills. Its leadership team, governing council, staff and ancillary staff—that is, its student support officers—work tirelessly to ensure quality education and a collaborative approach to education with parents.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits to this school and attending their governing council meetings. I look forward to seeing the new build at the school, with its \$5 million Building Better

Schools funding. I have no doubt that a school like this will thrive under the proposed Education and Children's Services Bill.

St Bernadette's School in St Marys is a beautiful local Catholic parish school, with a strong focus on nurturing confident life learners. Originally in the Colonel Light Gardens parish, this school opened in February 1952 with a student base of only 24 children. It certainly has grown since then and now includes an incredible diversity of students from a range of different cultures and heritages.

The wonderful new principal, Mr Ray Higgins, supported by governing council chair, Mr Joshua Clayton, has maintained the school values of respect, truth, love, justice and hope and encourages students to actively support a variety of charitable groups, such as the St Vincent de Paul Society. I recently visited St Bernadette's to present them with a new state flag. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the lovely students, who were kind enough to share their learnings from Science Week with me.

St Therese School is another leading Catholic primary school in my electorate, spearheaded by the principal, Amanda. St Therese recognises the importance of additional learning intervention and last year introduced a series of measures in the classroom to assist students in their learning. St Therese is a fantastic example of a school that embraces its students and strives to give the best possible opportunities in the classroom and beyond.

Edwardstown Primary School is a dynamic and caring learning community that places a great value on fostering healthy well-rounded young minds. I recently hosted Edwardstown year 6 and 7 classes on a tour of Parliament House, and I was impressed by their thoughtful questions and the very interesting discussions we had. The principal, Kathy Papps, and the school governing chair, Michael Rodenberg, have been heavily involved in fostering the school's specialised performing arts program, which gives students the opportunity to express themselves creatively in areas including music, dance and drama.

I am especially looking forward to attending the school's annual Strawberry Fair on 4 November, which is always a treat. This year, I am excited to be volunteering on a stall for the day. On this fun day, the oval and courts at the Edwardstown Primary School are transformed into a sea of colour and activity. It is, without a doubt, a marvellous day with a fantastic community feel. My local community never fail to come together to enjoy this fabulous event with their families. I would encourage anyone in their local area to come along and have a delicious strawberry pancake or whatever other delights are on offer.

Clovelly Park Primary School is a vibrant local school with a strong community focus. The principal, Mr Michael Clark, supported by the governing council chair, Ms Hayley Parker, has brought so many positive and dynamic changes to the school in recent times. The school have recently undergone a rebranding exercise and updated their school logo to reflect their fantastic inclusive values. New school signs have just been erected at the school gate, and I congratulate all of those who were involved in this exciting undertaking.

Clovelly Park Primary School also affords those students the opportunity to participate in a national performing arts festival, where students and staff create a story/dance that reflects students' thoughts, ideas and aspirations. The students perform this at the Entertainment Centre each year, and it is a fabulous way for the children to express their creativity.

I have also spent time touring and visiting some of the local early learning centres and preschools within the seat of Elder. We know that the emotional, social and physical development of young children is linked with their growth and will help shape the adults they become. The effort and devotion of those who work in early learning with a whole child approach is commendable. It is hard work and often underappreciated. We know now that early learning is one of the most important factors in maximising children's future wellbeing, and I sincerely congratulate all the local educators on their excellent work in this area.

On all my school visits—and I have mentioned only a few of my local schools today, with others already being spoken about in this house at other times—I was so impressed by the teaching and support staff, who demonstrated their dedication to educating our children, not just focusing on the Australian Curriculum but also teaching our children and young people about respect, integrity, inclusiveness, creativity and caring for your community. These life skills help teach our students how

they can contribute to their community. It helps develop strong and cohesive relationships and encourages our future generation to get involved within the broader school community.

I am proud to be part of a government that is making the educational needs of South Australian students a priority. The Marshall Liberal government is absolutely committed to improving the education outcomes for all students in South Australia, and we have demonstrated our commitment in terms of not only legislative reforms but also monetary terms, with the recent state budget showing a record investment in education. In fact, \$515 million more will be spent on education in 2021-22 compared with last year.

We have committed to implementing a comprehensive program to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students, and the benefit will be most profound for those students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties. The Marshall Liberal government has made the commitment to ensure that students across South Australia have the intercultural capability they need to succeed in the increasingly globalised world in which we all live by reinvigorating some of the languages in some of our South Australian schools.

We are also committed to ensuring the mental and emotional wellbeing of our children. We will protect our children by taking serious action to tackle bullying in our schools. As a government, we are also supportive of strong measures to protect students, teachers and other staff acting in the course of their duties from offensive behaviour or the use of abusive, threatening or insulting language, as this bill demonstrates.

Our teaching and school leadership staff do an absolutely incredible job in educating and shaping our younger generations, and they deserve safe learning and working environments. This bill specifically includes provisions to suspend, exclude or expel a student from a school if a student has perpetrated violence, acted illegally or persistently interfered with the ability of a teacher to conduct their lessons.

Other aspects of this bill worthy of note include employment provisions for staff. Staff employed within our schools, preschools and children's services are integral in providing high-quality education services to South Australian children. Staff work tirelessly to understand and respond to the learning, wellbeing and safety needs of all children in order to provide them with the best opportunity to succeed. This bill brings together and strengthens the employment provisions for teachers and support workers in government schools, preschools and children's services under a single act.

This bill also includes a number of provisions for improved information sharing between government and non-government schools, preschools, children's services centres and the department where necessary to support their education, health, safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child. Ensuring that a student experiences continuity with their learning, safety and wellbeing is vitally important in providing a high-quality education service and experience.

When a child is transferring between schools, this bill provides for the principle of the enrolling school to request information from the previous school about the child's academic progress and any support the child might require to be successful in their learning in the future. This bill also includes important safeguards to protect personal information from unauthorised disclosure or misuse.

In my electorate, I am committed to assisting all the local schools, students, parents and carers to help each student achieve their full potential. I believe that all South Australian children and teenagers deserve the opportunity to access high-quality education. I know that the dedicated and hardworking education staff in our local schools deserve proper investment and legislation, such as this bill, to help them deliver quality education outcomes.

I will continue to work hard over the coming months and years to ensure that these commitments are implemented in the best possible way for all the people living in the seat of Elder and across South Australia. Education and our local schools are two of the most important pillars of our community. I commend the schools in the seat of Elder and across our state. I commend the people who work and volunteer to make our school communities great. I commend our Minister for Education for bringing this important work to this house, and I commend this bill to the house.

**Dr HARVEY (Newland) (17:15):** Today, I am very pleased to rise in support of the Education and Children's Services Bill 2018. As many of us have reflected here in this place, education is incredibly important. It is really the basis for empowering the next generation to be able to take on the world and pursue whatever pathway they wish. They need those skills, and our schools are the places where the vast majority of those skills are acquired.

I would also like to say that one of my favourite community events to participate in is attending local school events and activities as a local MP. To be involved in local activities where you have students, sometimes quite young students, who have completely committed themselves to whatever activity it is—whether it is some kind of art show, a science exhibition or even a sports day—is very energising.

This bill ultimately seeks to modernise the legislation for education, children's services and compulsory education within South Australia. The bill is based on a similar bill introduced by the previous government in 2017, but it differs in that it incorporates amendments that relate to a range of proposals put forward by the Liberal Party when in opposition. In particular, the bill fulfils the Marshall Liberal government's election commitments to remove the previous government's controls over schools' governing councils. It entrenches a legal fund for governing councils in dispute with the department and will introduce legislation to increase fines to deter chronic truancy.

In addition to these, the other key areas of reform include the rules governing committee membership for promotions, reclassifications and amalgamations; some clarification around religious and cultural activities; changes to the rules to strengthen protections for the safety of students and staff at school; and improved information sharing. The bill repeals and replaces the Education Act 1972 and the Children's Services Act 1985, which have obviously been around for a very long time. Other members have reflected on how that relates to their own schooling. In my case, 1985 being the year that I was born, it suggests to me that these bills are well and truly in line and due for some updating.

We are establishing a contemporary legislative framework for the delivery of high-quality education and children's services in South Australia, and we will establish the right conditions to enable teachers, parents, families and communities to work together to give our children the best possible start in life. One of the key areas in which we are looking at change is in and around governing councils.

I have been fortunate to have visited and be part of the vast majority of governing councils in my electorate. I have really been impressed, in some cases, by the number of parents who have put themselves forward. The energy of those parents and the commitment that they have shown to their schools is really quite incredible. It is quite heartening, too, when you broadly see that a lot of community groups are often struggling for numbers, at least in the cases that I have seen, but there do seem to be very strong numbers of people in governing councils, which I think is very positive.

In particular, just recently, the hard work of the Modbury High School governing council was on show. They organised a bingo night to fundraise for the new community garden that they are constructing. The project is largely driven by the acting chair, Martin Crabb, who is working with the Friends of Anstey Hill to put this garden together. The fundraising event itself was driven by the secretary, Helen Checklin. It was a fantastic night with at least 70 people in attendance. I made it onto the teachers' table. It was quite interesting. I do not think that anyone on the table had actually played bingo before, so there was quite a lot of learning going on that night on the teachers' table in terms of how bingo works, but it was a fun night.

It occurred as a result of the hard work of the governing council, and I would certainly like to acknowledge their work. This goes for so many of the other governing councils as well. Not only is participation on governing councils important for the good community-driven governance of our local schools but, at the most basic level, it is another important opportunity for parents to show their children that they are interested in and value their schooling, which has an enormous impact on how those children succeed at school.

The Marshall Liberal government believes that by empowering school communities we will deliver better student outcomes and have happier and more efficient school communities. This bill removes the central controls over school and preschool governing councils as had been proposed

in the previous iteration of this bill by the former government. We have removed the provision for the minister to direct, suspend, dissolve and establish a new governing council under disciplinary circumstances, and we have introduced changes to ensure that parents and other persons responsible for children and students at schools, preschools and children's centres will form the majority of the members of the governing councils of those schools and services.

The bill also includes a provision for governing councils to access funds for independent legal advice when they are in dispute with the department, which was a specific recommendation of the DeBelle royal commission. The Crown Solicitor, or a nominee of the Crown Solicitor, will make a decision as to whether a governing council's request meets the necessary requirements to be funded.

Another important proposal within the bill relates to some of the changes we are making around certain committee memberships. The Marshall government believes that the needs of schools, preschools and children's services are not best served by restricting staff membership on decision-making groups to only members of the Australian Education Union. The bill removes the exclusive rights of the Australian Education Union to nominate members of the relevant committees, as was the case in the former iteration of this bill.

This includes selection committees for promotional level positions in the teaching service, reclassifications and review committees considering the amalgamation of schools. The members of selection committees will now be appointed by the department's chief executive, and at least one member will be a person elected from the teaching service to represent them on such committees. For the purposes of the amalgamation and closure of schools, review committees will include a staff member of each school to be nominated by their respective staff.

Importantly, the bill also retains the opportunity for schools and preschools to participate in religious and cultural activities. Such activities could include, for example, a pastor coming to a school to talk about Easter, an imam explaining Ramadan or a group of students attending a community prayer breakfast. This is dealt with within the current legislation at section 102 of the Education Act; however, the bill before us today provides greater clarity around how the provision for permission to be granted exemption from religious education should work in practice.

Firstly, the bill clarifies that if a religious or cultural activity is to take place, then parents should be notified. Moreover, the bill proposes retaining the opt-out principle for families seeking that their children should be exempted. The government believes, as do I, that this opt-out mechanism is sufficient in cases where parents are concerned or object to their children being exposed to any religious or cultural activity. There is sufficient scope for them to opt out without the opposite situation occurring, which could instead make it unreasonably difficult for schools to carry out such activities.

Another key area that I touched on earlier, and a major part of our election platform in education, is in regard to school attendance and truancy. The Nyland royal commission found truancy to be a significant risk factor in child protection concerns. Moreover, there is an enormous body of work that consistently highlights a strong connection between chronic non-attendance at school and ongoing social and economic disadvantage that occurs throughout a person's life. The bill addresses the issue of truancy through multiple measures, including:

- increased penalties for the parents of children who are chronically absent from school;
- a broader range of measures to deal with non-attendance, including the provision for family conferencing to enable school staff and families to work in partnership to improve school attendance;
- increasing the number of truancy officers by 50 per cent;
- auditing attendance policies at all government schools; and
- taking steps to ensure that children in out-of-home care are engaged in education.

Importantly, the bill does not include provision for the issuing of expiation notices for non-attendance as proposed by the previous government, as such expiation notices for these kinds of offences will ultimately undermine the benefits of early intervention through family conferences and support work.

As a number of others have touched on, it is absolutely essential that schools are a safe working environment and a safe environment for our students. There is absolutely no excuse or any reason at all why anyone should behave in an abusive, offensive or threatening manner at a school, regardless of who they are. It is essential that we make sure that there are strong measures in place to protect students, teachers and other staff acting in the course of their duties from such behaviour.

The bill includes the provision to suspend, exclude or expel a student from a school if the student has perpetrated violence, acted illegally or persistently interfered with the ability of a teacher to conduct their lessons. I would also like to echo some other points and indicate in my view the abhorrence of parents who likewise behave in an offensive and abusive manner towards teachers and other office staff at school.

I have heard of many examples, not necessarily in my electorate but going back over many years throughout schools right across the state. The kind of behaviour that some teachers are subjected to is quite horrifying. Ultimately, their job and what they are seeking to do is to try to help create a better future for that child. Sometimes parents do not like to hear bad news or hear of some areas that need to be addressed, but it is important for parents to listen and to try to work with teachers to ensure the best possible outcome. Other measures aimed at promoting safe learning and work environments include:

- providing power for the chief executive to terminate employment of an officer of the teaching service if the officer is not a registered teacher within the meaning of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 and the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016;
- the provision for a person to be barred from a school, preschool or children's service if that person has behaved in an offensive manner while on the premises, or threatened or insulted staff, or committed or threatened to commit any other offences on or in relation to the premises;
- dealing with trespass on all schools, preschools and children's services sites;
- strengthened provisions for authorised persons to deal with people behaving in an unacceptable manner on premises;
- mandating working with children checks for adults returning to study at schools;
- prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in all preschools and schools; and
- providing a power for the chief executive to direct a child who may pose a risk to the health, safety or welfare of other students or staff to be enrolled at or attend a specific government school or program after taking reasonable steps to consult with their parent or caregiver.

Another important area I would like to raise is information sharing, particularly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century now that the means for this are a lot easier. We have also seen many examples where this information sharing could have quite significant beneficial impacts. We are ensuring that a student experiences continuity with their learning and that safety and wellbeing are important in providing a high-quality education service.

This bill includes provisions to improve information sharing between government and non-government schools, preschools, children's services and the department where necessary to support the education, health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child. When a child is in the process of being transferred from one school to another, the bill provides for the principal of the enrolling school to request information from the previous school about the child's academic progress and any support the child might require to be successful in their learning. The bill also includes important safeguards to protect personal information from unauthorised disclosure or misuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the schools in my electorate for the outstanding work they do in educating our children. Our job in here is to back them up with a modern legislative framework that ensures that principals, teachers, parents and the community are best placed to work together to deliver the best possible education for our children into the future. In these



last remaining minutes, I would like to speak more on particular examples and commend local schools.

Banksia Park International High School, for example, is a fantastic local high school that is doing a lot of really great work. It has a highly committed governing council and a very new principal, Roley Coulter, who has been at the school for quite a number of years—he started off as a music teacher, I learned earlier today. This is a school with a fantastic international program, which has enormous benefits for the local students within the school as well as visiting students. The school has worked very hard to put together a modern, state-of-the-art ICT facility that enables students to deal with quite complex graphic design projects as well as projects in photography.

Ridgehaven Primary School, which I spoke about earlier in this place, does fantastic work in a number of areas. In particular, they have a big commitment to the arts and the performing arts, and earlier this year they put together a fantastic production of *Trolls*. A very committed group of students, ranging from eight years of age right up to 11, did a fantastic job in the two-hour performance, remembering all their lines.

Tea Tree Gully Primary School is one of the oldest primary schools in the state, I believe, and will celebrate a 150-year anniversary in a couple of years' time. I am very much looking forward to visiting the school again soon to be a guest judge for their science show. The Modbury South Primary School and preschool, in collaboration with the Tea Tree Gully Men's Shed, recently replaced their pirate ship that had unfortunately been stolen. The Men's Shed, a fantastic local community group, built a brand-new, wooden pirate ship for the playground, which was recently opened.

I was also thrilled to be able to attend the Banksia Park primary school's dad's day a number of months ago. Those dads who could come along did come along and were part of an assembly, where I handed over some flags. It was going to be a flag-raising ceremony, but unfortunately it was raining, so it was more of a handing-over ceremony, but we got to talk about the Australian flag and the Aboriginal flag, what the symbols mean and how important the flags are to us. That was a fantastic day.

Fairview Park Primary School is right now participating in a Christmas card competition. Years 3 and 4 classes are putting together all sorts of different designs that will go on the Christmas cards I will be sending out later this year, and I look forward to seeing some fantastic examples of that work very soon.

I was also very pleased to visit the Redwood Park Primary School—not physically in my electorate but just across the road—a number of months ago during National Science Week. I had been invited by the science teacher to talk to the years 6 and 7 classes about my former career in science, the kind of work I used to do and the kind of work that scientists do. Perhaps one of the reasons I like going to schools is that, because you are only there for a short amount of time, they are engaged and listening. My own children do not tend to do that at home, but it is nice that other people's children tend to. It was a fantastic afternoon and we got to talk about science and all sorts of things.

St Agnes Primary School is another fantastic local school. I have had a bit to do with them for a number of years by presenting the Neighbourhood Watch Community Service Award. The Modbury Special School does a fantastic job supporting students who have varying degrees of disability. I am going to run out of time, so I will have to talk about these other schools on another day. I would like to commend the minister for the work that has been done on this very important bill and I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. R. Sanderson.

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

**TERRORISM (POLICE POWERS) (USE OF FORCE) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:37 the house adjourned until Wednesday 24 October 2018 at 10:30.

*Answers to Questions***HOUSING SA**

**364 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (5 September 2018). What was the total number of Housing SA properties scheduled or approved for sale as at:

- (a) 18 March 2018?
- (b) 30 June 2018?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

South Australian Housing Trust properties scheduled or approved for sale:

(a) 31 March 2018	128
(b) 30 June 2018	132

\*Data is recorded as at the end of each month. Accordingly, SA Housing Authority is only able to provide figures as at 31 March 2018.

\*\*The 132 properties listed as at 30 June 2018 are not in addition to the 128 properties listed as at 31 March 2018. There may be properties that appear as approved for sale as at both points in time.

**VOLUNTEER SCREENING CHECKS**

**387 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). As per the 2018-19 budget, can the minister confirm that it is the policy of the Marshall government to commence free volunteer screening checks from 1 January 2019?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

As I announced on 22 September 2018, screening checks conducted by the DHS Screening Unit will be free for volunteers from 1 November 2018.

**VOLUNTEER SCREENING CHECKS**

**388 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). What discussions within government has the minister been involved in concerning the implementation date of free volunteer screening checks being moved forward from the 1 January 2019 implementation date as per the 2018-19 budget?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

Discussions with the DHS Screening Unit identified that required system changes could be completed by 1 November 2018.

**VOLUNTEER SCREENING CHECKS**

**389 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). Can the minister reveal the modelling and analysis undertaken by the Department of Human Services that predicts a rise in the number of volunteer screening applications from 2017-18 to 2018-19 of only 844 applicants?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

This was discussed in Estimates Committee Hearing A on Tuesday 25 September 2018. Please refer to *Hansard*.

**HOUSING TRUST**

**390 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). For those occasions when the minister or a member of her staff conducted face-to-face or tele-communicative meetings with stakeholders and Housing Trust clients ahead of the government's decision to increase Housing Trust rents:

1. What is the name of the stakeholder and their organisation? and
2. What was the date of the meeting(s)?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

This was discussed in Estimates Committee Hearing A on Tuesday 25 September 2018, please refer to *Hansard*.

**HOUSING TRUST**

**391 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). For those occasions when the minister or a member of her staff conducted face-to-face or tele-communicative community consultation forums ahead of the government's decision to increase Housing Trust rents:

1. What is the name of the stakeholders in attendance at each consultative forum?
2. What was the date of the forum(s)?
3. Where were these forums conducted?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

This was discussed in Estimates Committee Hearing A on Tuesday 25 September 2018, please refer to *Hansard*.

**MODERATE INCOME**

**392 Ms COOK (Hurtle Vale)** (16 October 2018). What is a moderate income?

**The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General):** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following advice:

This was discussed in Estimates Committee Hearing A on Tuesday 25 September 2018, please refer to *Hansard*.

**POLICE NUMBERS**

**393 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). What was the total number (FTE) of sworn police officers in South Australia as at 31 August 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The total number of active sworn police officers (excluding cadets) in South Australia as at 31 August 2018 is 4,600.8 FTE.

**POLICE NUMBERS**

**394 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018).

As at 31 August 2018 what was the total number (FTE) of sworn police employed in:

- (a) Northern Metro District;
- (b) Southern Metro District;
- (c) Eastern Metro District;
- (d) Western Metro District; and
- (e) Non-metropolitan areas?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

As at 31 August 2018, the total number of sworn police (excluding cadets) assigned to the four metropolitan police districts is 1,739.6 FTE.

The total number employed in non-metropolitan areas is 948.8 FTE.

In addition to the four police districts, a further 1,912.6 sworn FTE are assigned to various locations across the metropolitan area, the major ones of which are:

- Police Headquarters
- SAPOL Communications Centre
- Police Academy, Taperoo
- Thebarton Barracks

Staff in these locations undertake a wide range of specialist investigation and response services.

**POLICE NUMBERS**

**395 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). As at 31 August 2018 what was the total number of non-sworn employees in:

- (a) Northern Metro District;
- (b) Southern Metro District;
- (c) Eastern Metro District;
- (d) Western Metro District; and
- (e) Non-metropolitan areas?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

As at 31 August 2018, the total number of non-sworn FTE allocated to the four metropolitan police districts is 81 FTE.

The total number employed in non-metropolitan areas is 61.1 FTE.

In addition to the four police districts, a further 900.5 non-sworn FTE are assigned to various locations across the metropolitan area, the major ones of which are:

- Police Headquarters
- SAPOL Communications Centre
- Police Academy, Taperoo
- Thebarton Barracks

#### **POLICE NUMBERS**

**396 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister detail all meetings with the following organisations or agencies, or individual members of the following organisations or agencies, between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018, including dates, times and persons present:

- (a) Crime Stoppers SA;
- (b) RAA (SA);
- (c) Motor Accident Commission;
- (d) Centre for Automotive Safety and Research (Adelaide University);
- (e) Police Association of South Australia;
- (f) SA Police Legacy;
- (g) Bike SA; and
- (h) Bicycle Institute of South Australia.

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

(a) Crime Stoppers SA—meetings with the Chair and Deputy Chair on 23 May 2018 at 10:30am and 10 July 2018 at 12:30 pm.

(b) RAA (SA)—meetings with the Group Managing Director and General Manager Engagement and Innovation on 23 May 2018 at 11:00 am and 18 June 2018 at 10:30am

(c) In addition to regular fortnightly Road Safety meetings, meetings were also held with the Motor Accident Commission on the following occasions:

- Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Manager, Communications and Engagement on 28 March 2018 at 1:00 pm
- Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Independent Non-Executive Director Chairman on 17 April 2018 at 2:00 pm
- Meeting with the Manager, Communications and Engagement and Marketing Manager, Road Safety on 17 April 2018 at 3:00 pm
- Meeting with Board Members and Manager, Corporate Services on 1 June 2018 at 1:00 pm
- Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Manager, Communications and Engagement on 15 June 2018 at 2:00 pm
- Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer, Manager, Communications and Engagement and Independent Non-Executive Director Chairman on 19 June 2018 at 9:15 am

- Meeting with the Chief Executive Officer and Manager, Communications and Engagement on 16 July 2018 at 1:30 pm
- (d) Centre for Automotive Safety and Research (Adelaide University) – no meetings held during this period.
- (e) Police Association of South Australia (PASA):
- Meeting with President and Secretary on 6 April 2018 at 11:00 am
  - Presentation to PASA members on 13 April 2018 at 4:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 7 June 2018 at 4:00 pm
  - Meeting with President and Secretary on 10 July 2018 at 5:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 18 July 2018 at 12:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 15 August 2018 at 2:00 pm
- (f) SA Police Legacy – meeting with President and Manager on 31 July 2018 at 10:30 am
- (g) Bike SA—Nil
- (h) Bicycle Institute of South Australia—Nil

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**397 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Which lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists) had contact, verbal, written or in person, with the minister, with regards to police, or a member of the minister's staff between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the Lobbyists Act 2015. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**398 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). For those occasions when the minister or a member of his staff met with lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists):

1. What is the name of the lobbyist?
2. What was the date of the meeting(s)?
3. What is the name of the third party for whom the lobbyist was provided paid or unpaid services?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the *Lobbyists Act 2015*. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the Act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### POLICE STATIONS

**399 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Which police stations did the minister visit between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

Date	Location
24 April 2018	Netley Police Station
27 April 2018	Christies Beach Police Station
13 June 2018	Pt Augusta Police Station
14 July 2018	Mt Gambier Police Station
28 July 2018	Adelaide Oval SAPOL Command Area
	Hindley Street Police Station
29 July 2018	Adelaide City Watch House

**POLICE STATIONS**

**400 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Which SAPOL facilities other than police stations did the minister visit between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

Date	Event (location)
12 April 2018	SAPOL Executive Leadership Team (Police Headquarters)
22 April 2018	SAPOL ANZAC Memorial (Police Academy, Taperoo)
2 May 2018	SAPOL Graduation – Constable Development Program, Course 26 & 27 (Police Academy, Taperoo)
25 May 2018	Visit to Multi Agency Protection Service (Adelaide)
	Visit to Women's Safety Services (Mile End)
27 June 2018	SAPOL Graduation – Constable Development Program, Course 28 (Police Academy, Taperoo)
24 August 2018	Visit to COMCEN (Adelaide Command Centre)

**POLICE REVIEW**

**401 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister detail any meetings or conversations he, or any member of his staff, has had with the Mayor of the Wattle Range Council, Peter Gandolfi, regarding the closure of the Kalangadoo Police Station?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I can advise that I received written communication from Peter Gandolfi regarding Kalangadoo Police Station dated 14 May 2018.

**POLICE REVIEW**

**402 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister detail all meetings with the following organisations or agencies, or individual members of the following organisations or agencies, between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018, including dates, times and persons present:

- (a) Public Service Association;
- (b) Police Association of South Australia;
- (c) G4S plc;
- (d) OARS (SA);
- (e) Parole Board of SA; and
- (f) Second Chances SA?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

(a) Public Service Association – meeting with President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary on 19 April 2018 at 2:45 pm

- (b) Police Association of South Australia (PASA):
- Meeting with President and Secretary on 6 April 2018 at 11:00 am
  - Presentation to PASA members on 13 April 2018 at 4:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 7 June 2018 at 4:00 pm
  - Meeting with President and Secretary on 10 July 2018 at 5:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 18 July 2018 at 12:30 pm
  - Meeting with President on 15 August 2018 at 2:00 pm

(c) G4S plc—visit to Mount Gambier Prison on 14 July 2018 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

(d) OARS (SA)—site visit on 27 April 2018 at 2:30 pm

(e) Parole Board of SA:

- Meeting with Presiding Member on 9 April 2018 at 1:30 pm

- Attended a Parole Board hearing on 31 July 2018 at 12:30 pm
- (f) Second Chances SA—no meetings during this time.

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**403 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Which lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists) had contact, verbal, written or in person, with the minister, with regard to Correctional Services, or a member of the minister's staff between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the Lobbyists Act 2015. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**404 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). For those occasions when the minister or a member of his staff met with lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists):

1. What is the name of the lobbyist?
2. What was the date of the meeting(s)?
3. What is the name of the third party for whom the lobbyist was provided paid or unpaid services?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the Lobbyists Act 2015. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE

**405 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Did the minister meet with, or correspond with, any public or private entity regarding the privatisation of the Adelaide Remand Centre between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

Prior to the decision announced in the budget to outsource the operation of the Adelaide Remand Centre to a private provider, I discussed the matter with the Chief Executive, Department for Correctional Services.

#### CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES VISITS

**406 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Will the minister detail all visits to correctional facilities between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018, including which facility and at what date and time?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

Date	Facility	Time
26 April 2018	Adelaide Women's Prison	9:00 am to 10:00 am
	Adelaide Pre-Release Centre	10:00 am to 11:00 am
	Yatala Prison and Operations Security Unit	11:00 am to 12:30 pm
13 June 2018	Whyalla Community Correctional Centre	9:00 am to 9:30 am
	Pt Augusta Prison	11:00 am to 12:00 pm
15 June 2018	Adelaide Women's Prison (Knitting Program handover)	10:00 am to 11:00 am
14 July 2018	Mt Gambier Prison	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
24 August 2018	Adelaide Remand Centre	10:15 am to 11:15 am
29 August 2018	Adelaide Women's Prison (Work Ready Release Ready program launch)	1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
4 September 2018	Adelaide Remand Centre	4:30 pm to 5:00 pm



**CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES**

**407 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister provide the total number of people incarcerated, or held on remand, in each South Australian correctional facility as at 31 August 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

As at 31 August 2018, there were 2,953 prisoners in custody in South Australian prisons. 1,061 of those prisoners were being held on remand. The below table provides a breakdown by prison.

Prison	Total prisoners	Remand prisoners
Adelaide Pre-Release Centre	102	0
Adelaide Remand Centre	217	172
Adelaide Women's Prison	169	88
Cadell Training Centre	207	0
Mobilong Prison	465	209
Mount Gambier Prison	492	114
Port Augusta Prison	573	193
Port Lincoln Prison	178	17
Yatala Labour Prison	537	258
James Nash House	13	10
Total	2953	1061

**POLICE CELLS**

**408 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister provide the total number of prisoners held in SAPOL cells as at 31 August 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised that there were no prisoners held in police cells on 31 August 2018.

**ASSOCIATION MEETINGS**

**409 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Can the minister detail all meetings with the following organisations or agencies, or individual members of the following organisations or agencies, between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018, including dates, times and persons present:

- (a) SES Volunteer Association;
- (b) CFS Volunteer Association;
- (c) United Firefighters Union;
- (d) Professional Firefighters Association;
- (e) Surf Life Saving SA;
- (f) St John Ambulance Australia (SA)?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):**

(a) SES Volunteer Association—meeting with Executive Officer, Chair and Deputy Chair on 19 April 2018 at 3:45 pm

(b) CFS Volunteer Association:

- Meeting with Executive Director, President and Deputy President on 12 April 2018 at 4:00 pm
- Meeting with Executive Director, Executive Assistant, President, Vice President, Eyre Peninsula Branch President, South East Branch President, Northern Branch President, Lower North Branch President, Yorke Peninsula Branch President, Kangaroo Island Branch President, and Murraylands Branch President on 6 June 2018 at 11:00 am

(c) United Firefighters Union—meeting with Secretary, President and Industrial Officer on 30 May 2018 at 10:30 am

- (d) Professional Firefighters Association—meeting with President on 20 June 2018 at 11:30 am
- (e) Surf Life Saving SA:
  - Meeting with Chief Executive Officer and Executive Assistant on 6 April 2018 at 2:00 pm
  - Meeting with Chief Executive Officer on 20 July 2018 at 11:15 am
- (f) St John Ambulance—Nil

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**410 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). Which lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists) had contact, verbal, written or in person, with the minister, with regards to emergency services, or a member of the minister's staff between 19 March 2018 and 4 September 2018?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the Lobbyists Act 2015. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS

**411 Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth)** (19 September 2018). For those occasions when the minister or a member of his staff met with lobbyists (listed on the Register of Lobbyists):

1. What is the name of the lobbyist?
2. What was the date of the meeting(s)?
3. What is the name of the third party for whom the lobbyist was provided paid or unpaid services?

**The Hon. C.L. WINGARD (Gibson—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing):** I have been advised:

The responsibility for reporting this information rests with lobbyists registered under the Lobbyists Act 2015. The information is reported by lobbyists annually as required by section 8 of the act and published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website.

#### *Estimates Replies*

##### POST PRODUCTION, DIGITAL AND VISUAL EFFECT REBATE

In reply to **the Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay)** (25 September 2018). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment):** I have been advised:

1. The Post Production, Digital and Visual Effect (PDV) rebate is still in effect.
2. The PDV rebate is administered by the South Australian Film Corporation.

##### EXPORT PROGRAMS

In reply to **the Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay)** (25 September 2018). (Estimates Committee B)

**The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment):** I have been advised:

1. The former Department for State Development provided \$600 000 in funding to Business SA to develop, launch and deliver the Export Ready Program. The funding was provided over a two-year period (in 2016-17 and 2017-18).

The original intention of the program was for it to become self-funding. The Department of Trade, Tourism and Investment is currently in discussions with Business SA about how these training services can be delivered in future.

2. The budget for the SA Export Accelerator program for 2019-20 is \$782,000.

##### OPERATING EXPENSES

In reply to **the Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens)** (26 September 2018). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining):** There is a reduction in the Department for Energy and Mining budgeted operating expenses from \$200 million in 2018-19 to \$130 million in 2021-22. I am advised that this \$70 million reduction is primarily due to the completion programs of the former Government which are budgeted early in the forward estimates.

A previously stated, this government will honour all contracted commitments to projects supported by the former government's Energy Plan. Of the \$70 million reduction in operating expenses, \$49.9 million relates to the

completion of programs such as the Renewable Technology Grant Fund. A further \$10.8 million of the movement is attributed to the completion of the Energy Productivity Program.

The residual balance of the operating budget movement primarily relates to new savings initiatives which are outlined on pages 56 to 58 of the 2018-19 Budget Measures Statement, part 2.

#### **WORKFORCE SUMMARY**

In reply to **the Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens)** (26 September 2018). (Estimates Committee A)

**The Hon. D.C. VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart—Minister for Energy and Mining):**

I refer to the first table on page 58 of the Budget Measures Statement, part 2. The target full-time equivalent (FTE) reduction for the Department for Energy and Mining as part of our savings strategy is 20 FTE's by 2021-22.

The South Australian government uses full-time equivalents (FTEs) to measure workforce budgets and not headcount. The calculation and reporting of employee expense budgets and savings across the forward estimates are on an FTE basis.

The department is currently reviewing the amalgamation and collaboration of delivery functions and teams across the department and merger of resource operations across the divisions to achieve the budgeted savings.