

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 14 May 2020

The **SPEAKER (Hon. V.A. Tarzia)** took the chair at 11:00 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.

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:01): I move:

That the 54th report of the committee for the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, entitled Salisbury High School Redevelopment, be noted.

Witnesses presented to the Public Works Committee at a hearing on 20 February 2020 regarding the proposed Salisbury High School redevelopment and the scope of works that were contemplated for this project. Mr Speaker, you will know that Salisbury High School is located on Farley Grove at Salisbury North in the district council of Salisbury. The high school was allocated funding of \$10 million as part of the Department for Education's capital works program. Those funds have been provided and, by way of this report, those works are proceeding.

With the transition of year 7 students to high school in 2022, the Public Works Committee was advised that there will be an initial projected increase in enrolment numbers at the school. The proposed redevelopment is expected to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate 1,200 students in order to cater for the future transition of that year 7 cohort into the high school in 2022. The redevelopment will consist of a scope of works including the demolition of some existing buildings, new works and the refurbishment of existing facilities.

The department has advised the committee that the key drivers for this project are to provide additional accommodation for that transition, to refurbish existing spaces to support contemporary teaching and learning, to remove ageing infrastructure and to improve street presence and connectivity to the wider school community. Once completed, the redevelopment will provide modern educational teaching spaces and will also importantly meet legislative compliance requirements and deliver the benchmark required accommodation standard for students in a secondary school. The estimated total cost of the redevelopment, as I earlier mentioned, is \$10 million. Construction is expected to be completed by October 2021.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to this project and received assurances by the Department for Education and DPTI officials that the appropriate consultation in relation to the project had been undertaken. The committee is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to the appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for the examination of projects as described in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based on the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (11:04): It is with delight that I stand today to support this project. Salisbury High School, located on Farley Grove in Salisbury North, was allocated funding of \$10 million under the Building Better Schools program announced in 2017 by the Weatherill Labor government. I spoke to the school about this announcement and they were delighted to be awarded the support for this development.

This announcement was a further investment in the school's development that has been underway over the past 20 years. Today is the final barrier for that project to go ahead. The reason for this project, and why it was identified, had to do with the capacity issues that Salisbury High School is facing. It was focused on the school's priorities, looking at larger school infrastructure that was needed and the spend numbers and need of that school.

Of course, we have had a change of government since that time and this unfunded commitment of transition of year 7s into high school has actually impacted on this project. My concern about this is that it had to be adjusted since that time. We know that the transition of year 7s into high school is by 2022. That has impacted the focus on building better schools. This school is already quite large, with 900 students.

During the transition phase, we expect to see enrolments increase by another 200 students in 2022. In fact, for the first time, Salisbury High School has a waiting list. Last time I spoke, there were at least 70 students waiting to go into Salisbury High School. As the local member, my focus will continue to be on the capacity of Salisbury High School and the need for further investment in the future.

Over the last few years, we have seen a massive increase in population growth in Salisbury and the surrounding areas. We will see that growth continue and the pressure will increase. The redevelopment works at Salisbury High School will aim to provide a flexible and contemporary learning space, with a focus on art, home economics and languages. It includes the refurbishment of building 4 to create a dedicated performing arts studio, two visual arts rooms, two kitchens and two English learning spaces.

Following this, the intention of the school is to construct a new gymnasium with associated physical education laboratories and an adjacent home economics lab, as well as improving the landscaping to various outdoor spaces. With the learning areas being improved to suit a wider capacity of students comes improved learning outcomes. What is noted particularly in Salisbury High School is the very diverse backgrounds of the students. I take the opportunity to note the focus of this school on numeracy and literacy.

They see it as fundamental in years 8 and 9 at the moment and, of course, with the year 7s coming in, to focus very heavily on those students in those years in order for them to achieve their potential. It has been a great focus in the last few years and we have seen some fantastic outcomes. My understanding was that this project was going to be completed in April 2021. It appears that that time line was a bit ambitious and that we will not see this project completed until at least October, as advised by the committee.

When we consider this investment of \$10 million, it is an opportunity for us to look at what other investments have been made in the school over the years: the completion of the design technology centre in 2008; the completion of the Performing Arts Centre with dance, drama and musical spaces in a central performance theatre in 2009; and, of course, the \$2.5 million redevelopment of additional science labs, outdoor learning spaces and classrooms in 2018, under the former government's STEM investment program. It was a great joy for me to open that STEM facility in 2018.

Salisbury High School's reputation is going from strength to strength. In the last seven years we have achieved 100 per cent SACE completion. Each year, the number of students attaining ATAR scores above 90 is growing, and around 50 per cent of students are accepted into tertiary studies; the remaining are accepted into TAFE, apprenticeships, further learning and employment.

What always impresses me about Salisbury is their incredible focus on supporting the individual learning pathways of students and following those students as they leave school to support them further as they look to the post-secondary careers that they take on. They find that that is a way for them to share understanding about what worked and how they can build confidence in our students as they go out into the future.

As I mentioned, Salisbury High School is the epicentre of a vast, culturally diverse and growing community, and it has endeavoured to not just simply accommodate this diversity but draw strength from it. The school's crest recites 'Always Aspire' and their programs and projects are underpinned by the school motto, 'Pathways to Success'.

It would be remiss of me not to mention some of the other issues that the high school has raised with me and some challenges for the future. Last year, the governing council raised a number of outstanding concerns, including the issue of how much of this \$10 million funding was absorbed by fees and the need to replace outdated infrastructure. Rather than building on a greenfield site that enabled them to incorporate all the \$10 million, quite a substantial amount of that money—because

it was a brownfield site—was put towards cleaning up the facility and making it ready to be built on. That was a concern for the school. It is a 60-year-old school and it needs more upkeep and assistance than some of the newer schools, and they want that attention paid.

Last year, we had a little bit of a run in the media regarding the toilets at Salisbury High School. They remain a top priority, and this has not been facilitated by the funding. I take the opportunity to speak to the Minister for Education (I am sure he is listening) to say: 'Please remember Salisbury and please consider this. I understand that there is development and support now, some money that you are putting out there, and Salisbury still needs the upgrade of those toilets.' Even though they were told that they were getting this upgrade in 2017, Salisbury is concerned that, since this government has come in, there have been two other rounds of funding allocated and Salisbury has not received anything in that time. They are very concerned about the lack of equity in those funding rounds under the Marshall Liberal government.

I welcome the approval of the expenditure by the Public Works Committee, and I would like to put on the record, on behalf of my school community, that still more needs to be done. I was particularly impressed by the presentation given by the principal, Sylvia Groves. She came prepared with a wonderful PowerPoint, as you may recall, Chair. She is very organised, very dedicated and very committed to Salisbury High School. Let me also note Jason Price, who is the capital works project manager. I recognise that this is an exciting time for Salisbury High School. I look forward to being there when this brand-new facility opens up for my electorate.

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:13): I thank the member for Ramsay for her contribution and also her evidence to the committee. I also wish to acknowledge Sylvia Groves, the principal of Salisbury High School, who is a passionate and committed educator; her evidence was also compelling and useful. I recommend the report to the house.

Motion carried.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRATION TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (11:14): I move:

That the sixth report of the committee, entitled Economic Contribution of Migration to South Australia, be noted.

In August 2018, the Economic and Finance Committee resolved to inquire into and report on the economic contribution of migration to South Australia. Through this inquiry, the committee received 40 written submissions and heard from 84 witnesses across 14 public hearings between November 2018 and September 2019.

As part of this inquiry, the committee travelled to the Limestone Coast to hold hearings in Penola on 26 March 2019 and also in Mount Gambier on 27 March 2019. The committee also visited Balnaves of Coonawarra and Holla-Fresh in Tantanoola to discuss the role of migrants in addressing local workforce shortages. Another hearing was held in Murray Bridge on 13 June 2019, followed by a visit to Costa Adelaide Mushrooms at Monarto South.

On 2 October 2019, the committee visited the Osborne Naval Shipyard to hear about the impact of migrants on the defence industry. The aim of this inquiry was to examine the economic contribution of migration to South Australia, including both the economic and social benefits. It also considered South Australia's population and migration performance over the past 30 years compared with other Australian jurisdictions.

As part of the inquiry, the committee reviewed the commonwealth government's migration and visa framework. It examined the key challenges and issues raised by local governments, by businesses and by community groups, as well as the migration issues encountered in regional South Australia. The committee heard that over the past three decades South Australia's population grew at an average annual rate of 0.71 per cent, which is around half the national average of 1.39 per cent, and that the growth rate gap had widened considerably over the past five years due to our ageing population and unacceptable levels of young South Australians moving interstate.

South Australia had the lowest growth rate of all mainland states, at 0.8 per cent, half the national average of 1.6 per cent. Most of our growth occurs here in Adelaide, with a growth rate of 0.8 per cent in 2017-18 compared with a growth rate in regional South Australia of just 0.3 per cent, with several regional areas struggling to maintain their current population. Our low rate of population growth has led to South Australia's share of national population declining from 8.5 per cent in 1987 to 7 per cent in 2017, costing South Australia a seat in the 2018 federal electoral redistribution.

This being said, I am pleased over the last couple of months to have seen considerable positive updates in terms of the net interstate migration loss that South Australia has seen over the last 12 to 24 months. It has been a considerable cornerstone of the Marshall Liberal government's approach since coming to government, and a clear focus for us to start to turn around that brain drain. In an article in *The Advertiser* on 28 April this year it was noted, and I quote:

...that South Australia's brain drain to other states is starting to slow with the best net interstate migration numbers in five years.

The state lost 3,958 people last financial year compared with 7,212 in 2015-16, so a considerable improvement on what had occurred over the previous number of years, particularly the previous five years. The committee heard that Australia's migration and visa framework is complex and focuses on attracting skilled migrants to address workforce shortages. Over half the skilled migrants arriving in South Australia are sponsored by the state government.

A number of humanitarian migrants have also settled in Adelaide and on the Limestone Coast. The committee heard evidence that supported the finding of recent studies, demonstrating the many economic and social benefits of skilled and humanitarian migration. The committee heard that skilled migrants in South Australia had better employment outcomes than the general population, with higher earnings and labour participation and lower unemployment rates.

Humanitarian migrants also make significant economic contributions to our state, often undertaking lower skilled roles in areas such as agriculture, meat processing and aged care where there were local labour shortages. During our trip to the Limestone Coast, we heard that many of the major employers in the region, like meat producers JBS at Bordertown and Teys at Naracoorte, rely on migrant workers. Mr Ian Lines, the owner and Managing Director of Holla-Fresh at Tantanoola, one of the leading hydroponic growers of fresh herbs in Australia, told the committee that without migrant workers his business would struggle to exist.

The committee also heard of the numerous and significant contributions that both skilled and humanitarian migrants make to communities across our state. In particular, we heard of the positive impacts migrants have had on regional areas, where there are major workforce shortages. For example, in the South-East we heard that humanitarian migrants are bringing new life to towns like Naracoorte, Bordertown and Mount Gambier and are supporting local businesses, schools and communities.

However, the committee was concerned to hear that businesses in our regional areas were still struggling to attract local workers and migrants. For example, at Murray Bridge we heard that a lack of workers was limiting the ability of businesses like Swanport Harvest to grow and expand. Attracting and retaining workers is one of the most important issues for our regions, especially in Murray Bridge, where an expansion of Costa Adelaide Mushrooms and rebuild and expansion of Thomas Foods International is planned.

After considering the issues raised by the inquiry, the committee has made 16 recommendations to better attract and retain migrants and boost population growth in South Australia. Some of these recommendations include:

- developing a state population strategy to increase South Australia's growth rate;
- reviewing the temporary skilled migration income threshold (TSMIT) to ensure that it meets the needs of regional employers;
- improving pathways to work visas, such as exempting students from three-year work experience requirements for skilled migrant visas; and

- improving visa frameworks and processes, and providing more support to help settle skilled and humanitarian migrants and their families here in South Australia.

On behalf of the committee, I express my thanks and appreciation to all parties who provided us with written submissions or appeared before the committee to provide oral evidence, many of whom travelled considerable distances to do so. Thanks also to Mr Troy Bell, the member for Mount Gambier, for his assistance in organising the Mount Gambier public hearing, to Mr Nick McBride, the member for MacKillop, and to Mr Adrian Pederick, the member for Hammond, for highlighting the issues that their respective electorates face.

I express my gratitude to the City of Mount Gambier, to Wattle Range Council and the Rural City of Murray Bridge for hosting public hearings in their respective districts, and to Balnaves of Coonawarra, Holla-Fresh, Costa Adelaide Mushrooms and the Department of Defence for providing members with site visits of their various facilities. I thank members past and present on the committee for their contributions to the inquiry. I also highlight the significant work of our secretariat, including Mr Josh Forkert—and I acknowledge his elevation to higher duties here in the chamber—and Mr Adam Marafioti for his work as then research officer, now parliamentary officer. I am sure the role of research officer will be filled in good time.

Given the current situation, I think it is also pertinent that we acknowledge that the recommendations and findings of the committee will obviously need to be considered in a new context moving forward given the current circumstances and the COVID-safe world that we are entering. There are probably many unknowns in terms of when migration, travel and a range of other issues related to this particular area will gain any significant clarity. As one of our recommendations was to review the work that was done in a 24-month period, perhaps that may be something that we may need to wait a little longer to do, but we certainly thank all those who have contributed and I recommend the report to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:24): I rise briefly with some words to support the motion and to commend and thank the members of the Economic and Finance Committee, ably assisted by their parliamentary and research officers, for what in my view is a particularly significant committee report early in the work of the Marshall Liberal government. I want to reflect just briefly on two areas of the report. As someone who is not a member of the committee, I am grateful to have had the benefit of this work and note the member for Cowdrey's observation that the committee is planning to—

Members interjecting:

Mr TEAGUE: It is called Colton for the time being, but there is a secret plan, and I think first cab off the rank ought very much to be the member for Colton. The committee, as the member for Colton has adverted, has committed already to going back to this work within a short period of time, and I very much look forward to that occurring.

I just refer to two areas of the committee's work: firstly, in relation to international students and the contribution that they make to our economy, which is the subject of recommendations 8 and 9; and, secondly, and equally importantly, those aspects of the work that relate to the important contribution migrants make to our regions, which is the subject of recommendations 14 and 15. They work towards the uniting goal of ensuring that overseas migration plays a significant part in achieving recommendation 11, that is, to ensure that we have a robust population growth in this state.

Dealing first with the challenge that our regions face and, on the other hand, the great opportunity that overseas migration offers to them, I note that at page 7 of the report not only is South Australia's share of overseas migration lower than it ought to be relative to the rest of the country but the regions in South Australia are experiencing the lowest growth of anywhere in the state. At the same time, as the committee has observed and at some length, having conducted a number of regional case studies, there are these magnificent opportunities throughout the regions for overseas skilled and humanitarian migrants to make a very significant contribution indeed.

I note again the specific observation of the committee, at page 42 of the report, that the relatively low level of overseas migration to South Australia in recent years has impacted negatively on the South Australian economy and in ways that need to be addressed. As has been addressed at some length by the government right from the get-go, programs such as the Designated Area

Migration Agreements arrangement, which has been made to encourage more overseas migrants to South Australia, are a concrete example of how this government is going about responding to that challenge. The work that is the subject of chapter 8 of the committee's work here is of particular note. There are significant opportunities for regional benefits if we can, as a state, get this right.

I very much look forward to the committee's further work in monitoring how we go about steadily improving our situation relative to the rest of the country over the period ahead. Of course, we know that ever since the 1970s and the advent of the points-based system in Australia we have led the way globally in terms of our capacity to absorb, appreciate, integrate and then benefit from a thoroughgoing and multicultural migration program throughout Australia. South Australia is naturally suited to leading on this for a whole variety of reasons. We ought to ensure that we restore our place of leadership in South Australia when it comes to our capacity to benefit from overseas migration of all kinds.

That leads me to the second aspect of those observations: the question of the contribution by international students to our economy as students and their contribution to our economy following their time as students in this state. Perhaps this is even more relevant now that we find ourselves in circumstances of a global pandemic. This report was completed late last year, and conducted over an extended period commencing in the very early days of this parliament, but here we are in the middle of a global pandemic and we have found the conditions in South Australia extraordinarily advantageous relative to the rest of the country and, more especially, relative to the world. These conditions leave us in a situation where we ought to be attracting more international students to our state earlier and more readily.

Then, as the committee recommends, we should look for ways to encourage those students to stay here after they complete their studies. That is both general, per recommendation 8, and specific, in terms of recommendation 9. We should say, 'We want to extend the period that you are here ordinarily after you complete your studies.' I would certainly add my voice to the need to capitalise on this great opportunity now to not only secure and enhance our place as a global leader in terms of attracting those international students but, now more than ever, make sure that those high-achieving students who do such great work here in South Australia stay here and contribute to the success of the state for the rest of their working lives.

We should also make sure that, if they do go back—as we have established a legacy for decades going back to those early programs—they maintain their close connections with South Australia and build bridges of investment and human and capital connection between this state and the various countries from which those students come. I wholeheartedly support the motion and thank the committee for their very thoroughgoing work in this area.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (11:33): I also take the opportunity to speak a little bit about the Economic and Finance Committee's inquiry into migration and the benefits of it. As the member for Colton said, we started the inquiry into this matter in August 2018, looking at a number of matters regarding migration around the terms of reference, including the impact of migration and population growth on South Australia's productivity and economic performance, and also South Australia's long-term population growth relative to other states in Australia over the past 30 years. We heard that over those three decades our population grew at an average annual rate of 0.71 per cent, which is around half that of the national average over that time.

There were only very few times in that 30-year period when our population growth was equal to the average Australian population growth: I think in 1989, just after the stock market crash of 1987, and then another period of time in the early 2000s. Other than that, we have really lagged behind and it is quite stark in the community here. We saw where a lot of that population growth in Australia is going. If you compare it with 1996, in the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, Sydney had just under four million in 1996 and is now upwards of five million persons. Similarly, Melbourne at 3.5 million is now going well over 4.5 million, compared with Adelaide, which had a much smaller percentage increase.

Unfortunately, that led to us going back towards a relative population decline. In 1987, we had roughly 8.5 per cent of the population of Australia; in 2017, we were at 7 per cent. That has had ramifications I suppose from a democratic representation point of view where we lost a federal seat at the federal electoral distribution in 2017. It also impacts just on our day-to-day life here in terms of

economic growth in the state itself compared with what sort of growth is occurring in the rest of Australia.

The fact that we did have a slower population is also quite marked in terms of where that has been. Adelaide has had growth, whereas in the regions the actual drop-off has been stark. As I said, we had population growth of about 0.71 per cent for South Australia. In Adelaide, it was 0.8 per cent, whereas in the regions it was 0.3 per cent. Certainly, this is something that we need to look at as a state and what the drivers were.

The committee heard that there are a number of factors to a low population rate. One of those is our ageing population, so the natural increase in population is slower than in other states, as well as our net interstate migration. While people leaving the state is similar in percentage terms to other states, where we have failed to balance the ledger is in attracting people from other areas of Australia into South Australia. That comes as a net interstate migration, and unfortunately ours is not in the right direction and has been increasing over time.

That is something the committee was looking at in terms of how we can correct that. We think that will have a positive impact on our state's population growth if it can be turned around. Out of that, what we found as a committee is that a lot of our population growth came from overseas migration. Australia has a skilled migration program, which I think is one of the more successful ones internationally.

There is commentary around migration. If you consider the way we are looking, as a country, we are a large country compared to our population. Really, we are still a young country compared with many others in the world. With a lower population, we need to get greater efficiency in terms of the output of our population. That is where I think the skilled migration program is going to help Australia in the long term. Added to that, there is also humanitarian immigration. We have obviously seen numbers of people wanting to come to our shores because of a very healthy and democratic and also a caring and safe system.

I think the COVID crisis—the health crisis and the economic crisis—has certainly shown, in terms of Australia compared with the world, that our citizens can have great confidence in our institutions and governments to be able to cope with that. Touching on the member for Colton's remarks towards the end, around how the coronavirus will change migration, comparing Australia with the rest of the world, it could well be a positive. If you break down South Australia's performance in terms of how we have handled the health crisis, our health professionals, government, public servants and private citizens have done very well in dealing with this as a community. That is very attractive to people.

I will touch on the benefits of migration. The committee heard some commentary from people who were concerned that migration was causing local jobs to maybe not go to locals. In fact, as the members for Colton and Heysen have said, the committee heard that that is not the case. One finding of the report on how migration can benefit the state was that skilled migrants tend to be of working age—so they are targeted in terms of their age—and have good qualifications and skills that align with the demands of the Australian workforce.

This means that when migrants come to Australia they have high participation characteristics, which are probably even higher than our existing population. This tends to improve productivity and brings more economic benefits to the country because they bring ideas. That is the great thing about people with experience: they have seen what has happened in other countries and can bring that to Australia.

Another finding was that migrants increase capital flow. Quite often when they come over, they have access to capital flow and they bring that into the country. Migrants also consume less in terms of government services than what they contribute in terms of tax revenue. Studies have found that over the first 20 years of migrants coming here, before they tend to blend in to the average Australian population they have a net positive economic impact.

We have also found that migrants who come to South Australia generally have higher annual earnings because of their professionalism, and about a third become significant contributors to the small business sector. There are a lot of small businesses in South Australia so that is very important

as well. As the member for Colton remarked, a recent report in *The Advertiser* highlighted what the Marshall Liberal government is doing to try to correct this net interstate migration. An interstate migration flow of 7,212 in 2015-16 was reduced to 3,958 in the last financial year.

One of the ways in which the Marshall Liberal government is doing this is through new Designated Area Migration Agreements, and one is the Adelaide Technology and Innovation Advancement Agreement, with up to 300 people covering 60 high-tech occupations. The announcements about Lot Fourteen's national Space Agency mean that a lot of international people with space expertise are bringing great ideas into South Australia to build a new advanced industry, so we are reliant on that skilled migration.

The other Designated Area Migration Agreement is the South Australian Regional Workforce Agreement. We heard evidence from Thomas Foods about how that had been pivotal in terms of being able to reboot their operations just out of Murray Bridge and employ 2,000 people. Those are some of the ways that this government is looking to increase migration to South Australia.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (11:44): I thank the member for Morphett and the member for Teague—I mean, Heysen; although, I am not sure whether it will be Baden or yourself. I am sure we can work something out. On a more serious note, before I commend the report to the house, I think South Australians are overtly positive people. With every set of circumstances, we do always look for opportunity.

We have just broadly discussed the contribution of migrants to our regional communities. It is important to note that just today there has been a call to arms for many South Australians to consider, perhaps for the first time, the opportunity to contribute to some of the seasonal work that is necessary in our regions. That is something that will be incredibly important as we move forward, if we continue in a situation where our borders are more strongly monitored than they have been over previous times.

I think that the member for Heysen made a great point in regard to our opportunity on the other side of COVID-19 to market and sell ourselves if the current situation continues into the future, with an ability to retain the tag as one of the safest places in the world. Certainly, I believe that it would make us a very appealing place to settle, to build a family, to build connections to community and to build one's wealth and future prosperity. As we always have been a popular place for migration, perhaps this opportunity could even extend further into the future.

I think it only right that we close debate on this report by highlighting and acknowledging our state's migrant history and the diversity, economic and social benefits that come from migration to our fantastic state. With that, I commend the report to the house.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: MURRAY BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:46): I move:

That the 55th report of the committee for the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, entitled Murray Bridge High School Redevelopment Project, be noted.

Murray Bridge High School, as you will know, Mr Speaker, is centrally located on Lohmann Street, Murray Bridge, in the district council of Murray Bridge. The Department for Education's capital works program allocated Murray Bridge High School \$20 million to provide new and refurbished facilities in order to accommodate 1,350 students on site.

The proposed high school redevelopment is expected to cater for the transition of year 7 students in 2022, as well as a projected increase in student enrolment numbers from growth in the district. The redevelopment will include demolition, new works and refurbishment of existing facilities at the school site. Specifically, the scope of works for the redevelopment at Murray Bridge High School includes a new two-storey building to accommodate the middle school, an inclusive learning centre, a new technical studies building, refurbishment of the former technical studies rooms into a new entrepreneurial centre, roof replacement of the gym and music spaces, additional car parking with a dedicated disability unit drop-off zone, the relocation of existing transportable classrooms and demolition of existing modular and transportable accommodation at the site.

When complete, the high school redevelopment project is expected to deliver a connected multidisciplinary and contemporary learning environment that engages all learners to provide for what is described as a 'cultural heart' for the high school with places, connections and inclusions for the broader learning community and contemporary learning areas that are considered to support 21st-century pedagogy. Construction of the redevelopment project will be staged, keeping in mind that obviously activity at the site for the purposes of education will continue, with completion expected by December 2021.

The committee examined evidence in relation to this project and received assurances that the appropriate consultation and agency oversight had been undertaken. The committee, in consequence, is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for the examination of projects described in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991 and accordingly, based on the evidence considered pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the scope of the proposed public works.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GAWLER AND DISTRICT COLLEGE B-12 REDEVELOPMENT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:49): I move:

That the 56th report of the committee for the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, entitled Gawler and Districts College B-12 Redevelopment, be noted.

The college is located on Barnet Road, Evanston, in the district council of Gawler. The school was allocated funding of \$10 million as part of the Department for Education's capital works program. The proposed redevelopment at the Gawler and District College is expected to provide the required capacity to accommodate 1,450 students, which will cater for the transition of year 7 students to high school in 2022. The redevelopment project will provide new and refurbished learning areas that are considered more suitable for the delivery of contemporary pedagogy in order to improve student learning outcomes and provide sufficient accommodation for an increased number of students.

The scope of the proposed college redevelopment includes a new building for special education, incorporating two learning areas plus withdrawal spaces, teacher preparation, an access toilet, an outdoor covered area and associated external works; two new buildings; a covered assembly point, incorporating two dance areas, performance spaces, a stage, a physical education office, a weights room, stores, toilets, a canteen and associated external works; and a new parent portal building, incorporating administration offices, a reception, a lobby, a waiting area, toilets and associated external works.

The reconfiguration and refurbishment of building 1 will also be achieved and will provide a senior student lounge and wellbeing area. A new central covered assembly area will also be delivered, as mentioned, and there is the creation of a new and very interesting and appealing entrance area that is expected to improve the street presence and amenity of the school. A minor tennis court upgrade, including line marking, nets and fencing, will also be delivered.

One of the key outcomes expected from the redevelopment project is the refurbishment of existing infrastructure at the school. Of course, that refurbishment will develop and provide creative, flexible indoor and outdoor learning spaces that we are informed will increase student engagement and support collaborative teaching practices. We are also informed that the proposed works will be staged while keeping in mind that the school is still operating. Construction is expected to be completed by April 2021.

The committee examined evidence in relation to the project and received assurances by Department for Education and DPTI officials that the appropriate consultation in relation to the project had been undertaken. The committee is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for the examination of projects, as set out in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based on the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the committee recommends to parliament the scope of the proposed public works.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: PARALOWIE R-12 SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:53): I move:

That the 57th report of the committee for the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, entitled Paralowie High School Redevelopment, be noted.

You will learn, Mr Speaker, that the Paralowie R-12 School is located on Whites Road, Paralowie, in the district council of Salisbury and approximately 24 kilometres from the GPO. The Paralowie R-12 School was allocated funding of \$12 million as part of the Department for Education's capital works program.

The proposed redevelopment will consist of refurbishment and extension works to existing facilities in order to accommodate a reception to year 12 cohort of approximately 1,600 students. The proposed redevelopment is expected to provide the required capacity to accommodate 1,600 students and also to cater for the expected enrolment growth, including the transition of year 7 students to high school. The scope of works will include:

- the construction of new and contemporary junior primary facilities, including flexible general learning spaces and an integrated outdoor nature play area;
- construction of a new performing arts centre as an extension to an existing building;
- a partial refurbishment of building 6, including the existing performance space and a gym hall area; and
- the partial refurbishment of the gym weights area.

I am also informed that the refurbishment will include building 2 to improve flexible learning spaces overall as earlier mentioned. Construction works for the redevelopment project are expected to be completed in July 2021. The committee examined evidence in relation to the project and received assurances that the appropriate consultation has been undertaken.

The committee was satisfied that the proposal has been subject to the appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for the examination of projects as described in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based on the evidence and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the scope of the proposed public works.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (11:55): As the local member, I welcome the investment in this unique and very special school. Paralowie is an R-12 school, which is actually quite unusual in metropolitan Adelaide. It has 1,400 students at the moment, and the expectation is that that will grow in capacity as we experience urban infill in the northern area.

I was delighted in 2017, under the Building Better Schools program, to inform the principal, Peter McKay, that they were successful, with a focus on need and capacity for Paralowie. It is a very diverse school, and I would like to thank all the teachers and the governing council, who are very committed to this school. They celebrate 50 years of being established, and, of course, they have a very famous former graduate, the former premier Lynn Arnold, who maintains connections with the school and who is incredibly well regarded.

I would like to congratulate the school. This builds on the investment of the STEM facilities, the opening of which I attended in 2019. It is a great school, they work incredibly hard and they come with their heart and soul every day to support their kids in the Paralowie area.

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:57): I thank the member for Ramsay, and I indicate to the chamber that it may be possible also to recommend to the house in the time remaining a report on the Grant High School.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: GRANT HIGH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (11:57): I move:

That the 58th report of the committee for the Fifty-Fourth Parliament, entitled Grant High School Redevelopment, be noted.

Grant High School was allocated funding of \$7 million as part of the Department for Education's capital works program, and it is an important investment. The proposed redevelopment of Grant High School is expected to provide the required capacity to accommodate 1,000 students, catering for the expected growth in student enrolment. This expected growth will include the transition of year 7 students to high school.

The proposed scope of the Grant High School Redevelopment project includes construction of a new building, incorporating a performing arts space, dance/music and associated amenities, three general learning areas and a canteen, and the refurbishment of the existing weights room in building 2 into an additional science laboratory. Construction on the Grant High School redevelopment project is expected to be completed by July 2021.

The committee examined evidence in relation to the project and received assurances that the appropriate consultation in relation to this project had been undertaken. The committee is satisfied that the proposal has been subject to the appropriate agency consultation and meets the criteria for the examination of projects as described in the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991. Based on the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public works.

Motion carried.

Bills

TEACHERS REGISTRATION AND STANDARDS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 4 March 2020.)

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:00): I indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition and that, notwithstanding a series of questions and some amendments, we are broadly supportive of this piece of legislation. The Teachers Registration Board is an essential instrument for government to consider the management of a very important profession in our state. It will be of some concern to teachers to understand that, through what is otherwise generally a welcome modernisation of this piece of legislation, their own profession is being downgraded in importance and representation on this board. My colleague the member for Wright will have more to say on that matter.

As I say, we are generally supportive of this piece of legislation on the basis that it is essential that we continue to ensure that legislation and the operation of government boards are as modern and as agile as possible. I also put on the record my faith in and support of the chair of the board, a former education minister and former member of this house Jane Lomax-Smith; and also the Registrar of the Teachers Registration Board. That said, it is essential that we do this job well.

You get the opportunity to refresh and renew an approach with a government board but once every several years, if not decades, and the opposition does have concerns about some of the features of this bill. As I signalled, some amendments have been filed on those matters. Beyond that, there is also a series of questions that we will be asking. As I have alluded to, one area of questioning is the membership of the board.

Under the construction of the government's bill, the proportion of teachers on that board would be reduced. The profession of teachers is being monitored and supported, and standards are being established. Indeed, the registration of their professionalism is managed. In many teachers' eyes, they are being reduced in proportion; therefore, we will be wanting to address their importance in this government's eyes.

We will also be addressing the way in which the teachers are selected to the board. The government expressed the view in a previous piece of legislation that went through last year—the

Education Act—that unions have no place in the selection of professionals on committees and boards that this government is involved with. Last year, they attempted to remove the provision for the Australian Education Union to select teachers to be involved in public school committees that related to their business. That was altered in the upper house and the minister graciously accepted the position, and the union's role has been untroubled this term thus far.

However, now the government has come back again and is attempting to remove the union's capacity—and in this case both the public school and private school unions' capacity—to nominate the teachers who will be on this board. As we will discuss when we come to the amendments on this, that is not only wrong if you care about workers' rights and the capacity for workers to operate collectively—as does the Labor Party—but also wrong in practical and logistical terms. I think it is short-sighted.

One of the reasons it is important to have the unions involved in selecting teachers is that that is the way in which teachers are able to have some equal voice at the table. Bearing in mind that the government already wants to reduce their proportion, to also reduce their link to the collective that is represented by the union means that they are unable to easily and directly communicate with their colleagues about the work that is occurring in the board and unable to hear through that process what their colleagues want. They are also unable to have the heft that is brought by a collective organisation that represents a high proportion of their colleagues.

If, particularly in the circumstances of being in a reduced proportion, they are feeling that they are losing an argument on behalf of their colleagues on what they believe to be right about the way in which teacher registrations ought to be managed, or indeed the accreditation of university courses for teacher training ought to be managed, without the heft of the institutions of the unions behind them, their voice risks being diminished. I think that is a material weakening of the possible way in which this board could operate well.

The other logistical issue associated with it from the government's perspective is it is often better to have people in the tent than out. If you do not have the unions effectively engaged in the Teachers Registration Board through the invitation to nominate the teacher component of the membership, then you do not have the unions engaged productively and constructively with what the board is doing.

What you risk is that the unions, feeling disconnected from the activity of the Teachers Registration Board, might decide that what is occurring is not to their liking, and that may cause unnecessary conflict in a profession that is one of the most important we have in this country. On an ideological—and I use that term unashamedly; I am a progressive person who believes in the collective action of workers—and on a practical basis, it would be best if the government had the opportunity to rethink this, and that is what the amendments will go to.

The membership of the board has also been reduced from the perspective of the universities. Under the current act, the three universities are invited to have a person selected to be on the board, and someone from the perspective of the different sectors of education, the private schools and the public schools. My amendments will seek to restore those positions, again on the basis that the more the people or the institutions affected by the decisions of the board are engaged constructively with the considerations of the board, the more likely it is that those considerations will be sensible, well informed and useful and not have pushback that might occur if those institutions were disconnected.

I say that nonetheless accepting the argument that has been put both by the government and by the chair of the board very forcefully and clearly, that the current size of 16 is a little large to manage easily. I am sympathetic to that, and my amendments do not trouble the desire of the government to reduce the overall size of the board. We will get to the details when we come to the committee stage.

We will have some questions on the fees that will be charged, the capacity for the government to charge those fees and how we can make sure that they are fair and reasonable. We will have some questions about the code of conduct clause. This is a new clause in the bill that suggests that the board may choose to establish a code of conduct for teachers. While I have no objection to the principle of a code of conduct for teachers, I want to know that it is the most useful

and positive code of conduct that can be brought in. In my mind, that requires very decent and thorough consultation.

I do not suggest that that is not in the mind of the current minister, but, as always, it is important not only to consider the individual currently holding the position but to consider the possible future holders of the position and capture what is important to us as a legislature in the legislation so that we can be confident that the correct approach—and in this case the consultative approach—will be adopted in the future. I hope that the government will consider those amendments carefully.

We will have questions about the capacity to second people onto subcommittees. That currently cannot occur. Subcommittees are committees of the board and of the board members. I am not at this stage concerned about having an amendment to prevent that. I understand the desire for secondment can be a very useful instrument, but we will be asking questions and that may mean that there will be some further consideration of amendments between the houses, depending on the nature of the answers.

I signal that I will be asking questions about the capacity of the registrar, which has been introduced in this piece of legislation, to suspend the registration of a teacher if it is considered that that teacher may be of risk to children. While I think we can all understand the purpose of such a provision is extremely well intentioned, there will be questions about the way in which that operates from the perspective of teachers, parents and students, who may have complaints to make or concerns to raise, and also from the perspective of the registrar, who may need some comfort that their judgement is the one that is the best that could possibly be applied.

My intention is to work constructively on this piece of legislation. I am aware that it has been on its way since the time I was minister, when Jane Lomax-Smith as the chair indicated she felt there was some room for improvement. I look forward to the committee stage and going through some of the details that I have raised, and also having my colleague the member for Wright, as assistant shadow minister, do a significant amount of the questioning and consideration of the intent of the bill and the timing of the bill (which I think is questionable) and the purpose.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (12:11): I also rise to speak to this bill and use this opportunity to talk about some of the brilliant teachers and principals in my electorate who do such fantastic work. They are often our unsung heroes. Yesterday in this house, the Minister for Education may have said that after a number of weeks of parents schooling children at home, we all have a much greater appreciation of the work our teachers do. For my part, and for my seven-year-old, Ruby, at home, the work that her teachers have done through this coronavirus pandemic has been outstanding, and the way that our school has helped to continue to make sure she can learn is phenomenal. Now she is happily back at school, and it is a fantastic outcome, having worked through what has been a difficult period.

As do all MPs, I have many opportunities to visit and talk with students and their teachers, and perhaps one of my favourite parts of this job is showing them through parliament. When I show them through parliament, I essentially try to instil in them a curiosity to look at our world and what needs to be changed in it. The function of parliament is essentially to improve the laws of our land to make our people happier, more prosperous and more free, and students should be thinking about those things in the world that they see around them.

I also try to instil in them a respect for the system of government we have, and that this democratic institution that we get to work in, with all its checks and balances, is the greatest bulwark against dictatorship and tyranny that the world has ever known. We need to respect that and we need to believe in it lest we lose it, especially as we see people's faith in parliamentary institutions is waning. We need to do more to try to re-instil that faith.

I recently conducted a school tour for Redeemer Lutheran School. Year 6 teachers, Tennyson Jaensch and Maddi Beckmann, have brought their classes through for a few years, and the students from Redeemer, with their own school parliament, are inquisitive and knowledgeable. When we sit and have a debate, especially in the other chamber, about the checks and balances on government not having the freewill to push legislation through parliament unchecked and what that

can lead to, and what a destruction of these democratic institutions leads to—that is, dictatorships—I always find that discussion very reinvigorating.

I have also had the opportunity to have the Mount Pleasant Primary School years 5, 6 and 7 students through, including Jan Riley and a fantastic group of kids, and all credit to Ms Riley for her work; Tanunda Primary School, which I will talk a little bit more about later, and the students who came across; Angaston Primary School, my home town, and Mrs Schutz, who brought her kids along; as well as very recently St Jakobi's year 6 students and Ms Sioux Moresi, who is also a PE teacher at my daughter's school. It was fantastic to have her and her students from St Jakobi through. It was a refreshing and enlightening experience to chat to some young people about how they view the world and their own place in it.

I have also had a great opportunity to visit a number of schools in the electorate. From the little schools, like Keyneton Primary School and Raelene Adler, who has to teach a 4/5/6/7 class. It is a challenge to teach kids across four different year levels. The kids there took the opportunity to pitch some projects to me that they would like to see funded, including the resealing and course correction of a number of the roads in and around Keyneton, heading towards some of the farming properties, as well as discussion about some of the broader roles of my job. It was an exciting morning to visit and one I certainly enjoyed.

I went down to Mr Quast and his 4/5 class at Lyndoch Primary School. James is a Hawthorn fan and there is too much Hawthorn memorabilia in the school classroom, but we will forgive him for that because on the back wall he had photographs of former Australian prime ministers. He talked about what each of their legacies were, and his curiosity that inspires the children's curiosity to investigate former leaders of our country I think is extremely noble. The discussion we had that day was quite enlightening, with the students showing me the work they were doing on computers. He brings a fantastic energy and he needs to be thanked for that.

At least a couple of times a year I visit the year 8 classes at Faith Lutheran High School. Ms Schwarz, who teaches the civics and citizenship class, gets her students to write to me with an area of concern as any constituent would, and we provide a response to those students. The concerns are always varied, often with a very strong social justice or environmental focus. We do our best to respond to each of them in turn and point them in a direction where they can seek further information. It is always a great lesson in understanding the world in which we live.

I know that this is going to be upsetting for Carla, but I must say that the last two times we have been there we played a multiple choice game with all the kids using a platform called Kahoot! It is a multiple choice answer platform, and you get more points for answering quickly and, obviously, answering correctly. All the students can use their mobile phones and we undertake this together. I reckon I have done this seven or eight times and I have always been beaten, except for the last two times, when I have been able to come out on top. I know that Carla is a bit frustrated and she probably needs to lift her game. Also, I always find the talent and knowledge of the students so impressive, and they are a real credit to Michelle Schwarz and the other teachers in that civics and citizenship program.

I also had the chance, with the Minister for Education, to visit Tanunda Primary School and principal Michelle Barnes to talk about what high-speed internet means for them. We also talked to some of their students about how they will use that high-speed internet on a practical basis. Again, what the kids today are learning in terms of design programs, coding and all those sorts of things is light years ahead of what I learned when I was at high school. I say that as one of the younger members of this place, but that was already over 20 years ago. What our children are learning today will stand them in such good stead for the jobs that are out there to come.

I also had the opportunity to go to Greenock Primary School for their 140th anniversary and, with former principal Viv Wright, take a guided school tour through there. Again, looking at the history of that school—and such a proud history for a small town—was fantastic. The only public high school in my district is Nuriootpa High School. I am now on my second principal, Gerri Walker. Former principal Neil White has gone on to be an area director within the Department for Education. Both of them have been outstanding principals and have taken a school that I think at times had a difficult reputation but is now bursting at the seams with 1,100 kids.

The course selection on offer for these students is phenomenal and, again, well above anything I was able to undertake at high school. It gives students the opportunity to pursue their dreams and their areas of interest at such an early age, and it is a real credit to that institution, to Gerri and to all the teachers.

I have met many of the teachers—and I do not want to name them, otherwise I will miss a few—but I point out the safari suit wearing counsellor, Rick Lane, who fronts a local rock band called Colonel Mustard. Rick is a fantastic individual who inspires the students who come into his orbit and under his care. Unfortunately, we see too high a prevalence of mental health issues amongst our teenage cohort, but I think the work done by Rick and the other chaplains and support staff is phenomenal. If you ever get a chance to go into Rick's office, you will see the paraphernalia on his walls and find it is a safe space for students. I thank him for the amazing job he does.

I am also very excited to talk about the money that is on the table to upgrade Nuriootpa High School. Last year, I had the opportunity to open the STEM facility and see some of the work of the students there. Across the road, Nuriootpa Primary School is also undertaking a significant amount of works. Principal Jill Hess is doing a lot to transform a school that has an interesting history, which I have talked about in this place a number of times and do not necessarily need to repeat today.

I could talk about so many other teachers and schools across the electorate, whether it be the work of Anne Marschall and her staff at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, or my Lutheran high school, Faith Lutheran School, and principal Steve Wilksch, whom I first met when he was at Redeemer Lutheran School. Steve moved across to Faith, which was combined with Tanunda Lutheran to become a school across a couple of campuses. Steve is a fantastic educator and someone for whom I have a deep respect.

I am continually impressed by the students who run through that facility—their love of music and their religious education, and how that flows through to instil values in the students, and also the way that school works to help students to have respect for themselves and for those around them. It is always refreshing to visit and talk to them. We have been working with Julian Helbig at St Jakobi Lutheran School to improve the access and egress for vehicles. I had the opportunity to go down there and talk to him about a \$40,000 digital accessibility grant that this government sent across.

Lastly, Trent Heneker, a groundsman at Nuriootpa High School, last year won the School and Preschool Support Award at the 2019 Public Education Awards. Trent is a great guy, and I know the whole school was extremely proud of his efforts. He is actually a former Nuriootpa High student, and a viticulturalist by trade, and the first groundsman in the state to win this award. His role has extended to work with the students in the Disability Unit on landscape projects, and he has created a young environmentalist group that helps him to care for and water the school gardens. Trent said:

I get an immense amount of gratification from being responsible for the grounds and construction of new projects—

and we certainly have a few of those for him—

but first and foremost it's the engagement and positive interaction with staff and students.

I think Trent exemplifies a lot of what our public and private school teachers exemplify: a real passion for helping turn students into young adults. I want to thank Trent and all the teachers and principals in the Schubert electorate for their work. May they continue to do that.

As a government, we will certainly continue to support them in their work because we know that education can help our kids take that step forward. As we seek to grow and prosper our economy, we know that education is vitally important to helping us achieve that in the longer term.

Mr BOYER (Wright) (12:24): I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this bill and would like to begin by commending the member for Port Adelaide, the deputy leader, for her earlier remarks, acknowledging the very broad experience and knowledge she has on this topic as a previous minister for education in South Australia. I also thank her for the opportunity she has given me to be involved somewhat in crafting what the opposition's response to this bill will be. On the face of it, I think this bill appears to deal mostly with innocuous, non-sensitive and non-controversial kinds of matters but, when you dig a little bit deeper and look at the detail, the ramifications of what is proposed in this bill are actually quite significant and far-reaching for the teaching profession.

Before I move into that detail, I would like to preface my remarks by saying that I think the timing of this bill is very disappointing. I think it is very disappointing that mid-pandemic, when teachers have stayed in the classroom for months on end while other professions and other workers have been asked to work from home, this Liberal government has used the first sitting opportunity with all members of parliament back here in this place to push through legislation that will act to water down the representation of teachers on the board that registers those teachers—because that is what this bill is doing.

One may be forgiven for assuming that this government may have sought to repay in some way the loyalty and selflessness shown by those teachers over the past months by not taking the first opportunity available to it to come into this place and weaken the representation of teachers on the Teachers Registration Board whilst, I might add, simultaneously in this bill proposing some pretty significant and hefty powers for the registrar to suspend the registration of a teacher if he or she believes they are an unacceptable risk to children.

I should echo the words of the deputy leader and say, first, that I direct my comments towards the Minister for Education and his government and not the board itself, which I think has carried out a very important duty with great aplomb for many years. I know that that fantastic and very professional work has continued under the stewardship of the current chair of the board and former minister for education, Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, and the current registrar herself, Ms Leonie Paulson.

First of all, I would like to address the government's proposal to reduce the number of members of the board from 16 to between 10 and 14. The current act stipulates that the board will have seven registered teachers, five nominated by the Australian Education Union and two by the Independent Education Union. This bill will see that number reduced to just three practising teachers—one from a preschool, one from a primary school and one from a secondary school—potentially making up just one-fifth of the board's total membership.

In addition to that, the current composition of the board includes a nominee of the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and a nominee from Catholic Education South Australia. Both these positions would be abolished under the government's proposal, as would the representative jointly nominated by the universities and the two members nominated by the Chief Executive of the Department for Education. In fact, the board composition that is proposed in this bill is the three practising teachers I mentioned earlier; a legal practitioner and a parent, both of whom are maintained from the current act; and five to nine members appointed by the minister, who:

...in the opinion of the Minister, collectively have the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enable the Teachers Registration Board to carry out its functions effectively.

Let's call a spade a spade here. The intent of the government here is to leave the bulk of the appointments of this board up to the minister so that he or she is able effectively to stack the board with members who are going to do the government's bidding. That is the idea of having five to nine members solely chosen by the minister.

The point of having this legislation in the first place—indeed, I think the point of actually requiring the Minister for Education to come to this place and justify his or her changes—is so that the representation of key stakeholders cannot be unilaterally removed. Teachers deserve strong and experienced representation on the board that decides whether or not they are fit to teach our children and so, too, do the representative bodies from the Catholic and independent schooling sectors that are responsible for educating many South Australian students outside the public schooling system.

The removal of the AEU and the Independent Education Union is of course much easier to explain. This is just a continuation of an ideological battle that the Liberal Party in South Australia has been waging against the AEU, and unions generally, for decades and decades. Of course, they were not going to let the opportunity go to waste to come into this place and water down the rights of unions to represent workers.

I briefly mentioned earlier that this bill also proposes some pretty significant new powers for the registrar when it comes to deciding whether or not a teacher is fit to stay in a classroom. What I did not mention was that it also proposes to give the board the power to adopt codes of conduct and professional standards for teachers. On the face of it, I accept that may sound like a very sensible idea.

I am sure that there is a place for that, but I am confident that I speak for most teachers when I say that, if indeed it is to become the role of the Teachers Registration Board to devise and potentially enforce those codes of conduct, surely it is more important now than ever that on that board teachers are adequately represented. Surely now is the time that the Minister for Education should be coming into this place and either increasing that representation or making sure that it cannot be watered down.

The bill also proposes to extend the power of the registrar to suspend a teacher where the registrar, and I am quoting, 'reasonably suspects that the teacher poses an unacceptable risk to children'. Again, I accept that there are occasions, and there are some notorious ones we all know of, when this kind of power is necessary and a good thing to have, but I think it beggars belief that this government would seek to legislate such a far-reaching power that will have the capability of ending a teacher's tenure without actually providing any detail to the house about what the test might be or what recourse the accused teacher might have to appeal or challenge the finding. It is outrageous.

I know that the deputy leader, the member for Port Adelaide, has been working very diligently on some amendments that will seek to remedy some of the flaws I have mentioned in this bill. I will finish my remarks by reiterating that I think the timing here is really disappointing. Teachers, of whom we have collectively asked so much in recent months, would be forgiven for feeling insulted that the first act of this government, as we start to see an easing of restrictions and classroom numbers returning to some semblance of normality, is to take away the very strong representation they have had from unions and colleagues for many years and replace it instead with a procession of captain's picks who will be wielding nothing but rubber stamps.

Ms LUETHEN (King) (12:32): I rise to support the changes recommended by the Minister for Education to the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill will amend the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 to modify the size and composition of the Teachers Registration Board and expand its functions. It will support the implementation of relevant recommendations from national reviews related to teacher registration. It will improve oversight of the persons granted special authority to teach, and it will address various other technical and important operational issues that relate to children's safety in educational settings.

The education, safety and development of children and young people in our society is essential to our society being informed, productive and well functioning. The success of our society will in many ways depend on the quality of our teachers. This has been really highlighted in current times while navigating the coronavirus; as parents, many of us attempted to take on the teaching of our children at home and we were reminded of how difficult a task this can be.

In South Australia, we have the benefit of some of the most outstanding teachers, some outstanding leaders and some outstanding educational support staff, whose value to our community has always been important—again, potentially, never more appreciated than they have been over the last couple of months. Our South Australian teaching teams were able to professionally prepare for the possibility of necessary remote or online learning platforms at the end of term 1 and prepared for the opportunity to do that if necessary in term 2.

Then, as the public health advice became even more strongly and confidently reassured by our public health officers that schools were safe, the decision of the government to keep them open was wise, and indeed parents could be encouraged to send their children back to school in term 2. Our teaching and leadership staff then successfully transitioned children back to school, and we thank them. That is the way that teachers, and indeed all the school staff, have shown themselves at the fore of their professionalism and the importance of the work that they do.

The purpose of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act is to ensure that every teacher working in South Australia is appropriately qualified, that they are competent to teach, and that they are a fit and proper person to have the care of the children. This is so very important. The act establishes the board and provides it with the functions and powers it needs to administer and oversee the registration of more than 35,000 teachers in both government and non-government schools and preschools and early childhood services around South Australia.

Since the commencement of the act, there have been significant changes to the regulation of the teaching profession across Australia, including through the introduction of the National Framework for Teacher Registration and the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers. In more recent years, the Education Council has commissioned substantial reviews into teacher education and registration, including a review of the preparation of student teachers by the higher education institutions in Australia undertaken in 2014, and the National Review of Teacher Registration undertaken in 2017.

The findings of these reviews supported the need for changes to the education and regulation of teachers across Australia to improve teacher quality, to strengthen child safety and to streamline the registration processes. In addition, the findings of both the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission here in South Australia and the national Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse have prompted significant reform of child protection here in South Australia, including substantial changes to the screening and oversight of registered teachers.

While these reforms have introduced increased child safety measures in respect of teachers, our Liberal government believes that more can be done to improve child safety and to respond to the outcomes of these royal commissions. Education and care settings are meant to be safe environments for everyone who attends them, and that is what people in my electorate want to hear—that we are making these care settings as safe as possible.

However, in education settings we have the following risk factors for child abuse, which have been highlighted by child safety organisations, such as Child Wise. There is the opportunity for those who wish to harm children, because there are high levels of child/adult interaction. Education settings could and do attract those with a paedophilic interest, and this risk has been identified in the past few years in a school in King and has resulted in prosecution for offences.

In South Australia, under the Labor government there have been well-publicised, substantiated incidents of ineffective responses to child sex abuse in our education settings, and an example is the case that resulted in the Debelle inquiry. An outcome of this appalling incident was the creation of the Department for Education's document, *Managing Allegations of Sexual Misconduct in SA Education and Care Settings*. In the foreword to this document, chief executive Rick Persse said:

As leaders of the education sectors, we strongly support the ongoing development of legislative schemes to enable the most thorough assessments of an individual's suitability to work or volunteer with children and young people.

However, the best screening schemes are unlikely to remove all possibility of an adult exploiting his or her role in order to offend against children or young people.

Over the past three years, I have had a number of parents raise concerns about alleged ineffective or inappropriate conduct by teachers, and I have provided my constituents with the appropriate Department for Education guidelines to follow. When we drop our children off at school we expect them to be safe, and it is devastating to have to consider that their safety may be compromised by a teacher, a volunteer or another student; but this is a real risk that keeps coming about in South Australia today.

I support the changes outlined in this bill because, on behalf of parents and children in my electorate, I am committed to making sure our children are as safe as possible in our education settings. Legislation and policies need to be and are being updated to remove abusive educators and to ensure they are not rehired in our education settings. Notably, this bill will amend the act to provide that the welfare and best interests of children are the paramount consideration in relation to the operation, administration and enforcement of this act.

The bill will provide a number of new functions to the board. It codifies and strengthens some existing activities the board undertakes. This includes functions for the board to develop and maintain a code of conduct for registered teachers and to recognise quality teaching and leadership in the teaching profession. The bill updates the provision for membership of the board to provide improved flexibility in the size and composition of the board.

Members of the board are currently appointed on the basis of nominations by particular stakeholders. The government is introducing changes to ensure that members of the board are

appointed on the basis of knowledge, skills and experience the board needs to carry out its functions effectively. Importantly, the bill will ensure that the board's membership includes practising teachers in the areas of preschool education, primary education, secondary education, the expertise of a legal practitioner and, very importantly I think, the experience and perspective of a parent representing our community's interest.

The bill also includes various amendments to improve provisions of the act that enable the board to deal with unprofessional conduct, incompetence, incapacity and issues of fitness and propriety in the teaching profession. This includes, for example, providing the registrar with the power to suspend a teacher's registration where the registrar forms a reasonable belief that the teacher poses an unacceptable risk to children.

The bill will make a number of amendments to the act to improve information sharing, where necessary, for the protection of children. This has certainly been raised with me by school leaders in King. For example, if a student is at risk of harming other students, and transfers to another school in South Australia, the teachers and leaders want the ability to be able to talk to the school attended by that child about the risk that could be present.

In particular, the bill provides for the board to disclose information to an appropriate person or body if the board is of the opinion that to do so is reasonably necessary to prevent harm being caused to a child. The bill will further provide for the sharing of information between the board, other teacher regulatory authorities, employers and state authorities relevant to the health, safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or class of children, or to manage the risk to a child or class of children. These changes among others in the bill support the recommendations of the National Review of Teacher Registration and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The development of this bill was subject to a significant amount of consultation, including an extensive consultation with teachers and other stakeholders on potential reforms to the act, and targeted consultation on a draft version of the bill. The feedback from stakeholders has directly helped shape the final form of the bill, and I thank everyone who has contributed feedback to this important reform. Our Marshall government is making these types of legislative changes, and there is a lot more we have to do to make sure children have the opportunity to grow up safely in South Australia and reach their full potential.

I will just take this moment to commend one of the school leaders in King—Wendy Moore, principal at the Golden Grove Primary School—because she really does lead the way in South Australia and in King in terms of making sure children's safety is at the forefront of everything that happens at that school. I will conclude by thanking the minister for his work and commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay) (12:45): I rise today to talk about the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020. It gives me the opportunity to thank our teachers in South Australia. Let's be very clear: we have asked a lot of them over the last two months. We have asked for them to keep teaching face to face while putting their health and safety to one side. When many other industries were sending their employees to work from home, our teachers were committed to the task at hand. While we raised issues about the lack of soap and hand sanitiser and attempted to clarify their concerns about social distancing, they worked on.

I had a chance to call all the principals in my electorate during this time. They were very welcoming of my phone call because they were under enormous pressure to clarify and understand what was required of them, to answer questions of their teachers and to answer questions of the parents about what the best thing was to do. But the fundamental thing I heard from these teachers—number one—was the commitment to the students. Each and every one of them was concerned about the wellbeing of their children and how they could best continue to teach in a different way.

As the numbers in the classroom dwindled, we asked them to teach via face to face and online. I certainly know, as the parent of a nearly 10 year old, that we were communicated with regularly about these opportunities. It was up to us as parents and, if we chose to keep our child at home, we would be supported by the teachers and by the classroom.

These teachers spent school holidays preparing for distance learning. One of the conversations I had with principals was about how they came together as a group with their teachers. They would often put people aside for two or three weeks to start the conversation around IT and those students who did not have access to it at home, understanding what their needs were and how they needed to upskill some of their teachers in order to deliver online. They were very diligent about continuing the support.

Obviously things progressed better than we all had hoped. We had fewer reported cases, and in term 2 we returned to face-to-face teaching. First of all, I want to put on record my absolute thanks to the teachers in my electorate of Ramsay who spent most of the holidays preparing for distance learning, for online learning. I want to thank them for being back there supporting our students. They were at the forefront of this pandemic as an essential worker, and I want to thank them for that time.

When I talk about teachers, I will always share an empathy with them because you can say that it is my family's most common occupation. My mum was a teacher for all her professional life. I will take the opportunity to shout out to Debra, Lisa, Sally and Pam, my cousins, who all joined this noble profession. Apart from a *Sliding Doors* moment, I would have been a teacher myself, so I have great respect for our teachers, their importance and the ever-changing demands on them.

We might talk about STEM, we talk about numeracy and literacy and we talk about behaviour—our expectations on our teachers has increased enormously over time when I think about them. But I am here today to talk about this bill, a bill that has come to us in this house at a very unusual time. It appears that this bill wants to reduce the representation of teachers on this registration board.

Let us remind ourselves of what this government is seeking to do, that is, to have out of 10 to 14 members on this board: three practising teachers, one from preschool, primary school and secondary school; a legal practitioner; one parent; and five to nine people appointed by the minister. We in the opposition have concerns about this, as articulated by the shadow minister for education and the member for Wright.

We have put forward an amendment that not less than half the people should be registered teachers, not less than five practising teachers, four nominated by the Australian Education Union and the balance by the Independent Education Union, one nominated by the CE of the Department for Education, and one jointly nominated by the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia and the Catholic Education Office; one parent; one legal practitioner; one jointly nominated by the universities; and up to four nominated by the minister. I am satisfied that our proposal is what teachers want because they want their voices heard, because this is them being the best that we expect.

We have talked about professional code of conduct, and we hold people, particularly teachers, to the highest standards. We know when we drop our children off that we leave them in the safety of these teachers, and that is paramount, no doubt about that. But when I looked at this proposal today, I thought I would have a bit of a look at what other jurisdictions were doing. I had a very quick look to the north and saw that the NT recently reformed its act, and it came into force in January this year. There are 12 people on their board; six of them are teachers. When I looked to the west, WA has seven board members; four out of seven are teachers.

It seems to me that this government is out of step, but you have to ask yourself why. Why do you not want teachers on this board? Do you not trust teachers? I trust teachers because I know that their number one commitment is supporting our young South Australian children, to educate them for the roles of the future and to make their wellbeing a key part of that education. It is very disappointing that the Minister for Education is putting this proposal forward. I ask him to consider and reflect on other jurisdictions and to consider reviewing the amendment that the opposition has put forward.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:53): I rise with some relish to support the bill, amending, as it does, a range of important areas including the membership of the Teachers Registration Board, and I will address some remarks specifically to clause 7 in a moment. Like other members, I am fortunate to have a number of extraordinary schools, both primary and high schools, in my part of the Adelaide

Hills, and I am particularly proud to have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful educators at those schools.

Somewhat uniquely, the Adelaide Hills is home to a very wide range of types of school, which perhaps reflects the area of the Hills. On the one hand, Scott Creek Primary School, with just short of 50 students and situated as it is in the Scott Creek bushland in idyllic circumstances, is a very small school that has the loyal following of its staff and the community that support it. It is a central part of the Scott Creek community and a very small school.

On the other hand, Eastern Fleurieu School at Strathalbyn is a large R-12 school in the regions, which is setting the standard for high school education, as well as primary school education, for our state. That model of R-12 is a tremendous shining example of what can be done when that model is deployed effectively. Not only that, it is a multicampus model. It is a large school supporting the sustained strength of small satellite campuses at Ashbourne and out to Langhorne Creek and Milang, which might otherwise be struggling in terms of facilities, access to programs and so on. So there is a specially wide range and diversity of schools throughout my electorate of Heysen.

As other speakers have done, I commend the Minister for Education's dedication to ensuring he is, so far as is practicable and at an early stage, aware of and understands the particular needs of those individual schools. He has demonstrated his commitment by his dedication to visiting schools, particularly those in my area. In that regard, I highlight the visit that we had together in quite early days at Mylor Primary School with principal Ngari Boehm, who is a tremendous example of leadership of a particular local school adapting a program to suit the students in that particular learning environment. In that case, there is a special focus on science and a time set aside during the calendar to focus on science in a way that is special at Mylor Primary School. The minister heard firsthand about the way in which that program worked, and at a very early stage.

Similarly, at Stirling East Primary School, one of the larger primary schools in my area of Heysen, the minister has visited on a number of occasions and seen the diversity of great work that is going on there, which is led by principal Measday. I single out for mention that range of schools to highlight the diversity within the Hills, and I will make some particular remarks about the two high schools within Heysen. I have already mentioned Eastern Fleurieu School at Strathalbyn, and Heathfield High School is the other one, of course.

Heathfield High School has gone from strength to strength over these very early days of the Marshall Liberal government. In just these first two years, we have seen developments at Heathfield High School that are backed by considerable capital spending on improved facilities but see state and national leading programs being rolled out in the areas of both STEM and on the entrepreneurial side. I can tell you that I was thrilled to be present at the launch of the entrepreneurial program recently, which is a tremendous step that I could talk about at great length. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

Parliamentary Committees

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Mr CREGAN (Kavel) (14:01): I bring up the 79th report of the committee, entitled Mitcham Girls High School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr CREGAN: I bring up the 80th report of the committee, entitled Hallett Cove School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr CREGAN: I bring up the 81st report of the committee, entitled Reactivation of the Repat Health Precinct Phase 2.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Mr CREGAN: I bring up the 82nd report of the committee, entitled Brighton Primary School Redevelopment Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Question Time

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:03): My question is to the Premier. Why does South Australia have the worst unemployment rate in the nation?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:03): The employment figures are out today, and they are very sobering for South Australia, for Australia and, in fact, globally. We have lost 40,000 jobs in South Australia since the outbreak of the coronavirus. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost nationally and millions of jobs internationally.

The statistics that were out today of course refer to an earlier period. We are seeing some green shoots of improved consumer confidence and business confidence. Obviously, since the road map back to a COVID-safe environment was announced by the Prime Minister last week, we have already seen some further green shoots in terms of business and consumer confidence, but I think we have to be very realistic about this. We are in unprecedented economic times.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Australia has done particularly well with regard to tackling the health crisis, but we are now in the midst of a very serious economic crisis in Australia and here in South Australia. That's one of the reasons why we are doing everything we can to support businesses through this period: \$1 billion with our support and stimulus package, which compares very favourably with other jurisdictions around the country and extraordinarily favourably compared with other cities, countries and jurisdictions around the world.

We are working very hard. Only a few moments ago, I held a press conference that highlighted the work we are doing to redevelop the Repat site. The Public Works Committee met today—a very hardworking committee—and it has authorised the continuation of stage 2 of that project. It's a \$60 million investment, and that work down at the Repat site will be in the order of \$60 million, beginning in July of this year, and will provide improved facilities for brain injury rehabilitation, spinal injury rehabilitation, a veterans' wellbeing centre and other facilities.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, members on my left!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: There is \$60 million going into that facility. I know that there are many people—

Mr Malinauskas: Why do we have the worst unemployment rate?

The SPEAKER: Leader!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in South Australia who are going to be very happy with that improvement, but of course it will create jobs as well. We are continuing to work very hard. We don't find the current level of unemployment acceptable in South Australia, and of course it's not just unemployment—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —but it's also underemployment. Many people who might remain employed have lost more jobs and this is really concerning. It is absolutely concerning, and it's concerning to every single person in this parliament. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all members of this parliament when I say that we want to be doing everything we possibly can to get our economy moving in the right direction, but one of the things that we can't do—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —is compromise the health situation. In fact, business is saying to us, 'Yes, we want to get back to work.' But what we also need to do is to make sure that we don't lift restrictions and then have a massive blowout in terms of the number of new cases, only to have those restrictions put back in place again. That would be an absolute disaster, so we have been very, very keen—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to make sure that we return to the COVID-safe environment in July, as agreed by all the state and territory leaders around Australia, but do it in a way that is going to be sustainable over the longer term.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I call to order and warn for the first time the Minister for Education; he's been doing it all day. I also call to order the members for West Torrens, Kaurna, Lee, Badcoe, Hurtle Vale and Ramsay, and the member for Kaurna is warned.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question is to the Premier. Why have South Australia's health outcomes been some of the best in the nation but our employment outcomes the worst in the nation?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:07): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. He is correct: our health outcomes in South Australia have been exceptionally good, and there are many reasons for that.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Playford is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: One of the primary reasons is that we made sure we were listening to evidence and advice as we put together our strong plan to tackle the coronavirus in South Australia. The Leader of the Opposition is correct: every South Australian can share in the pride that we have done extraordinarily well from a health perspective with good quality testing—the best in Australia and amongst the best in the world—and good quality tracing.

The Communicable Disease Control Branch in South Australia is doing a mighty job to make sure that, when there is a new case or an outbreak, it's jumped on as quickly as possible so that we know how far it has spread and put people into isolation. Sometimes thousands of people in South Australia have been in isolation, but it has all been for that common good.

Of course, the third part is having that rapid response capability. Thankfully, we haven't had to use it like they have had to in north-west Tasmania and with other outbreaks. There is one in Melbourne at the moment and others in aged-care facilities in New South Wales. Nevertheless, we put those strong plans in place. The Leader of the Opposition is also right to identify that we have an economic crisis in Australia and here in South Australia. What we know is that tens of thousands of South Australians have lost their jobs.

These are extraordinarily difficult times, and not only have people lost jobs but many people who retain their jobs have far fewer hours that are being worked. That is why it is very important that we continue to make sure that we are resourcing the economic recovery in South Australia. When we compare what we are doing in South Australia with other parts of the country, we are doing very well. When we compare our country with other countries around the world, we are doing very well.

Can I tell you that many other cities and countries around the world are on the back foot, trying to respond to just the increased health expenditure. Australia has not only resourced the health expenditure that is immediately required but they have also been able to put this support underneath our economy as we go through this economic crisis.

JobKeeper has been a lifeline to so many businesses in Australia, and it will continue to be as we come out of this crisis. JobSeeker—increased payments, no reference to an individual's asset base and no period of waiting before people go onto JobSeeker—is very much regarded and very much appreciated by the people of Australia. One of the unique things about our country at the moment is that we have this good working relationship between federal support and state government support. Of course, at our level, we have put \$1 billion on the table—\$1 billion on the table—to bring forward as many projects as possible to create immediate opportunity—

Ms Stinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Badcoe!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and also make sure that we can provide direct relief to businesses and individuals who are most hard hit. There is of course a great concern around the state and the country with the employment figures that are coming out at the moment. Many people predicted that these figures would be significantly higher. The reality is that all of us—all of us—need to work every day to make sure that we can get through this and come out the other side stronger than before.

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is again to the Premier. Does the Premier concede that today's unemployment rate in South Australia would have been lower had the government supported the more than 1,000 government enterprise workers who are currently out of work?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:11): We are doing a huge amount of work with a large range of sectors right across this state to support them during this particularly difficult period.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Badcoe is on two warnings.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It's true that JobSeeker is available to many but not all employees in South Australia, and this is one of the reasons why the federal government—recognising the situation that existed with people who might be employed at the local government level, or the state government level, or in an agency attached to a state government—significantly increased the JobSeeker payment. My understanding is that that number has essentially doubled during this period with the relaxation of some of the other issues or the conditions that needed to be met to access the JobSeeker previously, and that is appreciated by many people.

It's also not understood by everybody that the JobKeeper payment can only be given to a person once. If they have multiple casual employments, and many people who are casual employees do have multiple casual employments, as long as one of those is with a private sector company which meets the criteria—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Reynell!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —then the person receives that JobKeeper; if not the JobKeeper, the JobSeeker. This is an extraordinary level of support for people who do find themselves in hardship. In addition to that, at the state level we have said to people who are on concessions in South Australia who lose their job during this period that we will make a further one-off \$500 payment to people. Not only that but we will bring forward that concession payment, which is due, as people would be aware, much later in the year, I think September or maybe October. We will bring that forward to this financial year. We will make sure that that relief comes as quickly as it possibly can.

At the same time that we are supporting people in this endeavour—federally, with the JobKeeper and the JobSeeker and, in South Australia, with the support that we are providing to people who are on the concession who have lost their job.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We have also been doing everything we possibly can to stimulate economic activity in this state, with sensible level restrictions in South Australia—

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —that promote employment in this state.

The Hon. Z.L. Bettison interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Ramsay!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I am very proud that South Australia was the first state to remove the restrictions on elective surgery. That is something that I know provides a great deal of relief to those people who lost their jobs or lost hours linked to that ban originally that was put on all category 3—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and non-urgent category 2 elective surgery here in Australia. That was a national directive. About 2½ weeks ago we made a decision that we would increase the amount of elective surgery by 25 per cent. This provided some relief, but there were still many people, many doctors—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Premier, be seated for one moment.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The question was about 1,000 government enterprise employees and the Premier is talking about elective surgery, sir.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Point of order, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Point of order on the point of order.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: The question contained the phrase 'would the Premier concede'. It is an extremely broad statement and allows the Premier great latitude to be able to answer the question.

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. I would say that I have given the Premier some latitude and so I will listen carefully and ensure that he is sticking to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I'm sorry, sir, if I wasn't clear enough. It has been raised that people who were casual employees—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —in the state system were not eligible for JobKeeper. That was the essence of the question—maybe the Leader of the Opposition was confining that to people in a certain part of the Public Service—but one that has been raised is the casual nursing employees, for example, who were not—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We have the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —eligible for JobKeeper. Maybe the opposition are interested; maybe they are not, but I know that people here are interested—

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hurtle Vale will not interject.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and so I was explaining—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to the house exactly and precisely what we have done to provide further hours for exactly and precisely that group of people. We are very proud that we are the first jurisdiction in the country. As of midnight last night, we have completely lifted the ban on elective surgery and dentistry in South Australia and returned people to employment. Not all of it is going to happen straightaway, but we are working towards that. Our goal is to come out of this stronger than before.

The SPEAKER: The member for Playford is on two warnings. I have given the leader three, so I am moving to the member for Colton and I will come back to the leader.

CORONAVIRUS, SCHOOLS

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:17): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister update the house on what the Marshall Liberal government is doing to support schools and preschools through the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:17): It's a very important question and I thank the member for Colton for raising this. There is, of course, a critical need to support our schools and preschools through the pandemic. The government has had a very clear policy throughout that our schools and preschools will be kept open in line with the health advice. Not all people have followed that health advice all the way through.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee is warned.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: I know that for some time at the end of last term those opposite were calling for schools only to be open for essential workers and vulnerable children. They have always been a category we have needed but we have actually said that all children should be supported in line with the health advice and we continue that. We are pleased that the opposition has returned—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Innovation and Skills is called to order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —to the advice of Dr Spurrier rather than the advice of Dr Close. The attendance at our schools as of yesterday is up to 90.4 per cent—

Dr Close interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Port Adelaide!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: —which is great news for all South Australian children, families and educators. Three per cent of our students are learning from home at this point and 6.6 per cent of our students were reporting as absent yesterday.

Our teachers, leaders and staff have done an amazing job, and I talked a bit about this yesterday. They will, indeed, have a welcome boost today to see salary back pay. As a result of the government's offer in the EB rounds that has now been supported by 78 per cent of our workforce earlier this year, that has gone through the SAET and is now, as of this week's pay, in people's bank accounts. That is absolutely earned and absolutely appropriate and I think it will be particularly welcomed by the 78 per cent of our staff who supported the government's offer.

Through COVID, there have been a range of programs that we have announced and a range of existing programs that were already in place that have provided support to schools, families, teachers and students. In particular, I note that preschools will benefit from a \$20,000 grant to all preschools in the public system in South Australia.

It's in their accounts now and they are working through the process of how they will do the maintenance work, the painting, the roofing, the tiling, the shade structures or whatever needs to be done at those preschools to support their work. The member for Colton will be interested to know that in his area the Baden Pattinson Kindergarten, the Fulham Park Preschool Kindergarten, the Henley Community Kindergarten and the West Beach Kindergarten will all benefit from that work.

Also, a \$25 million increase in maintenance work for schools has been announced this year across South Australia. Twenty-five of those projects are underway—indeed, a couple have even been completed—12 are at tender, 48 are at design and documentation and 76 are in planning. That work will be very welcome for small businesses and tradies this year. Again, the member for Colton would be pleased to know that the Fulham Gardens Primary School, the Kidman Park Primary School and the West Beach Primary School are all benefiting from a range of projects that have been on the backlog for some time that we are now able to clear through the advancement of this money. This is a backlog of course that's existed for many years.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: It has been raised by the Auditor-General for many years and this government has taken steps to address that backlog, providing work at this critical time. And it is of course on top of our \$1.3 billion infrastructure program in our budget, which is a record amount of infrastructure school spending in our budget. The reason it's a record is that this government has announced hundreds of millions of dollars of new projects over and above those which those opposite had left in the budget.

We have also announced the best internet rollout in Australia to which 89 per cent of schools have been connected, going from the slowest to the fastest internet in the nation, and today that will hit 90 per cent when the Cummins Area School and the Baramera Primary School are connected. We have added preschools to that rollout over the next year, and it is showing its value particularly at this difficult time through COVID where it has been called on, and it has achieved what we have sought through better support for our schools and our students in South Australia.

The SPEAKER: For leading that cacophony of noise, I am going to ask the member for Playford to leave for half an hour under 137A, and the member for Morphett is warned.

The honourable member for Playford having withdrawn from the chamber:

CORONAVIRUS, SCHOOLS

Dr CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:21): My question is a supplementary to the Minister for Education. What is the government doing to ensure that teachers, students and parents at the school gate are observing social distancing rules?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:21): I thank the member for the question. This is an important question. It's one that has been discussed between myself and Professor Spurrier on at least one occasion, and the education department continues to engage with our public health professionals.

The challenge arises of course because one of the social distancing mechanisms that we are seeking to do at many of our schools is to reduce the number of adults presenting on the school grounds as a matter of course. For a number of weeks now, I don't think all but most of our schools—maybe all of our schools in South Australia—have had a standard process where adults have been requested to only present on the school grounds if there is a particular need for them to do so.

In some circumstances, that has been identified where you might have a young student in the lower years or a student with a disability, a student with some level of need. The parents are welcomed in certain schools on many occasions to go onto the school grounds to assist that child

get to the classroom, but the majority of parents in South Australia have been asked to wait at the school gates if they are coming to the school to collect their child or, indeed, to drop them off.

Schools are being provided with advice to support their parent communities, and they are also exploring some other areas where there are particular areas of concern identified at the school level. Some schools are exploring whether to stagger the end of school time or not. There are schools where this is not a problem and there are schools where this is a problem, and our local education teams, the education directors and the various secondary or primary leaders, are working with principals as appropriate on a case-by-case basis to meet the needs of individual schools.

Where there are concerns, where there are still behaviours at pick-up or drop-off time that are not the behaviours that we are seeking, we are working with schools to support them in whether there needs to be a change of practice. This is not a universal application across the state because the circumstances in each school are different, but there are certainly a couple of schools where members of the community have expressed concerns, which are understandable, and we will work with the AHPPC advice—the advice from our public health officers—to find ways to solve those challenges as and when they arise.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): My question is to the Premier. How much of the \$350 million in economic stimulus announced by the Premier on 11 March this year—64 days ago—has actually been spent in the community as of today?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:24): The Leader of the Opposition asks about the stimulus money that we announced early on. There are two stimulus packages: the first one is \$350 million and the second one is \$650 million. As members in the parliament would know, I have also updated on additional amounts that have been dealt with by portfolio.

In terms of the \$350 million that was announced, around \$120 million of that related to new road infrastructure projects. These are projects that I know members in this place are extraordinarily excited about. They will have the ability to create new jobs, but, importantly, they will also improve road safety in South Australia and simultaneously, in many situations, they will improve the productivity of our road network in South Australia.

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! We have the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: The second amount that we have announced as part of that \$350 million is a \$70 million increase—

Ms Hildyard interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Reynell!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —to the Economic and Business Growth Fund. I think members would appreciate that there hasn't been an expenditure from that yet. I think it is important and prudent that we as a government don't lose the methodology that we have used successfully to date to allocate money that is going to great economic activity in South Australia.

Ms Cook interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Hurtle Vale is on two warnings.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Obviously, we have announced \$15 million worth of bringing forward of hospital maintenance upgrades.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens is warned.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We went through that yesterday, and I can announce to the house that there haven't been any changes since I provided an update to the house on that \$15 million yesterday.

The minister for planning, transport and infrastructure, who is also the minister responsible for local government in the government here, has announced a very significant new program of working with the local government sector on what is called the Planning and Development Fund. I think that the expenditure that has now been authorised is in the order of \$65 million. We are very pleased to be working with the councils. Many of those projects will begin extraordinarily quickly and create jobs.

The Hon. S.K. Knoll interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister for Planning!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Some of those jobs will be created this year; some of those jobs will be created next year. It's important to have a pipeline there. In addition to that, we announced earlier in the year \$22 million worth of new expenditure, which is going to be involved with nature-based tourism. This is part of a larger program for our parks. It is part of our Parks 2025 strategy, which has been warmly welcomed by the people of South Australia.

I think most people were very pleased earlier in the week when the Minister for Environment and Water told us about the massive increase in the number of people who are booking to visit our parks and stay in our accommodation in those national parks. It is a massive increase—a more than 1,000 per cent increase on the same time last year. Of course, there has been—

Mr Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The leader is warned. We have the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —the \$10 million investment into public housing upgrades. The Leader of the Opposition asks the question, 'How much has been spent?' On that issue, for example, of public housing maintenance upgrades, of a total of \$10 million, we know that \$6 million of that will be spent this financial year—those contracts have already been put in place—and \$4 million next year.

So there is an example, of that long list that I've given, where 60 per cent of it is going to be spent immediately this financial year and 40 per cent next year. They are important upgrades to public housing infrastructure in South Australia. We are going to come through this, and we are going to come through this stronger than before, upgrading our public housing amenity in South Australia and creating construction jobs along the way.

The SPEAKER: The member for Kaurna is on two warnings.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): My question is to the Premier. What is the point of the Premier announcing an economic stimulus package first when he is the last to spend it? When will his words start to turn into actions?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: That question definitely contained argument, so I am going to uphold it. Because it is the Leader of the Opposition, I am going to give him one opportunity to rephrase or ask another question and then we are moving to the member for Heysen.

Mr MALINAUSKAS: Thanks, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier. When it comes to stimulus, when will the Premier's words actually translate to actions for jobs in this state?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:29): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. When you are beginning a project like a \$120 million upgrade to roads, although the construction work on the road doesn't begin, in fact a lot of the design work has already begun.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Premier, be seated for one moment.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I don't know why the Leader of the Opposition is constantly so angry.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Premier, be seated for one moment. The member for West Torrens is warned for a second and final time, and if this continues he will be leaving. It has been a while since a minister has been ejected, but if I have to restore order and do so today I will eject one.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I am not quite sure why the leader is so—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —angry today. It does seem out of character.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Often he is quite placid. Now, all of a sudden, he is quite aggressive. I don't know whether there has been a caucus meeting, whether they might have all workshopped that you need to stand up and be a bit tougher. Maybe they did a bit of research saying that Kouts can't come forward any more, that's not acceptable to the people of South Australia, the Leader of the Opposition has got to person up.

The SPEAKER: The Premier will be seated; the point of order is for debate.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Premier is mocking your earlier ruling.

The SPEAKER: I will be the judge of that. I believe he is debating. I ask the Premier to come back to the substance of the question or conclude his answer.

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee is on two warnings. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It was a broad question, as you would be aware—

The SPEAKER: Yes, open ended.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —and in some ways a provocative question but, nevertheless, one that I am very, very keen to answer once—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —Mr Angry has calmed down over there today. The reality is that there is plenty of expenditure occurring under this government with stimulus and plenty more which is planned, and that's what the people of South Australia want: a plan from a health perspective and a plan from an economic perspective. I thought one of the things that I would do would be to compare and contrast our response to this global crisis with the previous government's response to the GFC. I thought it was quite instructive, and I think it is something that you, sir, and the people of South Australia, should be aware of. We know there was a very serious economic crisis going back to the GFC. So what was the former government's response?

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Lee can leave for the remainder of question time under 137A.

The honourable member for Lee having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It is interesting that that member in particular would be ejected.

The Hon. V.A. Chapman interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Maybe he wouldn't want to hear because he was working for the treasurer at the time of GFC. The government's response at the time—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Point of order, Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —was not to maintain—

The SPEAKER: Premier, please be seated for one moment. The point of order is for debate.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And, sir, it is disorderly to the house to name members who are not present.

The SPEAKER: Yes, he is beginning to move that way. I am going to respectfully ask the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Is the Minister for Innovation confused? It was debate, I am upholding it and I would ask the Premier to come back to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: The substance of the question was the alacrity with which this government is responding to a global crisis, which I have outlined with a \$1 billion—a thousand thousands—response plus, and I was comparing and contrasting that with the previous government because, unbelievably, we have had some criticism.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Well, actually 10,000 thousands, I think. But, anyway, the gist of this one goes like this: after the GFC, the previous government decided to sack thousands of public servants, not good for employment. Then they decided to postpone or cancel projects in South Australia. They were cancelling hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of capital projects and then they completely eliminated the project with regard to the—

The SPEAKER: Premier—

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: —prisons, and we then paid tens of millions of dollars in penalties.

The SPEAKER: Premier, be seated. The point of order is for debate.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, sir, and I am worried about the Premier.

The SPEAKER: I uphold the point of order and I ask the Premier to come back to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Unlike the previous government, we haven't sacked thousands of public servants, we haven't postponed projects and we haven't cancelled projects, making the taxpayers of South Australia pay massive penalties to the very people they awarded contracts to that they cancelled. More than that, I took a look because I heard the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Lee come out and say we should completely wipe out any increases in fees, taxes and charges.

I thought, 'Well, it was 1.9 per cent and there are people who are employed who are going to continue to make taxes and pay taxes during this period of time,' but I thought, 'Let's just have a look at what happened in the GFC.' Did they wipe it out completely? 4.2 per cent—that's what they did during this. I am happy to put my response up side by side any day of the week.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Terms like 'Mr Angry' and 'Peanut' are not helpful, and if I hear anything like that I may be asking members to withdraw them. I am just putting members on notice. Let's dial the temperature down a bit.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:35): My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Skills. Can the minister update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is supporting the skills training sector?

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley—Minister for Innovation and Skills) (14:35): I thank the member for Heysen for his question and his interest in vocational education and training here in South Australia. Of course, the Marshall government has successfully strengthened vocational education here in South Australia in the two years since it has come to office. Under Skilling South Australia, we achieved a nation-leading growth in apprenticeship and traineeship commencements. Our reforms are ensuring South Australia has the skilled workforce necessary to modernise and grow our economy, particularly in the vital transitioning economy areas.

To help hold that position and to come back stronger than before, I announced in April our \$16 million VET market support package in response to COVID-19. This new funding is supporting non-government training providers to continue to deliver skills needed for South Australia's recovery and to assist them to adapt and remain viable during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, over \$4 million in stimulus payments to training providers have been made, \$3.5 million one-off payments to training providers to support new delivery and technology to support training, and \$600,000 in top-up payments to 52 training providers has been paid in the first round of subsidy payments at pre COVID-19 levels.

Recently, I signed off on further targeted support measures under the Skilling South Australia program, offering businesses impacted by COVID-19 extra support to continue their skills training: \$1.5 million for Skilling South Australia workforce projects. These help businesses retain and transition workers across industries, upskill and reskill displaced workers to help them find new careers in industries in demand and support group training organisations to reduce the charge-out rate to host employers for new apprentices and trainees for six months for eligible commencements from 2 March this year.

Under our Equipped for Work, businesses will be reimbursed up to \$1,500 for equipment and services, including online training and working from home expenses when they hire an apprentice. Building capacity projects have also been expanded to make them more flexible to respond to the changing COVID-19 environment. That is a key measure and a key success story of the Skilling South Australia program: we have always been flexible to support industry in whatever circumstances they are in.

These initiatives will ensure the delivery of skills will continue to almost 48,000 students across the state, as well as new students who have signed up since the pandemic. This is part of the Marshall government's strong plan to come back stronger than before.

REGIONAL SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Frome) (14:38): My question is to the Minister for Education. Can the minister please advise the house how schoolchildren travelling on regional school buses can attend their relevant schools and at the same time abide by the safe social distance protocol? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain a bit further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Prior to the schools recently going on their school holidays, I wrote to the minister on 7 April with parents' concerns regarding their children having to travel on school buses but not being able to satisfy the safe distance requirement. I also suggested a couple of recommendations to the minister.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Minister for Education) (14:39): I thank the member for the question and I apologise that the letter that he wrote in April has apparently not received a direct response, as I understand, so we will seek to address that. Certainly the situation on school buses is subject to some extent to similar advice in relation to public transport but also specifically as we are talking about a cohort of children, then it is something where we have sought Health advice along the way.

Inasmuch as public transport, there will potentially be further advice from the AHPPC. We will certainly be seeking Professor Spurrier's advice as to whether that changes the expectation that she has put on our school transport facilities. The medical advice has been consistent throughout: children do not spread the virus in the same way that adults do; that does not seem to happen.

I am not a doctor. I have never pretended to be a scientist, so I can't tell you why that is the case, but I can tell you that the advice that we have received consistently from the AHPPC and Professor Spurrier has been that, for whatever reason, the virus behaves differently with young people than it does for older people. I suspect that informs their advice in relation to transport of young people; nevertheless, we will see what has happened with the letter and provide a response at the earliest possible opportunity.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:41): My question is to the Minister for Transport. Does the minister stand by his remarks to the parliament yesterday regarding the safety of traveling on trains? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain my question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The minister told the parliament yesterday, and I quote: ...the public health advice has not been for the transport department to do anything different from what it is doing.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:41): Yes, Mr Speaker. In fact, I know where this line of questioning is heading. The member for West Torrens' Twitter account can tell us all where he wants to head this afternoon. We have, in the public transport space, been seeking and provided with public health advice for the entire time through this COVID-19 pandemic. It is the basis on which we have made our decisions. It is the basis on which the government more broadly has made its decisions in relation to services that government provides.

In relation to the services that we are providing, especially dealing with, as I have detailed to the house extensively yesterday, the situation with a reduced number of trains being available on lines is concerned, public health officials have not told us to do anything different from what we are doing. There are a number of things that, over the course of today, have moved forward from yesterday, the first being that we see an extra couple of trains back on our lines today—up to 30 trains—and 32 trains available for tomorrow. This gives us the ability to have three car sets on the Gawler line today and two car sets onto the Belair line tomorrow. We've also been able to institute a Glanville service on the Outer Harbor line.

The next question that the member is going to ask is in relation to comments by Dr Spurrier on the radio this morning with regard to what individuals who catch public transport should do. What Professor Spurrier said is the same as we've actually had plastered on our buses, trains and trams for the past month or more—that is, that people who are unwell should not catch public transport.

The other advice that has been given more generally is the fact that people who can work from home or do not need to undertake travel shouldn't do that. We know that public transport is a vector point. It's why one of the first things we instituted in the early stages of this pandemic was to increase cleaning on our transport. In fact, since that first announcement was made, we've gone from twice-weekly deep intensive cleaning to daily deep intensive cleaning.

What we've also done is provided public health messaging throughout our trains, buses and trams to encourage people to do the right thing. The updated advice as of today is that some of the things that are being observed are that people are bunching themselves up into the front of the train because when you get off at the Adelaide Railway Station you can then get through the terminal and out the door much quicker. As of tomorrow, we're going to see announcements being made on platforms to encourage people to spread themselves out over the number of carriages that are available—

Mr Odenwalder: So it's the passengers' fault?

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth is on the board.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —and in doing so, help us to socially distance more widely. Every day, we are adding new services onto the line. As we saw this morning on the Gawler line, we actually saw people undertaking peak spreading of their own accord. It is something that the Premier discussed yesterday and something that the people of South Australia responded to today.

Yesterday, when we saw only 66 people on the 6.25 service, we saw 123 today, but on a corresponding basis at the 7.25 service we were down from 331 to 257 and then at the 7.55 service it went from 262 down to 205. That is people doing what they have done and whether it is advice from the government on regional travel, whether it's advice from the government on gatherings or, in this case, advice from the government on how to help socially distance on trains, the South Australian public is working with the government to help keep people safe during COVID-19. It's another reason why we need to say thank you to the people of South Australia for their help.

There is a whole series of things that we have done to try to make public transport safe, but I would say that there is a broader issue at play here and that is that at the moment we have reduced numbers of people catching public transport. We are going to see that increase and AHPPC are currently considering for the nation how we deal with that increased density of people on public transport going forward.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Firstly, sir, I ask for your ruling. The minister was quoting statistics from his mobile phone from a document. Could you ask him to table that to the house in its entirety?

The SPEAKER: I have the point of order. Is there a point of order on the point of order?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: Mr Speaker, I provided this information to every TV outlet today, so I'm more than happy to provide it.

The SPEAKER: If the minister could furnish that information to the house that would be excellent. What I was going to say is that I don't believe that you were quoting it, but thank you, minister. Now that you have agreed to do that, we will move to the member for West Torrens and then Florey and then King.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (14:46): My question is to the Minister for Transport. Would the minister table the health advice he referenced in parliament yesterday assuring the public of the safety of travelling on trains and, if not, why not?

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (14:46): Again, Mr Speaker, what we have done is listen to the health advice. In fact, there has been a series of meetings and conversations that have been had over the course of the past few days back and forth. Not all of that is necessarily documented, but what the member is attempting to do is to try to somehow suggest that public health officials—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order, sir: the minister is impugning an improper motive on me. I'm asking a question seeking information.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: You haven't heard what motive he is impugning.

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education is warned for interjecting, but he does raise a valid point. What I will do is I will ask if the minister might be able to phrase it another way to ensure that he does not impute any improper motive onto any member.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: We have been following the advice from the public health officials. What we haven't been doing—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —with the greatest of respect, is following the advice of the opposition, who weeks ago were telling us that we needed to shut down schools. We didn't listen to them. We listened to the health advice. They are now saying—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: —that they know best on public transport instead of the public health officials.

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

The SPEAKER: I don't agree. I have allowed some compare and contrast. He is referring to the opposition generally, but I would suggest to the minister that those sorts of statements might provoke some reaction from the opposition, so could he come back to the substance of the question.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: There is advice that is being prepared more formally at the moment that AHPPC are considering. It may shock members of the opposition, but this issue is not unique to South Australia. The eastern seaboard actually has much higher rates of public transport usage than South Australia, but that is a debate for a different day. In Sydney and Melbourne, they are already seeing these kinds of issues occur.

Whether it's the UK or most of the known Western world, which have high-density usage of public transport, this is an issue that we need to deal with globally, balancing on one hand the risks around COVID-19 of people using public transport and on the other hand the fact that public transport is a way that people can go about their daily lives and get to work, especially as we deal with essential workers needing to get to and from where they need to go.

That advice I can't publish at the moment because it hasn't been considered by national cabinet yet, but AHPPC are working through that. What South Australians can rest assured will happen though is that this government will listen to that advice and we will follow it. The reason that people can trust in it is that it's precisely what we have done all the way along. When it comes to increasing, when it comes to messaging, when it's the way we have structured our services, these things have all been in conjunction with public health officials.

In relation to the situation we are dealing with at the moment, it is an evolving situation. On Monday, we only had 20 of the 70 DMUs in service; as of tomorrow that's going to be 32, and as of next Monday we are looking at 42 being back in service. So this is an evolving situation. As I said, in conjunction with the health advice today, the decision was taken that, as of tomorrow morning, we will be providing announcements on platforms to encourage people to spread out across the train. Also as of tomorrow morning, a substitute bus will be provided between Mawson Lakes and the city in peak periods to help deal with that issue.

The other thing that I can update the house on is the fact that, as of this morning, I had confirmation that all of the parts that allow us to fix this issue, which is under warranty—and can I say that the origins of this issue are now stemming back to decisions taken back in 2016 and 2017 in relation to the warranty life of the parts that we are now having to replace—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: It was not this government's decision to extend the life of the existing diesel fleet; all we are doing now is having to fix up what we have been left with as a consequence of that decision.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: The least that could happen while we are trying to fix up the mess is maybe just a little bit of humility or some other form of contrition, but instead what we see, once again, is members of the opposition thinking that they are smarter than Dr Spurrier and the public health officials. South Australians can rest assured that we won't be listening to them; we will be doing exactly what has helped get us into this good position and has made South Australia one of the global leaders when it comes to dealing with this pandemic.

THOMAS FOODS INTERNATIONAL

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:51): My question is to the Premier. What guarantees were given to the government by Thomas Foods International that government funding would see local workers benefit before foreign visa holders and that best practice working conditions would be maintained, particularly now, in light of the COVID-19 restrictions? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I would just add a bit more information.

Leave granted.

Ms BEDFORD: Along with other grants, federal and state, totalling more than \$40 million, Thomas Foods received \$1.38 million of state government funding to help retain 50 jobs after a fire devastated its plant.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:51): I don't have the details of any funding agreement with me, but I am more than happy to check on that. I know that most South Australians were pretty devastated when we saw the fire which occurred at the Thomas Foods plant, just adjacent to Murray Bridge. It's a very important employer in that region, and of course it is also processing a lot of the red meat that we have from right across South Australia. So, in effect, it had a flowback effect on many of our primary producers in South Australia.

I think Thomas Foods have done a very good job in trying to increase the capacity of other plants, including Lobethal and others interstate, to try to deal with the issue associated with the reduced capacity at Murray Bridge. I don't have a latest update on that project, and I don't have the details of the funding agreement that the member raises, but I am more than happy to follow that up.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:52): Supplementary: in light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak at Cedar Meats in Victoria, how are social distancing protocols being enforced in South Australian meat factories, and how are local meat workers' rights and conditions being supported as a result of the downturn in production?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (14:53): I thank the member for her question. One thing that I am assured of is that SA Health are really on top of understanding not just the broad macro implications for South Australia with regard to COVID-19 but also trying to get down into as much granular detail as possible, sector by sector. There have been problems in a meat-processing facility in Victoria, and one of the things that we do as part of our national approach to this is to share information across jurisdictions. I am happy to find out the latest advice to people who work within that sector.

But we can't extrapolate that because there's a problem in a meat-processing facility in Victoria that is likely to be high risk in South Australia, just as we can't say that because there was an outbreak in a hospital in north-west Tasmania it's very likely that there will be one in South Australia, or because there was an outbreak in aged care in New South Wales that there must be one in South Australia.

What we do, though, for every outbreak—it doesn't matter where it occurs, whether it's in Tasmania, whether it's in Victoria or whether it's in New South Wales—is that the public health officials get together, they look at the reasons and the concerns and they share that information. I think it's one of the things that is peculiar to Australia and the way that we tackle this issue. Maybe it's something to do with our federation; maybe it's something to do with the size.

There are essentially nine jurisdictions: six states, two territories and the commonwealth that work at the national cabinet level, at the health minister's level and also at the Public Health Administrator's level, which is called the AHPPC (Australian Health Protection Principal Committee). That's chaired by—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: As it turns out, the question was asked to me. What arrogance!

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: We are in the middle of a global pandemic, there is a very decent question being asked in this parliament about concerns that people have with risks in regard to individual industries, I am providing a comprehensive answer and the Leader of the Opposition says, 'I know that.' What an incredible situation of arrogance. What an arrogant, arrogant Leader of the Opposition.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: What an out of touch Leader of the Opposition we have. He's obviously under a lot of pressure over there, sir.

The SPEAKER: Premier, have you concluded your answer?

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: No, I've got plenty to go, sir.

The SPEAKER: Well, can you not reflect on other members like that, please. Premier, please come back to the substance of the question or I will sit you down.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: I am more than happy to continue to provide an answer to the member for Florey. And the question was how we are responding to—

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens, was there a point of order?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That was an appalling personal reflection by the Premier, sir.

The SPEAKER: Yes, and I have asked the Premier not to do that. If the Leader of the Opposition takes offence, he can rise and take that offence, but I believe I have dealt with the matter most satisfactorily. I am expecting an improvement in the behaviour of the Premier.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Thank you, sir, and I'm very keen to continue to provide an answer to this house regarding a very important issue in regard to risks. I think we all appreciate there are risks in every single industry and every single activity that takes place in this country at the moment. Of course, we've got to be mindful of identifying those risks and mitigating against those risks. One of the things that Professor Spurrier continually says is how pleased she is with the responses that industry are providing. Some of them are very innovative and some of them are being shared across jurisdictions.

I know that the member for Chaffey, in his role as the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, has been doing a huge amount of work in regard to getting seasonal workers. This is an area that has historically been a higher risk area. The work that has gone in and the preparation that has gone into this area is absolutely superb, but it is also informed by some of the learnings in other jurisdictions when they have gone in front of us. It is one of the reasons why we wanted to get behind that front of this disease in the Northern Hemisphere and behind the front in other states. We are learning, we are listening and we are making sure that we put ourselves in the very best position possible here in South Australia.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT

Ms LUETHEN (King) (14:57): My question is to the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Human Services. Can the Attorney please update the house on how the Marshall Liberal government is supporting South Australia's recovery from the impacts of the South Australian bushfires?

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (14:58): I do appreciate the question from the member for King. Unquestionably, South Australia had a pretty harsh start this year in the peri-urban and regional districts and the bushfires have devastated a number of those communities. They are still getting on their feet. Then, of course, all of us were hit with the COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

To give an update to the house, though, as to what has occurred in relation to the generous contribution of others to the State Emergency Relief Fund for support as a result of the bushfire circumstances, I indicate that firstly there was an enormously generous contribution by people across the community and, indeed, across the world in relation to some wildlife funds. As we go through the recovery period, I advise that the State Recovery Office has now been transferred to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. There is obviously a huge economic, social and environmental recovery underway.

As at 12 May 2020, the fund had over \$8.6 million that had been donated; 934 applications for assistance have been received; 72 per cent have been approved; 5 per cent were declined, as

the application was ineligible, usually because the applicant was outside the fire footprint; and 23 per cent are still being assessed and awaiting a third-party verification from other authorities and agencies. Most of these are within the small business and primary producers, and infrastructure damage categories.

In total, 1,180 payments have been made, totalling almost \$4.17 million, with multiple payment rounds made each week. Almost \$1 million has been allocated to help rebuild community assets and facilities. Members will appreciate I am sure that a place such as Kangaroo Island is dear to my heart. They have had the devastating impact of the bushfire there, and the importance of the State Emergency Relief Fund shouldn't be underestimated. Minister Lensink has advised, given her concern, that there still may be people eligible for funds who haven't yet submitted applications.

I advise the house, and I am happy to do so, that the SA Bushfire Appeal Community Strength and Resilience Initiative was launched this week on Monday 11 May. Community organisations, sport and social clubs play a vital role and are eligible. That will allow Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills now to apply for grants of up to \$20,000 from the SA Bushfire Appeal Fund, and I would urge those who are in that category to do so.

I am aware that one in particular, the Stokes Bay hall and tennis club, has received generous support from donations. The Minister for Sport and Recreation, through his CFS role, has provided finance for the base of a new shed there. I was there last week. They have cleaned up the whole area around the hall, which still has a gaping hole in the back of it, but it needs to have its tennis courts done, and we need to be able to work with them to try to make sure that that can be finalised.

This is a very generous community, but they have all been totally smashed. They fought for weeks fighting everyone else's fire, their houses have been razed to dust and their sheep have been incinerated. They have gone through a shocking time. It's exactly that example that shows we have to do everything we can to make sure that, from whatever fund, they are fully restored to the community and be stronger than before.

CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS

Mr PICTON (Kaurna) (15:02): My question is to the Premier. Why did the Premier propose a fly-in fly-out model for the AFL just a week ago when it was not consistent with SA Health's advice. With your leave, sir, and that of the house I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PICTON: On the television news last Thursday, the Premier said, and I quote:

SA players might be able to train here, stay here, in their home state, go out for games, but then return in some sort of semi-quarantine situation so they can still train and they can still get to their next game.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier) (15:02): This was actually not something that was raised by me last week. In fact, it was raised back in April—

Mr Picton: That's what you said last week.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: Sorry?

Mr Picton: You said that last week.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kaurna, we have the question. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL: It's something that was raised back in April at the national cabinet. I think I have canvassed this quite extensively in the media. It was a request by the AHPPC to look at the two models, the fly-in fly-out and also the hub model. They did that work, and they provided that advice to the national cabinet.

Grievance Debate

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES

Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition) (15:03): I think we can all agree that today is a sombre occasion for the people of South Australia with the news that

40,000 good people have lost their jobs—40,000 ordinary South Australians who have found extraordinary dignity in their work previously over the course of the last month have found themselves having not just their incomes compromised but their ability to get all the satisfaction that work provides compromised as well.

We are saddened to learn that the underemployment rate in this state has shot up, now impacting in excess of 100,000 South Australians. These are incredibly alarming numbers, and the opposition is particularly concerned at these numbers because we believe in our heart of hearts that they did not need to be this bad. A range of measures was available to the Marshall Liberal government that could have made a material difference in reducing those numbers to lower than they are today.

Clearly we acknowledge, as any reasonable person would, that no government can stop all unemployment in a circumstance like this. Clearly we acknowledge that. But the question and the test for governments around the world at the moment is: are we doing everything we possibly can to keep every last person in work? We are firmly of the view that this government is abjectly failing that test. This opposition and the Australian Labor Party will be doing everything we can to hold this government to account in that regard but, more importantly, we will approach the next state election, in less than two years' time, with a comprehensive economic plan aimed at ensuring that every last South Australian is fully employed where we can achieve it.

In the meantime, as a society, as we go through this extraordinary economic challenge, we have another fundamental task, and that is to make sure that we stick together, that we look after those who are less fortunate and find themselves in a time of peril. In times like this, the glue that holds a society together is compassion—basic human decency, the consideration of others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

We are lucky to have a range of organisations here in South Australia that are committed to the cause, to that ethos. One example of that is the Hutt St Centre—good people, who for decades have been providing an outstanding service to those South Australians who find themselves not only unemployed but also homeless, a circumstance that any of us could find ourselves in. This is not a group of people who find themselves homeless through their own choosing but, more often than not, people who find themselves in extraordinary circumstances—and we know there will be more in coming weeks and months.

I was shocked and appalled to read yesterday that the Adelaide city council had passed a resolution that calls into question the legality of the Hutt St Centre's operations and their capacity to provide the service to homeless people in South Australia. A group of Liberal aligned Adelaide city councillors, otherwise known as Team Adelaide, has decided to fund, using ratepayers' money, the procurement of legal opinion seeking to undermine the very question of whether or not the Hutt St Centre can provide their service in Hutt Street. It is an absolute outrage that Adelaide city councillors have elected to do this.

I do not think that this motion or this decision was a reflection on the entire council but, rather, specifically on Councillor Hyde and Team Adelaide. Team Adelaide—give me a break! The Adelaide I know is not in the business of turning starving people away from a meal in their time of need. The Adelaide I know is not deciding to shut down a service that has been providing for and looking after more vulnerable people in our society. The Adelaide I know has been stepping up to the plate and showing each other compassion and human decency during the course of the COVID-19 crisis, not turning around and turning away people who are looking for nothing more than a bit of support in their time of need.

Let it be known that on this side of the house, this party, the Labor Party, will always stand up for the most vulnerable and hold to account those right-wing Liberals who would seek to shut down homeless services during an economic crisis.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Minister for Environment and Water) (15:08): I would like to rise today to acknowledge that this month marks the 25th anniversary of the commencement of the Environment Protection Act 1993 in South Australia and the beginning of the Environment

Protection Authority as we know it today. The introduction of that act replaced six pieces of legislation back in 1993 and various statutory authorities. Licensing and approval requirements were also replaced and updated, resulting in a major streamlining of existing laws. Environmental issues, including air and water quality, waste management and environmental noise were now covered under a single act.

The principles and objectives of the Environment Protection Act have stood firm for 25 years. They remain relevant and capable of dealing with the ongoing environmental challenges that we still face today in South Australia. We now have the understanding and realisation that our society's past industrial practices have caused environmental harm that leaves a legacy today and into the future. As we all know, as recently as the 1980s chemicals used by industry were simply tipped down drains and poured onto soils to evaporate. There was a lack of awareness about the long-term impacts that this could have and laws were not put in place to prevent it from happening.

One of the EPA's most significant achievements in its 25 years has been the introduction of site contamination provisions in the Environment Protection Act, which came into operation on 1 July 2009. These provisions exist because the EPA recognised that site remediation can generate both public and private benefits by releasing previously contaminated land and allowing urban regeneration and renewal. This important work by the EPA keeps South Australia at the forefront of the nation in dealing with legacy contamination and realising the economic opportunities that this can create, particularly in those suburbs that are close to the CBD and particularly in former industrial areas.

Over the last 25 years, the EPA has evolved and developed as the state's leading environmental regulator. It has seen many achievements during that time that have improved the quality of life for many South Australians, such as the banning of commercial tanning units for cosmetic purposes, which took effect from 1 January 2015. It is no secret that South Australia has led the nation in recycling and resource recovery for quite some time.

Back in 1977, container deposit legislation was introduced into our state, and in 2008, under the watchful eye of the EPA, the deposit on beverage containers was increased, from 5¢ to 10¢, and in the following year a ban was implemented on single-use plastic bags in this state. As we know, it has taken in other jurisdictions across this nation to catch up with these innovations. Only last year, in January 2019, I released for public consultation the scoping paper, 'Improving South Australia's recycling makes cents'.

We now recognise that the deposit scheme that came into being in 1977 has evolved from its original intent of litter reduction to a strong resource-recovery mechanism, and the scoping paper considers potential further improvements to this already successful recycling scheme. Looking ahead, the EPA has put our state in a strong position to tackle future environmental challenges, such as adapting to climate change and being prepared for more frequent extreme weather events.

The EPA has also contributed to our state's transition to renewable energy and, as I mentioned earlier, the ongoing need to provide more knowledge and certainty in managing legacy contamination issues. I am pleased to see efforts to modernise the regulatory framework for managing radioactive materials and substances here in South Australia with a new Radiation Protection and Control Bill, which was introduced into state parliament in the last few weeks.

As part of meeting its responsibilities, the EPA works closely with communities, industry, local councils, universities and government agencies to enable innovative and sustainable environmental practices, and I am sure that the EPA will continue to work closely with stakeholders to uphold this focus on being a high-performing, effective and trusted regulator for the next 25 years and beyond.

I would like to thank the members of the EPA, its long-serving staff, including chief executive, Tony Circelli, who has worked there for all 25 years of the authority's existence, and also recognise the former minister for environment the Hon. David Wotton for his role in implementing this legislation and seeing the EPA come into being in South Australia some 25 years ago. Happy birthday to the EPA.

TORRENS ELECTORATE

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:14): The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it some unprecedented changes to the way we live our daily lives. While some of these changes have created some uncertainty and isolation, along with my staff I have been in contact with many thousands of people in relation to having questions answered, supporting them in need and also providing assistance to them, many of whom live in my electorate of Torrens.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful staff for the amazing work that they have done during these very challenging times. I know that they have been faced with some very difficult questions. We have had people who have been very emotional contacting the office, and I have had a lot of conversations with these people as well. Into the future, this is something that we will be continuing with. I would like to acknowledge the great work that they have done.

We have had some interesting conversations. It was heartwarming to hear some of the stories of what people in isolation were doing to keep themselves occupied. There was also some humour. Many of them were telling us that the roles had changed between them and their children—that now their children were grounding them. I understand that because I had that very conversation with my father, who is in his 80s.

Throughout the area we saw many different innovations taking place. We saw a bear hunt around the neighbourhood, where people were placing bears in windows. People going on their daily exercise, along with children going out for a walk, were counting the number of bears.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: It is very popular.

Ms WORTLEY: It is. Leading up to Easter, we also saw painted and decorated Easter eggs that appeared in windows. We had some neighbours who were having driveway coffees and drinks. They would pull up a chair at the end of their driveways and speak to the neighbours across the road or across their driveway just to keep up the social interaction while physically distancing.

Many learned to use online platforms and social media. They were teaching themselves or they had their children or grandchildren contact them and explain how to work their way through it. Some of them were very proud that they had actually mastered it. We had residents who were celebrating birthdays and anniversaries connecting with families via FaceTime, Zoom, Teams and other applications.

Residents also spoke to us about their gardening. Some had renewed their interest in gardening and some had a new interest in gardening. I look forward to seeing those around the neighbourhood as we drive through. As the weather progresses, I am sure that their work will come to the forefront. I have also been in contact with many who have had difficulty dealing with some of the challenges that they have faced during these times, and I truly feel for them.

I have spoken with members of the community who have families in aged-care facilities, who were visiting them on a regular basis. They were heartbroken that they were not able to visit their mother, father or grandparent in the facility—we were trying to look at all the ways that this may be able to occur safely, and I really felt for those people—and I know that that continues because there has been some confusion with what the Prime Minister was saying and then what the actual aged-care facilities are doing. I have spoken to some of the facilities and I understand the need to keep our people in these facilities safe, but it has brought a lot of heartbreak to families. They are concerned that perhaps their parent or grandparent is not able to understand why they are not visiting.

There have also been deaths in the family and funerals. I know in my own family we have experienced this. Because only nine people can attend a funeral, in some cases family have chosen to postpone funerals, which is very difficult. It is something that we have had to do to ensure the safety of our community. There are many others that I would like to speak about today, but time does not permit, so I will continue on another occasion.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:19): I rise today to acknowledge and welcome funding announced as part of the Marshall Liberal government bringing forward the Planning and

Development Fund as part of the COVID-19 stimulus package. The Breakout Creek wetlands project has been a long-term initiative and partnership between Green Adelaide, formerly the Mount Lofty NRM; Charles Sturt and West Torrens councils; and SA Water.

Breakout Creek, for those who are unaware, is at the coastal end of the River Torrens. The initiative has focused on the widening and deepening of the waterway, the construction of viewing platforms and public access paths, the removal of weed species and extensive planting of native vegetation and reed species. Many in my local area would be aware that the River Torrens originally did not run to sea. In the 1930s, due to frequent flooding, a channel out to sea was cut and dredged, becoming Breakout Creek.

Many would also be aware that stage 1 of this project was completed in 1999—the section upstream of Henley Beach Road that is bordered by the suburbs of Lockleys, Fulham, Fulham Gardens and even Kidman Park. Stage 2 of the project (the section between Henley Beach Road and Tapleys Hill Road) was completed in 2010. These two sections were welcomed and much loved by our community and, more broadly, by much of South Australia.

Different fish and bird species have returned and have been spotted since its completion, and it is a real testament to the amazing habitat that has been formed through the reinvigoration of the Breakout Creek wetlands. The final stage, which is the section between Tapleys Hill Road and the outlet, had been unfunded for a significant period of time. Many constituents have raised this project with me and many wish to see its completion, as it began nearly 30 years ago. I certainly made it a priority, on becoming the member for Colton, to see this project delivered.

The funding announced by the Marshall Liberal government will join funds already committed by the state government through Green Adelaide, the commonwealth government and the City of Charles Sturt. I cannot wait for this project to get underway, and I am sure that many in my local community feel the same. We cannot wait to see the project finally delivered. Indications are that the work will begin before the end of the year.

This final section will provide Greater Adelaide with significantly improved access. It will improve water quality going out to sea, which dovetails so well with the Marshall Liberal government's initiative to improve our metropolitan coastline. The quality of water going out to sea has so much of an impact on our seagrasses and on the quality of sediment that moves out to sea, so finalising this project is going to significantly assist with the restoration of that seagrass project as well.

It will improve the watercourse and become an environmental resource that all of Adelaide can enjoy. I am sure there are people from many different areas who partake in a stroll, bike ride or visit to the beach via Linear Park. For locals, the improvement of access to Apex Park, which was just finalised, finished and upgraded by the City of West Torrens over the past 12 months, was widely welcomed by our community. I know my community is looking forward to seeing this integration into a much larger system, seeing a complete watertable and seeing a project 30 years in the making finally completed. We certainly welcome the improved social and environmental outcomes to follow.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr BOYER (Wright) (15:23): I am appreciative of my first real opportunity to speak of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected residents in the area that I represent in this place. Even now, months into this pandemic and our response, I think the enormity of its impact is only just beginning to dawn on us. Its ripple effects are certainly like nothing else that I have seen in my lifetime and possibly nothing that we have seen for generations or ever before.

When trying to characterise the ongoing significance of COVID-19 for this speech, I was contemplating whether or not, in my relatively short 39 years, I had lived through an event that others would consider to be an epoch in time—in layman's terms, a significant, defined period in history that stands apart from others. I guess, in some respects, the changes to how we lived and travelled internationally post September 11 may have been considered an epoch by many, although I think for the most part our lives returned to normal after that event, albeit with some permanent changes to airport security and things like that.

I think COVID-19 may well usher in permanent changes in other areas of our lives that none of us could have reasonably foreseen. The requirement that we will all continue to consider what

actions are essential or non-essential on a daily basis will no doubt have consequences for how people work and live well into the future, as no doubt it will influence the way many of those industries and sectors that have been worst affected by this pandemic seek to operate into the future and insulate themselves from a potential second round—hopefully, this does not happen—or another bout of COVID-19 or something similar.

So much about COVID-19 was new to us. It was a challenge that had to be met with unorthodox measures, which have tested the social fabric of all our communities in ways that we could never have anticipated. Ultimately, the way we have stood together to withstand this pandemic really relied on some of the most old-fashioned methods known to us. With the exception of the very heavy reliance that we have had on modern technology to keep in touch with each other through this—things like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, FaceTime or whatever it might be—what I have learned from the many calls I have made to residents in the north and north-eastern suburbs is that people weathered this or are weathering this by retreating to their family unit, whatever that might look like for them.

I lost count of the number of times I was told when making calls that people were doing okay, no doubt much better than other people, and that I should call those people because surely there were others in the community who needed more assistance than they did. Within our microcommunities, our immediate neighbours and our family group, people were looking out for each other. People were regularly checking in with each other to inquire about their health, maybe making sure that their elderly neighbour was getting access to the essentials.

Overwhelmingly, what I feel now as we start to come through at least the immediate first response, as a member of parliament who is fortunate enough to represent those people, is an incredible and overwhelming sense of pride. I am proud of how resilient our community has been in the face of what I know has felt many times like overwhelming adversity and proud of the generosity that has been shown to those who have borne the brunt of the devastating impact of COVID-19.

So often, it is the little unheralded things that really make a difference. Some examples are things like school staff who were asked to remain on the front line and in classrooms when many other professions and workers were asked to work from home who have purchased huge coffee orders from local cafes that were struggling financially due to the restrictions. It is things like people taking on extra volunteering roles to help keep vital organisations and charities operational, even after they lost a lot of their regular volunteering staff to self-isolation.

It is things like chalk art on footpaths and teddy bears in windows, which served a really important purpose to distract kids too young to understand what was happening from the otherwise frightening reality of the situation their parents faced. Before I conclude, I would like to make special mention of the older residents of our community. The older residents, who we have heard time and time again are vulnerable and need looking after, through this crisis have actually reminded us all of how incredibly resilient they are.

Although it is true that we must keep them in our thoughts and do whatever we can to make sure they are not exposed to the virus, we should all acknowledge that our senior citizens have been stoic throughout this pandemic. It was not older South Australians fighting over toilet paper in the supermarket aisles. It was not older South Australians hoarding groceries and other essentials. Older South Australians followed the rules, kept calm and carried on, and for that they deserve our thanks.

ST ANDREW'S BY THE SEA

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:28): Here in parliament today, I take the opportunity to speak about one of the very valuable organisations in Morphett, St Andrew's by the Sea, which is led by the Reverend Christine Gilbert on Jetty Road at Glenelg. I will talk a little bit about the challenges they have faced because of this coronavirus pandemic and the adaptations they have had to make to continue supporting those in need in the Morphett community.

The volunteers at St Andrew's by the Sea have for many years run some very valuable programs in our community: the community aid program, the Friendship Cafe and Mary's Kitchen, which I have spoken about previously in parliament. These programs are supported by some of the very worthy and valuable local traders on Jetty Road, businesses such as Bakers Delight, Coles,

Bendigo Bank and Caruso's Fresh Foods. They provide food, vegetables and vouchers to St Andrew's by the Sea, which can then be used and given to those in need.

Sadly, the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions that have been put in place around social gathering and also the ability to serve food inside have caused those programs to have to cease. These restrictions came in in late March, when St Andrew's by the Sea had to put out a lot of their fresh fruit and vegetables. I think they had about 80 bags' worth of those and a trolley's worth of bread that they had to put out quickly to get rid of it. That was supported by the local community, in terms of allowing them to give to those in need.

Mary's Kitchen, which is a really valuable service, previously used to run on Tuesday nights to provide warm meals to roughly 50 individuals who were experiencing homelessness. They would provide soup, sausages and basic food but, more than just food, they provided a sympathetic ear as well. At the conclusion of the night's service, they provided some care packages, using the fresh food and vegetables I spoke about previously.

Thankfully, I can report that, while those services had to close, St Andrew's have been able to be classified as an essential service because of their valuable service. This has allowed them to create programs which, while being different in terms of how they are delivered, still have the same intent. They still provide an emergency relief service that operates three days a week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, between noon and 2.30, when they offer some fresh food, non-perishable items, bread and chemist vouchers.

To support this, one of our fantastic Rotary clubs, the Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay, organised a campaign to collect food and other goods for those in need, and they did this in conjunction with Brighton Foodland. They set up outside a shopping centre there, and many shoppers took the time to purchase some additional items and donate them to the food campaign. That allowed over \$5,000 worth of goods to be donated to St Andrew's by the Sea and put into the emergency relief packages. So I thank the Rotary Club of Holdfast Bay.

Other groups that have historically and traditionally supported St Andrew's by the Sea are the local school just next door, St Mary's Memorial School, the Rotary Club of Glenelg and the Lions Club of Edwardstown. In addition to this emergency relief package, St Andrew's by the Sea have also been able to transition their Tuesday nights at Mary's Kitchen into 'soup in a cup' nights, serving hot food from 6 o'clock to 7.30. The unfortunate consequence of the coronavirus is that it goes after the more susceptible in our community, the vulnerable and the over 70s.

Unfortunately, most of the volunteers at Mary's Kitchen were in this age bracket, other than the very worthy Lisa McGrath and Avril Noy, who are to be commended for their support. They invited me and my wife, Tammy, to come along one night and butter the bread, put the soup on and put lasagne in the oven to allow food still to be served in what was a takeaway service. The homeless would knock on the church door, say they were coming and then go around the back and be given the food. I end by saying thank you for that terrific service to our community in Morphett.

Condolence

SCHWARZ, MR R.G.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens) (15:33): I seek the house's indulgence, and your indulgence, sir, to make a few remarks about the life and contribution of the late Rob Schwarz PSM. I had the fortunate privilege of being the treasurer of this state and working with some of the finest public servants who ever served the people of South Australia. Unfortunately, many South Australians will never know the names of the people who work anonymously behind the scenes to better the lives of the people of South Australia.

The contribution that Rob Schwarz made to public life is immense. We are talking about a man who devoted his life to the service of the people of South Australia. He did it in a unique way. He advised treasurers and Treasury on the importance of financial matters in the department— independently, fiercely and always aiming to fight for South Australia at the national level.

It is fair to say that horizontal fiscal equalisation is one of the most complex formulas ever applied anywhere in the world. Australia does it exceptionally well. By and large, it is a formula based on a level of service being provided to any citizen anywhere in Australia on an equal basis. Whether

you are in a regional area or Sydney, moneys are distributed equally around Australia to make sure that every Australian enjoys the same decent, affordable type of lifestyle that we all enjoy and that there are not privileged pockets. There are exceptions to that rule, but by and large HFE has served this country and this state exceptionally well.

Whenever we were arguing at a national level about HFE, the first and last phone call every treasurer would make—from Stephen Baker right through to the current Treasurer, Rob Lucas—would be to Rob Schwarz. This man devoted his life to making sure that South Australians had their fair share. Why? So our kids could get a good education and so our families could have the best access to health care, to adequate roads and to make sure our regional communities were adequately served. He took the time to understand the intricacies of South Australian demographics to make sure that we got the very best out of this.

Unfortunately, Rob Schwarz is not a name that we will see in this building. It is not a name that we will see memorialised on any statue across South Australia. It is not a name that we will see on a plaque on a building or a bridge or a road. It is not a name that schoolchildren will be taught in school, but it is a name that should be remembered because his service to South Australia made a difference—it made a big difference. His life changed our lives. It made South Australia more prosperous, it made us a better place and he did it with dignity and silence.

The member for Lee and I were privileged to have worked with him. I am very sad at his passing, and I am very sad that he did not get the chance to enjoy his retirement, that he did not get a chance to enjoy the fruits of his labour. He served both political parties without fear or favour. The member for Lee was telling me about another public servant in Treasury, and one of the greatest compliments you can pay a public servant is that when you leave your time with them you never quite know who they voted for. That is a sign of true independence.

God rest the soul of Rob Schwarz and comfort his family and two children who loved him. He leaves behind a wife, who I am sure is hurt and troubled and in mourning. In the current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, obviously the funeral will be very difficult for the family. I thank the current Treasurer, the Hon. Rob Lucas in the other place, for discussing the life and contribution of Rob Schwarz in the other place. The member for Lee and I want to make our remarks here so that he is memorialised in this house as well because he did so much for so many and asked for so little.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (15:38): Likewise, I seek the indulgence of the house so that I may make some brief remarks about the contribution of Robert Glen Schwarz to the state of South Australia.

Rob Schwarz was born in September 1951. He graduated from the University of Adelaide with an honours degree in economics in 1973. For the next 42 years, he devoted his energies and considerable abilities to the development of good public sector policy measures across a range of economic and financial issues. He worked initially for the commonwealth Treasury, from 1973 to 1976. After a short stint overseas, Rob returned to South Australia in 1979, joining the South Australian Public Service, working in the economics unit located initially in the department of economic development and later in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

In 1984, Rob was appointed to the South Australian financing authority as manager of financial policy. These were the early days of state central borrowing authorities, and Rob was heavily involved in the development of financial and debt management policies for the state. He engaged with international credit rating agencies and was responsible for the preparation of crucial submissions that influenced the state's credit rating. Rob was also involved in the development of Treasury's response to and management of the losses of the State Bank.

In 1990, Rob was appointed Assistant Under Treasurer in the Department of Treasury and Finance. Over the next 25 years, he provided policy advice across a wide range of areas, including the state economy, tax reform, commonwealth-state relations, gambling policy, water policy and budget reform. During this period, there were some enormous reforms with significant and lasting financial implications for the state, as the member for West Torrens has just told us.

Crucially, the goods and services tax, which was introduced in the period of 1999-00, included perhaps the most fundamental reform to commonwealth-state financial relations that we have seen for a generation. Rob took a lead role in developing and advising government on the policy settings and also the principles underpinning the GST, including horizontal fiscal equalisation—as the member for West Torrens has said, the tenet that an Australian should be able to receive the same quality services regardless of where they live.

Robert rapidly developed a national reputation in commonwealth-state financial relations. His deep understanding of the policies and principles underpinning these relations led him to being appointed as one of only two state representatives to the national Greiner review of HFE in 2011-12, which at the time ultimately upheld the merits of the current HFE system. Rob was a vigorous defender of the principles of horizontal fiscal equalisation, a principle that holds significant financial significance for South Australia.

He formed strong and constructive working relationships at all levels, state and commonwealth, and was highly respected for his intellectual rigour, clarity of argument and analytical capacity. He had the right combination of ideas and an ability to implement them. I first met Rob in 2003, when I was a very young adviser in the then treasurer's office. He was the leader of the revenue and economics unit in his capacity as assistant under treasurer.

Rob and his team—which included other terrific public servants like Kathy Moore, Stuart Hocking, Tammie Pribanic, Greg Raymond, Adam Pamula and Marni Mead—provided advice to government that saw huge changes to many of the state's taxation regimes. Rob was a great example of all that is good about the Public Service in Australia and here in South Australia: he was dedicated, hardworking, talented, innovative and impartial. Like many of his colleagues in Treasury at the time, he was wonderful to work with. In that period of the early 2000s, the GST revenues escalated far above anyone's expectations across the country.

At treasurers' conferences between 2003 and 2005, interstate treasurers, like Mike Egan from New South Wales, and John Brumby from Victoria—unfortunately, for the purposes of this argument, both Labor treasurers—were already trying to unwind the principles of HFE and undermine the GST deal that had only been signed a handful of years before. They wanted a greater share of the national GST pie for their states to the detriment of South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania and the territories.

It was Rob's advice, his unwavering commitment to HFE, his advocacy to commonwealth Treasury officials, and the advice he armed the South Australian treasurer with, that enabled us to ward off these attacks from the Eastern States. Rob knew the substantial risk to our state's finances in the future should any element of the GST arrangements or the basis on which distributions of revenues to the states were calculated change.

Rob also provided advice and financial and economic modelling that saw the introduction of the first-home buyer scheme to coincide with the introduction of the goods and services tax. He oversaw the abolition of the bank accounts debits tax, financial institutions duty, mortgage duties, cheque duties, lease duties and stamp duties on unlisted shares. He oversaw enormous reductions in land taxes payable by property owners, and payroll taxes payable by business owners.

Rob retired from the Department of Treasury and Finance in 2015 but actually continued as a volunteer policy adviser in the Premier's department until ill health forced him to relinquish that role at the end of 2017. In that year, he was awarded the Public Service Medal as part of the Australia Day Honours for outstanding service in the field of intergovernmental fiscal relations, taxation policy and economic policy. Rob always took a traditional view of public service. He had respect for the positions that he held and, above all, the interests of the South Australian community. We think of his family that he leaves behind, his wife, Maryanne, and his children, Matthew and Nerissa, and their broader family. We offer them our sincere condolences and our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:44): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 11am.

Motion carried.

Bills

LIQUOR LICENSING (LIQUOR PRODUCTION AND SALES LICENCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:45): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to Liquor Licencing Act 1997. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General) (15:45): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Liquor Licensing (Liquor Production and Sales Licence) Amendment Bill 2020 makes a number of necessary amendments to the Liquor Licensing Act 1997 (the act). The bill seeks to reinforce the government's position that alcohol should not be readily available in supermarkets.

It is proposed to amend the Liquor Production and Sales (LPS) licence category to confirm that the licensed premises must not be comprised of premises ordinarily known or advertised as a supermarket, convenience store or delicatessen and enables the government to prescribe further premises by regulation. Significantly, there is no restriction in the act to prevent an applicant for the LPS licence category from seeking a licence to sell alcohol in supermarkets, whereas an application for a packaged liquor sales licence may only be granted for a supermarket premises if the licensing authority is satisfied there is a proper reason to do so.

A number of applications have recently been made for a LPS licence by a supermarket operator which, if granted, would result in alcohol being made available for sale on supermarket shelves. This amendment will put beyond doubt the government's longstanding position not to allow the sale of alcohol to occur on supermarket shelves.

The bill also seeks to address technical issues in the LPS licence category which commenced on 18 November 2019. I should mention that this is in relation to legislation that was passed under the previous government with the consent of the then opposition. The LPS licence category is a combination of the former producer's and wholesale liquor merchant's licence categories. Historically, producers who also sold liquor they did not produce by wholesale were required to hold two licences. The intention of combining the two licence categories was to allow licence holders to operate both aspects of their business under the one licence.

The bill seeks to address a loophole under the LPS licence provisions that allow businesses to sell liquor that they have not produced, through direct sales transactions such as online sales or by mail order. It is proposed to limit the sale of liquor by direct sales transactions to the licensee's product only, except where the sale is by wholesale or where liquor is sold in quantities of 4.5 litres or more.

An amendment is also required to ensure that the government's policy position is better reflected that this category of licence is intended for genuine producers or wholesalers of liquor. This will prevent applicants who are not genuine producers or wholesalers attempting to sell liquor they do not produce through direct sales transactions under this licence category.

The bill includes a transitional provision to ensure that the amendments to the LPS licence category will apply to licences already granted and to existing applications. Finally, an amendment is required to expand the circumstances where a person can seek a review of a decision made by the commissioner with permission of the Licensing Court.

I commend the bill to the house and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Liquor Licensing Act 1997*

3—Amendment of section 39—Liquor production and sales licence

Section 39(1)(d) of the Act currently provides that the holder of a liquor production and sales licence is authorised to sell liquor through direct sales transactions. This amendment provides that the holder of the licence may only sell liquor by direct sales transaction if it is—

- the licensee's product; or
- in an aggregate quantity of 4.5 litres or more; or
- sold by wholesale.

Subclause (2) inserts a new subsection (2)(e) which provides that licensed premises in respect of a liquor production and sales licence must not be comprised of—

- premises ordinarily known or advertised as a supermarket, convenience store or delicatessen; or
- premises of a prescribed kind.

Subclause (3) inserts a new subsection (4a) which provides that it be a condition of a liquor production and sales licence that at least 90% of the licensee's gross turnover from the sale of liquor (other than the licensee's product) for consumption off the licensed premises and through direct sales transactions in each financial year (excluding sales of liquor to the licensee's own employees and sales for the delivery of liquor outside Australia) must be derived from the sale of liquor by wholesale.

Subclause (4) inserts a new subsection (8a) which provides that the licensing authority may exempt a licensee from the requirement in proposed subsection (2)(e) if, in the opinion of the licensing authority, it is in the public interest to do so.

Schedule 1—Transitional provision

1—Transitional provision

This clause makes transitional arrangements consequent on the enactment of the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.

TEACHERS REGISTRATION AND STANDARDS (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:50): Before I sought leave to continue my remarks, I was referring to the tremendous developments that have taken place over the course of the last year or so, in particular at Heathfield High School. I starting talking about the launch of the Entrepreneurial Specialist Learning Program at Heathfield High School. I had the honour of attending the launch event, representing the Minister for Education, on 24 February this year.

As an occasion that preceded these new constrained conditions of the global pandemic, it was a very happy and well-attended occasion. The state's Chief Entrepreneur, Jim Whalley, was present, as was our host, principal Roy Page—and a very proud principal he was to lead the launch of a program that Heathfield High School has been fortunate to be able to participate in as one of the state's schools leading the charge on a program I very much hope may be expanded. We will look closely to see Heathfield High School's progress on that front.

I look forward to visiting Heathfield High School tomorrow morning and looking at the legal studies class and aspects of their work in relation to the role of various aspects of law and justice, including the functions of this place. I will endeavour to engage with them to shed as good a light as I can on the productive nature of the work that we do here in this chamber. One of the stand-out privileges I have enjoyed over the course of my time as the member for Heysen is engaging so effectively and constructively with those two high schools within Heysen. I very much look forward to continuing to do so with principal Ian Kent at Eastern Fleurieu and his able governing council chair,

Sue Miller, as well as with principal Roy Page at Heathfield High School. They all do tremendous work.

It is said often and cannot be stated enough that teachers are in the service of a truly noble vocation. The work teachers do to provide opportunities for children to be educated, to be exposed to the opportunity to learn, to expand horizons and to take opportunities in life cannot be overstated. I am fortunate that my mother was a schoolteacher and worked in numerous other education roles in the course of her professional teaching career. I have seen through my mother's work as a teacher an example of that extraordinary dedication to the vocation and a daily appreciation of what a teacher gives to a student.

To really bring home that point, one thing that has been made very clear in the course of navigating this global pandemic is the tremendous benefit to students of being in the learning environment in the classroom. That is the ideal setting within which students can receive the benefit of that tremendous expertise. They also have the benefit that we all enjoy when meeting as a group of people in the same place and interacting with each other. We know that is true from both a pedagogical point of view and a social point of view, and in so many other ways, when schoolchildren are at school, having the opportunity to learn from their schoolteachers.

When measures were adapted and significant resources were devoted towards the end of term 1 this year to be ready for anything, to be ready to deliver education in an unprecedented new way by way of a remote learning model, I was certainly proud to see the government and the department put in place the steps of that model if that was going to be necessary. It was wonderful to see the teachers adapt to that possible necessity should the health advice have directed that way. It was always done with a sense of that being the alternative, being something that you would do if it was necessary, but certainly not something that we would aspire to carry on any longer than necessary.

As a parent of three school-age children, having seen the way in which those children and their various cohorts dealt with the end of term 1, then worked their way through the school holidays and anticipated all eventualities in the lead-up to the commencement of term 2, I could see the huge relief that my children felt and the great keenness that they had to get back to school. Similarly, I heard from so many teachers in our local area about their keenness to do just that as well, to restore that ideal model of being back at school.

I am just delighted, going from the commencement of school over those first days back and now here we are a couple of weeks in, that we have seen such a tremendous community response, school and teacher response to have nearly every single student back at school in the ordinary way, with absenteeism at an unusually low level. At the same time, having prepared ourselves, we were in a position to deliver that alternative model of online learning to those students and families who require it in the context of this global pandemic.

It is against that background in particular that I turn to reflect on clause 7 of the bill. There is all the more reason to do so, because not only does clause 7 propose meritorious changes by way of amending section 9 in terms of the proposed composition of the board but we have before us a proposed amendment to that clause that I think lays bare an unfortunate adherence to ideology on the part of those opposite.

It is unfortunate, and in my view it is somewhat embarrassing to them, that they find themselves bound to advocate for a particular group of industrial vested interests in the context of what is really a much bigger and broader set of aspirations towards the most meritorious outcomes in the interests of our students.

The member for Wright noted that these new arrangements, the subject of clause 7 somehow result in the stacking of the Teachers Registration Board by the minister. If what is proposed in clause 7 is the stacking of the board, then I would characterise that as a stacking according to merit. We are now going to have a board that is going to be determined by merit.

Mr Boyer: Who are they? Who are the five to nine people?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): Order!

Mr TEAGUE: On the contrary. The subject of the amendment provides for a structure by which a 10-member board, bear in mind, would be selected, and five of those members, half of them, by two bodies—on the one hand, by a body that goes by the name of the Australian Education Union and by another body that goes by the name of the Independent Education Union. According to the amendment, these bodies would be the nominators of five of the members of the board. Under the government's model, alternatively, those bodies would be consulted, as would a range of other bodies, in the course of determining, according to merit, those who ought to be members of the board.

I urge that we do not confuse teachers and education on the one hand with the industrial bodies that bear that name and that, when we talk about the tremendous and valuable work that teachers do, we do not confuse that with the activities of unions that would conduct themselves and at times, I might say in recent times, in ways that teachers in their large numbers would be embarrassed by. In fact, we have seen the Australian Education Union in recent days—and, most unfortunately, in ways that teachers across the board would unanimously disown—seeking to cast aspersions upon the state's chief health officer and her recommendations as to the most meritorious steps that ought to be taken with respect to the health of our state as it concerns a return to school.

We saw the Australian Education Union taking a strident and ideological view of the matter—and I think so sadly missing an opportunity to highlight the great work that teachers do in the course of their vocation—in seeking to cast aspersions on the state's chief health officer. I very much hope that reasonable minded members of the community are watching this debate and considering the alternatives that are being proposed.

On the one hand, the government would propose that the board must have a practising teacher in the area of preschool education, a practising teacher in primary education, a practising teacher in secondary education, a legal practitioner and a parent, and a number of others who are selected after a call for expressions of interest on the one hand and, secondly, after the minister has regard to any submissions that may be made from a range of bodies, among others the unions to whom the opposition appears to be so beholden. That is a meritorious provision for the structure of the board: the alternative is not. I commend the bill.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Harvey): The member for Flinders.

Mr TRELOAR (Flinders) (16:05): Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. I think that is the right terminology. I know everyone calls you something different, but I think you are Acting Speaker today. Thank you for giving me the call, sir, and I rise to support the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020.

The Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020 will amend the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004. The act came into play some 16 years ago. The intent of this bill is to modify the size and composition of the Teachers Registration Board, expand its functions and support the implementation of relevant recommendations from national reviews related to teacher registration. It will also improve oversight of persons granted special authorities to teach and address various other technical and operational issues with the act.

The initial intent and purpose of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act was to ensure that every teacher working in South Australia is appropriately qualified, competent to teach and a fit and proper person to have the care of children. It also establishes the board and provides it with the functions and powers it needs to administer and oversee the registration of over 35,000 teachers in government and non-government schools, preschools and early childhood services here in South Australia. The bill will amend the act to provide that the welfare and best interests of children is the paramount consideration in relation to the operation, administration and enforcement of this act.

The bill will provide a number of new functions for the board and codify and strengthen some existing activities that the board undertakes. The bill updates the provision for the membership of the board to provide improved flexibility in its size and composition, and that has been explored intently during the course of this debate. The bill will ensure that the board's membership includes practising teachers in the areas of preschool, primary and secondary education, the expertise of a legal practitioner and the perspective of a parent, representing the community interest. The board will also be able to draw on the expertise of persons who are not members should it be required.

The bill also includes various amendments to improve provisions of the act that enable the board to deal with unprofessional conduct, incompetence, incapacity and issues of fitness and propriety in the teaching profession. There are a number of amendments to the act to improve information sharing where necessary for the protection of children, which of course is paramount. These changes, amongst others in the bill, support the recommendations of the National Review of Teacher Registration and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Teaching is a vocation. It is not a word we use lightly. Of course, it is not just a job. It certainly is a vocation that requires much skill and dedication, and we all know across the board the incredible number of teachers in this state who demonstrate that skill and dedication. Our children of course are our most precious asset. They need to be in the charge of the most competent, capable and instructive teachers to ensure that their education not only is enjoyable but gives them an important grounding for the rest of their lives. Our teachers are entrusted with our children's education, but it is often so much more than that. It is often said that as parents—and I am a parent, as many of us in this place are and some are yet to be—

Mr Ellis: Even more of us have parents.

Mr TRELOAR: Even more of us have parents. Of course, we all do, member for Narungga. We often like to consider that we are the most important people in our children's lives, but I do not know that that is necessarily always the case because, when we send our children to school, all of a sudden often their teachers at school become the biggest influence and most important person in their lives, so, as I said, it is an incredible responsibility that we charge our teachers with.

At last count, there are 23 schools in the electorate of Flinders. That is more than most, but not as many as some. It is not as many perhaps as in the seat of Chaffey or in the seat of Stuart, which I think has over 40 schools, both public and private. Certainly, of the 23 schools in Flinders, I have visited them all at various stages in the past. I know all the schools well. They are filled with wonderful teachers and I also know many of the teachers well.

It is a pleasure—and I know regional members will agree with this—to walk into a country school and see it filled with great country kids. I am not taking anything away from their city counterparts, of course, but there is something special about country kids: their approach to education, their abilities in life and their 'comfort' in approaching adults, and I am going to use that word. They are comfortable and confident to approach adults, not just their teachers but their parents and the broader community as well, and I think that is a really strong asset that country kids have.

We as a state government are supporting our schools significantly across the state. The Minister for Education was talking today about the continuing rollout of fast internet across the state. My alma mater, Cummins Area School, is being connected today, as it happens, so I know that, as one of our bigger area schools in the seat of Flinders—I think we have well over 300 enrolments there—they will, as of today, be connected to the outside world by a very fast internet connection. The rollout continues right across the state, and it is critically important that our country schools have this superfast connection.

The building program continues, and we have been talking about that in the parliament this week as well. I did some media last week on the \$15 million build that is going to occur at Port Lincoln High School. It is really exciting news, as one way or another I have been involved in lobbying for that for most of the last eight years. I am really pleased to see some of these building projects being rolled out and our students and teachers gaining the benefit of improved facilities. Of course, the educational result will be all the better as a result. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (16:13): I rise today to enthusiastically support the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill that is before us as a valuable additional support for the vital work our teachers do.

As has been touched on quite a number of times during the debate today, the value of our teachers has never been more appreciated than right now during the current COVID-19 state of emergency, which has created such uncertainty for teachers and students and which saw them swing into action to provide online and classroom instruction and essentially prepare for any scenarios that were to impact the system as a result of this pandemic.

They have been working overtime and at home to keep our children and their families engaged in learning and with the school, helping parents become home study supervisors and, in doing so, no doubt taking on the role of counsellor as well as curriculum guide. Schools and teachers play a particular integral role in rural communities as hubs of community interaction and where teachers spill their leadership skills and care of children out into after-hours community organisations. They are sport coaches, community group fundraisers and committee members.

The bill before us expands the functions of the Teachers Registration Board to ensure our teachers are the best they can be with uniform and appropriate qualifications. This is all to ensure that the welfare and best interests of the children is, at all times, the overarching paramount consideration. The development of a code of conduct for registered teachers is included in the bill and, importantly, the recognition of the importance of quality teaching and leadership in the profession that is so vital to the future of this wonderful state. Good teachers set up our future leaders for life. All of us here would remember a special teacher who still stands out as a person who inspired us to become the best we could be.

Changes to membership of the Teachers Registration Board is an intent of this bill and I believe is of value in ensuring that appointment is based on knowledge, skills and experience. I also welcome the various amendments to improve the provisions of the act that enable the board to better deal with unprofessional conduct, incompetence, incapacity and issues of fitness and priority in the teaching profession.

I believe parents and caregivers in this state and all over the world have come to realise and fully appreciate how hard it is to teach children and keep them on track, interested and keen to learn. During this COVID-19 period, parents and caregivers have found themselves forced to become teachers, and much has been said and written about just how difficult this task is without appropriate quality qualifications. It is no simple task to just give students a book and tell them to read it, or set them a quiz or an essay and expect results.

People who choose to become teachers are special people with great patience, organisation skills and full awareness of the responsibility they have in forming the minds of young people into adults. This bill ensures the right people are provided with the best qualifications and support systems to perform their teaching role to the best of their ability. I am confident that if this bill is passed, the quality of teaching and the success of our students and their classroom learning can only be enriched as a result.

This government, Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would well know, recognises the value of teaching in schools, even more so universally now that we have all experienced recently what the world and communities look like without schools being open and without children having day-to-day classroom guidance from qualified and experienced teachers. Thus, in recent weeks I have been very pleased to be a party to announcements of various investments in Narungga schools, as further testament to the value this government places on our students, teachers and school facilities.

The Marshall government is investing \$1.3 billion into education capital works at around 100 schools across South Australia to play a particularly important role in South Australia's economic recovery, whilst supporting our school communities. Many of these projects are scheduled to be completed before the end of next year, including, I am pleased to say, a \$4 million upgrade of the Moonta Area School. Kadina Memorial School is three months ahead of schedule in replacing art, drama and music buildings, with planning and design works expected to be done by the end of June.

As a former student at Kadina Memorial School, resident within those art and music rooms some time ago now, I can attest that they were outdated at that point in time. They have not been replaced to date, but the fact that there is one coming is welcome news particularly for those teachers who, over the past few years, have had to endure what can only be described as substandard learning spaces.

I am sure it will be welcomed by the performing arts division of the Kadina Memorial School, which I am led to believe is the largest school outside of metropolitan Adelaide. Likewise, Bute Primary School is scheduled to finish a small project imminently. There is an upgrade planned for the special disability unit at Kadina Memorial School as part of the \$10 million disability package that will deliver 180 places in specialised education options as part of the year 7 move.

Also, in May this government announced that every preschool in the state, including in Narungga, is to receive a grant of \$20,000 to be used at each site's discretion. This is great news for these facilities and for local tradespeople as a potential job stimulus. There has also been over \$1 million of school maintenance announced for the Narungga electorate. Recently we were pleased to tour the electorate with the Minister for Education to peruse where those works were likely to take place.

This is part of the state government's \$32 million economic stimulus package to be rolled out this year. Seven local schools are to receive upgrades ranging from \$85,000 to \$227,000, all valuable support for our hardworking teaching professionals, who deserve the best facilities and resources that can be provided as we all work together for the best possible outcomes for our students in the state. Just down the road from my office in Maitland, Central Yorke School is receiving \$227,000 of maintenance, as is Minlaton District School.

Snowtown Primary School and Wallaroo Mines Primary School are scheduled to receive around \$100,000 and Port Broughton Area School will receive \$65,000 to replace a dilapidated fence around the exterior of the property. It will help keep the kids playing on that oval safe from venturing too far off onto the road. As well as that, down the southern end of the peninsula Warooka Primary will receive \$205,000 and Yorketown Area School will receive \$85,000.

I would like to direct my enthusiasm at the decision to bring forward these long-awaited upgrades at these local schools, and 109 other government schools around the state, which, importantly, will provide work for local tradespeople and support jobs and business in the wake of this COVID-19 pandemic. All this investment builds on the record \$1.3 billion of investment in capital works across the education system that will deliver a generational upgrade of school facilities across the state and provide vital jobs at a time when they are so sorely needed.

Further evidence of this government's recognition of the value of our education system, schools, teachers and students is the continued rollout of high-speed internet to all sites across the state. This investment in infrastructure and rollout of fibre-optic cable ensures that our schools and preschools have access to the fastest and most reliable cutting-edge technology to give our students the best start in life that a good education can provide, with such resources vital to support the delivery of innovative lessons and learning. All such investments vitally support the work of our teachers, just as the amendments in this bill before us add more support for the work they do and the valuable role our schools and teachers play in society, in our communities and our families in this state.

In the little time I have remaining, I would like to commend the Minister for Education for visiting the electorate of Narungga recently. As I mentioned before, we had the great pleasure of travelling quite extensively around the electorate and visiting a number of schools and interacting with the wonderful principals and teachers whom this bill will help. I would like to briefly outline the schools that we visited on that wonderful day. We stopped by at Mallala Primary School in the morning and caught up with the principal, Sharon. It is a wonderful school with a tremendous tight-knit community, and they were excited about what their future holds. It is a growing community in the north of Adelaide, with strong enrolments at the moment. It was really pleasing to see the optimism they have for the projects on their mind for expanding the school grounds.

We then went to Port Wakefield Primary School and visited the wonderful principal there, Kerri Blackwell. She had just done some leadership training through the Harvard leadership program and was really enthused about the lessons she could take from that training program and bring back to her school. We then moved on to Snowtown Primary where the principal is Patricia Boschetti. They have wonderful grounds there. It is a big area school with large grounds and plenty of room for the kids to run around and play in. They have a wonderful co-located preschool there.

We met the principal, Joelene Anderson, at Port Broughton Area School. We touched on the dire need for the new fence, and we informed Joelene that funding was coming for that fence and that those safety improvements would be made and the fence would be repaired in short order. She was thrilled with that and I know the entire school community is thrilled as well. At Wallaroo preschool we were able to offer the teachers and carers the insight that the fibre-optic cable was coming, and

they informed the minister that that would make a tremendous difference to the value of their care and education at that preschool.

We also stopped at Wallaroo Primary School and St Mary MacKillop Primary in Wallaroo as well, a private Catholic school, and then on to Moonta Area School the next day. It was wonderful to catch up with Kirsty Amos, who is an extraordinarily productive principal who has a tremendous record of getting things done at her local school. The school has gone from strength to strength while she has been in charge, and I am sure she is thrilled about the recent announcement of \$4 million of funding for her school. We then went all the way down to the wonderful Yorketown Area School, whose principal is Fiona Haselgrove.

I very much thank all those schools for hosting us on that trip. It was tremendous to see all the plans that were in place for improving their school grounds and facilities, and I am looking forward to doing it all again at the next available opportunity. I would like to commend the bill to the house emphatically.

Dr HARVEY (Newland) (16:24): I rise today to support the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. Firstly, I would like to thank all teachers for everything they do, particularly during this difficult time over the last couple of months or so. We are certainly in unprecedented territory within this generation, facing a pandemic the likes of which the world has not seen for 100 years, since the Spanish flu pandemic. Pandemics have happened in the time in between but certainly not on this scale and causing the sort of disruption this particular one has.

It is a very fast-moving and changing environment, and our schools have been impacted quite dramatically as part of that process. Certainly, late last term effort was going into ensuring that our schools were geared up to be able to provide education for students at home. A lot of work over a very short time went into making that happen. Thankfully, the numbers of new cases of COVID-19 in South Australia had dramatically dropped off, and the advice became clearer that students would be safe at school, so the effort then went into ensuring that as many students as possible could be provided a face-to-face education, which we know is the best way to deliver an education. Teachers were obviously at the centre of the effort in ensuring that that could happen.

Just yesterday, the education minister in question time noted that about 90 per cent of students are back at school, which is a great result. I would really like to thank the teachers for the enormous effort and work that they have done to ensure that our students continue to learn. It is incredibly important. Given the health advice advising that schools were safe to open and the fact that we have also ensured schools would be open highlights just how important education is, which also highlights just how important the role of teachers are.

As many others have remarked, I think many parents now have a greater appreciation of the roles that teachers play, having tried to do some of that job themselves at home, whilst also trying to work at home in some cases. I think, if there is a silver lining, it is that there is a greater appreciation for the role that teachers play.

The bill before us today will amend the Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 to modify the size and composition of the Teachers Registration Board and expand its functions, support the implementation of relevant recommendations from national reviews related to teacher registration, improve oversight of persons granted special authorities to teach and address various other technical and operational issues with the act.

The purpose of the Teachers Registration and Standards Act is to ensure every teacher working in South Australia is appropriately qualified, competent to teach and a fit and proper person to have the care of children. The act establishes the board and provides it with the functions and powers it needs to administer and oversee the registration of over 35,000 teachers in government and non-government schools, preschools and early childhood services.

Since the commencement of the act there have been significant changes to the regulation of the teaching profession and findings of reviews such as the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will amend the act to provide that the welfare and best interests of children is the paramount consideration in relation to the operation, administration and enforcement of this act.

The bill will provide a number of new functions to the board and codifies and strengthens some existing activities the board undertakes. This includes functions for the board to accredit initial teacher education programs, undertake or support reviews of research and data collection, develop and maintain a code of conduct for registered teachers, and recognise quality teaching and leadership in the teaching profession. The bill updates provisions for the membership of the board to provide improved flexibility in the size and composition of the board.

The government is introducing changes to ensure members of the board are appointed on the basis of the knowledge, skills and experience the board needs to carry out its functions effectively, rather than being almost entirely representative of stakeholder organisations, as at the moment. The bill will ensure that the board's membership includes practising teachers in the areas of preschool, primary and secondary education, the expertise of a legal practitioner and the perspective of a parent representing the community interest. It will also be able to draw on the expertise of persons who are not members of the board.

The term of registration will be extended from three years to five years and provide an option for the annual payment of fees for registration. Various amendments are included to improve the oversight of persons granted a special authority to teach to ensure that as far as possible they are subject to the same rigorous requirements as registered teachers. The bill also includes various amendments to improve provisions of the act that enable the board to deal with unprofessional conduct, incompetence, incapacity and issues of fitness and propriety in the teaching profession.

There are a number of amendments to the act to improve information sharing where necessary for the protection of children. These changes, amongst others in the bill, support recommendations of the National Review of Teacher Registration and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The development of the bill was subject to a significant amount of consultation, including extensive consultation with teachers and other stakeholders on potential reforms to the act in targeted consultation on a draft version of the bill. Feedback from stakeholders helped shape the final form of this bill.

I spoke earlier about the important role that teachers have played, particularly in recent times. I think it is also timely to talk about some of the other ways that the government is trying to support the important work of teachers with new infrastructure. I was very pleased to see, just in the last few days, the announcement of the new concept designs for the upgrade of Ardtornish Primary School. This is a fantastic local primary school led by principal Mr Mark Hanson, who has been a fantastic school leader for a long period of time and has a great track record, particularly in literacy in the early years. In fact, I believe he was seconded by the department to help roll out the year 1 phonics check, and he is a very passionate advocate for education, particularly in those early years, and he is getting some fantastic results.

The upgrade to the Ardtornish Primary School is \$5 million and will include a new permanent modular building, a new breakout space with wet areas, new student and disability access toilets, new storage spaces, and new teacher preparation and withdrawal areas. The last time I visited the primary school with the Minister for Education, their high-speed broadband had just been connected, and the students and teachers were very excited about that. It is a fantastic local school, and I am very pleased to see some of those tired buildings being replaced with some fantastic new facilities.

I also recently visited St Agnes primary school and preschool with the Minister for Education, who announced the \$32 million stimulus measure to fast-track school maintenance projects and also the \$20,000 grant that went to every preschool within South Australia. We met with principal Sandee Ising and her team, who are doing a wonderful job. This is a fantastic local community school. I think Sandee, who is a local herself, has officially been the principal there since the beginning of this year and was in an acting role before that.

We have seen an enormous vote of confidence in this local school, with an increase in their student population and quite strong growth over the last couple of years. This school will see a \$250,000 investment that will go to resurfacing their basketball courts, which are in the centre of the school, and this is a project I know students and staff are very excited to see completed. A number of other schools in my electorate are also benefiting from these stimulus measures—in fact,

\$1.6 million in total within my electorate—including St Agnes Primary School and also Tea Tree Gully Primary School, Kersbrook Primary School, Modbury Special School and Modbury High School.

While we were at St Agnes primary school, we visited the preschool as well, and the leader of the preschool team took us through their plans for their \$20,000 grant to update, improve and modernise the kitchen area. It is in the centre of the room, so they will move it a bit more out of the way to give greater learning space for the students. This is a fantastic preschool that is actually zoned, given its popularity within the local area.

Another local school that has benefited from infrastructure investment in recent times is Modbury High School, which I visited a number of months ago with the minister. While we were there, we met a number of their fantastic local school leaders, and I would like to congratulate the principal, Ms Joanne Costa, and her team on all they do, as well as the importance they place on that student leadership.

They always place their student leaders at the centre of all that is happening at the school. An example of that was last year when I had the privilege of officially opening the new STEM Works facilities there: the entire event was run by the student leaders. On top of providing a fantastic education, it is about not only creating a strong local school community but also developing young people to be the leaders within their community in the future. The project at Modbury High School is a \$7 million project that includes a new year 7 hub and landscaped area to replace eight ageing transportable classrooms.

I am very aware of those transportables. I know that every time I visit the school, if we are walking in the grounds I am always directed past them just to remind me that they are due for replacement, so I know the school community is very excited to see a new year 7 hub being built in place of those transportables. The project will also see the refurbishment of a courtyard between buildings and the creation of a new outdoor learning area. There will also be a new wellbeing area and the opening up of some other buildings into a courtyard area to provide a great open space. There is also going to be the refurbishment and extension of the tech studies building.

In closing, I would like to briefly talk about a leader from a school that actually is not in my electorate but it was my own high school many years ago now, namely, Xavier College. Occasionally, I am reminded of how long ago that was. I think some of those who are graduating from year 12 now perhaps were not born when I was at high school. Anyway, putting that aside, what I would like to do is to express my deepest condolences to the family, friends and school community of their recently retired principal, Mr Lynn Martin, who passed away last night.

Whilst I was not a student during his time as principal, he certainly took up the role very shortly after I graduated. My brother and my sister had been students during his time, and he remained principal at Xavier College for 16 years, up until the end of last year. As a former student, I was invited to attend Xavier College's 25th anniversary celebrations late last year. What struck me was the really strong and caring culture that had been built there and also that enormous building works had gone on during the time since I had left.

When I first started, the school was only four years old, so it was a new school and there was a lot of building works whilst I was there. Father Dennis Handley, who has also sadly since passed away, had also been a fantastic leader and had built a very good school there. That building work had continued for the entirety of that period Mr Martin had been principal. On my visit, it was very clear that he had done an incredible job, continuing to ensure that students at the school would have access to world-class facilities.

It was clear that Mr Martin was very much loved by students and staff, and he had dedicated much of his life to educating and developing the next generation to take on the world. I commend him for his commitment and for his service. May he rest in peace.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee) (16:39): I thank the member for Newland for his contribution and reflecting his passion for education, a shared passion of many members. It is an important bill that we consider at this time because the education system in South Australia is undergoing a transformation at the moment or at least embarking on one part of a transformation.

I was very proud to be part of a Labor government that allocated \$694 million for upgrades to schools across South Australia, both regional and metro, with \$250 million to upgrade STEM labs, which, as we have just heard from the member for Newland, are important and welcomed by the communities they assist. Nearly \$300 million in three new schools is to be delivered, in partnership with the private sector as part of a PPP, after the success of the six superschools that were delivered over the past 10 years or so by the former Labor government.

Those three significant contributions for school upgrades, which comprise almost entirely the \$1.3 billion being spent on the public school system, continue to be touted by those opposite as a Liberal government initiative, when of course nothing is further from the truth. We welcome their superintendence of the remainder of those programs; at least it was not cut in the first two budgets of this Liberal government, unlike so many other well-funded programs.

It is important to note that many teachers—and we should remind ourselves of what this bill seeks to do: it effectively seeks to reform the professional standards board of the teaching profession in South Australia—were working very hard to improve the education of children throughout the community in substandard accommodation. In my electorate, one of the schools that was in most dire need of upgrade was Seaton High School. Of that \$694 million, \$20 million was allocated towards that school. It is a very substantial capital injection that can deliver a very substantial improvement in facilities at that location.

In one sense, I am very pleased to see that the project is continuing, that the money is still available. I am a little disappointed that the specific application of some of that money has been redirected away from removing some of the older buildings, which were built in a time when asbestos was still used as a building material and which were, not just for that reason but for other reasons as well, no longer fit for purpose for students. Instead of replacing those buildings (and I am specifically thinking of the library) and replacing them with new fit-for-purpose buildings as well as new classrooms, the focus has been on new classrooms because, of course, this government is pursuing its reform of forcing year 7s to be taught in public high schools rather than in primary schools.

I always felt a bit uncomfortable about that, not because there is no research to support the assertion that this improves educational outcomes more so than having year 7s located in primary schools. I think that is a topic of empirical research where the jury is still well out for many reasons. At best, the results of those studies show that the educational outcomes are mixed. They are not better having year 7 in high school and they are not worse: the results are mixed. They are variable, so adopting that policy is really an exercise in substantially changing the nature of our primary schools in the public system and then the nature of our high schools.

Much of that \$694 million has had to be repurposed away from the task of replacing outdated buildings, which professional teachers are required to teach in, and instead build classrooms solely for the purpose of accommodating those new cohorts of year 7 students in those areas. I think that is a great shame in that regard because it means that schools like Seaton High School will not get all the upgrades that were intended and of course much needed for that campus. They get upgrades, yes, and they are gratefully received, which is why they were provided by the former Labor government in the first place, but they do not replace all that needs to be replaced.

Year 7 changing from primary school to high school is also having other unsatisfactory and unfortunate consequences in my electorate. For example, Grange Primary School, an extremely popular primary school, if my memory serves me correctly was promised \$6 million or \$7 million for an upgrade in order to provide greater capacity because it is such a popular school. Families from both sides of Grange Road, in Grange, Henley Beach and also surrounding areas in the school zone, were flocking to the school, such was its reputation, the quality of its teaching and also its location in an ever-growing area of metropolitan Adelaide.

I was very disappointed to learn that, rather than that money being spent right now—works should be underway right now—works were delayed for a period of at least four years, if not five to six years. That is a great disappointment to the school community. The thinking of the education minister clearly is, 'Well, if we are taking year 7 out of that primary school and putting it into other high schools, whether it is Henley High School, Findon High School or even Seaton High School, then we don't need to expand the campus and capacity of Grange Primary School.' It is a very

unpopular thing for that school community that those capital works, which were not just promised but funded, allocated and scheduled, have been delayed by a minimum of four years.

I am very pleased, though, that the former Labor government was not only able to commit money for the STEM program but actually able to get it spent in schools like Grange Primary School and Seaton High School. West Lakes Shore primary school also received a STEM upgrade and is also in line to receive a general school upgrade of a much larger dollar amount because that school, similar to Grange Primary School, is bursting at the seams when it comes to capacity.

There are other primary schools in my electorate that have not received funding—let's be honest—under both the former Labor government and the current Liberal government. This is something in my view that needs to be rectified either by the current Liberal government or a future Labor government. I am thinking specifically of Seaton Park Primary School, which is under the stewardship of a principal who has been there for a while now seeking to rebuild the school community and rebuild the school numbers.

Because of the popularity of other surrounding primary schools like Grange Primary School, parents have had a preference to head closer to the shore rather than perhaps stay close to home at Seaton Park Primary School. Likewise, one of the most extraordinary schools I have ever come across is Westport Primary School. It is an extraordinary school not only because of where it is located, the families who send their children there, the children who attend and the teachers who are there, but also because of the principal, Rebecca Huddy. She is just an extraordinary person and an extraordinary educator.

Perhaps, one of the most moving moments I have had in my time as a member of parliament was the first time I attended a year 7 graduation ceremony at Westport Primary School. It was not just a moment for year 7 students to get up and be part of presentations, to receive a recognition of the fact that they have finished year 7, it was also a chance for those year 7s to perform and, very touchingly, a chance for those year 7s to talk glowingly, if not on occasion lovingly, about their fellow students.

To hear a year 7 student stand on stage with the confidence that only current school students have—I certainly possessed none of that confidence when I was of a similar age—to speak publicly and to speak so movingly about their fellow students, is really deeply touching, and that is but one way I think that the principal and the teachers have brought a different approach to having an educating relationship with the schoolchildren there.

I still remember the principal, Ms Huddy, telling me that, when she got the commission to be principal of that school, she vowed to treat all the children at the school as if they were her own, and that is certainly the case with what I have witnessed at Westport Primary School. But it, like so many schools that were built over the last, say, 40 to 50 years, is in need of upgrade and, as I said, it is something that needs to be addressed in the future.

I will speak specifically about some of the elements of the bill. As we have heard from the member for Heysen, this bill was passed in 2004 and you would think it not unreasonable that, in excess of 15 years on, the bill, which deals with such a crucial profession in our community, is in receipt of a going-over and another look to make sure that what it provides for meets the requirements of the current education system and meets the requirements of the current teaching profession. I do not begrudge the minister for wanting to add or subtract things that make the act and the regime more relevant to the current teaching profession.

What I do take umbrage with though is the fact that, of a board of up to 14 members, the sum of the teaching representation on that board is only three. I would have thought that, just as we see in other professions that are regulated in similar ways by state law, we would be encouraging greater participation of members of the profession that is being regulated; after all, they are the ones at the coalface. They are the ones delivering those services that the government seeks to regulate through this legislation. It is not unreasonable that they find a greater voice.

I am not arguing for the entirety of the membership to be teachers. I am not even arguing really for a majority, but three out of 14 is not enough, particularly when the minister seeks not only to reduce the number of teachers but to increase the number of ministerial nominees who do not have, or are not required to have, such specific requirements related to the teaching profession as

that cohort of teachers. The last thing we need is either a group of bean counters or other professions that have little connection with the teaching profession start working out what they think teachers should and should not be doing.

I am all in support of the department having its cohort of representatives, maybe even parents or some other form of consumer representative, if I can put it so poorly, having their representatives, but I think that merely leaving it up to the minister's discretion is a poor outcome. I should say at this point that I have a little bit more faith in the member for Morialta, the Minister for Education, making a judicious choice about whom he might place on that board than I do, for example, in the Minister for Innovation and Skills—

Dr Close: Who was their shadow education minister.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —who was for a period the shadow education minister, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition points out to me. In my view, he has so sullied and besmirched the Construction Industry Training Board, first in an attempt to significantly reduce the representation of professionals and workers in that industry and then also as he sought to impose an increased number of ministerial representatives on that board. You only had to listen to question time and the grievance debate afterwards to see how that is travelling. I genuinely hope, if this bill passes without amendment to the composition of its membership, that the current Minister for Education, the member for Morialta, picks his nominees very wisely.

As many of you know, I have known John for a long period of time, that is, I have known the member for Morialta—I will slap myself on the wrist, sir, for making that infraction of the standing orders before obliging you to do the same—for many years, and that is why I say I have some confidence that he might exercise that judiciously. The member for Morialta may or may not do that, but he certainly will not be the Minister for Education forever. There will be other ministers for education. Like all things when we legislate, we are setting a regime that is designed to last not just for the current circumstance but in perpetuity.

What I do not want to see is a regime that is changed to allow greater ministerial discretion that is abused in the future. The way in which we have ensured that there are professional standards regimes—whether it is for doctors, for lawyers, for accountants and for other professional practitioners, now including teachers—is that we have always sought to make sure that there is a reasonable proportion of the professions being regulated on that board. Could you imagine an architecture board with only a tiny proportion of architects on it? That is effectively where we may end up if this bill passes without amendment to its membership.

I do not think the member for Morialta is like his colleague to whom I made reference before, the Minister for Innovation, who clearly has a significant problem with the union movement—not in terms of the benefits of the union movement, I am talking about—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lee, I have listened carefully to your contribution and enjoyed it immensely. It has been well considered, but you are now, as you well know, straying away from the bill at hand.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Thank you for your correction. In my comments about the bill and the proposed changes to the composition of the Teachers Registration Board, I was trying to get to the point that I hope that the reduction in the number of teachers on it was not another expression of anti-union sentiment from the government, seeking to reduce, in this instance, the role and the representation of the Australian Education Union, in the same way that we have had the construction unions reduced on the Construction Industry Training Board. Whether one likes the AEU or not, they are the industry representative and the employee representative of teachers in this state, and that is important.

It is important to have collective representation of professions, whether they are, for example, unionists representing a profession—according to the former premier of Queensland, apparently you even need to have industrial representation of banks. This surprises me but less so since we have had the banking royal commission and since the travesty that the banking industry visited upon millions of Australians over the last 30 years came to light. However, we do not have that problem here with teachers, because they visit a wonderful education upon students; they do a terrific job. I

respect the need to have a professional standards regime and a registration board to superintend that, but we should not be doing it without the benefit of having teachers on the board. Thank you for your indulgence, Deputy Speaker.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (16:59): I also take this opportunity to speak on the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill and the importance of teachers and the standards that are required. The education of preschool students, but more importantly primary school and secondary school students, is really important not only to our society but also to the students themselves. Knowledge is power, and we need to make sure that they are taught key parts of information and have the ability to continue their learning journey once they leave school.

In terms of real role models, I have heard members speak about these young minds and how important parents are to young children. As they start going to school, teachers become role models for those students, and it is then important and beholden on government to give oversight of the standards of those teachers who take on that role and to make sure they are qualified. The amount of time that teachers have to spend in tertiary learning has increased, from three years up to four years.

Obviously, there are more demands on teachers to make sure they are appropriately qualified and competent to teach, so not only learning but being able to impart that wisdom to students, using various pedagogies or methods of teaching as per the National Curriculum and ensuring a student educated here in South Australia is just as well educated as any other student in Australia. Finally, teachers must be fit and proper people to teach our children. Parents trust that the schools they send their children to will have fit and proper people teaching their children.

In terms of the bill itself, it has been quite a while since it was introduced. Many changes have come along, including the introduction of a national framework for teacher registration and also Australian professional standards for teachers. In addition, we have had the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission in South Australia and also the national royal commission into child sexual abuse. This prompted really significant reform in terms of child protection here in South Australia, which has included substantial changes to the screening and oversight of registered teachers.

This amending bill certainly builds upon other legislation I have spoken on in parliament before in which the safety of children is paramount. In clause 6, new section 7 provides:

The welfare and best interests of children is the paramount consideration in relation to the operation, administration and enforcement of this Act.

That certainly gives clarification and would give comfort to parents that it is front of mind as we go about teaching students here in South Australia.

In addition, the bill provides a number of new functions to the teachers board. It codifies and strengthens some existing activities that the board undertakes. This includes the functions of the board to accredit the initial teacher education programs, to undertake and support reviews of research and data collection, to develop and maintain a code of conduct for registered teachers and to recognise quality teaching and leadership in the teaching profession.

Touching on that point, certainly in the electorate of Morphett I am lucky to have many schools, and I have had the opportunity to meet them all. They all display quality teaching and leadership, from the principal and the teachers. I have had the opportunity to go to graduations and also to be taken through presentations by the student board. Also, we are lucky here, as one of the fantastic elements of being an elected member of parliament is the ability to take students from your local schools for a tour of Parliament House.

We can explain to them the importance of democracy and of transparent governments and the part they can play. We can make them understand that the democracy and freedoms they get to enjoy have been hard-fought for and the reasons why parliament and the government institutions that come out of that are so important to continue. We can explain how they can actually be involved from a young age until, of course, they become 18 and can vote.

I want to talk also about the coronavirus pandemic and the challenges that has caused. Certainly, one of the professions in which it has been most keenly felt here in South Australia has

been teaching, in terms of the spread of the coronavirus throughout the community and the fear that has brought, especially in the initial stages and seeing it happening around the world and then landing on our shores and making its way into South Australia and the fear of what that could mean for schools.

In my electorate, Sacred Heart College is one of the very important schools that many children attend. Unfortunately, it was the first school where the effects of coronavirus hit home. One of the parents while travelling interstate contracted the coronavirus. Thankfully, they have recovered, but at that stage the children who had been around the parent went to Sacred Heart College. That meant that the senior campus had to close down for 24 hours to conduct cleaning and tracing of students who had come into contact with them as a precautionary measure and then for them to self-isolate.

I must say that it is always hard having to be the first of anything. The way that Sacred Heart College went about it is to be commended. I touched base with the acting principal at the time, Shana Bennett, and she explained in a calm and methodical manner what she was doing and her attempts to reassure and communicate with the parents. That has certainly been very important. At all my schools, the communication by principals to the teachers and also to the parents has been really important in explaining things and keeping people calm in the face of this.

I should also mention that the principal of Sacred Heart College, Steve Byrne, was actually on leave at the time and had to cut his leave short to come back to the school because he recognised the importance of him being there. I commend him for putting his students and his teachers first. I really think the way the school got through that, and they have been able to continue on, has been good. This occurred in the middle of March, and school holidays had not arrived yet; they did not start until April.

A lot of parents sought to homeschool their children. The experience really struck home to many parents the importance and skill of teachers. Even parents of primary school children remarked to me that they thought they understood, for example, year 6 maths, and then once their year 6 child came home they realised that maybe their grasp of the maths was not what they remembered. It emphasises the skills that modern-day teachers have.

I must add that the element of homeschooling put additional workload upon the teachers. My wife teaches at St Mary's Memorial School in Glenelg. From her experiences, I can certainly see the organisation that was required, where teachers not only have to deliver a curriculum in person to students but they also have to be very mindful that those students who are at home have to be supported as well.

Effectively, teachers had to very rapidly upskill in terms of online delivery of course content. Not only that, the diligent parents who were staying home with their children had to get back in touch with the teachers and ask questions to clarify particular bodies of work: 'How do you go about this? My child has asked this question; is that true?' That is okay if it is one student asking the question, but of course the more students at home, the more queries coming in, so the teachers' workload increased substantially with a lot of hours spent at home. I see the work teachers do after hours just from an administration point of view. Many people think that teachers start at 9 o'clock and finish at 3.30. To be fair, that is a misguided opinion because teachers do quite a lot of work before and after hours.

Getting back to the coronavirus pandemic, I really commend the response that schools undertook. The state government recognised there was uncertainty leading into term 2. We set up and launched the Our Learning SA website to give South Australian students access to a modern, online learning resource to support their education at home. In addition, in the week before the school holidays schools had pupil-free days to allow teachers to plan resources for term 2, if the health pandemic crisis did not allow students to come back to school.

Thankfully, the chief medical officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, and her team have really worked diligently to map a path for South Australians. Thankfully, South Australians have taken up social distancing and all the restrictions that have come with that. This has allowed schools to return in term 2 and, thankfully, we have had no student-to-student transmissions of the coronavirus. We have had no student-to-teacher transmissions and only one teacher-to-student transmission.

Yes, there is concern, and we really have to be careful of teachers and family members with immunodeficient systems, who are therefore vulnerable, by making sure we look after them but, in terms of the bulk of the student population, we have been able to get students back to work at their schools. The Minister for Education updated us on how attendances have increased. I think at the last update only 3 per cent of students were absent because of sickness. Because everyone is looking after their health, washing their hands and covering their mouths, we have had a reduction in student absences.

I commend teachers because they were at the front line. It was a nervous time for them, and they have come through it and put their students first, and they have really taken the time and given them care and continuity. For five-year-old children, this is really concerning and uncertain for them, and having that continuity of their teacher being there has been very important, so I certainly commend all the teachers in my electorate, and I will touch on the schools at which they teach.

Kilparrin school is for students with sensory impairments, both vision and hearing. They are vulnerable children and so the teachers there are very caring. Understandably, they have small class sizes, but they really support their students in their learning endeavours. Their next-door neighbours, SASVI, also for vision-impaired students, is a very important school in my electorate, and it takes in students from all over metropolitan Adelaide and provides a fantastic service. Alongside that, Ascot Park Primary School also provides a good primary school environment for students in the Park Holme area.

Moving along to Plympton, we have Plympton International College, which is an international school with students ranging from reception right through to year 12. It is a bilingual school, so it really encourages students to learn Chinese, which is a really important skill in terms of where we sit as a nation with trade and regional affairs. It is a very important school for the state. It takes in students from not only Plympton but also the surrounding areas. Next door is the Errington Special Education School, which looks after children with special needs. When I am lucky enough to go along to their graduation ceremonies, the passion of their students, the principal, Niki Takos, and the teachers, as well as the care they show their students, is exemplary.

At Immanuel school, both the primary and high school, I get a lot out of those students in terms of their joy of knowledge when I take them on tours here of Parliament House. The primary school students especially have their assemblies, and they are always very thoughtful in terms of their thought for not just their local community but where they fit in a global society. That is very important to them and I think their teachers do a wonderful job.

St John the Baptist is a small little Catholic school on Anzac Highway. While it is quite small, it has a very caring environment and is a growing school. Not far away is Our Lady of Grace in Glengowrie, which again is a small Catholic school. Both schools are transitioning to include year 6. They were reception to year 5 and they are now growing to include year 6 as well, so they are growing schools that are very valuable in their community. I have mentioned St Mary's Memorial School in Glenelg, which is another small little Catholic parish school. Just last year, they increased to year 6 and they are very important to our local community.

These are supplemented by two other fantastic primary schools in Glenelg: St Peter's Woodlands, which is another primary school that goes from reception to year 7; and Glenelg Primary School, which is a well-attended school. In fact, it is bursting at the seams. Their new principal, Anthony Fischer, has taken over this year and he is doing a fantastic job keeping in touch with his local community.

I mentioned Glenelg Primary School as a fantastic school. I was lucky to attend back in December 2018 with the education minister and the Premier to announce fibre internet to nearly every single one of our schools in South Australia. That really takes our school environment from one of the lowest speed internet education systems to the leader in the nation. Where that has paid dividends has really been where we have had this coronavirus and having to shift to more delivery of the curriculum online.

The fast internet will allow for enriching multimedia information to be taken in by students not only in terms of their learning but also in terms of communicating what they have learnt in relation to

their projects. I will finish by again thanking all schoolteachers in Morphett for the terrific work they do, and I commend the bill to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (17:19): I would like to add my voice to the bill that we have before us, the Teacher Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2020, as it was introduced to the house by the Minister for Education. While I will have a number of questions during the committee stage, there are a number of points that I would like to briefly make that are of concern to me.

I think it is important that when we have teachers who are doing such a fantastic job in our community—and everyone over there talks about the great job that they are doing throughout the school year, but particularly during the COVID-19 measures that have been put in place. Teachers are working very hard. They took online learning to heart. They put in so many additional hours, as they always do—and having been a teacher, I can vouch for that; many of my friends are still in the profession.

I have many concerns about the bill before us, but one that stands out is the reduction in the number of teachers on the Teachers Registration Board. This is a professional standards board that governs the profession, and it is of great concern that many of the people on the board will not have been practising teachers.

I do not understand why the teachers appointed to the board would be ministerial appointments and we would not allow bodies of the teaching profession (such as the Australian Education Union and relevant universities) to appoint them. I do not understand why those opposite think that is the right thing to do. I do not know of any other professional governing bodies that would have so few practising members on their boards. That is of concern. I have a number of questions to ask at the committee stage but I just wanted to put that on the record.

I also wish to discuss the issues surrounding the consultation that occurred. Consultation is not just about asking somebody to put forward their views and disregarding many or all of them. I know that the universities and the Australian Education Union would have had significant input, and that has not been addressed in the bill before us. With that, I would also like to thank our teachers. I know a lot of them are watching this and are concerned about what is happening and the impact it may have in the long term.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:22): I also rise to say some brief words on the Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill. Teachers are an important part of our lives. They are very big shapers of the way we turn out as human beings as we go through our formative years.

I have very fond memories of my time at school. I went to three different schools. I started at Port Elliot Primary School, where I spent my first three or so years, before we moved farms and moved to Mount Compass. I attended the Mount Compass Area School and spent some time there until I was sent away to boarding school in Adelaide and attended St Peter's College. I very fondly remember all my teachers through that time. My first teacher, Irene Smallacombe, was the mother of my dad's best friend and lived next door to my grandfather. Up until the day she died, I was her favourite student because I was her last student. I was one of two reception students in her last year and she was very fond of having me in her class. I remember her very fondly.

Interestingly, of the seven schools in my electorate, my wife, children and I have attended six of them between us. It is quite amazing that a family could have been to all but one of the schools in an electorate. I am very proud of the schools in the electorate and how they have conducted themselves through the difficult times we have faced over the past few months.

The teachers certainly put a lot of effort in, particularly over the couple of weeks before the school holidays and during the school holidays, to put together a program for remote learning. Thankfully, circumstances in South Australia have been such that it has not really needed to be rolled out to the extent that was envisaged, so we are seeing the students very much return to schools and be back in that environment.

The schools in the electorate are quite varied. Port Elliot Primary School, where I first started, was a very small school when I was there. There were only three teachers at the school when I was

there, and it was a very tight-knit and rural community at that stage. Everyone was very close to those teachers. Besides Mrs Smallacombe, the other two teachers there were a husband and wife, Mr and Mrs Abbott. I would describe Mr Abbott as a very traditional headmaster. He used to whack the cane on the desk in front of the students to scare the bejesus out of them. He was very traditional in that regard and certainly ran a very tight school.

It is also interesting that Port Elliot Primary School was recognised as one of the most deprived schools in the state back in the early 1970s. It only had a black-and-white TV and about 20 books in its library, so it was a very small school in that regard as well. That has changed enormously in the latter years. It moved to a new campus about 10 or 11 years ago, and we have seen that school go from strength to strength. Hundreds of students are now there to the point that it is overflowing and needing to expand to keep up with the capacity that wants to go to that school. The teaching staff are very respected.

Mount Compass Area School is another fantastic school. I am pleased to see that some money was approved for spending through the Public Works Committee only last sitting week. That is very much needed. I have walked through the school recently, and many of the buildings look like they have not been painted since I left 30-odd years ago. It is very much looking tired as a school and certainly needs some money spent on it to bring it up to what is considered an acceptable standard.

They do have a fantastic agriculture section and staff who are tied up with that. There is effectively a farmlet that runs alongside the school, which the school owns and runs. The school runs about 30 cattle on that property. That requires staff to work 52 weeks of the year, seven days a week to make sure that farm is running as appropriate, just like any other farmer. It is really pleasing to see that a learning facility as good as that is available for that agricultural community.

Goolwa Primary School is the one school that none of my family have attended. It is a lovely school and has been for many years. It is certainly one of the proudest schools. When I attend their speech nights, etc., to watch their year 7s graduate, it is fantastic to see how proud they are of their school and their teachers.

Moving across to Victor Harbor, there are four schools: two independent schools and two public schools. There is the R-7 school my wife attended. She attended both campuses; the school was moved while she was there. It used to be where the current Woolworths complex is. There used to be a swimming pool immediately behind where Target is, and the school itself was beyond that, where Woolworths and Big W are now. The school was moved across to the banks of the Hindmarsh River, and it has also prospered over time as a primary school. My wife also attended the high school at Victor Harbor and so did my father for a short period of time. It is another great school in the electorate, so it is fantastic to actually see that.

Then we have the two independent schools, Encounter Lutheran College and Investigator College. Both are fantastic schools and both are heavily investing in their infrastructure and their staff to give an independent option to parents in the community. Parents have really embraced that independent option in the community and we have seen significant growth in both of those schools over the last 10 years. I think that will continue as they mature and age and get some history. I think a school like that very much develops when the children of the children start attending those schools and really develop that strong community following that.

It all comes from the key people in the schools who actually help—and that is the teachers. I would very much like to thank those teachers for the wonderful work they have done over the last few months, certainly in very difficult circumstances. The reason they do it is not the money but the satisfaction of seeing those students turn into wonderful human beings. I commend this bill to the house and would like to see it progress.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. V.A. Chapman.

*Parliamentary Procedure***ANSWER TABLED, PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (17:31): I lay on the table the public transport patronage figures referred to in question time earlier today.

Sitting suspended from 17:32 to 17:57.

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL: I move:

That the house continue to sit past 6pm.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 17:58 to 18:55.

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. S.K. KNOLL (Schubert—Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government, Minister for Planning) (18:55): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to allow the sitting of the house beyond 7pm.

The SPEAKER: As there are 24 members present, I accept the motion. Is the motion seconded?

An honourable member: Yes, sir.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 18:56 to 19:58

*Bills***STATUTES AMENDMENT (FREE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PRODUCTS PILOT PROGRAM) BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE (FURTHER MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 8, page 11, lines 5 and 6 [clause 8(2), inserted clause B1(a)]—Delete paragraph (a)

No. 2. Clause 8, page 11, lines 7 and 8 [clause 8(2), inserted clause B1(b)]—

Delete paragraph (b) and substitute:

(b) section 49(6)—delete 'two months' and substitute '15 business days'

No. 3. Clause 8, page 11, lines 11 to 13 [clause 8(2), inserted clause B1(d) to (f)]—

Delete paragraphs (d) to (f) (inclusive)

No. 4. Clause 8, page 14, lines 8 and 9 [clause 8(7), inserted clause 3A(a)]—Delete paragraph (a)

No. 5. Clause 8, page 14, lines 10 and 11 [clause 8(7), inserted clause 3A(b)]—

Delete paragraph (b) and substitute:

(b) section 131(8)—delete '4 weeks' and substitute '15 business days'

No. 6. Clause 8, page 14, lines 12 and 13 [clause 8(7), inserted clause 3A(c) and (d)]—

Delete paragraphs (c) and (d)

Consideration in committee.

The Hon. V.A. CHAPMAN: I move:

That the Legislative Council's amendments be agreed to.

I indicate to the committee that the six amendments are to be dealt with en bloc. We accept the amendments as provided. In doing so, I place on record my appreciation to members of the other place in ultimately passing the bill with these amendments. I must say that it is an interesting exercise to watch the debates in the other place. We can learn some things from them and not others. Notwithstanding the circuitous route they have taken to reach this, we appreciate their diligent attention to the matter and indicate our acceptance of the same.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Like the Deputy Premier, I indicate support for these amendments. I am not sure if I share her enjoyment of the other place's consideration of legislation. For them, it must be like a young child being granted the rare pleasure of staying up late to watch a treasured show on television, to see them deal with such alacrity, let alone importance. With those brief words, blessed as we are with their consideration of such matters, I indicate that we support these amendments.

Motion carried.

At 20:03 the house adjourned until Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***CORONAVIRUS**

In reply to **Mr MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Leader of the Opposition)** (25 March 2020).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

As at 25 March (the day the question was asked), there were six cases of COVID-19 infection at South Australian schools, beyond the two cases at Unley High School.

To update the house, as at 13 May 2020, 18 school students or employees have tested positive for COVID-19.

Eight cases have been staff employed in South Australian schools or early learning centres.

Ten cases have been South Australian school students.

Appropriate procedures were taken to close and clean schools and advise parents.

There has still only been one known case of COVID-19 transmission within South Australian schools. This occurred from a secondary school teacher to a student.

MODBURY HOSPITAL

In reply to **Ms BEDFORD (Florey)** (30 April 2020).

The Hon. S.S. MARSHALL (Dunstan—Premier): I have been advised:

1. The contract with ISS for hotel services within Modbury Hospital, including CSSD, commenced on 1 April 2019. The contract is for six years with an option to extend for a further two years.

Prior to 1 April 2019, hotel services, including CSSD, were delivered by another contractor, Spotless.

On 1 July 2007, Modbury Hospital was returned to state government management. All active contracts at that date were automatically novated to state government (Central Northern Adelaide Health Service) at the time. Accordingly, the provision of hotel services for the site continued under the Spotless contract (CSSD included).

In 2016, all currently outsourced hotel services across SA Health were put out to market via a tender process; CSSD was part of the tender.

ISS were the successful tenderers and transitioned to Modbury Hospital on 1 April 2019. The contract is for six years with an option to extend for a further two years.

2. ISS has confirmed that all CSSD staff affected by the closure of theatres will be redeployed, within their contracted hotel services, to support the provision of general hotel services across the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN), and that ISS will maintain the working hours of all CSSD staff while these temporary arrangements are in place.

In addition, NALHN and ISS have agreed, on an as needs basis, for ISS' CSSD staff to be included in the roster and activities of the in-house Lyell McEwin Hospital CSSD service during the period that the Modbury theatres are closed.