

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

The SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 10:30.

The SPEAKER: Honourable members, we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia and their connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to elders both past and present.

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 February 2023.)

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (10:31): I rise to speak in support of the Construction Industry Commissioner Bill 2022 and, in doing so, commend the good work of the Leader of the Opposition and indeed the shadow treasurer for bringing this bill before the house and doing so in such a timely manner to respond to what is fast becoming an urgent problem.

In my own maiden speech only six months ago, I warned of the risk of union thugs seizing control of construction sites across South Australia. I am sorry to say that I think this risk has only heightened, because what we have seen since the election of the Malinauskas Labor government is the arrival of the John Setka militant CFMEU setting up shop in South Australia.

They have arrived and they have arrived in a big way, flexing their muscles complete with emblazoning public transport with their propaganda, complete with bizarre social media videos and complete with, I am sorry to say already, accounts of tactics used by this union including intimidation of subcontractors, threatening behaviours, verbal assault and disruption on worksites.

This situation, I fear, is only going to get worse because what we have seen at the same time as the arrival of the John Setka-led militant CFMEU is the systematic dismantling by the federal Labor government of the Australian Building and Construction Commission. This was the very industry watchdog that was there to crack down on this sort of union behaviour. It was there to crack down on union thuggery. It was there to crack down on intimidation. It was there to crack down on criminal behaviour on worksites right across South Australia.

What we are left with now is no protection and no support for employers when they are dealing with workplace issues on construction sites across South Australia and when they are dealing with elements of this union movement. We have already seen the Master Builders Association of South Australia come out and warn that with the absence of a specialist watchdog in this industry, we are going to see bad behaviour in this industry continue to ramp up right across South Australia.

This is a very concerning thing. It is a concerning thing in and of itself, but it also has a very real impact on our economy. We know this because we have seen it before. When Bill Shorten last tried to dismantle the ABCC, working days lost rose from 24,000 in 2011-12, to 89,000 in 2012-13. The cost of critical infrastructure—our hospitals, our schools—rose by up to 30 per cent. In fact, it is estimated that the ABCC's abolition will see an economic decline of up to \$47.5 billion across our country by 2030.

So our economy will be hit, jobs will be lost, small businesses will be forced to shut down and we have union thugs running riot on construction sites right across South Australia. That is the context in which this bill is introduced. I say that in those circumstances it is incumbent upon us as a state parliament to step in and plug the gap left by the ABCC. We have seen other jurisdictions

across the country already act in this respect, with New South Wales announcing just last month some strong regulatory measures and safeguards in the construction industry to plug the gap left by the federal watchdog.

We, too, need a tough industry watchdog here in South Australia, and that is exactly what this bill is seeking to do. We can see it seeking to do it through the objects set out in clause 3 of the act. We see in clause 7 of the act the wideranging powers that will be vested in this commissioner, including to facilitate and encourage the fair treatment of building and construction industry participants, including to act as a one-stop shop for the building and construction industry to register their concerns relating to safety, industrial action, allegations of coercion and threatening behaviour.

Importantly, the commissioner will also have the power to direct matters to state authorities, such as SAPOL and the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, following the receipt of a complaint. We also see in clause 15 an explicit prohibition on threats, coercion and intimidation in relation to the performance of any function under this act.

South Australia urgently needs a specialist industry watchdog in the construction industry. Without it businesses are at risk and our economy will suffer. We know such a body does not exist at the federal level anymore. We can speculate as to why that might be. Perhaps it has something to do with the \$100 million that unions across the country have donated to the Australian Labor Party since 2007.

Let's not make the same mistake here at a state level. I urge the parliament to support this bill. I urge those opposite to support this bill, or do they, too, have to appease their own union paymasters and the \$125,000 they received from the John Setka-led militant CFMEU ahead of the last election? Our businesses, our economy, our state should not have to wear the cost of Labor appeasing their own union paymasters. They should support this bill today, and I commend it to the house.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:38): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes.....	14
Majority	8

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Brown, M.E.
Cook, N.F.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Picton, C.J.
Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.
Champion, N.D.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Michaels, A.
Pearce, R.K.
Stinson, J.M.

Bignell, L.W.K.
Clancy, N.P.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Mullighan, S.C.
Piccolo, A.
Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Batty, J.A.
Ellis, F.J.
McBride, P.N.
Pisoni, D.G.
Teague, J.B.

Bell, T.S.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K.
Telfer, S.J.

Cowdrey, M.J. (teller)
Hurn, A.M.
Pederick, A.S.
Speirs, D.J.

PAIRS

Savvas, O.M.

Tarzia, V.A.

Close, S.E.

Basham, D.K.B.

Szakacs, J.K.

Marshall, S.S.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (MINISTERIAL DIARIES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:45): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes22
 Noes.....14
 Majority8

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
 Brown, M.E.
 Cook, N.F.
 Hood, L.P.
 Koutsantonis, A.
 Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
 Picton, C.J.
 Wortley, D.J.

Bettison, Z.L.
 Champion, N.D.
 Fulbrook, J.P.
 Hughes, E.J.
 Michaels, A.
 Pearce, R.K.
 Stinson, J.M.

Bignell, L.W.K.
 Clancy, N.P.
 Hildyard, K.A.
 Hutchesson, C.L.
 Mullighan, S.C.
 Piccolo, A.
 Thompson, E.L.

NOES

Batty, J.A.
 Ellis, F.J.
 McBride, P.N.
 Pisoni, D.G.
 Teague, J.B.

Bell, T.S.
 Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)
 Patterson, S.J.R.
 Pratt, P.K.
 Telfer, S.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.
 Hurn, A.M.
 Pederick, A.S.
 Speirs, D.J.

PAIRS

Close, S.E.
 Tarzia, V.A.

Basham, D.K.B.
 Szakacs, J.K.

Savvas, O.M.
 Marshall, S.S.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

Motions

REGIONAL NURSING STUDENTS

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (10:52): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that students studying nursing in regional areas are being disadvantaged by having to fund their own placement when undertaking this in metropolitan hospitals during their first three years of study; and
- (b) calls on the state government to fund a regional nursing subsidy covering metropolitan placement costs to ensure regional students are given equal opportunities to those of city-based students.

I would like to talk about Mount Gambier's Belinda Myers, who has always wanted to become a nurse or midwife. After raising a family of three daughters, Belinda decided to study a Bachelor of Nursing at UniSA in Mount Gambier and become a registered nurse, which would give her plenty of career options going forward. Part of this study includes placement in hospitals during the second and third years of study. Placement is considered essential training for nurses to give them a broad spectrum of experiences across all disciplines at hospitals.

Being from a regional city, Belinda was interested to go to hospitals where she was likely to experience things that she would not see locally, including specialist surgery and paediatrics, so in 2018 Belinda undertook 20 weeks of placements. Twice that year she undertook eight-week placements at both Flinders Medical Centre and the Women's and Children's Hospital. Twice that year Belinda had to fund her own way to Adelaide and pay for accommodation and all living expenses for four months to complete her studies. Not only was she away from her family and not able to work but she was not paid a cent for her time away on placement despite already being an experienced enrolled nurse.

To cut down on costs, she arranged to live with her friend, paying them rent out of her own pocket. Other students in her year stayed at the Marion Holiday Park to work at the nearby Flinders Medical Centre, shelling out up to \$5,000 in accommodation costs. To cover the ongoing costs of her placement and study, Belinda admits that she and her husband had to take out a \$10,000 personal loan. When she graduated, she was also left with a \$20,000 HECS debt to pay off.

Belinda is now a qualified registered nurse, working as a clinical nurse manager back in Mount Gambier. She is an excellent nurse: highly experienced and exactly the kind of person you want looking after you when you or a family member needs care. Belinda is the perfect example of why I am standing here, talking about these issues today. Right now, there are students beginning their nursing degrees all over our state in regional areas, and they, too, will face some of the same costs that Belinda did when trying to complete her studies.

If we want good people to pursue long-term nursing careers in South Australia, we need to support them at every step of their career and remove any roadblock that is apparent. At the moment, as I have explained, there is a huge financial barrier in their way. I am calling on the state government to establish a regional nursing subsidy to support regional students undertaking metropolitan placements. This is to ensure that these students are given the same opportunities as those offered to metropolitan students. The irony is that there are payments available to metropolitan students travelling to regional areas and regional locations under the federal government's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training program, but there is no such equivalent for regional students studying or doing their placement in metropolitan areas.

Quite ironically, the program aims to address the shortage of healthcare professionals in regional areas and to improve access to quality health care for rural communities. Under this grant, student support funds can only be provided to domestic professional entry nursing and allied health students who go on rural placements. The rules, as I have stated, do not allow funding for regional and rural students doing a metropolitan placement, nor do they provide support for international students doing a rural placement. Since its inception in 1994, the program has been subject to several evaluations. According to a recent evaluation report, the RHMT program has positively impacted the recruitment and retention of health professionals in rural and remote areas.

Also raised was the issue of student travel from rural settings into city placements; however, there have been no changes made. Currently, a South Australian apprentice or trainee is eligible for an accommodation allowance of \$60 a night and a 30¢ per kilometre travel allowance for travelling to an intrastate nominated training organisation or higher education provider. This is paid to the employer by the Department for Education to help cover the costs of their training. But who is helping to cover the costs of training one of our most in-demand skilled trades of all; that is, nursing in regional areas?

Here in South Australia, eligible students can apply for a Rural Health Undergraduate Scholarship or a Regional Local Health Network Scholarship. Across the whole state there are 16 scholarships—16 scholarships for hundreds and hundreds of students. Nationally and here in South Australia, there are also one-off payments, scholarships and grants available through

universities and philanthropic organisations. However, the eligibility criteria are so strict on some of those that a lot of people are ruled out in the small print.

Some of the payments would be considered token and would only cover a fraction of placement costs. For example, one offered a lump-sum payment of \$500 for students taking a placement over eight consecutive weeks or longer. When you do the maths, that works out to \$62.50 per week. However, that other apprentice or trainee I just spoke about would be receiving \$3,400 for the same time frame, just for accommodation.

We are in the fortunate position of having significant health commitments coming to Mount Gambier over the next few years, thanks to this state government. This includes more paramedics, more mental health beds, and new alcohol and detox beds. However, one of my concerns is how we are going to staff all these facilities once they are established? To recruit and retain a skilled and diverse rural health workforce, a long-term workforce plan is critical. Unfortunately, staffing shortages at the Mount Gambier hospital and many other regional hospitals have become the norm.

In May 2022, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation South Australia CEO Elizabeth Dabars made some comments relating to ongoing staff shortages at Mount Gambier, which I will read to you now. I quote:

...the strain and demand on the staff at the moment really is untenable. Sadly, this has been a long time coming and a failure of successive governments to deal with the issue of workforce planning.

For Mount Gambier Hospital to close beds, simply because it does not have enough staff to provide services, is an entirely avoidable tragedy that should never have happened.

But the sad reality is that the hospital is not alone. We have had months' worth of other organisations closing services, particularly midwifery services.

We have to turn it around because regional communities absolutely do need and deserve appropriate and well-resourced and supported health services.

Ms Dabars said all the research shows it is much better for people's health and welfare if they can be cared for closer to home because they can have better access to support structures such as family and friends. She said:

We are also urging [the state government] to put in place attraction and retention allowances to those country areas. When hospitals are working so short staffed, when people are being asked to work so many double shifts, it is not encouraging people to stay, not encouraging people to enter.

We need to turn it around from a downward spiral, from people so fatigued and looking to exit, to an upward cycle where people are feeling supported...[well] valued and being resourced and really wanting to stay.

They are quotes attributable to Ms Dabars.

We are in the midst of a national job shortage. Finding qualified health professionals is becoming increasingly difficult. At the moment, the Victorian state government is pitching an aggressive campaign to attract health workers from all over Australia. Ads are popping up on Instagram and Facebook offering one-off relocation payments, and making it free to study nursing and midwifery, if you commit to a two-year stint in public health after completion.

Former nurses and midwives are also able to update their qualifications for free to re-enter the workforce. For South Australian students facing hefty placement and HECS debts, you have to admit it is a pretty attractive offer. So, again, I call on the state government to be proactive on establishing a regional nursing subsidy to help students through their placement costs.

It is a well-known fact that regional students are more likely to return to a region if they have their qualifications, so if we want to really attract more people to regional nursing or nursing in regional areas it makes sense for us to provide as much support as we can for regional students to achieve those qualifications.

While South Australia continues to be affected by health staff shortages, this subsidy should be part of a larger scheme and statewide approach to both training and retaining the best staff for our state. We need to be doing all we can to support and attract skilled health professionals into our regions, and make that choice to live, study and work in regional South Australia.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:03): I rise today in support of the motion moved by the member for Mount Gambier, and I thank him for continuing to bring the most important matter of regional health in the South-East to our attention. When I reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for the border communities, particularly in the South-East, and the pressure that that workforce was under, I take this opportunity to thank all the doctors, nurses and allied health professionals in that region who, to be quite honest, saved lives at that time. Noting that it is International Women's Day, I wish to recognise women who choose the nursing profession.

The Liberal opposition supports the need for interventions to ensure nursing vacancies are filled in regional South Australia, offering more incentives for health practitioners to practise in SA. Nursing plays a crucial role in health care and South Australia is no exception.

Nursing is the largest healthcare profession in South Australia, with over 35,000 registered nurses and midwives working in the state, which represents over 35 per cent of the total health workforce in SA. In regions such as Port Pirie, more people work in health and aged care combined. It is the biggest employer. In Mount Gambier, it is the same.

In South Australia, nurses and midwives provide the majority of direct patient care in hospitals and other healthcare settings. They are responsible for assessing, diagnosing and treating patients, as well as providing that very essential emotional support and education to patients and their families.

According to a report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, nurses and midwives in South Australia provided over five million hours of direct patient care in the years 2018-19. Nurses and midwives are also vital in the provision of primary healthcare services in South Australia. They provide care in community health clinics, aged-care facilities and mental health services.

The demand for nursing services in SA is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. According to the South Australian Department of Health, there will be a shortfall of over 2,000 registered nurses in the state by 2025. These statistics, which are compelling, demonstrate the importance of nursing in South Australia and the critical role that nurses and midwives play in providing high-quality healthcare services to our communities.

Being a regional nurse presents unique challenges that differ from those faced by nurses working in metropolitan areas. Some of those include having limited access to medical resources and equipment, which makes it much more difficult for nurses to provide that high-quality care. We know that they experience geographic isolation, so being dislocated or further away from major hospitals and medical centres can limit their access to specialist care, support and training.

The member for Mount Gambier touches on staff shortages and it is a critical element for the national conversation about the healthcare sector. In some regional areas, we are experiencing a shortage of healthcare professionals, especially nurses, which is putting additional pressure on regional nurses who are currently in the profession and therefore they end up taking on more responsibilities and work much longer hours. We also see an increased workload for the regional nurses as they cover a wider geographical area and provide care to a larger and ageing patient population.

The social isolation that can be experienced by regional nurses is another element to recruitment and retention. Lifestyle plays a big part in how we attract more nurses to this field. So incentives are a really essential part of this. All these factors end up attributing to a cumulative impact on how we train our nurses.

Medical associations, such as the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners have reported their very serious concern that SA risks losing nurses across the border in the face of the health workforce incentives that the Victorian government have implemented, which are totalling over \$100,000.

Unfortunately, nursing students in regional areas face a major financial obstacle when completing their clinical placement in metro hospitals. The cost of living, transportation and accommodation in these areas can be prohibitively expensive, which is leaving many of our future students and future nurses unable to complete their placement and unable to graduate.

According to a recent study by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, 80 per cent of nursing students in regional areas experience financial stress during their placement, with 30 per cent of them indicating that the cost of living and accommodation were the biggest barriers to completing their placement.

This is a significant issue that cannot be ignored, and we certainly are reflecting on bringing training to the regional areas where our nurses already live. A regional nursing subsidy would ensure that nursing students living in regional areas are given equal opportunities to those of city-based students, which would help to address the workforce shortages in regional and rural areas.

When speaking about nursing, it is really important to acknowledge that the royal commission into aged care has delivered mandated recommendations for increased care minutes per patient and 24/7 registered nurses in all aged-care homes. The federal Labor government's amendment to aged-care laws now requires a qualified and registered nurse on site in every residential home. With existing national pressures on the nursing workforce, training in the health sector is desperately needed.

In my own electorate of Frome, I am always fighting for greater opportunities to access vocational education, RTOs and higher education. The existence of the Spencer Gulf Uni Hub is really significant for the gulf and Yorke Peninsula communities, but if you live in the Mid North, if you live in Frome, then your training options are to travel, travel, travel, or study online.

I had the happy circumstance of meeting a mother and daughter duo when I was visiting the Spencer Gulf Uni Hub. Both of these lovely ladies are studying a Bachelor of Nursing through the Uni Hub, but they have to travel from Port Pirie to Clare to achieve this. I would love to see an expansion of training opportunities for men and women who live in regional South Australia to pursue a career in nursing. I commend the member for Mount Gambier for bringing this motion to the government's attention, and I commend the motion to the house.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:11): I rise today to speak on behalf of the government in reply to the member for Mount Gambier's motion, and I move the following amendment to the motion:

Remove paragraph (b) and insert the following:

- (b) calls on the state government to work with universities to increase opportunities for regional nursing students and address disparities with city-based students.

Being a country kid, I directly understand the challenges that the member for Mount Gambier has raised within his motion. As a country student—I know the member for King had this experience as well—you do not get a choice with some degrees as to whether or not you have to leave your family, your home, your loved ones in order to move to the big city to undertake study. The challenges that come with that include renting, finding sometimes several housemates to live with in order to get down the cost of rental, and also the travel costs of coming back and forth between your regional town and the city.

I know my own sister-in-law, who is a midwife in Mount Gambier, was a regional nursing student. While she was lucky enough to be able to remain in Mount Gambier in order to undertake her study through the University of South Australia, she did have that challenge of leaving friends and family and also children—she was studying whilst also a mum—in order to undertake placements here in Adelaide. She was just lucky enough to have her sister-in-law, and also her best friends, in Adelaide to stay with.

I know during her nursing degree that was particularly challenging and had to be fully funded, but she was able to access scholarships for some specialist training that she was then undertaking as a midwife in regard to neonatal services. On one occasion she did receive an SA Health scholarship that provided support to come up to the city. For those who might not know, not being from regional areas, your degree might be in the city and you have to move for that reason, or in order to get the breadth and depth of experience needed for your degree you have to undertake placements in the city areas.

On the importance, though, of investing in health in our regions, I am very proud that the Malinauskas Labor government is absolutely committed to this, as the Speaker would know in his own community. We have invested \$305.7 million in new health care and \$58.6 million in new

ambulance services in regional South Australia since coming into government. I am incredibly proud that we are investing \$8 million in an upgrade of Naracoorte Hospital, where myself and my three brothers were born and where we said goodbye to two of our beloved family members.

We do remain committed to delivering on our investment commitments to invest and expand our public health services in the regions. We are recruiting more than 300 nurses across our health system and 100 more doctors, including 10 more medical specialists in our regional areas of critical need, over and above any existing growth of activity factored into the health budgets across the forward estimates. Speaking again directly to the member for Mount Gambier's motion, the critical work of our regional nurses cannot be underestimated, and encouraging and supporting people from regional and rural locations to pursue a career in nursing is so incredibly important.

In terms of some of the support that currently exists, the SA Health Better Placed Clinical Placement Coordination Team play an important role. They are there to provide support to students in various ways, including assistance in planning their metropolitan placement, guidance on scholarships, grant advice and locating accommodation. SA Health also offers Rural Health Undergraduate Scholarships. These scholarships provide funding to support a student's educational journey whilst encouraging them to remain in the region at the completion of their qualification, which is incredibly important.

In addition to the SA Health Rural Health Scholarships, various other scholarship opportunities exist, including the Australian College of Nursing scholarships, UniSA Clinical and Health Sciences Scholarships, UniSA Regional and Rural Scholarships and Grants, UniSA Joanne Megan Nursing Placement Grant and UniSA Leahurst Foundation Final Year Nursing Placement Grant.

Regardless of the fact that we do have those supports, I think the comments of both the member for Mount Gambier and the member for Frome have highlighted the challenges in this area and that we recognise there are barriers for students studying nursing in regional areas, as well as the added challenge of having to support themselves while undertaking placements away from home. That simply adds to that challenge.

The Minister for Health has already committed to working with universities to improve access to re-entry courses for South Australians. In addition to this, these discussions will be used to raise the important matter of supporting our regional students and addressing any disparities that exist between them and their city-based classmates.

Speaking as a regional university student, I thank the member for Mount Gambier for raising this important issue and for advocating for our regional students, and I also thank the member for Frome for her comments.

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (11:17): I would like to thank both parties for their genuine interest in this very important topic. As we evolve, having more university placements in regional areas is a fantastic initiative but sometimes you just cannot replicate a metropolitan model in a regional area, and this is a clear example of that. The nurses, the students, who we want to see back in our regions fully qualified, need this type of assistance.

The minister has been very good in discussions with me and in his commitment to seeing what he can do to address this. I congratulate him on that and look forward to working with him over the next couple of months. I thank both sides for their genuine interest in regional offerings and opportunities for our nursing students, and I look forward to the passing of this motion.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:19): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises the United Nations International Conventions on the Rights of the Child, discrimination against women and persons with a disability;
- (b) supports UN recommendations to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including recommendations to:

- (i) explicitly define and criminalise the sale of children, child pornography and sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;
 - (ii) explicitly define and criminalise gender-based violence against women, including economic violence, sexual harassment and assault, and rape, including marital rape; and
 - (iii) abolish the death penalty for persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities and suspend all current death sentences; and
- (c) calls on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately stop all forms of discrimination and human rights abuse.

Today, it is timely that we recognise the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of the Child and condemn discrimination against women, children and persons with disabilities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Human rights violations committed by Saudi Arabia and its government are widely known. Saudi Arabia is continually criticised for its treatment of women and its guardianship system giving male family members the authority to make decisions on behalf of women. Women also face discrimination in employment, education and the justice system.

The Saudi criminal system is full of human rights abuses, including the use of torture, a lack of due process and unfair trials. Saudi Arabia has a long history of suppressing political dissent and restricting freedom of expression. Political parties and protests are banned, and the government willingly arrests and detains those who criticise the government and the ruling family.

Saudi Arabia is home to many migrant workers, many of whom face exploitation and abuse by their employers. There have been reports of extremely poor working conditions, lack of payment and physical abuse by employers of migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.

I support the United Nations' recommendation for Saudi Arabia to explicitly define and criminalise the sale of children, child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. These are horrendous crimes that have no place in the world. It is imperative that the developed world calls out the government of Saudi Arabia on its human rights abuses at every opportunity. The world took on the racist apartheid system of South Africa and forced permanent change through international economic, cultural and sports isolation.

The UNCRC sets out the rights of children and young people under the age of 18 and requires governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that these rights are realised. It prohibits discrimination against children on any grounds, including gender and disability, and requires governments to take special measures to protect the rights of children who are particularly vulnerable, such as children with disabilities.

We must also do what we can to force Saudi Arabia to adopt comprehensive legislation to specifically define and criminalise all forms of gender-based violence against women, including economic violence, rape, all forms of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

On this International Day of Women and on every day of the year, we must fight for mothers, wives and daughters around the world to have the right to live free from fear and violence and it is our duty as a civilised community to ensure that they are protected and empowered.

This motion also calls for Saudi Arabia to abolish the death penalty for persons with intellectual disabilities and suspend all current death sentences. This is also a matter of fundamental human rights. It is our moral obligation to uphold the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of their abilities.

By supporting this motion, the South Australian parliament tells the government of Saudi Arabia directly that they are wrong and to immediately stop all forms of discrimination and human rights abuses against women, children and the disabled. We must also stand together in solidarity to reject any forms of human oppression or injustice.

The United Nations International Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international treaty that sets out the rights of children and young people under the age of 18. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989 and it has been ratified by nearly every other country in the world. Saudi Arabia, to date, has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The UNCRC recognises that children have the right to be protected from discrimination on any grounds, including gender and disability. It states that governments must take all appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected from all forms of discrimination and must take special measures to protect the rights of children who are particularly vulnerable, such as children with disabilities.

The UNCRC also promotes the rights of children to education, health care and other services and requires governments to take steps to ensure that these rights are realised. Overall, the UNCRC aims to promote the rights and wellbeing of children and our young people, and to ensure that these rights are protected and respected by governments. By supporting this motion, this parliament will send a very strong message to Saudi Arabia to stop their sanctioned oppression of women, children and the disabled.

In 2018, several women in Saudi Arabia who had advocated for gender equality and the abolition of the male guardianship system were arrested, detained and tortured. These women, who are referred to as women human rights defenders, have faced lengthy and arbitrary prison sentences and flawed trials. The trial has been marked by a lack of independence in the Saudi judiciary and political motivation behind the charges. Foreign diplomats and journalists have been barred from attending the hearings.

In December 2020, one of the women, Mrs L.H., had a new indictment presented against her in the Specialized Criminal Court, which included the removal of references to foreign governments and individuals, and the inclusion of charges under the Law of Combatting Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing, with the potential for a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. The evidence presented against Mrs L.H. includes social media posts and support for campaigns for women's rights.

In March 2016, the Law on Associations and Foundations in Saudi Arabia came into effect. The new law severely restricts the formation of independent civil society organisations, including human rights organisations in Saudi Arabia. It allows for the denial of registration for vague reasons such as violating Islamic Sharia or acting contrary to public morals.

The law also prohibits foreign foundations and associations from establishing branches in Saudi Arabia and allows for government interference in the internal affairs of domestic civil society organisations. Saudi authorities claim that this new law is being revised in line with international human rights standards, but there is no evidence of this.

Additionally, any laws criminalising gender-based violence in Saudi Arabia are poorly implemented, and the court system is controlled by male judges who use their discretionary powers to the detriment of women. Women's testimony is given only half the weight of men's in court, making it almost impossible for women to win cases of domestic abuse or rape.

The male guardianship system in Saudi Arabia is used to control women and it remains in place and allows men to take decisions about women's education, their employment, their health and their marriage. This system also prevents women from passing their nationality to their child and denies protection from domestic violence.

Despite some reforms, the crime of disobedience by women toward their male guardianship remains in place, nullifying new privileges such as the ability to apply for travel documents or study abroad. In other words, women can apply for those but the male guardian can say no. Women also face reprisals on the way they dress, which is defined only as public decency, and they are not allowed to leave detention centres or state-run shelters without consent of a male guardian.

Foreign mothers of Saudi citizens have no rights or agency whatsoever and are exposed to wrongful imprisonment or trafficking. Foreign mothers cannot access health services for their children without the consent of the father. In custody cases, child support is deliberately insufficient and women can lose custody of their children unless they are wealthy or have a network of financial support. Additionally, women are not allowed to obtain a divorce unless their husband consents in certain limited circumstances, and they can face social stigma and economic hardship if they seek a divorce.

I urge all members to support this motion and to send a clear message to the government of Saudi Arabia that we stand united in defence of human rights and dignity for all women, children and those with disabilities living in Saudi Arabia.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:29): I rise to speak on the motion and move the following amendments:

Delete (b) and insert new (b):

supports UN recommendations calling on all nations currently failing women, children and people with disabilities to strive to improve and uphold the rights and dignity of all humans; and

Delete (c) and insert new (c):

calls on all nations who have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, or have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict to ratify these protocols and work to better protect children.

I rise today to reflect on my own journey to this place: my own experiences, the support I was given, the opportunities afforded to me in my life, and my purpose seeking election to this place. I would contend that each and every one of us here has come to this place with a desire to make our communities better, to support our constituents and to work to create a structure in our society that affords opportunity to everyone. We recognise that discrimination against anyone is inherently unfair, and we carry out our role shaping the laws of our state to continually improve the future for every South Australian.

There are many places in the world where we all wish people would have better opportunities in life. There are heartbreaking stories from places where not just quality of life but opportunity for a better future is withheld for far too many. Whether it be Saudi Arabia, whether it be Russia, whether it be Zambia, there are places in this world where nations have not ratified or signed UN treaties that clearly aim to create a better future for all humans.

This International Women's Day, whilst we come together to celebrate, it is also an important reminder to note the devastating statistics that in Australia, one woman every week is murdered by their current or former partner. There is another sobering statistic that one in six women in Australia have experienced at least one sexual assault since the age of 15. I am one of those people, and if it were not for my family—my mum, my three brothers—rallying around me, I would not be here today representing the community that I love.

Discrimination and violence against women is a scourge on us all, wherever it occurs. Discrimination and punishment of people with mental, psychosocial or physical disabilities cannot be accepted, wherever it occurs. Taking the experience of childhood from children anywhere is a tragedy. Childhood tragedy is immense in that it has lifelong impacts for individuals and their communities.

We stand united with the core ideals of the United Nations. Article 1 of the UN Charter lists these as:

1. To maintain international peace and security...
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights...
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Without war, there are no child soldiers. With respect for human rights as equal rights and as fundamental freedoms, there is no exploitation of children and there is no violence against women. Upholding these rights without discrimination provides a better equality of opportunity.

It is appropriate that this house recognises this motion as a call for all nations of the world to do better. It is also a reminder to us here to reflect on why we have heeded the call to service and to maintain our commitment to doing better for our communities.

So I reflect on my experiences and the opportunities that have led me to public service and my role in parliament. I know I am so lucky to be here. I hope that this motion can play a small part in the continued movement for global change and improvement in making the lives of women, children, those with disabilities, and the poor and marginalised better. I commend this amended motion to the house.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (11:33): I must say it is very disappointing that the government has chosen, on International Women's Day, not to call out what is seen and what the world knows is a horrific place for women to live and women to exist. To hide behind an amendment that generalises a very specific task for the world is very disappointing.

The South Australian government is in a unique position to send a very strong message to Saudi Arabia. They have gone into business with the government of Saudi Arabia. This parliament should condemn Saudi Arabia's human rights record, particularly the way it treats women, and let the Saudi Arabian government know how important it is that they change their laws, that they give women equal rights.

Let's go back to the role that Australia played in tackling apartheid. It was one of the first countries to challenge a system that divided communities based in that instance on race. What we are seeing with Saudi Arabia is a system that divides communities on sex. It is not acceptable. Where are those countries, those people who condemned—rightly so—South Africa for its politics of division and discrimination? Where are they with Saudi Arabia?

People stopped doing business with South Africa. This government has started doing business with Saudi Arabia when the world is waking up to the human rights abuses that are happening to women, children and those with disabilities. Fancy condemning a person with an intellectual disability to a death sentence; this is what happens in Saudi Arabia. Women not being able to even leave the house without the permission of their male guardian; this is what happens in Saudi Arabia.

This is an opportunity for this parliament to send a very, very strong message to Saudi Arabia in a very timely manner, not just because it is International Women's Day but because this government has gone into business with the Saudi Arabian government. I have seen a letter that has been written by the PGA to the government, wanting to know why this government signed a deal with Saudi Arabia when no other state government was prepared to do it. I have not seen a reply to the PGA for that letter, but it is an extraordinary situation.

Mr Odenwalder: Did your government trade with Saudi Arabia?

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: This government has the opportunity today—

Mr Odenwalder: You were in cabinet, David.

The SPEAKER: The member for Elizabeth is warned.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: —from a position of authority to support a motion to condemn Saudi Arabia for the way it treats women on International Women's Day. It has the ability to do that today, but it chose not to. Instead, we heard a story from a woman of white privilege about how she has some sort of relationship to those women in Saudi Arabia. For heaven's sake! Let's get real here.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Adelaide!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: Let's get real.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Elizabeth!

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: It is disappointing that the government has chosen not to use this opportunity to be leaders—

Ms Hood interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Adelaide is warned.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI: —and send a message to the government of Saudi Arabia. We do not support the government's amendments and we will be voting against the amendments. We ask the government to reconsider its decision to move those amendments and support the original motion that was put to this parliament for very genuine reasons because we can no longer stand by and ignore what is happening in countries like Saudi Arabia. The fact that this government has gone into business with Saudi Arabia gives this government the opportunity to be a leader and it has chosen not to.

The house divided on the amendment:

Ayes24
Noes.....13
Majority11

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Bignell, L.W.K.
Boyer, B.I.	Brown, M.E.	Champion, N.D.
Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.	Cook, N.F.
Fulbrook, J.P.	Hildyard, K.A.	Hood, L.P.
Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.	Koutsantonis, A.
Michaels, A.	Mullighan, S.C.	Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Pearce, R.K.	Piccolo, A.	Picton, C.J.
Stinson, J.M.	Thompson, E.L.	Wortley, D.J.

NOES

Batty, J.A.	Cowdrey, M.J.	Ellis, F.J.
Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)	Hurn, A.M.	Marshall, S.S.
McBride, P.N.	Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.
Pisoni, D.G.	Pratt, P.K.	Teague, J.B.
Telfer, S.J.		

PAIRS

Savvas, O.M.	Tarzia, V.A.	Malinauskas, P.B.
Basham, D.K.B.	Szakacs, J.K.	Speirs, D.J.

Amendment thus carried; motion as amended carried.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs PEARCE (King) (11:43): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 8 March 2023 is International Women's Day and pays tribute to those who have fought, and continue to fight, for the advancement of the status of women and girls;
- (b) notes this year's theme Embrace Equity recognises that each one of us can actively support and embrace equity within our own sphere of influence to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination and draw attention to bias;
- (c) acknowledges that whilst much has been achieved, women still face entrenched inequality, violence and barriers to equal and active participation in our economy and in every aspect of community life; and
- (d) commits to doing whatever it can to work towards:
 - (i) preventing and eradicating sexism, harassment, violence and abuse of women in all its forms;

- (ii) challenging stereotypes, discrimination and bias against women; and
- (iii) continuing to advance the status of women and girls; and
- (e) commends the state government for its strong women's equality and safety policy and actions.

This one is not only for the women who smash the glass ceiling, but those who build up and empower other women, those who hand the ladder down, and those who hoist others up ahead of themselves—all for the cause, all to work towards achieving greater equity in our state. The reality is, I did not get to be here in this place by pot luck or by somehow beating a system that has been systematically set up for men; I got here because I fought to be here and I was fortunate enough to have incredible women from a range of backgrounds in various stages of their life fight before me, fight alongside me and continue to fight day in, day out.

And why? There are many reasons, but in my case I believe it is because we all wanted to see a parliament that better reflects the diversity we see in our state and because we know if we can get it right here, we will see better representation in every other component of our lives: in our workplaces, our schools, our sporting clubs and associations, and at home.

It means the legislation we debate in this place will now have a wider range of experience and perspectives being taken into consideration, closer to what we would see being debated around the kitchen table or whilst at an event, or when hanging out with our friends and our family. This is incredibly important because there have been so many reasons to continue fighting: to have your voice heard, to feel safe at home, to be afforded the same opportunities. It is not that much to ask for.

It is not too much to ask for to not be disadvantaged for choosing to have children, to not be disadvantaged for choosing to care for a family member—components that have traditionally been the focus of a woman's sole responsibility for way too long without care or consideration given towards how this impacts their wellbeing or the impact this has on their ability to live a financially secure life.

It is also not too much to ask to not be pigeonholed in your upbringing to believe that you can only aspire to be what has traditionally been perceived as a woman's position in the world. You cannot be what you cannot see and we have not been able to create that change without the women who have fought tooth and nail to improve and build on that. To all of them I say: thank you so much for your contributions, and thank you for fighting for a more equitable future, not just for yourselves but for the women following behind you. Thank you for making their journey a little bit fairer.

We are not there yet, though. The fight is not over and we all have a responsibility to embrace and fight for equity. We all have an ability to do so, whether you identify as a woman, man or non-binary, whether you are young or old, whether you have been oppressed or whether you have not. We all need to take advantage of our own sphere of influence to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination and draw attention to bias.

If you hear somebody complimenting a woman that she is lucky to have her partner babysit the kids because she is out working late—shut that down. She has every right to be in that room and we all know that her partner would not be questioned if it was the other way around. Stop questioning, 'Why doesn't she just get a better job?' when we find a woman barely getting by in the roles that have been traditionally associated with their gender. All work is valuable.

Stop asking, 'Why didn't she just leave?' when you hear about the terrible impacts of being in a domestic or family violence situation, and start looking at ways you can assist. Support the organisations that help to empower women in these situations and help stop this issue from being swept under the rug. Start empowering girls to be what they want when they grow up. Encourage them to explore STEM or sports that have traditionally been all about the boys. Start supporting a work environment that invests in its workers and recognises that taking a break to start a family or care for another does not diminish their ability to be productive when they look for support to return.

Whilst we have achieved so much, women face entrenched inequality, violence and barriers to equal and active participation in our economy and in every aspect of our community life. For example, our country's national gender pay gap is at about 13.3 per cent, which means that for every

dollar that men earn on average, women earn 87¢. That is \$253.50 less than men each week, and that is not the only thing impacting their ability to earn an income.

Caring for children is far more likely to impact women's employment opportunities than men's. Almost half of Australian women who are willing to work or take on more hours report that caring for children is the main reason they are unable to start a job or work more hours. This is compared to the 3.2 per cent of men, which in some part helps to explain why the median superannuation balances for women at retirement are 23.4 per cent lower than those for men in recent years.

Looking into this a little deeper, what about women who are in leadership positions? What about educational attainment? Well, the latest results from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency 2020-21 data search shows that women hold 17.6 per cent of chair positions and 31.2 per cent of directorships, and represent 19.4 per cent of CEOs and 34.5 per cent of key management personnel. That is, 22.3 per cent of boards and governing bodies have no female directors and, by contrast, only 0.6 per cent have no male directors.

Interestingly, of all women aged 20 to 24, 92 per cent have attained a year 12 qualification or above compared to 87.5 per cent of men in the same age bracket. Of all women aged 25 to 29, 48.3 per cent have achieved a bachelor degree or above compared to 36.1 per cent of similarly aged men. So why the imbalance in the workplace? Clearly there is work that needs to be done.

What about women's wellbeing or the ability to have a safe and secure home? As we are aware, one in six women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by current or previous partners since the age of 15, and statistics suggest that as much as 42 per cent of the homeless population in Australia is female. Let's focus on this a little deeper.

We know that the major causes of homelessness amongst women include domestic violence, sexual assault and family breakdown, and that women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless often lack control over their lives because they are dependent on others to provide accommodation.

Furthermore, women with disability are particularly vulnerable to homelessness. They are more likely to face the causes of homelessness than men with disability and the general population, mainly because women with disability have greater levels of unemployment, earn lower incomes and are at greater risk of physical and sexual abuse.

Sadly, this is just a snapshot of where some imbalances can be found in our society, but we in this place have a responsibility. We need to work towards preventing and eradicating sexism, harassment, violence and abuse of women in all its forms; challenging stereotypes, discrimination and bias against women; and continuing to advance the status of women and girls.

I am proud that in our first year of government we have not wasted any time getting started on this. I am proud that we are empowering women to leave violent relationships, something hard-fought for by women, workers and unions over the years. I am proud that we have reinstated funding to support Catherine House, an amazing group that supports and builds up women who are experiencing and/or facing homelessness.

I am proud that we have funded \$4 million for a Women in Business package that will provide a suite of programs that will be made available to South Australian female-owned businesses. I am proud that we have provided over \$1.6 million in funding for the Women's Legal Service to provide face-to-face legal advice and education to vulnerable women at risk of experiencing domestic and family violence, as well as restoring the funding to the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service.

I am proud we have funded over \$2.6 million for the Working Women's Centre to provide frontline support to address workplace sexual harassment and discrimination because we firmly believe that gender-based violence has no place in our society. I am pleased that we have established a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care to better support the needs of families into the future. I am proud that we have re-established the Women in Sport Taskforce helping to raise the profile and participation levels of girls and women in sport, and to

address the inequality that inhibits girls and women from actively and equally participating in the sport they love.

That is just the start. As I said earlier, we all have a role to play to achieve greater equity in this space. I am proud that the Malinauskas government is tackling this head-on and today, on International Women's Day, I ask all of us to keep up the fight. May we know them, may we be them and may we raise them. Our future can only become fairer if we put in the work today, and a fairer future is absolutely something worth fighting for.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:54): I rise today to speak to the motion and acknowledge that 8 March 2023 is International Women's Day and to pay tribute to those who have fought and continue to fight for the advancement of the status of women and girls. This year's theme, Embrace Equity, recognises that each one of us can actively support and embrace equity within our own sphere of influence to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination and draw attention to bias. We all have a responsibility to challenge the status quo and work towards creating a more equitable society for all.

While much progress has been made, women still face entrenched inequality, violence and barriers to equal and active participation in our economy and in every aspect of community life. It is up to us to take action and address these issues and ensure that women are afforded the same opportunities and rights as men.

Sexism, harassment, violence and abuse of women are not limited to any specific region or community. It is a problem that affects women of all ages, races and socio-economic backgrounds. These actions are often perpetuated by those in positions of power or those who feel entitled to control or dominate women. Such actions create an environment of fear and vulnerability for women, limiting our opportunities and restricting our freedom.

Tragically, every seven days one Australian woman still dies from domestic violence. As a society, it is our responsibility to eradicate this problem and create an environment that is safe and secure for women. We must take a multifaceted approach to address this issue. This includes increasing awareness about these issues, educating those who need it and developing effective legal frameworks. As a representative in my own community, I play a role in developing all three stages.

I am proud of the strong record of accomplishment of the Marshall Liberal government, which sought to support women to thrive in South Australia. In addition to the Marshall Liberal government's comprehensive suite of initiatives in domestic and family violence, the government also introduced at the time the first South Australian Women's Leadership and Economic Security Strategy, which was to underpin the strongly held belief in choices for women. Gender equality in the workplace and other areas of life is key to underpinning choice for women.

I especially acknowledge the work and advocacy of former Deputy Premier, the Hon. Vickie Chapman MP, who in her capacity as the state's first Attorney-General and our state's first female Deputy Premier worked tirelessly to provide reform in the areas of domestic violence, along with Carolyn Power, the former member for Elder, who was SA's first Assistant Minister for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention. Both of these Liberal women presided over the expansion of the Domestic Violence Disclosure scheme, which included 'right to know' requests. This mandated proactive disclosures by police to those deemed to be at risk of domestic violence and family violence. It included a commitment of \$1.9 million by the Marshall Liberal government for that trial.

When it comes to leadership by women and for women, there is not enough time really to do justice to the positive legacy on which the Liberal Party and Liberal women continue to build. I take us all the way back to Dame Enid Lyons, who was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives and the first woman within federal cabinet. She said in her first speech to parliament that we are a party that chooses candidates on their merits.

Our record continues to demonstrate a commitment to supporting talented women throughout Australia who have come to a life of public service from a variety of backgrounds and with a broad range of experience, and I think that holds true today:

- Mrs Hilma Molyneux Parkes, who had been a leader in the New South Wales suffrage movement, formed the Women's Liberals League of NSW. This league fought hard and was ultimately successful in winning the right to vote in preselection;
- Dame Nancy Butterfield DBE, who was the first woman to represent South Australia in the federal parliament and to be nominated to fill a casual vacancy in the Senate;
- Kay Brownbill OBE, the first female MP from South Australia and the third woman to be elected to the House of Representatives;
- the fabulous the Hon. Trish Worth AM, the first female deputy government whip in the House of Representatives;
- the extraordinary the Hon. Amanda Vanstone, who was the first female Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Employment and Minister for Justice;
- the Hon. Julie Bishop, who was the nation's first female foreign minister; and
- Senator the Hon. Marise Payne, who was the nation's first female defence minister.

The legacy of Liberal governments in prioritising women's issues knows no bounds, and I take leave to touch on just a few policy initiatives that were a legacy of the Howard government. Maternity leave was introduced in 1996. The National Domestic Violence Summit was convened in 1997. We saw childcare benefits introduced in the year 2000. The introduction of legislation to allow separating couples to divide their superannuation by agreement of a court order was in 2002. We are going to hear in the chamber today about the disadvantage that women experience when it comes to asset management, finances and superannuation—that legislation could not have been more important at the time.

On those points, I also want to move on to acknowledge the significant contributions made by South Australian women in sports, art, the sciences and other fields who have broken down barriers in their fields, paving the way for future generations. I note that the International Day of Women and Girls in Science was marked on 11 February. I take this opportunity to note it and mention briefly that, while we have made progress in closing the gender gap in science and technology, there is still much work to be done.

According to UNESCO, only 30 per cent of female students select STEM-related fields in higher education globally. This number drops even further in Australia, sadly, where women only make up 16 per cent of the STEM-qualified population. The statistics are not just numbers. They represent real women who face challenges and barriers when pursuing careers. These challenges include unconscious bias, gender stereotypes, lack of role models and work-family balance issues. So it is essential to address these issues to ensure that women and girls do have the same opportunities and support as their male counterparts.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the women who have come before us here in the chamber and who have fought and continue to fight for the advancement of the status of women and girls in South Australia. Let us all continue to build on their legacy and work towards creating a society that is truly equitable and inclusive for all. I wish everyone in this chamber a happy International Women's Day. I commend the motion.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12:02): I rise today to support this motion and to wish a very happy International Women's Day to all the women in this chamber and in the other place and to every woman here today, whether this is your place of work or you are here as a visitor.

It is important to celebrate together the progress and achievements of women and the women's rights movement to honour women's diverse contributions and to steadfastly resolve together to continue to tackle all that continues to confront girls and women in our state and beyond. I acknowledge all the women who have gone before, and those today, who use their voice and their actions to progress further achievements and to empower and lift other women up.

Today I also think of the many who may not be celebrating International Women's Day in the way that we are privileged to do in this place, or indeed at all, whether that be because they are at work early in a place where there is no acknowledgement of International Women's Day, whether it was difficult to leave caring responsibilities or whether it was just too hard to leave the house at all.

As I strive to continue to make change, I am absolutely buoyed by the women who relentlessly and passionately lead and contribute to the advancement of gender equality, sometimes in the face of intersectional barriers and some really difficult circumstances, and those who sometimes just keep going.

Collaboration, inclusion and unshakeable unity of purpose has been key to the gains the women's movement has made over generations. It was certainly the key for those fierce activist women who, 129 years ago, relentlessly campaigned together and successfully fought for the right for women to vote and stand for parliament here in South Australia, making us the first place in the world in which women were able to exercise these hard-fought women's rights.

As those brave women who fight would have envisaged, our parliament should be an exemplar of equal representation. It should be representative of the diversity of our community. As I look around this place, my heart swells with pride to see the extraordinary women in numbers who are in this house. This step forward toward equal representation in our parliamentary ranks was a crucial step we needed to take. I have no doubt that this step is already making our parliament a better, a stronger, and a wiser place.

We can assume that there are roughly equal numbers of women and men of merit in our community, so when gender equality is not represented in parliament, we have to take positive action to smash through any barriers that prohibit women from taking their rightful place in this house. And we can all be proud that those women who fought collectively and tirelessly 129 years ago to ensure South Australian women could vote and stand for parliament would wholeheartedly approve of such decisive action.

I am immensely honoured to hold the portfolio of Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Like others in this place, I have a longstanding passion for addressing inequality and ensuring that women and girls can equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life in the way that they choose.

I was very proud after the election a year ago to welcome the new members of this place: firstly, on the government benches, the member for Elder, the member for Gibson, the member for Adelaide, the member for King, the member for Newland, the member for Waite, and the member for Davenport. They are all formidable, community minded, hardworking, smart and compassionate women who have already moved mountains for their local communities and will and do make such an important contribution to this place, and to the fabric of our state.

I wholeheartedly congratulate the member for Schubert and the member for Frome on your election to represent your communities. I am honoured to be working with you all as part of this most important process in our democracy: the representation of the people of South Australia in decisions that affect the daily lives of the people of our state and tackle the most significant issues facing our community. We also all, women and men, have a role to play in addressing any issues that inhibit girls from equally participating in our community and that contribute to the horrific scourge of violence against women.

This government is deeply committed to creating a state in which your gender has no bearing on the opportunities available to you. We want to be a state which is renowned for equal opportunity for girls and women, which empowers women and girls to live their best possible lives, and which realises the benefits for all that an equal future creates.

Last year's wonderful increase in gender representation here in parliament is one of the strongest signals we can send to the community about the importance of gender equality and diversity in decision-making and, we hope, to encourage even more women to stand for public office. Together, with this incredible group of women and the outstanding men whom we work alongside, we can, and we will, make a difference.

Our government is committed to recognising the achievements of women from all backgrounds and ages who make a significant contribution to different areas of community life. The Inspiring South Australian Women's Awards, presented earlier this year, was a recognition of the contribution women make in both voluntary and paid roles to advancing and enriching our society. These awards celebrate women and encourage our community to think about the women in their lives who are breaking down barriers, working tirelessly in their community, taking steps forward in the face of adversity, or those who make an important difference in the lives of others.

I was so proud in January to award the winners of the Inspiring South Australian Women's Awards at the event hosted and coordinated by the Australia Day Council of South Australia. The Inspiring South Australian Women's Award was presented to architect Sarah Paddick, who was recognised for her assistance over the past seven years to empower vulnerable women leaving prison to develop new skills, secure meaningful work and regain confidence.

At the celebration of these awards, we heard a story from Sarah's award nominee, who, as a participant of these programs, said that her involvement enabled her to go on to earn a position in the head office of a large construction company and to facilitate initiatives within women's prisons herself.

Also honoured in the event was Madelyn Duckmanton, who received a commendation for her tireless fundraising work to ensure earlier detection of ovarian cancer following the very sad death of her daughter Letitia in 2018. Madelyn has since established the not-for-profit Letitia Linke Research Foundation, which aims to increase community awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Emerging Leader Award recipient Zainab Kazemi arrived in Australia aged just 13 after fleeing Afghanistan with her family. Ten years later, Zainab is an emerging community leader and respected advocate. Through her voluntary participation in the Afghan Association of SA, she has championed the rights of new migrants and refugees, as well as those unable to leave Afghanistan. Zainab has organised fundraisers for Afghani refugees and works to empower young refugee women to pursue their dreams and equally access opportunities.

The achievements of Sarah, Madelyn and Zainab are truly inspirational. Each of them has generously and courageously used their voice and their actions to raise awareness about issues that other girls and women face and to empower them in the face of some really difficult challenges. I congratulate these exceptional women on their awards and thank them for their remarkable and tireless work, work that it is right to honour and celebrate and work that I am proud to acknowledge in this place.

I am strongly committed to always highlighting the exceptional work of women in our community. International Women's Day is a global day to celebrate the social, political and economic achievements of women. Today, we have opened nominations for the South Australian Women's Honour Roll. Established in 2008, the Women's Honour Roll is open to new inductees every two years to provide formal recognition to women who make significant contributions in all areas of our state.

Since the SA Women's Honour Roll was initiated in 2008, more than 700 South Australian women have been formally recognised for their contributions. I encourage everybody in this place to think about the women they know, particularly those who may go without recognition, and nominate them for the South Australian Women's Honour Roll.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (12:12): I rise in support of this motion and acknowledge that 8 March is International Women's Day. I sincerely wish everyone in this place all the best on celebrating and acknowledging what I think is a really special day.

Late last night, I went for a run around our fabulous city and I happened to be listening to a podcast that I would not usually listen to. It was an interview with Jessica Watson. She might not be familiar to too many people in this place, but she was a 16 year old who survived 210 days out at sea on her own. She became the youngest person to sail solo non-stop around the world.

When she arrived back in Australia, she was greeted by 80,000 Australians who came and wished her the best, including the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. Kevin Rudd, as the Prime

Minister, aimed to acknowledge Jessica Watson as a hero. That was a label that she just fobbed off. She was not comfortable with being acknowledged as a hero. Instead, she said:

I'm an ordinary girl who believed in her dream. You don't have to be someone special or anything special to achieve something amazing. You just have to have a dream, believe in it and work hard.

What an extraordinary and humble thing for someone to say at such a young age who had just achieved such an incredible feat. For me, it was very timely to hear this comment because I believe that it sums up exactly what International Women's Day is about. It is about acknowledging all women and all their achievements regardless of how big, how small, or how spectacular.

Sometimes it is about acknowledging some of the ordinary women and people who are just going about their lives. I think that is something to celebrate, recognising that having a dream and working hard to achieve it, particularly if you are a female, is something that we should be celebrating in this space. When anyone in South Australia, irrespective of their background or their gender, can through hard work achieve their dream, whatever that might be, then I believe that as a state and as a government we will have the settings right.

On International Women's Day, I think it is timely to reflect on the mountains that have been moved by so many amazing women over so many generations. Our walls here in parliament are adorned with a rich tapestry, quite literally, of the historical things that happened right in this place to pave the way for all of the women in this place to be representing their communities and to be fighting hard for their communities. I am often quite shocked when I come in here, because it is not often that you reflect on these things, but on International Women's Day I think it is fantastic to look at the glass ceilings that have been broken down so that people can achieve their goals.

It is also about genuinely celebrating the achievements of women within our community, and there are so many. It is about encouraging and empowering the next generation of women, through doing and through the example that we can all set in this place, to have the confidence that they can achieve their dreams. They can achieve anything that they put their mind to, just as Jessica Watson did.

I am proud that we live in one of the very few places in the world where if you do have a dream you can succeed. That is something that is absolutely worth celebrating, particularly as, as has been reflected on in this place, that does not happen everywhere in the world. There are so many places in the world right now where, based solely on your gender, there are certain things that you cannot achieve, but here in Australia, and here in South Australia, you can.

We also need to keep an eye on the future, acknowledging that there is always so much more to be done to build equity in opportunity. To me, that is what International Women's Day is about, acknowledging that women and men should be able to have the same access to opportunity. I think through sheer hard work you have to have the opportunity to succeed. The equity in opportunity, I believe, is key to recognise on International Women's Day. That is what we need to be fighting for.

Everywhere I go in my local community, I see so many passionate women and girls. I see so many unsung women. I see local female business owners. I see local female leaders across so many fields, be it the arts, be it sport, be it in the agricultural sector and our winemaking industry. They are serving as an inspiration to one another. Then I see women who are working hard bringing up the next generation and juggling so many commitments, who are the daily role models of the next generation, working hard to make sure that they too are creating a pathway for them to achieve.

My mum is one of them. I was reflecting on this as I was going on my run last night. If it was not for her and her sacrifice, there is no way that I would be standing in this chamber. She worked as a kitchen hand for a very long time and she has supported my dad on the farm, but beyond everything else she sacrificed her career so that my brother and I could achieve our goals. That is something that is worth all of us recognising. We have to keep shining a light on the success of all women, all women who go about their business and can achieve things fantastic. Talking about their experiences really will serve as an inspiration to the next generation, showing that they too can achieve their dreams.

Often I am asked, when I am going to schools or speaking at local sporting clubs, if I have any advice for young women. I do, and it is very simple. It is to back yourselves in, to back your friends in, to back your colleagues in, to celebrate your successes and celebrate their achievements as well. Often I think that when you are a female, particularly in politics or in leadership, it is so important to note that you do not have to have a hide like a rhinoceros to be a strong woman. You can be caring, you can be compassionate and you can have a strong voice.

On International Women's Day I do say to all young women and young girls, not just in my community but right across South Australia, 'Back yourselves in because you are strong and you are capable.' So happy International Women's Day, everyone. I hope you can all have a remarkable day and celebrate your own successes and those in the community as well.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (12:20): Naa marni. Ngai nari Nat Kartanya Cook. Marni ngadlu tampinhi, ngadlu Kurna yartangka tikanthi. I start by making a Kurna acknowledgement because today, on International Women's Day, more than anything it is so important that we acknowledge how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women must be part of our conversation. This week we have spoken about the importance of voice in parliament, and it should not be underestimated how important it is to have a voice at the table in order to be able to seek effective change and deliver on issues that are important and represent the values of certain cohorts in our community. With that, women are a group in the community who for centuries were under-represented in terms of having a voice at any table.

I use today to provide myself with an opportunity to reflect on how far in fact we have come but also, again, to say how far we still need to travel as women to achieve equality in the workplace and to achieve equality in the community. Really excellent conversations have been put out into the public sphere over much time, now in regard to wage equity and the gender pay gap. It is ridiculous that we are still talking about this. I thank the athletes and the women of sport who are again bringing that to the surface in terms of demonstrating wages disparity and reward for really hard work.

I look around on this side of the chamber, and many of us comment regularly on how we nearly weep when we see just how many incredibly inspiring women we have with us in our caucus. That is not to undervalue the inspiring men as there are men doing great things as well, but for me to be able to see so many incredible women, and young women, who have joined us in our parliament to provide voice, voice for young people and voice for women, I know that our party has over three decades rigorously changed structures, rigorously and deliberately changed the ideology about how we achieve an equity of representation in terms of gender with affirmative action in our party, and it has worked. We can see it has worked.

I made a comment in the first speech of this parliament about how incredulous it is that it took us 90 years to elect seven women across all parties to this chamber—90 years. With hard work, with deliberate effort, with determination for change, in one day in March last year we achieved electing seven new women to our chamber on our side of the house. Of course, we also welcome the new women on the other side of the house and enjoy working across the chamber on various bills and on various matters.

For me, this achievement is really incredibly strong. It is powerful. It is one of those demonstrators of intent, of drawing that line in the sand and saying to the community, 'We know you can't be what you can't see.' It is so important to young women to be able to see that they can achieve being a representative in this house, and it is proof that our affirmative action has and will continue to work. Structural changes make cultural change and it bears witness to that. Long after I leave this place, many of these new women will continue on with that great work with that legacy of gender equality and being a role model for young women in the community.

Yesterday, I attended the Australian Migrant Resource Centre forum, which was being held across a few hours in the Festival Centre. I managed to pop in at lunchtime. The panel I sat on for just a part of is worthy of a mention. There were four incredibly good young women there speaking about their journey as arrivals to Australia with very little and what they have been able to achieve given support, motivation and aspiration.

I call out to the chair of Multicultural Youth Link SA, Raghad Dib, an incredibly inspiring and compassionate woman leading that youth women's panel. There were three speakers, including

Esther Nichun, who told of her incredible journey, having not completed primary school, coming to Australia to now be a graduate registered nurse working in Port Augusta—an awesome journey. As a registered nurse, I felt completely inspired by her story. She is a wonderful young woman whom I wish very well. I have put out the hand of friendship and offered to chat with her anytime. Shaona Imaru and Fahima Ahmadi spoke as well.

I think that change takes determination. It takes people who are keen and like-minded in their goals. I often say that, in terms of challenges, you eat the elephant one bite at a time. I am very impatient. I work every day to move on those issues and to try to bring compassion to the debate.

I want to conclude by highlighting my favourite tweet of the day today, which is funnily enough by a man. Bill Griggs is a very good man, who many of you would be aware of as a leader in trauma services, which I have had something to do with over the years in my job. Bill's quote this morning that woke me up was:

The idea of a quota for women in Parliament seems too much? Remember that for many years only men were allowed to be elected. Maybe to balance things we should try some years of only allowing women to be elected? Seems fair. Maybe we'd get better results than now?

I leave International Women's Day with a hearty hello and congratulations to all women and my favourite tweet and thought for the day.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:27): I rise to speak on the motion. I note also, with reference to paragraph (b), that the UN International Women's Day 2023 theme, 'Cracking the Code: Innovation for a Gender Equal Future', is the subject of important and ongoing current work in the UN. The theme is based on the priority theme for the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women.

As members will be familiar, the priority theme, 'Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls', is particularly prescient. It is important to identify symbols and to have themes associated with the recognition of this important day. The UN's work at this time in using the power of innovation and technological change to bring greater access towards equality and empowerment to education and to the advancement of women and girls is important work indeed.

I note also the review theme of the 67th commission being work on challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls, which were the subject of agreed conclusions of the 62nd session. Without reflecting on matters recently before the house at too much length, we have already heard just earlier this morning debate in relation to the important policy and funding initiatives that can be taken, in particular, to support regional areas of this state in relation to the studying of nursing, and the member for Mount Gambier has given examples of those in his area that are so relevantly affected.

Indeed, the subject of prior motions in the house have extended beyond that to reflecting on what we can do proactively in that international space to seek improvement and to call other public authorities, governments and nations to better discharge their obligations. So there is, as the UN indicates, important work for those of us in public life with public responsibilities in parliaments and those in responsible executive government roles to take those steps publicly.

Of course, what we celebrate on International Women's Day, as others have reflected on in the course of the debate, are the achievements, activities, opportunities and aspirations of the individuals, and of women and girls in communities throughout the world. I think it is right that we focus somewhat on what we can do here to continue progress towards advancement.

As the motion indicates, there are important improvements that have been made over many decades but it is right to acknowledge, if not be preoccupied on this day, that there is still much to be done to work towards the end of inequality, the end of violence, and certainly the end of barriers to equal and active participation in our economy. These things are both mechanical, they respond directly to funding decisions of governments from time to time, and they extend through to our culture and our expectations as a community broadly.

Reflecting in a practical way on our own experience bringing up our children, we happened to engage for a significant period of time in the early stages in Sweden and then bring up small

children in Australia. I think there is an opportunity to compare and contrast the ways in which we are organised as a community to ensure that those barriers, those inequalities that are experienced by women and girls are addressed in practical ways.

I still hear it too often that policy in relation to child care, for example, is equated and directed relevant to a woman's wage where a woman is able to go to work because children are in child care and the cost of child care and how that relates to a woman's wage. In reality, it is very much a matter of equal responsibility and we have seen strides made in that respect over the last 20 years, in particular.

I reflect on my profession before coming into this place and the thought that often stays with me about the practical response to inequality and the day-to-day lives of those in the profession. A significant and quite famous example is that of Justice Mitchell, who during her time on the Supreme Court made a point of crossing Victoria Square to go to the public toilets because there was not a women's toilet in the Supreme Court at that time. She just got on with demonstrating that in a very practical way. The women's toilet that then ensued in the Supreme Court was something that people got their skates on about, but it was a matter of practically demonstrating the nature of inequality by a response to it.

A leader of my profession from the day that I first walked into chambers at the bar, Lindy Powell KC, for whom Justice Mitchell was a particular mentor (Lindy was associate to Justice Mitchell) has stood out as carrying forward the legacy of leadership in the profession. I take the opportunity to recognise both Justice Mitchell and my friend and colleague, Lindy Powell KC. I could say a great deal more and reflect, perhaps, more personally on the journey of women and girls in my life. I recognise them all as we celebrate International Women's Day today.

Just very briefly, because we are in this parliament and place of legislation, I want to recognise where we are at on development of legislation in relation to coercive control. It is something that the minister has talked about as recently as earlier this morning. The development of legislation against coercive control has a history now over the course of the last parliament and this. I was proud in the brief time that I was exercising the powers and functions of the Attorney-General last February to develop and to circulate a paper posing questions in relation to the implementation of legislation. I understand that that is soon on the way, responses having come in the course of last year.

My time is out, but I look forward to working with the government in developing initiatives in that direction in the coming months.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:38): I rise to support this motion and wish all in this place and across our state a very happy International Women's Day. This morning I joined many incredible women from across our state as a guest of Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia—who is in herself an amazing woman—for an International Women's Day breakfast with inspirational speaker Sam Mostyn AO. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also remains a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

South Australia stands proud of its past as a world leader in women's rights. While suffragette protests for the right to vote raged in London, Philadelphia and Boston in the later years of the 19th century, South Australia went a step further in granting women suffrage. The Adult Suffrage Bill was passed on 18 December 1894. We have the petition up here in front of us on the wall here. It awarded South Australian women the right to vote in general elections and to stand for parliament. It was a first.

Indeed, we have come a long way since the passing of this bill and we celebrated the 125th anniversary of that in this place in 2019. Women like Catherine Helen Spence, Mary Lee and Elizabeth Webb Nicholls, who paved the way here in South Australia as leaders of the suffrage campaign and women like Adelaide-born Muriel Matters—who campaigned by flying over London in an airship inscribed 'Votes for Women' and throwing handbills over parliament—all played a significant role abroad.

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve both in the Australian federal parliament as a Senator and in the state parliament in South Australia as the member for Torrens.

On both occasions, I have been among the majority of women, Labor women, elected to the parliament. I stand by what I have previously said: that the efforts by women to achieve equality, of course, go well beyond our walls of parliament. Many women who have strived for a career have historically been forced to balance that career with the needs of family—until recent times—often for years without any consideration of the difficulties presented.

International Women's Day recognises and honours not just the achievements of the groundbreakers, the women whose names we know and whom we admire, but all women. There are so many more who do not make the headlines and have not had the chance to move us with the inspirational speeches, with actions, or with great public achievements.

These are the women who have had to fight hard for everything they have achieved in what have often been unfair workplaces: women who have had to juggle a career with raising a family, who drop the kids at school before heading to work and who often have to take work home so they can pick them up; women who after a full day working sit with their children overseeing their homework; and women who take their children to sports practice, who are there week in and week out on the sidelines, cheering them on and taking up voluntary positions of team manager, coach, secretary of the club, event organiser, or a position on the fundraising committee.

They are there staffing the canteen, cooking on the barbecue stall and taking team uniforms home to wash. These are the many women I see at my local sports and community clubs in my electorate of Torrens, taking up these roles at Gaza Football Club, MetroStars, Adelaide City Football Club, the North Adelaide Rockets Basketball Club, Windsor calisthenics, NECAP, the Neighbourhood Watch meetings and Hillcrest scouts—and there are many more at our local schools on governing councils or volunteering for excursions.

There are women like my amazing sister, who do this on their own as a single parent. On International Women's Day I want to recognise women like my mother and my mother-in-law, who each raised six children, walked the path and faced the struggles that women of their generation faced when equality issues were not enshrined in law. I acknowledge these women and others who have each made a valuable contribution towards achieving equality and fairness.

I acknowledge, too, those who have taught or are teaching and raising their children to respect and value contributions equally, regardless of gender, and that some things are worth standing up for. I acknowledge the efforts of those women who fought the fight, helping to make Australia a better and fairer place for all and those who are continuing to fight the fight today. I want to wish a happy International Women's Day to all women across the state, and in this place all the MPs, MLCs, Hansard, library staff, officers of the parliament, catering, security, housekeeping and administration. I want them to know that they are truly valued.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:43): I stand to support the motion and of course wish all women—whether they be mothers, daughters, sisters—a happy International Women's Day. I have to say that it is not just today that we should be celebrating women and their achievements and working towards equality; it is every day. Because of the nature of how society has evolved, it really does take men—particularly in dealing with violence against women—to stand up against men who perpetrate violence.

As a man you cannot imagine what women must go through if they are attached to a male member of the family, whether it be a partner, a father or a sibling, who acts in a violent way. It is a significant cultural shift that we need to continue working on. We know that cultural shifts have been successful in the past. When my mother was married back in the 1950s she had to give up work, because that was the culture back then. We now realise of course—and not long after that we realised—that that culture was wrong.

There are other cultures around the world that treat women as second-class citizens and that culture is wrong. It is not acceptable to say that that is the culture in that society, that country or that history, because we had that culture here in South Australia, in the Western world, until recent times. When I have school tours in this place I always talk about the two tapestries here hanging on the walls, celebrating not only that women in South Australia had the right to vote in 1894—the second place in the world to be able to do that—but also that South Australia was the first place in the world women had the right to stand for parliament.

Then I point to Joyce Steele, the former member for Burnside who went on to become education minister, being the first woman elected to this place 65 years after legislation allowed that to happen—65 years. It was one of the rare cases when the parliament was ahead of the public mood. Often we see parliaments take their time or not being up to speed with the public mood, particularly in social change.

One of the things I did in my early interest in politics was to read Stuart Cockburn's book about Tom Playford, and in it is a section that describes the experience that Joyce Steele had on her first day as an elected member in this place. There were no toilets; even 65 years after women were allowed to run for parliament here in South Australia, there were no female toilets. That is what Stuart Cockburn said in his book. She was greeted in the halls of parliament house by the dear old conservative Tom Playford with the term, 'Hello, girly.' I tell that story to many of the young women, years 11 and 12 legal studies students in particular, who come into the parliament for their tours and they all cringe and you can understand why, but it does demonstrate that we have come a very long way but we still have a long way to go.

When my wife and I were first married, which was 34 years ago this year, she was a member of the RAA. I was not a member of the RAA, so she signed me up as an associate and, when the very first renewal came through, I became the full member and she became the associate, obviously because she was the woman. That was not that long ago—1989. We do see that happening still today.

I know that when my daughter booked a train trip from Canberra to Sydney with her partner it was done online and there was no option for the 'Ms' term on the online booking form. So, it was either identifying whether or not you were married or not having any other option. The fact that we still have the term 'Miss'—in other words, I am available—used in any government organisations for starters, but any business organisation, as a title for somebody filling in their name and address is just extraordinary.

Quite frankly, it is not anyone's business whether a woman is married or not, but it goes back again to that old culture where women who were working had to resign when they got married. Women did not work when they had children. Of course, many women, up until that time, if they wanted careers did not have children and were robbed of having a lifetime relationship, which many of us in this place value as being one of the wonderful things of life.

The fact is, we still have elements of this male domination, if you like, of the rules about how people are addressed, of what expectations are. There are still young women who go to events because they are interested in those events who have to fend off men who want to ask them out on a date. We should be in a society where women can go to events for the interest that they have without fear of having to have an uncomfortable conversation about a request that is of no relevance whatsoever to the event that they are attending. That, again, is a significant cultural shift.

I think it is on days like today that, not only should we be celebrating women, of course, but we should, as men, be reflecting on what else we can do to respond and to change those cultural legacies, if you like. In many instances, I concede, it may very well be subconscious where this type of thing happens. I know that often as a couple, when you are going out looking at something to purchase, the salesperson will be focusing on talking to the man. Of course, in my instance, they are focusing on the wrong person because I do not make those decisions in our house.

It is the natural process and it has happened because of that culture of the dominance of men when it comes to who runs the money in the family, who earns the money, and so if that person earns the money they must be in charge of the money. But, of course, any relationship, particularly a relationship that has children, is a partnership. Each partner has specific roles that they work out between themselves.

Even though we are now seeing a lot more younger men being involved in their children's development and their upbringing, it is the primary caregiver—who, in most instances, even today, we still know is often the female partner in a heterosexual relationship—who will give up their career to be the primary caregiver. In other words, they will work part-time or have an extended period of time off while their children are very young. We still have a lot more work to do, but today of course is a day of celebration of women in our community.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:53): I rise in support of this motion. You know, sometimes it is hard to be a woman. It is not for the reasons that Tammy Wynette expresses in her well-known song. While she suggested that giving 'all your love to just one man' was a challenge, in today's society, we are led by strong women who know that they can now buy themselves flowers and, indeed, take themselves dancing, and do not rely on men to make it happen. We no longer accept that we will have the bad times whilst he will have the good times, doing things we do not understand. It will be us who say things that he does not understand, and we can most certainly hold our own hands.

Whilst the lyrics of songs have changed to reflect our strength, resilience and capabilities over the years, it is still the case that in practice women are not equal. We have spent years calling for respect. In fact, Aretha Franklin had been calling for it since 1967, and continued to do so until she died. It is time, and enough is enough, and whilst I thank Miley Cyrus, the Pussycat Dolls, Tammy Wynette and Aretha Franklin for helping me with my comments today, it is time we have a new narrative.

Today is International Women's Day and it is the day on which we celebrate the social economic, cultural and political achievements of women, and this year's theme is Cracking the Code for a Gender Neutral Future, and it also marks the call to action for accelerating women's equality. This year's campaign theme explores how innovation, inclusion and education have the power to disrupt 'business as usual' and crack the code to a gender equal future.

We know that education is the biggest leveller and that was no clearer to me than when I attended the University of South Australia's Chancellor's Women's Day lunch on Monday. Surrounded by some incredibly intelligent women working across many industries, it became very obvious that nothing could hold these women back, nothing except maybe glass ceilings, childbirth, child rearing, community expectation, the gender pay gap—yes, nothing.

This morning again a whole marquee of leaders, women who came from across industry, defence, government and other areas, listened to two very inspiring women: Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia and Sam Mostyn AO, who collectively are championing women. This is always a great experience but it was mentioned to me: what happens after these lunches and breakfasts? We all know that we continue to face challenges but what do we take from these experiences to ensure that we, in positions of leadership, are pumping up the tyres of our sisters, our mothers and our daughters but, at the same time, teaching our sons, fathers, and in some cases grandfathers that what has been acceptable before is not anymore?

Within the walls of that luncheon, there is a growing momentum, and our government is here to support it. Since coming to government we are investing in industries which predominantly employ women and which were hardest hit by the pandemic, such as the arts, major events and tourism. We have established a Gender Pay Gap Taskforce. I am fortunate to be the deputy chair of the Women in Sport Taskforce under the guidance of our Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. We are working with a group of incredibly talented individuals to address what we have identified as a real gap, and that is the opportunity for women and girls to participate and then exceed in their chosen sport. I am really excited about what the outcomes of this initiative will be and really proud to be a part of it.

We have also funded a \$4 million Women in Business package and today launched the re-established Premier's Women's Directory, linking it to the existing BoardingCall register and providing an additional avenue for South Australian women to join state government boards. A reinvigorated Premier's Women's Directory will support the government's commitment to achieving 50 per cent representation of women on state government boards.

Our government is investing in women, but it is an all-of-community response that is required: parents teaching their kids that they are equal, that they have equal access to their dreams, that they should treat each other with respect and dignity; workplaces addressing gender pay gaps; removing glass ceilings; removing policies that disallow employees from talking about pay; and taking every opportunity to encourage women to exceed. People of all ages need to not accept that 'Well, it's just the way it's always been,' or forgive bad behaviour because 'Back in the day it would be okay.' It is not acceptable—not anymore.

It is clear, as I think about my colleagues here in this place, the women who are here, and the women who have come before—all incredibly strong women representing their communities—that times are changing. I am glad to be able to be within an accelerating movement—in fact, riding that wave—but there is much to do and, as we take the day to celebrate past achievements, we look to the future where we are equal, nothing more and nothing less.

It would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to thank the women in my life who are always there supporting me: my mum, my sisters, my aunts, my cousins and all of my girlfriends. Here is to strong women: may we know them, may we be them, and may we raise them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Morialta, you have one minute—30 seconds, actually.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:59): I am pleased to have this minute to place on the record my support for this motion and, particularly in the spirit of other speakers, celebrate the achievements of those who have come before, and the achievements and work of those in my life. South Australia stands proud as the first place in the world to have allowed women to run for parliament and, indeed, those celebrations were held but, of course, it did take us too long to elect our first woman, Joyce Steele, who is on the wall of this parliament.

I am proud that in my seat Jennifer Cashmore and Joan Hall preceded me. In my seat at the moment, Anne Monceaux, Jan-Claire Wisdom, Jill Whittaker and Marijka Ryan are all female mayors, some of them the first female mayor for their council areas. I congratulate all of them and the women I have worked with in my professional career, not least of which Vickie Chapman, the first female Attorney-General and Deputy Premier of South Australia. I am proud to have considered her a mentor and my first boss.

I commend particularly my wife and all the strong women in my family who also, on this day, I want to celebrate as well. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00

Ministerial Statement

ICAC REPORT

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:01): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Today I have received a letter from the Hon. Ann Vanstone KC, Commissioner for the Independent Commission Against Corruption, regarding her report, 'Yes Minister: Corruption risks associated with unsolicited proposals', tabled yesterday.

In that letter the commissioner makes a number of recommendations to the government to improve agency practices relating to unsolicited proposals that do not meet the current minimum threshold for formal consideration within the unsolicited proposals process. Specifically, the commissioner calls for a review and update of the Premier and Cabinet Circular 038, Unsolicited Proposals, as well as a review of the Public Authority Internal Procurement Framework Development Guidelines.

The commissioner's letter has outlined the following recommendations specifically to Procurement Services SA within the Department of Treasury and Finance:

- (1) For proposals that do not meet the minimum financial thresholds under the Department of Treasury and Finance's Guidelines for Assessment of Unsolicited Proposals:
 - (a) review and update the unsolicited proposals scheduled to ensure that conflicts of interest must be declared and managed during the assessment process, and

(b) clarify the form and content required of acquisition plans and purchase recommendations, including the use of templates where appropriate.

(2) Review the Public Authority Internal Procurement Framework Development Guide with the view to ensuring agencies are directed to the appropriate guiding documents for assessing unsolicited proposals of any value (both the guidelines and schedule).

(3) Ensure that this advice is communicated to all government agencies and consider the provision of training for public officers into the correct processes for managing unsolicited proposals.

I have referred the commissioner's correspondence and recommendations to the Chief Executive of the Department of Treasury and Finance—the agency responsible for procurement policy—and also the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as the agency responsible for the circular. I have asked both chief executives to give the commissioner's recommendations and correspondence their due consideration.

The government accepts the recommendations in principle, and in the event we are able to be informed of the particulars and circumstances of the matters that have given rise to the commissioner's report, the government will then be in a position to consider what, if any, further action needs to be considered.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Health and Wellbeing (Hon. C.J. Picton)—

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law—

No. 1 of 2023—Amendment Regulation 2022

No. 2 of 2023—Amendment (Paramedicine Qualification) Regulation 2022

Question Time

COST OF LIVING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:04): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier committed to easing the cost-of-living burden in South Australia and, if so, when will South Australians benefit from this relief? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: The Reserve Bank has lifted interest rates again, to 3.6 per cent, the 10th consecutive increase, with households paying at least an extra \$1,000 each month on the average mortgage. South Australians are also dealing with the highest inflation rate and the lowest real wage growth in the country.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:04): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question because it is certainly a topic of discussion, I think, around every household table throughout the nation at the moment, and that's the cost-of-living crisis that many families are enduring. It's not just a function of rising interest rates, although that is central to it; it's also the rising costs we see around the place, everything from filling up the car with petrol to household groceries or basic services. It's a genuine issue. So I appreciate the question.

There are a number of things that the government is doing to confront the challenge. We are unapologetic about having a rather deliberate focus on ensuring that the government resources that we allocate to the task are orientated to those people in our community who need them most. I think all of us would accept, or certainly reasonable people would accept, that government is not in a position to provide money to everybody, so where we are retaining the ability to do so we should do it for the people who are most vulnerable in our community.

Top of mind, of course, for us are those people who are on particularly low incomes or fixed incomes, such as pensioners for instance, as those who need to be in receipt of support. The best example of the government responding to that is through the doubling of the Cost of Living Concession. That's a policy that we took to the state election. It included an extra \$39.3 million to help 220,000 households across the state. That increase to the Cost of Living Concession is a big increase. That's, like I said, a doubling. It's not insignificant.

The government is now, on the back of that effort—and we know the positive impact that it had in the community—turning our mind to what else we can do in this year's state budget, particularly in the context of energy prices. We are very aware of the fact that energy prices are escalating, or are set to escalate, at a dramatic rate in the second half of this year. It is something that the Treasurer and I have been in active discussions about, including with the federal government.

So there is the doubling of the Cost of Living Concession. We are turning our mind to what we can do in terms of energy concessions and engaging with the commonwealth there, but sometimes it's also the little things that can make a difference. That is why, earlier this year, the government honoured—no, not earlier this year, but it was in fact last year that the government honoured its commitment to make public transport free for all people with Seniors Cards, all of the time. That was something that was restricted previously to certain times of the day. We saw the value of making that available to everyone all of the time, to those who have a Seniors Card.

On top of that, the government has made a number of announcements in respect to the housing crisis, which of course represents a big cost to a lot of people around the community. Yesterday, I furnished the house with information regarding the big change in public policy that we have made, as a government, around public housing stock, but there is also assistance that we have provided to those who are private renters within the market, to better accord for their interests than what is currently the case in a market that is so incredibly tight.

We have boosted funding for Foodbank, for food security. Of course, we have also honoured the commitment that was a bipartisan one in the lead-up to the state election, regarding providing assistance to people with a School Card in South Australia. These are practical, real-world examples of how this government is acknowledging the challenge around the cost of living. We have absolutely been making a contribution towards that, using the resources of the state, with an unapologetic focus on those who need it most.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I recognise the presence in the gallery today of year 5 and year 6 students from Bordertown Primary School, who are guests of the member for MacKillop. Welcome to parliament.

Question Time

COST OF LIVING

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:09): My question is to the Deputy Premier. Does the Deputy Premier stand by her comments from 5 March? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: On 5 March, the Deputy Premier said, with respect to the cost-of-living crisis, and I quote, 'We are very, very sensitive to the challenges that families are having.'

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:09): Yes, I do.

DEPUTY PREMIER, OVERSEAS TRIP

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:09): My question is to the Deputy Premier: did taxpayers pay for the Deputy Premier to stay in the most expensive hotel in Norway?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Point of order. Standing order 97: the question involves argument, sir.

The SPEAKER: It may well do. As well, it might be so expansive as to be difficult to answer and therefore transgress on some commentary in Erskine May in relation to hypothetical questions. It would require the minister in answering to know an enormous amount about a range of facilities. I am not sure that it is necessarily possible to answer in its present form.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! However, I will give the member for Colton the opportunity to recast the question.

Mr COWDREY: Thank you, sir. Does the Deputy Premier give consideration to cost factors when selecting hotels on overseas trips? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: The Deputy Premier has not released her credit card statement from her \$44,000 taxpayer-funded trip to Europe in September last year; however, recent proactive disclosure credit card records from her department show that her travelling companions stayed at Hotel Continental in Norway during their trip. According to their own website, this is a five-star luxury hotel in Oslo, and it is also one of the most expensive hotels in the country.

The SPEAKER: I think that the tail to that series of facts is argumentative; however, I am going to turn to the Deputy Premier.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:11): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I thank you for your earlier guidance. The trip to Norway, which was part of a larger trip that encompassed a number of subject areas, was specifically to talk about ways in which we can learn from Norway's approach to developing green industry. Norway has, I guess unashamedly in some ways, made a lot of money out of hydrocarbons over a long time, but has at least chosen to put that money into a sovereign wealth fund, and to invest that in a way that prepares them better for the future.

Now, their electricity generation internally in Norway is extremely high in renewables, but they have the great advantage at present of being able to use hydro to generate electricity, whereas we of course don't have that in South Australia, and they were very interested in our capability in intermittent renewables. However, having experienced drought in the last year, they are also very, very aware of the challenges of relying on good rainfall to fill up their reservoirs. They have, therefore, an interest in the kind of wind technology that we have been adopting here, and whether they will also adopt more of that, and they also have one of the biggest hydrolyser companies in the world.

For all those reasons, while otherwise also in Europe for a variety of other issues including defence and space, I visited Norway to have meetings with the relevant minister, with her agency, and with the company, and in the course of organising that I assume that the people who did the bookings followed the normal protocols that are established. I have no means of knowing the comparative prices of hotels on that particular night in Norway. I accept that it is expensive to travel in Europe, and to travel in any way at this stage, but it was a brief visit and was one that I found particularly useful.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Colton I remind members that there is some guidance in Erskine May, the current edition, at paragraph 22.22 in relation to questions that are inadmissible, which may seek a solution to hypothetical propositions; raise questions of policy too large to be dealt with in any answer to a question; seek information on matters of past history for the purposes of argument; or are trivial, vague or meaningless. Member for Colton.

DEPUTY PREMIER, OVERSEAS TRIP

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:13): My question is to the Deputy Premier: can the Deputy Premier identify when she and her travelling party made the decision to travel to Norway, and was

the trip to Oslo booked through the government travel agent? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens, member for Badcoe, member for Wright!

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of Government Business is warned. The member for Colton has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COWDREY: Proactive disclosure records show that a trip was charged to her department's credit card on 20 September last year, which was two weeks after the Deputy Premier had left on her trip.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:14): I have no idea of the detail. I don't do the bookings myself. I am happy to investigate and if there is anything that could be clarified, I am happy to get back.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I remind members of the guidance in relation to the questions of the character that I have just provided to the house. Member for Badcoe.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (14:14): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister update the house on the campaign for tourism recovery in the river regions?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:14): I thank the member for Badcoe for the question and her ongoing interest in Tourism South Australia and, of course, the recovery of the river regions.

We have taken a big step forward now that all the restrictions have been removed for river activities. We are now seeing the return of operating watercraft, swimming and canoeing, but we are still asking people to take care when on or in the water. Floodwaters are now slowly starting to recede, allowing for areas on higher ground to begin opening in time for the Easter long weekend. Campsites and walking trails have opened for day trips already.

We encourage people, as we always have, to go up to the river and spend their time there. The Riverbend Caravan Park will be fully open next month, alongside the BIG4 Renmark, which opened last month. Lake Bonney is also open, with more campsites opening around the lake in addition to the Discovery Parks Lake Bonney.

In the Mid Murray Council there was good news yesterday with the Pretoria Hotel reopening and the *Proud Mary* starting her first cruise last month, so we have passengers enjoying the river again. By April, almost 8,000 cabin beds and camping sites are expected to be available in parks across the Riverland and the Murray River Lakes and Coorong regions. This is in addition to more than 900 rooms across hotels and motels and around 260 rooms in almost 80 villas, home stays and world-class retreats.

The Tourism Commission is continuing to monitor the reopening of businesses through its Flood Recovery Working Group and through their regional tourism managers. I want to thank Bill Nehmy and Pamela Canavan who have been working tirelessly in their regions supporting operators and businesses at a very challenging time.

All of this is fantastic news as we launch our river recovery vouchers and our Rise Up for our River marketing campaign. The campaign will run across radio, television and press, as well as social

media for the rest of the year. The campaign will be run in conjunction with the river recovery vouchers, with three rounds announced for tourism operators to take advantage as their businesses are ready for operation.

Feedback from operators has been optimistic and enthusiastic following the campaign workshops held by the Tourism Commission in the regions earlier this month, so much so that the latest numbers provided by me are that there are 90 operators who have expressed interest in putting applications in for the vouchers. That's a fantastic number. It shows that positivity and support for these vouchers. That provides us with about 180 tourism products and experiences and it's great news for the region and it will be a great shot in the arm.

We are going through the final approval process, so that will include things like caravan parks, hotels, villas, glamping, wineries, walking tours, river cruises and houseboats starting in round two, to name a few.

Of course, there is still some work to do and we will spend the next couple of months on-boarding operators and developing the products before the voucher ballot goes live on Monday 27 March at 9am, closing at 10pm on Wednesday 29 March. There will be a randomised ballot process so people have plenty of time to register during those times. Of course, you can go and have a look at southaustralia.com/voucher as well. Just for some details, the ballot will open, there will be a ballot draw on 30 March, and the booking period is 30 March to 28 April for a travel period 31 March to 29 June.

HomeBuilder Program

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:19): My question is to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer written to the federal Treasurer to request an extension to the HomeBuilder scheme and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: It has now been four weeks since the Treasurer informed the house that he had not written to the federal Treasurer to request an extension to HomeBuilder. Up to 1,200 South Australians, including first-home buyers, could lose their HomeBuilder grants of up to \$25,000 through no fault of their own. HomeBuilder deadlines have been previously extended for existing applications in April 2021. It was announced that the construction commencement requirement would be extended from six months to 18 months due to unanticipated construction delays.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:19): I thank the member for Colton for his question. The member for Colton raises the same issue that he did in the last sitting week, and the advice that I provide to the house is the same now as it was then. I have an enormous amount of sympathy for the people who find themselves in the situation where they may find out that they are not able to access the HomeBuilder grant. The member for Colton advocates that I urge the federal government to reopen the scheme—

Mr Cowdrey: No, I'm not—just extend the deadline.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Colton asks that I urge the commonwealth government to reopen the scheme, as he says, to extend the deadline for the group of people who may find themselves in the situation where they miss out. As I have previously advised the house, in my view that would be inequitable to the many hundreds, indeed thousands, of South Australians and, more generally, Australians who have applied for HomeBuilder over the course of the last nearly three years and missed out for a range of reasons, not being able to satisfy a range of criteria.

This is a scheme, as the member for Colton knows, that has been closed for nearly two years now. The extensions which he speaks about were granted nearly two years ago and as I said at that time, when I was addressing this issue in the house, while I feel very sympathetically for the people who may be impacted by this, I don't see it as equitable on all of those other people who have missed out on a range of different criteria.

When I last addressed this topic in this place I did say to the member for Colton that, to the extent to which the individual circumstances may be able to be raised with the Department of Treasury and Finance Revenue SA officers to see if something could be done about their particular circumstances, I would gladly make that available. When I got back to the office—and I conducted the same task again today when I became aware that the member for Colton would be raising this issue in this place—I asked my office if a letter had been written, not by me to the commonwealth, but by the member for Colton to me to raise this issue at all. I was shocked to discover that, despite the member for Colton walking out into the media and using the unfortunate circumstances—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —that some South Australians find themselves in for political purposes—

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

The SPEAKER: Member for Morialta!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —he calls on me to take the action—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton, member for Schubert!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —which he is too lazy to take himself. I am aware from media reports—

Ms Stinson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Badcoe!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —that some people may find themselves in a difficult situation with regard to finance, for example, for the property they are seeking to build. That is why I made the comment last sitting week that, perhaps if their financier is looking at imposing, for example, Lenders Mortgage Insurance for the first time, maybe they would be served by their advocate, the member for Colton, making their details available to me or my office so that I could get them in touch with the government's home lender, HomeStart, that doesn't charge Lenders Mortgage Insurance, which may save some people more than \$10,000.

I find it a little bit rich, when all of us in this place sympathise with the people who may be caught by this situation—

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —when I have made an offer to do what this government legitimately is able to, the member for Colton—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —has not put in any effort himself in order to—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —advance their actual interests.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens! The member for Badcoe is warned and the member for Schubert is warned. Member for Colton.

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:23): My question is again to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer spoken to the Queensland Treasurer about HomeBuilder? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: The Queensland Labor Treasurer, Cameron Dick, wrote to federal Labor housing minister Julie Collins in the last two weeks asking her to, I quote, 'urgently consult with states and territories,' and that 'a 12-month extension at the April 30, 2024 deadline for HomeBuilder was required.'

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:24): No, I haven't, and as far as I'm advised, I also haven't received any communication from the federal housing minister either.

GENDER EQUALITY

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:24): My question is to the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. How is the government working to ensure that women and girls can equally and actively participate in our economy and in every aspect of community life?

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:24): I thank the member for this question and her longstanding commitment to advancing the interests of women and girls in our community and beyond. This government is profoundly committed to working to create a state in which your gender has no bearing on the opportunities available to you. We want to be a state which is renowned for equal opportunity for girls and women, that empowers women to live their best possible lives and that realises the benefits for all that an equal future creates.

Structural and community action is needed to realise this equal future. Women continue to face a horrific scourge of violence, limited perceptions about the roles that women can play, under-representation in leadership positions, a persistent gender pay gap with older women more likely to retire with little savings and to live their older years in poverty. There is much to be done.

Together with the incredible group of women with whom I share these benches and the outstanding men who we work alongside, we can and we will make a difference. We are supporting the economic participation of South Australian women through our Gender Pay Gap Taskforce so that we can understand and address the factors that contribute to the 7.4 per cent gender pay gap here in South Australia. The task force is underway, and I look forward to receiving their recommendations about actions to reduce the gap.

Gender equality in decision-making makes for better decisions, decisions that are more reflective of community expectations. Today we launched the re-established Premier's Women's Directory, providing an additional avenue for South Australian women to join state government boards. The Premier's Women's Directory will support our government's commitment to work toward achieving 50 per cent representation of women on state government boards. We have re-established the Women in Sport Taskforce to break barriers that prevent women and girls from equally and actively participating in their sporting passions.

Both the Premier's Women's Directory and the Women in Sport Taskforce were shamefully shut down, cruelly cut by the previous government. For a relatively small investment, these initiatives can help make a difference and advance us closer toward gender equality. We have funded a \$4 million Women in Business package and work is underway to introduce an equality bill which will seek to facilitate the systemic achievement of gender equality.

There are complex inter-relationships between women's leadership and participation, their economic opportunities, and attitudes toward women that manifest in the experience of family, domestic and sexual violence, violence that has no place in our community. We are committed to enacting legislative change, preventive actions and pathways for recovery.

This year, we will introduce a bill that represents the next frontier in our quest to prevent and end domestic violence, a bill to criminalise coercive control. This legislation will move beyond responding only to incidences of domestic violence to also contemplating the horrific patterns of abuse that are coercive control, that set out to diminish one's sense of self worth and autonomy.

To further develop public discourse and awareness about troubling behaviours, next week we are hosting our See the Signs Coercive Control forum with courageous advocates, Sue and Lloyd Clarke. Hannah Clarke and her three children—Sue and Lloyd's daughter and grandchildren—were killed by her former partner in a horrifying attack in 2020 following a relationship in which she was a victim of this insidious form of domestic abuse. I encourage all to attend.

Our government is staunchly committed to making a real difference to the lives of women in South Australia. We are proud to have reinstated funding to Catherine House and the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service, which were cut by the previous government. We will continue to relentlessly speak up and act to prevent and end all forms of gendered violence.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Colton, I recognise the presence in the gallery today of Hayley and Alana, recent graduates of Golden Grove High School, who wish to see parliament today and who are guests of the member for King.

Question Time

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:29): My question is to the Treasurer. Did the Treasurer recently write to HomeBuilder applicants and, if so, has he received any feedback from recipients? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Recipients of the Treasurer's letter include the following applicants who have given permission for their comments to be passed on. Lisa MacInven said, 'It's ball [expletive]; it's infuriating.' Lee-Ann said, 'Kick in the guts for sure.' Caity Richardson said, 'They've just sent out the backlog letters as I got exactly the same response,' and, 'Tough [expletive] at the end of the day for all of us, it seems.' Alycia said:

I was horrified, shocked and distraught by the letter from the Treasurer's office. I disclosed sensitive information about my dire personal situation and did not receive any kind of compassion, consideration or support. It is incredibly distressing...I am appalled...

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:30): Yes, I did receive responses to the correspondence, as the member has just read out. I think the tone and the nature of the responses demonstrates why those applicants have my sympathy, my very genuine sympathy. But I reiterate, it is not a—

Mr Cowdrey: Do what the Queensland Treasurer did.

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: As I have reiterated a number of times to the member for Colton, it is not within my discretion to make these payments under the scheme. This is a scheme which has been closed for nearly two years. When the media itself made inquiries of the federal government they themselves have confirmed the status of that scheme. The reason that it is not being reopened or I am not seeking to reopen the scheme for one group of people who find themselves in this very regrettable situation is because it would be fundamentally inequitable for all of those other people who found themselves in similar situations and missed out on the scheme as well.

I understand their frustrations. I share them. But it is not within my purview or capacity to alleviate their frustrations by giving them these funds. The reason we have not made their

representations to the federal government is, as I said before, that it would be inequitable for all of those other people who have missed out according to exactly—

Mr Cowdrey: The Queensland Treasurer didn't think so. He had a heart.

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is warned for a final time.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Because it would be inequitable for all those other people who have missed out on exactly the same terms and conditions of the scheme that was approved and signed up to by the previous coalition government and the previous Liberal state government and, as I said, it has been closed for more than two years.

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The Deputy Leader says circumstances have moved on and he may be aware, of course, that pressures within the building industry have not suddenly changed since 19 March last year. They have been existent for some time, and they have also led to many other—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned for a final time.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: As I have indicated, there are many other South Australians who applied for the HomeBuilder scheme at both value levels—either \$25,000 or \$15,000—who have missed out according to those same pressures within the industry. So, while those people have missed out, while those people were rejected under similar circumstances by the previous Treasurer of the previous government, what we now have is the member for Colton advocating that the scheme should be reopened and an exception made for this group of South Australians. As I said, they have my full sympathy. I share their frustrations, including those that they have expressed in their letters. But that is the reason that we have taken the approach that we have.

NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS

Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:33): My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on natural gas discoveries in the Cooper Basin?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:34): As it stands, I can, and I thank the member for Florey for his question. I am pleased to inform the house that we now have another gas supplier in the Cooper Basin, amongst the existing producers, Santos and Beach Energy.

Vintage Energy was formed in Adelaide in 2015 amid the backdrop of the developing energy and gas supply crisis in the Eastern States. The company listed on 17 September 2018. Since then, it has targeted natural gas exploration opportunities that could deliver much-needed gas into the South Australian and eastern Australian gas markets.

Only 4½ years after it was listed, this successful South Australian company is already now supplying natural gas into the Moomba gas gathering network. Vintage Energy and its joint venture partners, Metgasco and Bridgeport Energy, have discovered two gas fields since 2020. In 2020, they discovered Vali 1, a gas field in south-west Queensland, which they followed up with two additional wells to evaluate the discovery. This field is one of the largest Cooper Basin discoveries made in the past decade. In 2021, they discovered Odin 1, a nearby gas field on the South Australian side of the Cooper Basin border.

Vali 1 has since been connected to the SA Cooper Basin gas gathering infrastructure and delivered its first natural gas production last month on 21 February 2023. AGL prepaid the \$15 million joint venture enabling Vali 1 to be brought online earlier than expected, and a long-term supply agreement with AGL was pivotal to securing the capital. Vali 1 gas has been contracted to supply an estimated nine to 16 petajoules of gas to AGL from field startup to the end of 2026. They expect the field would lead to production of 101 petajoules of natural gas over the field's life, 85 petajoules of which is uncontracted.

As I mentioned, Vintage has another opportunity in the Cooper Basin that they are currently pursuing. Works to connect the Odin 1 gas field to gas infrastructure is underway and is expected to be completed this year. The field has been independently certified as containing contingent resource of 40 petajoules of gas. Gas from both fields will be processed here in South Australia and will feed the South Australian and eastern Australian gas markets. As the Odin 1 gas field is located in South Australia, production from that gas field has the added benefit of creating royalties for South Australia.

The South Australian government congratulates Vintage Energy and the Cooper Basin joint venture for the integration of the Moomba gas gathering network. Both the South Australian and commonwealth governments support the gas industry as an essential partner in the energy transition for many years to come.

The Prime Minister yesterday said that gas has a key role to play in the smooth transition to renewables and guaranteeing energy security for both Australia and our partners in the region. These significant gas discoveries stand to supply the South Australian and eastern Australian markets for many years to come. I commend Vintage Energy and the South Australians behind it.

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:37): My question is again to the Treasurer. What does the Treasurer say to Michael of Goodwood? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Michael Thompson is a first-home buyer who signed a contract to purchase an apartment off the plan in December 2020 but wouldn't have taken the risk had it not been for the \$25,000 grant. The original planned completion date was December 2021 but due to widespread building and construction delays this was amended to April-May 2023. Michael said, and I quote:

My place is almost finished, and it is meant to be an exciting time, but it is dampened by the stress of not knowing whether I will receive the grant or not...it's only fair that the deadline...is extended...to not disadvantage those of us who bought off the plan.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:38): I thank the member for Colton for his question. I say to Michael that he has my sympathies and I can imagine how frustrating and dampened his experience of building a new home would be.

I reiterate my offer if people are experiencing circumstances where, outside of doing what the member for Colton asks and reopening the scheme and making an exception for people who find themselves in this particular situation, if there are other things that can be looked at, other pressures that can be alleviated, whether it's through home financing—I am not sure what contractual obligations there are on the builder, for example, in that scenario, for having missed that construction deadline—then I reiterate the offer that we are happy to make Department of Treasury and Finance and RevenueSA officers available to speak with Michael and those in similar situations.

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:39): My question is again to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer direct RevenueSA to review their decision regarding Jesamine, Jason and their young family from Flagstaff Hill and, if not, why not? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Jesamine, Jason and their young family purchased a property a few years earlier than planned because of the HomeBuilder grant, but recently they received a letter from RevenueSA advising that they have been rejected from accessing HomeBuilder because their build had not commenced within 18 months, even though they had provided the required statutory declaration within 18 months, complete with photographic evidence of their block, confirming that their build had in fact commenced?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:40): In short, I won't be directing RevenueSA to do anything on the basis of a question that the member for Colton has asked me in this place, because, as I mentioned in response to his first question, the member for Colton

unfortunately hasn't furnished me with any information about any of the people that he supposes to advocate for. But if there is a situation that the member for Colton—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta can depart the chamber under 137A for the remainder of question time. He has been for some time on his final warning.

The honourable member for Morialta having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: However, if there are particulars that the member for Colton might bring himself to furnish to me, in that circumstance where it appears on the face of it that they have satisfied all of the criteria of the HomeBuilder scheme, then of course RevenueSA should be encouraged to look at that. But as I have said, if the member for Colton is reluctant to correspond with me and advocate directly on behalf of his constituents and, instead, conduct it through the media, I don't have the opportunity to do that.

HomeBuilder Program

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:41): My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer provide assistance to Colin from Underdale and, if not, why not? With your leave is, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Colin Scarlett's house is still being built and will not be complete for at least another few months. Colin is retired and will be forced to spend another \$25,000 out of his retirement savings if he loses access to the HomeBuilder grant.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:42): Again, despite having the first name of the constituent that the member for Colton has raised in this place, he hasn't furnished me with any further particulars about Colin's circumstances. However, if he is able to provide those, looking at those circumstances, if ostensibly the situation is that he has satisfied the HomeBuilder criteria, then that would be a situation of course that RevenueSA should absolutely be encouraged to examine, if it appears on the face of it that they have made the wrong decision.

But if the circumstance is in fact something different, which is that they can't satisfy that criteria of the HomeBuilder scheme that the member for Colton is encouraging me to negotiate with the commonwealth government to be opened back up and changed for the group of people who find themselves in this very difficult and unfortunate situation, then that is not something that I would direct RevenueSA to do, because that would of course be a breach of the national partnership agreement which the previous comment struck with the previous coalition government federally.

However, let me reiterate the offer that I have made now over a period of more than two weeks to the member for Colton: if there are people who want to avail themselves of the opportunity to catch up with Department of Treasury and Finance officers, RevenueSA staff, to look at the particulars of their circumstances to see, beyond HomeBuilder, if there is any additional effort or assistance that can be put to their circumstances, then that offer remains absolutely open.

Parliamentary Procedure

Visitors

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mawson, I recognise the presence in the gallery today of Diana Mislov, who is the Mayor of the City of Port Lincoln. Welcome to parliament.

Question Time

Food and Beverage Exports

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. How is the South Australian government supporting our premium producers at international food and beverage exhibitions?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (14:44): I thank the member for

Mawson for his question; he is always a great champion for our food and wine sector. The house would have seen, yesterday, the ABS trade statistics released for Australian jurisdictions. South Australians have another record export high of \$16.5 billion.

These figures really do demonstrate the importance of South Australia's trading relationship with Asia. Two of South Australia's top three export markets and eight of our top 10 largest trading partners are now in Asia. We see the region continue to be a really lucrative market for South Australian food and beverage companies. In 2022, South Australian companies exported \$1.4 billion worth of food and beverages to the region, which is a 26.6 per cent increase.

It's for that reason that we continue to support South Australian producers and businesses on the world stage at two of Asia's biggest food and beverage exhibitions. The 48th International Food and Beverage Exhibition, FOODEX 2023, held in Tokyo, Japan, commences this week. About 90,000 people are expected to attend and taste products from more than 3,000 producers around the world.

The exhibition follows growth in the value of South Australian food and beverage exports to Japan, most notably in premium wine. The value of premium South Australian wine exports to Japan grew to \$7.2 million during 2022, an increase of almost 52 per cent on the previous year. The value of food and beverage exports to Japan has increased by more than 5 per cent on the previous year. We see that bluefin tuna from Eyre Peninsula is our largest food commodity export to Japan.

FOODEX is an opportunity for South Australian companies to showcase premium produce and gain a foothold in this very large market. Twenty-three South Australian brands will be front and centre at that food and beverage exhibition. These brands represent South Australia's premium food and beverages, such as honey, wine, beer, gourmet sauces, seafood, olive oil and almonds. The South Australian brands will be part of a Tasting South Australia exhibit.

My department will also be doing a Tasting South Australia press event, held at the Australian Embassy, presenting a talk show style cooking demonstration. Our Tasting South Australia ambassadors will be present to present the South Australian products, demonstrating how easily they can be cooked at home as restaurant-quality meals, using South Australian ingredients and pairing not only wine but gin as well with the meals. That's particularly important. Tasting South Australia is a brand that is already familiar to the Japanese market, particularly through Japan's largest online e-commerce site, Rakuten. Two of the 23 brands attending FOODEX will be there: Buzz Honey and Soul Diva will both be present at that very important event.

We will also be present at Food & Hotel Asia, held in Singapore. We were there last year. It is a very important event to connect. Registrations are currently open for this year's exhibition, and the Department for Trade and Investment will have a really large presence at that event in Singapore as well.

These are really, really important opportunities for business to get out there and connect with buyers in the Asian market. This government takes a sophisticated and mature approach to these things. We know the world is open for business, and we want to be open for business as well. We know the opposition is trending towards sort of an immature, populist, third-rate approach to this.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morphett!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Flinders! Order, member for West Torrens! Member for Taylor, order! The member for Taylor is warned. Member for Colton.

HOMEBUILDER PROGRAM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:48): My question is again to the Treasurer. What does the Treasurer say to Shannon Baker? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Aspiring home owner Shannon Baker has two casual jobs and works 35 to 40 hours each week and said, and I quote, 'Owning a house is an unattainable dream at this point' and 'My plan for real estate ownership is to wait until my parents die.'

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:49): Well, to the extent that the member for Colton's constituent feels frustration and angst about missing out on HomeBuilder, to him I say, as I have said to the others—

Mr Cowdrey: Every one of your backbench is sitting there saying, 'Just pick up the phone.'

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton, you are on a final warning, and a further interjection will see you departing the chamber. The Treasurer has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Newland is called to order. Order, member for Waite! The member for Badcoe is warned for a second time. Member for Newland, you are warned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Wright! The Treasurer has the call.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: That was a D-grade outburst while we are discussing serious issues that are impacting people in serious ways—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey! Treasurer, please be seated.

Mr Cowdrey: If it's so serious, do something about it.

The SPEAKER: Treasurer, take a seat. Member for Colton, you will depart the chamber for the remainder of question time under 127A. Member for Florey and the member for Badcoe will join him for the remainder of question time. Member for Newland, you are on a final warning.

The honourable members for Colton, Florey and Badcoe having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer is continuing his answer.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: As I was saying, Shannon has my full sympathy, and I can only imagine the frustrations that he feels. This is why I have continued to extend the availability of Department of Treasury and Finance officers, and also RevenueSA, to see what other avenues might be pursued, particularly in that circumstance, to get someone into first-home ownership who doesn't feel that they are able to access home ownership or achieve home ownership through traditional channels. It may not be relevant to their circumstances, but we will only know if we make the attempt.

This is why, at the last election, we committed to introducing 2 per cent and 3 per cent deposit home loans through the government's home lender, HomeStart, to people on low and fixed incomes because, unlike every other financial institution, we don't charge Lenders Mortgage Insurance on home loans. When people feel that it's impossible, for example, to save a 20 per cent deposit to try to avoid spending tens of thousands of dollars on Lenders Mortgage Insurance, then for a much smaller deposit amount they can get into home ownership through a home loan through HomeStart.

Now, as I said, that may not be something that fits the circumstances of the constituent that the member for Colton raises, but I reiterate that offer. I do sympathise with people who find themselves in this situation, and I would like to try to find a way of assisting them if possible, beyond the HomeBuilder scheme. That is why the government has put so much time, effort and resources into a suite of housing announcements aimed to assist South Australians who are locked out of secure housing, for example, all the way through to home ownership.

We remain committed to this task of getting more South Australians into housing, and into home ownership, and whether it is Shannon (the member for Colton's constituent) or whether it is someone else, we look forward to continuing those efforts.

GENDER EQUALITY

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for Women: has the gender pay gap increased under the Malinauskas Labor government and, if so, why? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: As reported by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, the gender pay gap was 7.1 per cent in 2021, the lowest in the nation, under the former Liberal government. Since the election, South Australia has been only one of two states where the gender pay gap has gone up and has now increased to 7.8 per cent for 2023.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (14:53): Thank you to the member for the question. I am so pleased to have the opportunity to talk about the many commitments that the Malinauskas Labor government has made and is executing to advance the interests of girls and women here in South Australia and beyond. I am really, really happy to have this opportunity to speak about this.

What I can say, first of all, is that we took to the election a comprehensive policy with a suite of actions in relation to improving women's economic equality, and a suite of actions related to ensuring that we can progress toward a place where domestic violence is prevented and ended. Our commitments came after a period of time when we saw those opposite cruelly cut services for women in our community who most needed support—

Mr TARZIA: Point of order, sir.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: \$1.2 million was cut from Catherine House—

The SPEAKER: Minister, please be seated. I will hear the point of order.

Mr TARZIA: Quite clearly standing order 98; the minister is quite clearly digressing into debate.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Elder! In the first minute of the question some context has been found by former Speakers, including the member for Hartley, to be of value to the house. I will listen carefully. I have the point of order. Minister.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: What I might say, just to clear things up for this group over here, is that there is a deep interconnection between economic inequality experienced by women and their experience of domestic, family and sexual violence. So when we talk about—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —women's economic equality and we have questions and comments from the group over there, from a party—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —that cut funding to Catherine House of \$1.2 million, that cut funding to the DV Court Assistance Service (funding that we have restored), from a group that when we were in opposition we moved a bill—

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Frome!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —to include the experience of domestic violence as a ground of discrimination in the Equal Opportunity Act—

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Frome.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: That is important. When women who experience domestic violence keep their connection to their workplace and to their industry, it means that they are more likely to have economic security and be able to continue that really important connection, both for their monetary benefit and also for the other connections through the workplace.

A new iteration of that bill is now in the upper house, but that bill that we introduced in 2019 and then again in 2021, so a crucial bill that improves economic equality for women and keeps their connection to the workplace, we introduced it twice and what did those over there—who were then over here—do? They rejected it. They voted against it, not once, but twice—twice.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Clancy interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Elder!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: It's a really, really interesting question because if you don't understand the deep connection between the experience of domestic violence and economic inequality, I would be really happy to explain it to you. As we continue to progress legislation in this house that improves women's economic equality and participation and that responds to that very interconnected issue around domestic violence, I really do hope that they find it in their hearts, with compassion and empathy for the economic equality of women, that they actually choose to support those bills. I can go on to let the house also know about the clear action that we have taken on the gender pay gap.

The SPEAKER: Minister, your time has expired. I also draw members' attention to Standing Order 120:

Reference to debate in the other House.

A Member may not refer to any debate in the other House of Parliament or to any measure impending in that House.

RIVERLAND FLOOD RESPONSE

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Small and Family Business. Can the minister provide an update on how the state government is supporting businesses impacted by the flooding of the River Murray?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:58): I thank the member for Newland for her question. As the member is aware and people in this place are aware, the River Murray flooding event has had a really devastating impact on hundreds of small businesses throughout the Riverland and the Mid Murray communities. Even those who have been spared inundation with the floodwaters have been impacted through power cuts, access restrictions and loss of trade. There has been severe impact on a number of businesses.

The Malinauskas government was quick to act, as it was a slow-moving disaster that approached. We developed a comprehensive support package for businesses. We have implemented a number of targeted grant programs for businesses, as well as funding free financial counselling for business owners through Rural Business Support, which has been quite useful, and assistance from representatives from the government's Office of Small and Family Business as well.

In terms of the grants to support small businesses, I am pleased to advise the house that as at the end of last week we had 103 applications approved for the Business Early Closure Grant. That provided up to \$20,000 to business owners who had to close ahead of the rising water. That is \$1.6 million that has hit their bank accounts. Two hundred and seventy-seven applications have been approved for the Generator Grant. That has reimbursed businesses and households who purchased generators due to a loss of power or a warning of a loss of power being imminent from SA Power Networks. That has had a total value of more than \$430,000.

We have recently launched the Industry Support Grant, which has so far assisted 42 businesses with a \$10,000 grant, so \$420,000 out the door, where businesses had a 30 per cent or more reduction in revenue, and there are a lot more of those applications coming through the system at the moment. There is also a flood recovery grant now available to assist businesses with clean-up costs of up to \$50,000 and, as the Minister for Tourism spoke about earlier, there is significant work in the tourism support space as well for those businesses.

I acknowledge that a number of these applications have taken longer to process due to the complex nature of the business structures and some of the documentation that has been required to be provided, but I have been receiving weekly updates. The vast majority of these applications have been processed within days, and total direct funding hitting the bank accounts of small business owners is now more than \$2.5 million.

I have seen firsthand the impact that business owners and local communities have faced over the last few months, with regular visits, including to Berri, Renmark, Blanchetown, Mannum and Murray Bridge, as well as other towns along the river.

The financial losses are significant, and many business owners were unable to take out insurance at all or claim on those insurance policies. They have taken on additional debt, and it will take years for these businesses to recover, and that is once access and power has been restored, clean-up undertaken and restocking completed. All of that is going to take time.

Many of the businesses I have spoken to have prioritised paying the staff who are often seen as their extended family, to ensure that those staff members are supported and kept connected with those businesses. That is a wonderful thing that they are doing.

These are passionate, committed and resilient people who are doing extraordinary things, but they are impacted. Their mental health has been impacted and that is of great concern. There is support available, so I encourage anyone in that situation to seek that support that is available. In addition to the financial support and mental health support, the Riverland Community Justice Centre and Southern Community Justice Centre are providing legal assistance to businesses as well, if they need it.

LIV GOLF

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Women and Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing. Will the minister attend LIV Golf and, if so, will she do so as the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing or as the Minister for Women? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: It has been reported that LIV Golf has been criticised for attempting to sportswash Saudi Arabia's human rights record. On 5 January this year, the UN Committee against Torture listed a range of serious concerns with Saudi Arabia's human rights record, including the 'involuntary sterilization of women with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities', the legal status of 'violence against women, including rape, marital rape and forced marriage'.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:03): I thank the member for her question. I was hoping that there would be a further question first of all, before I get to that one, about the gender pay gap—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —because I just wanted to say here—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —in this house that we take decisive action in relation to issues that impact women.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The reason that we take decisive action on issues that impact women is because we have—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister—

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —diversity in our decision-making body. We have women in our party—

Mr TARZIA: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: Minister, please be seated. There is a point of order.

Mr TARZIA: Standing order 98, sir. This is completely out of order debate and ridiculous.

The SPEAKER: Order! The rhetorical flourish is unhelpful. I have the standing order. There is some merit in the point of order put to me. Minister, question time is close to expiring. We have the standing order in hand. We will turn to you. Minister.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is interesting that those opposite refer to a discussion about diversity in decision-making as ridiculous. The reason that we are focused on a range of women's issues is because we have women in our parliamentary ranks, and the reason that we have a majority of women—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —in our parliamentary ranks—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: The reason we have a majority of women in our parliamentary ranks is because we believe that there are roughly equal numbers of meritorious women and men, and so when there wasn't that reflection—

Mr Tarzia interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —of equality in our parliamentary ranks we took real action to change that, and look what happened.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: We have all of these women here of merit—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland! Member for Frome!

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Schubert!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: But to come back to this question, I have responded to a very similar question about Liv Golf previously.

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Frome!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: I think it was the shadow minister for sport, and I did answer fulsomely at that time and I can add to that answer today by saying I will certainly check my diary, although I probably don't need to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —because what these over there spend their time doing, rather than talking about domestic violence, rather than talking about child protection, is actually just FOI-ing my diary—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD: —so maybe one of the shadow ministers can let you know when it appears in my diary.

Grievance Debate

RIVER MURRAY FLOOD

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:07): I rise to talk about the recovery process in regard to what is happening with Murraylands and River Murray communities, but certainly will focus on what is happening in my neck of the woods in the Mid Murray and Lower Murray areas. We see town levees coming down in Mannum, which is a good sight to see as part of the recovery process moving forward.

The DefenCell has all gone, and a lot of the temporary levees have been removed. The one on Mary Ann Reserve will be reduced in height. I think the flow rate is probably going to range somewhere between 120 gigalitres and 150 gigalitres a day and the levee will be landscaped as a feature of Mary Ann Reserve so that it does not look like a huge levee as it does at the moment. If that has to be reactivated in the short-term, DefenCell can be used to do that.

I notice that the ferries are running at Mannum. We cannot have traffic over onto Hunter Road because that is being rebuilt and it has about another four weeks to go. That road was completely washed away but people from Haythorpe and Bolto reserves can get over there with light vehicles to access their properties. Also there is a passenger ferry in place to get people across the river to the main site of Mannum and that assists schoolchildren coming across as well. I note that there is a bus to get from the ferry, roughly two kilometres up to the school.

I am pretty sure the Mannum caravan park is reopening today. That has suffered significant losses through being leveed off, so to speak, against the river. The Pretoria Hotel, the good old Pretoria Hotel, a Hurley hotel, opened on Monday. I note that they have a bit of landscaping to do but they were very fortunate that it did not flow into the top floor, and I think it was by a few hundred millimetres of water that that did not happen. I note that SA Water have restored sewer outlets to over 120 homes and businesses in the low-lying area of Mannum to get them back on track with their sewer and wastewater usage.

Councils are working hard—the Mid Murray Council is especially working hard on getting some of their facilities open and through inspections of the Community Wastewater Management System (CWMS). There is a lot of work to do there. That will be progressed through those river communities.

Boat ramps are a huge issue. The councils are doing what they can, including the Rural City of Murray Bridge and Mid Murray. I urge the state government to provide logistical support to get these boat ramps open. I know they are council property but in the Mid Murray Council region there are at least 50 and there are quite a few in the Rural City of Murray Bridge region. They need to be worked on to make sure that engineering is up to speed, that they are checked for damage and that sort of thing. Now that the river is open we vitally need to get that tourism aspect of the River Murray back up to full speed again. Public toilets are getting switched on and there is work on reserves alongside the river.

Pumping water from agricultural swamps has begun. I met with Scott Ashby, who has been contracted by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), and he is meeting with them. There are 20-plus swamps that need pumping and I note the support that is ongoing by the government about supplying pumps and diesel. It is a long and complicated response.

Some of these swamps are smaller than others and the levee bank is in place so they can pump water over it, but there are more complicated areas, like Mypolonga, where the levee bank had a breach of 180 metres. Obviously you have to have the levee right before you can pump the water clean to get that valuable agriculture process going. That is being worked through. The Mid Murray Council has 200 kilometres of roads that are coming out from under the water and that will need a lot of work. I note that the Green Industries collection of waste and debris will be a massive effort, from what I am hearing, right on the scene.

One thing that will be absolutely vital moving into the future—as we know that some people's shacks will have to be knocked down and rebuilt—is the planning process. It will have to be right up to speed and align directly with code, not just to assist those shack owners and landholders but to make sure that we get the right insurance outcomes for these people in the future. I am certainly working with the communities in all these river areas to make sure we get that recovery in place well into the future.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:12): Today I would like to speak in this place about the International Women's Day event I attended this morning in the Town of Gawler. The event had the theme of embracing equity. There were approximately 130 people who attended this morning, predominantly women, but there were some men as well.

The event was well attended by local schools, including the Gawler and District College, Xavier College and Trinity College. A number of scholarships and awards were presented to some young women from those three colleges. The organising committee raises funds which they present to students, young women, to help them with their studies, and the STEM awards were sponsored by a third party.

The event had three guest speakers and a panel discussion. The panel included Judy Ferguson, a retired principal. Judy is very well known in Gawler for her work in the arts but also in a whole range of other community organisations. Amongst other things at the moment, she is the chair of the Gawler Community Gallery. She is also a published author and has written both fiction and non-fiction, and has undertaken a lot of work throughout her whole life improving the quality of life for women. That goes back also within the education system when she joined in less enlightened times and she had to deal with a whole range of discrimination which existed in the service at the time.

One of the other panel speakers was Dawn Connelly who originally comes from England. Dawn has worked in the British defence forces and now is also a registered nurse and does some work as an agency nurse in various nursing homes. She spoke about her experiences. The third one was Bryony Tucker, a young scientist, who has completed a PhD. She is a research scientist in pig reproduction and pig health. She made the joke that she works with pigs every day but the four-legged type.

It is interesting that these three women are at different stages of their lives—a young woman entering her career, a woman who has had some time off but still working, and a woman who is actually retired from the workforce. They were able to present their life experience and how things have changed, not to say that things do not need to change further, but certainly when they look back they have changed considerably.

The event is put on by a committee comprising various local organisations including the Zonta Club of Gawler, the Gawler VIEW Club, the Country Women's Association of Gawler, the Gawler Girl Guides and a number of community members including Kim Wright from the Gawler Children's Centre. Kim is quite active in a whole range of things, particularly helping children. She does a lot of work with young dads and young mums and does really important work in promoting wellbeing in our community.

This is an important event and every year they have different speakers and just talk about issues, also to reflect upon how we are progressing. The event would not be possible if it was not for the support of various organisations, which I would like to mention: the VIEW Club of Gawler, the Zonta Club of Gawler, the South Australian Country Women's Association and the Gawler Bottlebrush Ladies, Kiwanis Club of Barossa, the Rotary Club of Gawler, Lions Club of Gawler, Lions Club of Angle Vale, Bunnings, Willaston Hotel, Cafe Sia, Girl Guides, Naomi Reschke, various members of the committee, also people donating a number of things for raffles. The event was held at Nixon's Function Centre. They do a really great job there—

Mr Pederick: Yes, they do.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: They do, yes—also supported by Kibble Consulting and TryBooking.

Just in the time I have left, in talking about International Women's Day, I think it is very important that we do not forget about the women in this world who we do not hear about, the women right across the world who in addition to suffering the type of discrimination and glass ceilings that women in the West experience, they experience even further discrimination—lack of housing, lack of food and the poverty that strikes them. While I appreciate that we have a long way to go in Australia, in terms of the world we have a long, long way to go before women get an opportunity to live reasonable lives.

PALMER, MR G.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:17): I rise today to honour and remember the life of long-time West Beach local, Garth Palmer, who sadly passed away on Sunday 26 February, aged 81. Garth was a legend, an upstanding legend of my community, and we are deeply saddened by the news of his passing. He held the positions of Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor of the City of West Torrens on several occasions and served on council as a councillor for the Airport Ward from the early 1980s through to 2014—well over 30 years of service to our area and the local council.

Beyond council, Garth also held many positions of leadership within the community. Garth led the establishment of the Airport Over 50s Club in Fulham and the West Torrens council rightfully recognised his contributions at the Over 50s Club by naming the building on Coral Sea Road, where the club is located, the Garth Palmer Hall last year.

He was a board member at Adelaide Shores. He was very involved with the West Beach Neighbourhood Watch, delivering newsletters, giving residents an insight into council decisions and being the go-to man for residents' complaints and advice. He was involved with the governing council of the West Beach Primary School and was a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Kidman Park.

Garth had also been a volunteer director for the Community Bank, West Beach, since 2017 and was always a keen participant at the community events that they sponsored over the years. Garth's determination to improve our local area was recognised at the opening of the Apex Park redevelopment in 2019. The park was just one of his many passions, and his legacy will live on, as residents and visitors enjoy the wonderful facilities created at Apex Park.

Serving in the Airport Ward alongside Garth for over 25 years was Rosalie Haese, who I spoke to today to gather her thoughts on Garth's legacy. Rosalie spoke fondly of the support he provided to her to establish the Fulham Community Centre and to secure the redevelopment of Lockleys Oval. As Rosalie put it, and I quote, 'Garth was totally committed to our community but, importantly, always totally committed to his family.' He was the loved husband of Carolyn, the loved father and father-in-law of Mathew, Kate, Megan and Joe, the loved pop of Emily, James, RJ and Ryder.

Tomorrow the family and, I imagine, many friends of Garth will assemble for his funeral service at St Peter's Anglican Church in Glenelg. Personally, I will miss him. I always appreciated his sound advice, wisdom and guidance over the years. Garth was a very busy man even in retirement, and he will be sadly missed by our entire community. Vale Garth Palmer.

I also rise today to wish congratulations and good luck to Harry Neilson, Spencer Johnston, Daniel Drew and Kelvin Smith—young, local cricketers from our local club, West Torrens District

Cricket Club, based at Henley Memorial Oval. All four players have been named in the South Australia's 13 for the Marsh Cup final against WA, starting a little later this afternoon.

It is the first time in my memory—although I know Denis Brien will correct me—that we have four West Torrens players in the South Australian 13. It is certainly the most by a long way in recent memory. It does say a lot about the club's junior program when each and every one of those players came through it. If you are a budding young cricketer, take notice of the club's junior trials for next season, as it could be you competing for South Australia and out there at the Marsh Cup final.

I had the opportunity to see and catch up with a number of members, very importantly the non-playing members, at the Golden Eagle luncheon that was held last weekend at the oval. Unfortunately, it was not quite the result we were looking for on that day, but I wish the West Torrens cricket club the best of luck for the remainder of their season and look forward to catching up with them very soon.

COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:22): Two local soccer clubs have once again come together and donned their boots, all to raise important funds for an incredible cause last weekend: our local CFS stations—two stations that not only have worked hard during the bushfire season for our community but also go and support other communities where there is need. Just last weekend, some were near Marion Bay lending a hand, and recently some were also in Port Lincoln. In fact, during the event, the One Tree Hill CFS also was called to help at an incident on Black Top Road, because that is what these incredible volunteers do: they roll up their sleeves and they help wherever there is a need.

For the fourth year in a row, the Tea Tree Gully City Soccer Club and One Tree Hill Soccer Club came together to help raise awareness about fire safety within the local community, helping to build stronger connections with the community and the crews who work so hard to protect us. Food trucks, stalls, children's entertainment and a licensed bar all formed part of the day, along with a raffle, where all proceeds went to the One Tree Hill and Tea Tree Gully CFS stations.

I would like to thank all who contributed to helping make the event as successful as it was: Bailey Property for donating the coffees for the day so that those proceeds could be included in the fundraising efforts, Pizza Reggina for their amazing wood oven fired pizzas, and Redstar Media for capturing some amazing content and also emceeing throughout the day.

To the amazing local businesses who support these clubs and those who donated goods that helped create one enticing raffle, thank you. Thank you to SportsPower Golden Grove, Little Oak Studio, The Fox and Firkin, Garden Grove Supplies, Highercombe Golf Club, Autobarn Gilles Plains, Tron Civil Contracting, Makesafe Traffic Management, I&R Electrical Solutions, The Truck Factory, HM Rendering Group and PDR Sport.

Thank you also to the countless committee members, volunteers, coaches, team managers and players from all nine teams who took to the field on the day. Yes, that is right: nine teams, players of all ages, coming together to make this an absolute day of fun. We had colts, we had under 11s, we had reserves, we had station versus station in a play-off against one another, we had under 9s, we had the A grade and of course we had the mascots.

This is an event that I have been proud to support since its creation. It is something that I am proud to support alongside my colleagues, the member for Newland, the member for Wright and the federal member for Makin, because this event is a key example of what I love so much about my local community. We all come together to support one another, helping to make our community strong. Sporting clubs, local businesses, local council, members of parliament and members of the community all come together in recognition of the hard work done by our local CFS crews, making our community stronger together.

Through everyone's extraordinary efforts, it is looking as though \$6,000 was raised this Sunday just gone, and it may be more. I have been informed by the clubs that calculations are still underway, but they have cleared this incredible milestone. That brings us to about \$25,000 that they have raised over the course of four years of hosting this event. That is \$25,000 thanks to two incredible soccer clubs, Tea Tree Gully City Soccer Club and One Tree Hill Soccer Club, working hard with the community. I sincerely thank both of the clubs for their extraordinary efforts.

You must be wondering, Mr Speaker, who won the day? Well, of course it was our community. But if you want to know which team, it was quite tight on the ground but I am pretty sure that Tea Tree Gully City Soccer Club took the win yet again, although I do feel that next year the Billies will come back stronger than ever and give quite fierce competition and maybe take the shield. So I do encourage you all to keep an eye out for this event next year. Put it in your diaries and come to see the amazing sportsmanship for yourselves.

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:27): As another summer draws to a close, I rise to speak about the ever-present threat of bushfires in my local electorate of Bragg. In doing so, I mark this year, the 40th anniversary of the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983, because it was 40 years ago that some of the most devastating fires we have ever seen swept our state. Fanned by winds of up to 110 km/h, those fires tragically claimed the lives of 28 South Australians, including 16 firefighters. Hundreds of buildings were destroyed and over 200,000 hectares of land burnt.

Over the past few days and weeks I have been reading some accounts from that day, including from people who were on Yarrabee Road in Greenhill in my electorate on that day, which was left devastated by these fires. Indeed, there are still serving members of the Burnside CFS today who remember fighting that fire 40 years ago, and that day is never far from their mind every day of summer, even today. So, on this 40th anniversary year of the Ash Wednesday bushfires, we honour and we remember all those who lost their lives in those terrible fires.

We also remember the need to be ever vigilant today, to protect our lives, to protect our homes and to protect our property against any similar catastrophe ever occurring again. The recent bushfire we saw this summer in Montacute was a very timely reminder of the fire risk that my own community faces in the Adelaide foothills. We are so very lucky to have hardworking CFS brigades and other volunteer community groups that serve us to both reduce fire risk and also to respond to bushfires when they occur.

Of course, every summer we must always hope for the best, but it is very important that we prepare for the worst. For those in bushfire-prone areas, we must remember that it is important to always have a bushfire plan, an emergency kit ready and to stay up to date with the latest warnings and advice from local authorities.

It is also vital, though, that the state government adequately resources our bushfire preparedness so that we can continue this important work and ensure that no corners are cut, which is why I was extremely concerned about the recent funding cuts to prescribed burning by the Malinauskas Labor government.

The prescribed burning program is an important way to reduce fuel hazards and to help prevent bushfires from spreading. Ultimately, it is a program that saves homes. It is a program that saves lives, so this is a very dangerous decision that is going to dramatically reduce our emergency services' ability to properly manage and reduce fuel loads. We just cannot have a situation where our homes and our properties are not protected because money has been ripped from the prescribed burning program by this state government.

Our brave firefighters, many of whom are volunteers, put their lives on the line for us, and quite frankly they deserve better, so I call on the state government to restore these vital bushfire resources and to reverse the \$1 million of funding cuts from the prescribed burning program.

I also call on the government to back our local CFS, the Burnside CFS, which is of course one of the very few metropolitan-based services. It also has responsibility for incidents on the South Eastern Freeway. The trouble is that their station and main engine bay was built in the 1960s, and the brigade's operational needs since then, some 70 years on, have evolved significantly. Indeed, currently one of the brigade's vehicles is being accommodated in a facility adjacent to the Burnside council depot, which presents significant challenges.

The brigade has proposed a number of solutions. It has been a pleasure to take the shadow minister, the member for Hammond, down there to visit, to see this problem firsthand. I have also been engaging constructively with the minister on this issue, and I hope to continue to do so, so that

we can ensure the CFS are well equipped to do this important work, and to prepare ahead of future bushfire seasons.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (15:32): Today of course is International Women's Day and, for me, that is a time to celebrate the strong women everywhere who are not able to attend corporate breakfasts or special events. In my community, there are hundreds of strong, incredible, talented women whose work often goes unseen, unheard and, unfortunately sometimes, undervalued.

We know that women are still, by a significant majority, primary caregivers for their children and, later in life, their elderly parents. We know that the gender pay gap is real, as is the value of unpaid labour, what used to be called women's work, but is in fact everyone's responsibility. Women are often the ones behind the scenes, both at work and at home, and today I would like to thank those women in my community whose names are not up in lights, but who make our community strong.

Today I would like to list, for *Hansard*, just a few of the amazing, dedicated, hardworking, fierce women in the Gully. I acknowledge:

- Alison from Caking Mad in Banksia Park who helped me with cookies to celebrate my village today;
- Sharon from the front desk at the Civic Centre;
- Deb, Courtney and the team at the Gully library;
- The women from Tea Tree Gully VIEW Club; VIEW, as we know, stands for the voice, interests and education of women;
- The women from Modbury Ladies Probus;
- Denise, an absolute firecracker, from Haz Beanz at Clovercrest Shopping Centre;
- Deb, Mel and the team at St Agnes Florist for getting me through many an anniversary, birthday and special event;
- Gabbi from Coles TTP, who we met on the doors, though many of you would know her by now, and her advocacy. She has been fierce;
- Rosie from Fast Cats Racing at Modbury High School;
- Linda from the Beat Movement in Banksia Park;
- Sara from Ridgehaven Primary;
- Rachael, an absolute powerhouse, from Modbury Basketball Club;
- Jazzie, a young woman who wrote to me telling me she would like to change the world;
- Nella from Tea Tree Gully;
- Di from Tea Tree Gully Primary;
- Joanne and the team at Modbury High;
- Madeleine, an amazing women's cyclist from Tea Tree Gully;
- Julie, my queen, from Cafe Verde at Fairview Green;
- Meg and the team at Banksia kindy;
- Lilly from Tea Tree Players;
- Wendy from Tea Tree Gully Rotary and Hope Valley;
- Joylene from Tea Tree Gully Rotary, who volunteers at every community organisation around;

- The wives behind the scenes at Tea Tree Gully Lions, particularly Margaret, who is a beautiful porcelain painter;
- Marijka, our new mayor;
- Jodie from the Modbury Hawks;
- Renee from Banksia primary;
- Anna from the front desk at Modbury South;
- Denise and Kristen from Modbury South;
- Rosie from St Agnes estate;
- Ginny from Modbury Special School;
- Angela and Kristen from Tango netball;
- Lyn and the ladies at the toy library;
- Rachael and the team at Backpacks for Kids;
- Rachael's daughter Holly, an amazing young woman who held a quiz night for domestic violence awareness in year 12;
- Anna and her girls, ready with a hot coffee at Shelley Street;
- Jill from the Heritage Museum;
- Makeely, 15 and going places, from Tea Tree Gully;
- Ashleigh, my best friend from St Agnes;
- Lucy, another best friend who has recently joined us in St Agnes;
- Maisey, her brand-new puppy;
- Miss M from Tea Tree Gully primary;
- Lisa from Ardtornish;
- Andrea from Denim Hair in Banksia Park—thanks for the colour;
- Rose and Adla from the CWMS action group;
- Naomi from St Agnes, a BMX champ;
- June, the biggest supporter and part-time grandma I could ask for;
- Paula and Toni from the Jets;
- Kitty from the Modbury Hawks;
- Meredith, a truly selfless person from Ridgehaven;
- Molly Byrne, who no longer lives in Modbury but is thought of often;
- Sarah and her three girls who are growing way too quickly for their auntie in Ridgehaven;
- Lyn, one of life's few trailblazers from Modbury North;
- Natasa from Banksia International High;
- Wendy, our graphic designer extraordinaire from Ridgehaven;
- Angela, from next door who brings in my bins;
- I would like to acknowledge the women in the Gully who fight alongside me: Rhi Rhi, occasionally known as the member for King and the Boyer girls who handed out for me at the Modbury pre-poll under the age of 10.

- Finally, I would like to acknowledge the best woman I know, Megan, my hero from Banksia Kindy, Banksia primary, Modbury Hawks and the Newland Electorate Office.

How lucky I am to be part of this village. Happy International Women's Day.

Bills

RAIL SAFETY NATIONAL LAW (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) (FEES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:37): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:38): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation inserted into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

I rise to introduce the Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) (Fees) Amendment Bill 2023. This Bill amends the Rail Safety National Law which is contained in the Schedule to the *Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012*. The amendments to the Rail Safety National Law will allow the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator to be funded by way of a new cost recovery model.

The new model will operate nationally, will minimise cross-subsidisation across the various rail sectors, will apply full cost recovery to commercial rail transport operators and will be based on risk and regulatory effort.

South Australia is the lead legislator for the Rail Safety National Law. This means that if the Bill passes this Parliament and commences operation, it will apply in all States and Territories, except for Western Australia. The amendments will not apply in Western Australia until they are adopted there by way of mirror legislation, or until Western Australia moves to the application model that applies in the other States and Territories.

As South Australia is the lead legislator for the National Law, the Office of Parliamentary Counsel drafted the Bill on behalf of the Australasian Parliamentary Counsel's Committee. The draft Bill was approved late last year by the responsible Ministers of the Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting through out-of-session voting. I note that Victoria abstained from voting as it was in caretaker at the time.

In 2011, the Council of Australian Governments entered into intergovernmental agreements that, among other things, provided that the national regulators for rail safety, heavy vehicles and commercial vessel safety would move to full cost recovery from the industries being regulated. Currently, four Australian jurisdictions (not including South Australia) are not operating at full cost recovery in relation to rail safety. In the current financial year these jurisdictions were required to contribute a total of more than ten million dollars of funding towards the cost of regulating commercial operators. These jurisdictions will no longer be required to provide this funding once the new cost recovery model commences operation.

The new model will see a significant change to the method used for calculating annual fees for rail transport operators to be paid to the ONRSR. Currently, an accredited operator is required to pay a fixed annual fee of fifteen thousand dollars as well as a variable annual fee that is based on track kilometres managed, track kilometres travelled or both.

Under the new model, an accredited operator will pay an annual fee that is based on the operator's risk profile and the regulatory effort required from the ONRSR to oversee the operator. A tool has been developed to determine the risk profile of an operator. The main factors considered by the tool are inherent risk, management and control and safety performance. Once operators have been assigned a risk profile score, they will be ranked from highest to lowest.

The new model will pull together the risk profile scores, and data on regulatory effort collected by the ONRSR, and group commercial operators into six cost recovery tiers. The tier amounts will be set out in the Rail Safety National Law National Regulations 2012 (National Regulations). The operators allocated to tier one will be those that have the highest risk profile and attract the most regulatory effort. The operators in tier one will pay the highest annual fee, while the operators in tier six will pay the lowest annual fee. Operators will have the ability to appeal if they believe they have been allocated to an inappropriate cost recovery tier.

There are three types of railway operations that will not be included in the six-tier cost recovery model as they will be subject to other costing arrangements.

The first type of railway operations that will be subject to other costing arrangements is railway operations carried out by the tourist and heritage sector. Currently, accredited tourist and heritage operators are charged a reduced annual fixed fee of two thousand dollars, as well as the variable annual fee. For most tourist and heritage operators, these fees are paid by governments as a community service obligation. However, these fees cover very little of the regulatory effort the sector attracts.

At the May 2021 Infrastructure and Transport Ministers' Meeting, responsible Ministers agreed to fund a total of 4.9 million dollars per annum towards the cost of regulating the tourist and heritage sector. As a result of this decision, the Bill will remove the requirement for tourist and heritage operators to pay annual accreditation or registration fees.

The second type of railway operations that will be subject to other costing arrangements is less complex railway operations. The National Regulations will be amended to enable an accredited person to apply to the ONRSR for a determination that their operations are less complex and therefore require less oversight. The eligibility criteria will be set out in the amended National Regulations. Under the amended National Regulations, these operators will be required to pay an annual accreditation fee of twenty thousand dollars, which is higher than the current average accreditation fee but is considerably lower than the fee they would be required to pay if they were included in one of the lower levels of the six-tier cost recovery model.

The final type of railway operations that will be subject to other costing arrangements is railway operations undertaken by the rail infrastructure managers of private sidings. A private siding is a low-speed section of track distinct from a running line, used for stabling, storing, loading or unloading of carriages, for example. As such, they also require less regulatory oversight.

Under the National Law, these operators are only required to be registered, not accredited. Under the amended Regulations, the annual fee for registration will be five thousand five hundred dollars, which is a much lower fee than those that will be payable under the six-tier model. In addition, the Bill will amend the definition of the term *private siding* to enable the rail infrastructure managers of some freight terminals to be registered instead of accredited. This will benefit these operators, as they will be subject to the lower annual registration fee.

Application fees for all new operations will be adjusted and will also sit outside the tier structure.

The Bill will insert three new sections into the National Law to enable annual increases in fee amounts to occur through an indexation methodology that is based on movements in the consumer price index and will be set out in the amended National Regulations. The Bill will require the annual adjusted fees to be published in the South Australian Government Gazette, on the ONRSR's website and in any other manner determined by the National Rail Safety Regulator. These amendments to the National Law will, over time, create benefits by reducing the need to amend the National Regulations to make annual fee adjustments.

The ONRSR has consulted widely with industry on the new cost recovery model and the associated changes I have just outlined, and there is an expectation among industry across Australia that the changes will operate from 1 July 2023. Consequently, I seek the support of Members to progress the Bill through the House as expeditiously as possible. I also seek leave to have the Explanation of Clauses inserted into Hansard without my reading it.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provision

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Rail Safety National Law*

4—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

This clause amends the definition of *private siding* to remove the reference to a freight terminal from the list of things that are excluded from being private sidings. This allows freight terminals to be private sidings.

5—Amendment of section 42—National Rail Safety Register

This clause amends the list of matters that are required to be included on the National Rail Safety Register to include a list of those rail transport operators that are determined by the Regulator to be tourist and heritage railway operators. This amendment is consequential on proposed sections 76(1a) and 95(1a) of the Law (which provide that such operators are to be exempt from the payment of annual accreditation and registration fees).

6—Amendment of section 68—Application for variation of accreditation

This amendment removes the requirement for an application for a variation of accreditation to be accompanied by an application fee.

7—Amendment of section 76—Annual fees

This provision amends section 76 to provide that annual accreditation fees will not be payable by accredited persons determined by the Regulator to be tourist and heritage railway operators, as recorded on the National Rail Safety Register, or by any other accredited persons or class of accredited persons prescribed by the national regulations.

8—Insertion of section 76A

This clause inserts proposed new section 76A.

76A—Increase in fee amounts

This clause provides that the national regulations may prescribe a method by which fees payable under Part 3 Division 4 (Accreditation) of the Law may be increased each year. Any such fee increased pursuant to the prescribed method must be published by the Regulator, before 1 July of the financial year in respect of which the fee is to apply, in the South Australian Government Gazette and on the website of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

9—Amendment of section 87—Application for variation of registration

This amendment removes the requirement for an application for a variation of registration in respect of a private siding to be accompanied by an application fee.

10—Amendment of section 95—Annual fees

This provision amends section 95 to provide that annual registration fees will not be payable by registered persons determined by the Regulator to be tourist and heritage railway operators, as recorded on the National Rail Safety Register, or any other registered persons or class of registered persons prescribed by the national regulations.

11—Insertion of section 95A

This clause inserts proposed new section 95A.

95A—Increase in fee amounts

This clause provides that the national regulations may prescribe a method by which fees payable under Part 3 Division 5 (Registration of rail infrastructure managers of private sidings) of the Law may be increased each year. Any such fee increased pursuant to the prescribed method must be published by the Regulator, before 1 July of the financial year in respect of which the fee is to apply, in the South Australian Government Gazette and on the website of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

12—Amendment of heading to Part 6 Division 2 Subdivision 6

This clause amends the heading to Part 6 Division 2 Subdivision 6 and is consequential on the insertion of proposed section 214AA.

13—Insertion of section 214AA

This clause inserts proposed new section 214AA.

214AA—Increase in fee amounts

This clause provides that the national regulations may prescribe a method by which fees payable under Part 6 Division 2 (Exemptions granted by Regulator) of the Law may be increased each year. Any such fee increased pursuant to the prescribed method must be published by the Regulator, before 1 July of the financial year in respect of which the fee is to apply, in the South Australian Government Gazette and on the website of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr. Tarzia.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (PROTECTION OF PROSPECTIVE TENANTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:38): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1995. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:39): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Residential Tenancies (Protection of Prospective Tenants) Amendment Bill 2023. This bill proposes to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1995 to introduce some immediate protections for tenants. South Australia's residential vacancy rates remain at historically low levels. The supply shortage of rental properties has caused rents to increase substantially, and has created an environment where renters are struggling to find rental properties in an increasingly competitive market.

The government is committed to improving the housing outcomes for people in South Australia through our recently announced housing package. As part of this package, the government is reforming the act to better meet the needs of today's rental housing market, improve protections for renters and ensure landlords can continue to manage their properties effectively.

On 3 August 2022, I hosted the Residential Tenancies Act review forum with the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs to hear firsthand about issues currently impacting the sector, and any potential solutions or remedies offered by the sector. Key stakeholders from the forum included Shelter SA, the South Australian Council of Social Service, Uniting Communities, Aboriginal housing, Disability Housing, the Real Estate Institute of South Australia, the Landlords' Association of South Australia, the South Australian Housing Authority, the Department of Human Services and the University of South Australia.

Broad public consultation on the review of the act was then undertaken between 15 November 2022 and 16 December 2022. More than 5,000 people completed the YourSAy survey, and over 150 submissions were received from key stakeholders and members of the public. The government has identified four immediate priorities to progress ahead of the broader reforms being presented to parliament arising out of the review.

This bill aims to deliver on three of these immediate priorities, being banning rent bidding, considering information on the rental application form and protecting tenant information. The fourth immediate priority relates to more affordable residential tenancy bonds, which is being progressed by amendments to the Residential Tenancies Regulations 2010, and will commence on 1 April 2023. Improving the affordability of residential bonds will provide some immediate relief for tenants who are already experiencing the pressures of increased costs of living.

At present, there are a significant number of applicants for rental properties due to the low vacancy rate. There are reports of prospective tenants being requested to provide personal information that should not be required for a rental application. This may relate to the prospective tenant's rental bond history, financial records and other information protected under equal opportunity legislation.

Prospective tenants may also be required to complete numerous applications across various platforms, which in some cases are hosted by third parties to the landlord or agent. Prospective tenants may be advised that this is compulsory and have little choice but to provide personal information to third parties with little transparency on whether their information will be kept confidential, used for any other purposes or shared.

As a first step towards standardising rental application forms, this bill proposes to insert a new section 47B, to prohibit a landlord or agent from requesting prescribed information from a prospective tenant. This change proposes to reduce the amount of information a prospective tenant can be asked to provide in a rental application, relieving some of the administrative burden involved and protecting the privacy of prospective tenants where information is not reasonably necessary.

Prohibiting the disclosure of certain information will also reduce opportunities for discrimination to occur in the tenant selection process. Under the Equal Opportunity Act 1984, it is illegal for a landlord or agent to discriminate against a tenant based on certain personal characteristics. The insertion of section 47B allows an avenue for the disclosure of this information to be restricted, reducing opportunities for prospective tenants to be discriminated against on these grounds.

Section 47B(2) provides an exemption to allow a landlord or agent to request prescribed information for the purposes of determining their eligibility for a housing assistance program. This

exemption does not relate to a landlord or agent requesting a prospective tenant to disclose if they receive housing assistance but aims to ensure that a provider of a housing assistance program, that is also a landlord or agent, can ask for the necessary information they need to determine whether the prospective tenant is eligible to receive assistance.

Supporting amendment regulations will be progressed subject to the passage of this bill through the parliament. The prescribed information will seek to provide greater consistency with other jurisdictions and will be informed by submissions received as part of the broader review of the act, and further targeted to stakeholder consultation. There are also concerns that rental properties are being advertised as a price range, and landlords or agents may solicit higher rent offers in the current market.

This bill proposes to insert new section 52A requiring rental properties to be advertised as a fixed amount, and bans a landlord or agent soliciting or otherwise inviting an offer of higher rent. However, this does not address third parties engaged by landlords or agents to facilitate prospective tenant applications. Some of these operators are also charging prospective tenants a fee for a background check and providing landlords and agents ratings for prospective tenants.

These operators appear to be unregulated, and I am advised that existing section 53 of the act, prohibiting charging a prospective tenant a fee other than for rent or bond for consideration for a tenancy agreement, arguably may not apply in these circumstances. It is also unclear whether part 5A of the act relating to residential tenancy databases, often referred to as tenant blacklists, applies to these operators. I understand that this practice is relatively new and is an issue throughout Australia that is yet to be addressed. Reports have been brought to my attention of these operators providing higher ratings for prospective tenants in Victoria who offer higher rent, which seemingly appears to circumvent Victoria's existing laws prohibiting rent bidding.

This bill proposes to introduce a new section 52B to prohibit these operators charging prospective tenants a fee for an assessment or rating, and to prohibit providing an assessment or rating where this is based on an offer of higher rent. This aims to protect prospective tenants from being charged a fee for a residential tenancy application and from being enticed to offer higher rent. The proposed introduction of section 52B will see South Australia leading the nation in the regulation of third-party operators. This measure is a priority for government, as failing to regulate these third parties undermines the important protections to outlaw rent bidding and provide relief to tenants.

Lastly, this bill also seeks to protect tenants' and prospective tenants' personal information. At present, the commonwealth Privacy Act 1988 does not apply consistently to landlords or agents and third-party operators facilitating prospective tenant applications. The requirements are also principles-based and not sector specific. This bill proposes to introduce new section 76B which specifies obligations to protect tenant information from misuse, interference or loss and from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

The bill will require information provided for the purposes of applying to enter into a tenancy agreement (the tenant information) to be destroyed after three years from the tenancy ending. This applies to successful tenants who have entered into a tenancy agreement and aligns with the period of time information may be kept on a residential tenancy database.

A person, including third-party operators, facilitating tenancy applications will only be able to keep prospective tenants' (unsuccessful) information for up to 30 days after the date on which the tenancy agreement is entered into by the successful applicant. However, with the prospective tenant's consent, information may be kept for up to six months. This provides for circumstances where the person or third party is continuing to assist that prospective tenant to find another tenancy, or the agreement with the successful applicant does not proceed or is terminated early.

Tenant and prospective tenant information will also not be able to be disclosed without the consent of the person to whom the information relates, as required by law or the tenancy agreement or in accordance with an order from a court or tribunal. These priorities seek to provide some immediate relief to tenants in the current rental market and address some of the issues around applying for and starting a new tenancy.

There are many other important issues that need to be considered and addressed as part of the broader review of the act, which is continuing to be progressed as a priority. I look forward to working with members in this place to progress this bill and future amendments arising out of the broader review to support our residential tenancy sector. I commend this 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—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Residential Tenancies Act 1995*

3—Insertion of section 47B

New section 47B is inserted:

47B—Prospective tenant not to be requested to disclose prescribed information

An offence is provided for a landlord, or an agent of a landlord, if they request a prospective tenant to disclose prescribed information. Certain requests are exempt.

4—Insertion of sections 52A and 52B

New sections 52A and 52B are inserted

52A—Premises to be offered for rent at fixed amount

An offence is provided for a landlord, or an agent of a landlord, to advertise or otherwise offer premises for rent under a residential tenancy agreement unless the rent under the agreement is advertised or offered as a fixed amount. The offence does not apply to certain signs at or near premises.

An offence is also provided for a landlord, or an agent of a landlord, to solicit or otherwise invite an offer of an amount of rent under a residential tenancy agreement that is higher than the advertised amount of rent for the premises.

52B—Special provision relating to assessments etc of prospective tenants

An offence is provided for a person acting in trade or commerce (other than an agent of a landlord) to provide an assessment or rating of the suitability of a prospective tenant to enter into a residential tenancy agreement if a basis of the assessment or rating relates to—

- in the case of premises advertised or otherwise offered for rent as a fixed amount under the residential tenancy agreement—the fact that the amount of rent that the prospective tenant is willing to pay under the residential tenancy agreement is higher than the fixed amount; or
- in any other case—the amount of rent that the prospective tenant is willing to pay under the residential tenancy agreement.

An offence is also provided for a person, except in prescribed circumstances, to require or receive from a prospective tenant a payment for the provision of an assessment or rating of the suitability of the prospective tenant to enter into a residential tenancy agreement.

5—Insertion of Part 4 Division 14A

New Division 14A is inserted into Part 4:

Division 14A—Tenant information

76A—Preliminary

Terms are defined for the purposes of the Division. The interaction of the Division with Part 5A and the national privacy principles is provided for.

76B—Dealing with tenant information

A person who holds personal information provided for the purposes of applying to enter into a residential tenancy agreement (*tenant information*) must take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to protect the tenant information—

- from misuse, interference or loss; and
- from unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

Requirements relating to destroying tenant information are also imposed.

An offence is also provided for a person who holds tenant information to ensure that it is not disclosed except in accordance with the provision.

76C—Powers of Tribunal

The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal is authorised to make orders necessary or expedient in the opinion of the Tribunal to ensure compliance with the Division or any provision of the Division. The Tribunal is also authorised to make an order requiring a person who has committed an offence against the Division to comply with conditions specified in the order in relation to tenant information held by the person.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

1—Transitional provisions

Transitional provisions are inserted for the purposes of the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Pederick.

FIRST NATIONS VOICE BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 March 2023.)

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:49): I rise to continue my remarks on this bill. When I was wrapping up yesterday, ahead of the adjournment of parliament, I was speaking about my yungandalya Tamaru, an emerging Kurna elder who is a dear friend of mine and who was teaching me the traditional language of his people, the Kurna people, as a way that I can practically show my support to Aboriginal people.

I am so proud to walk side by side with my yungandalya Tamaru at various events in my community, particularly the Prospect citizenship ceremonies. Uncle Tamaru always talks about the fact that we do not walk behind each other, we do not walk in front of each other, but we walk side by side, and that really is the spirit of reconciliation. Despite all that has happened over decades and decades my yungandalya Tamaru still wants to walk together with us. His generosity of spirit sees him share his time, his culture and his language with me and others in our community.

Learning the Kurna language is something that I am so incredibly proud to do because it is being able to speak the language of people who have been here for so very long—Aboriginal people are the oldest living culture on the planet and for millennia have thrived as the custodians of the land and waters of this state, and I often reflect on that.

As people, we celebrate heritage and history. We will travel vast distances overseas to celebrate and experience significant monuments—think about Rome in particular or Egypt. When you actually stop and think about why we do that, and then think that in our home we are the home of the world's oldest living culture, to think that perhaps we do not celebrate and acknowledge that as much as we should sometimes really confuses me. It should be something that we are so incredibly proud of, that we respect, that we acknowledge and that we celebrate. So now, as a nation, I think we do. We have a real opportunity to collectively show our support for the oldest living culture on the planet. We can do this by showing our support for a Voice to Parliament.

I am incredibly proud that South Australia is leading the way with our own state legislation, and I want to congratulate the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC in the other place on his leadership on this bill. I also commend the Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Dale Agius, for his extraordinary contribution. There are so many people behind the scenes who work on significant legislation such as this so I want to give a shout-out to the Aboriginal affairs ministerial adviser, Roland Ah Chee, for his tireless efforts on this behind the scenes, along with the department staff and every single First Nations person who has contributed to this bill.

The bill comes almost six years after the Uluru Statement from the Heart was handed down in 2017, and follows six months of extensive consultation by the government led by Commissioner Agius. This is a historic opportunity for parliament to hear the call from Aboriginal people and commit to meaningfully engage with Aboriginal people on issues that affect their lives. By passing this bill, South Australia will show the rest of the country how the Voice can work ahead of the upcoming national referendum.

It is heartbreaking and it is shameful that Aboriginal people are still the most disadvantaged people in our community. Aboriginal people make up 2 per cent of the general population and yet make up 19 per cent of the prison population. While the gap is closing, the life expectancy of Aboriginal people is still eight years less than non-Aboriginal people. Around 25 per cent fewer Aboriginal students finish secondary school than non-Aboriginal students. With statistics like this, something needs to change.

The current programs and frameworks have clearly not worked to reduce the disadvantage many First Nations people experience. The Voice was called for by First Nations people at Uluru as one of the ways to address this disadvantage. The Voice will not be a silver bullet, but we know that policies that support First Nations people are more effective when First Nations people are involved in their design. The Voice will give Aboriginal people more of a say in the decisions that affect their lives, and that can only be a good thing. But despite these indisputable statistics, some continue to question why it is that Aboriginal people and not other groups deserve a Voice to Parliament.

Former Labor colleague and former Aboriginal affairs adviser and proud Kokatha woman, Amy Rust, I think put it best, and I quote:

To all those spewing about whataboutism... it comes back to the burning house theory.

Yes, ALL groups & ethnic minorities are deserving and arguably in need of...government attention. But there is no other group who have collectively suffered so greatly for so long than Aboriginal people. This isn't a victim mentality, this is a fact. On every possible metric, Aboriginal people are worse off than our non-Aboriginal Australians—health, education, employment, don't get me started on incarceration rates.

The ongoing impact of colonisation and associated disadvantage is very real. It's clear that successive governments have tried admirably and failed to improve much (check out the annual Closing the Gap reports). There is an abundance of evidence that shows when Aboriginal people are in control of the policies and programs that affect their lives, positive things happen.

So why or how could anyone argue against this?

It literally has no bearing on you or your life, it just means your fellow citizens, who have had a pretty rough trot of it, are very likely to have improved life outcomes.

It is important to note that after the 2019 federal election the then South Australian Labor opposition, led by the opposition leader Peter Malinauskas, made a bold commitment to fully deliver on the Uluru Statement from the Heart—Voice, Treaty, Truth. This is a commitment we made years ago and we have never wavered in our commitment, unlike those opposite.

With the election of the Albanese and Malinauskas Labor governments, we now have a chance to deliver a First Nations Voice at both levels of government. Let's seize this opportunity. Let's make our children, our grandchildren and their children proud. Let's hear the call of First Nations people, our oldest living culture. Let's truly listen, let's create change and let's deliver the Voice. I commend this bill to the house.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:56): I rise to speak on the First Nations Voice Bill. I am so proud to speak on this bill and be a part of this historic change that will provide Aboriginal people in South Australia with a Voice about what matters to them. I stood for this parliament because I wanted to make a positive change in South Australia and this is such a significant opportunity that reaffirms my decision to run for office.

It was fabulous to watch in our last sitting week Aboriginal Attorney-General the Hon. Kyam Maher MLC introduce this bill into parliament and speak with such passion. I would like to acknowledge that I stand here on the lands of the Kurna people and pay my respects to elders past and present. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

On Friday night I went to see Spinifex Gum open the Adelaide Festival—I saw them once before at WOMAD—and what an inspirational group of young Aboriginal women they are, young Aboriginal women singing the story of Ms Dhu, a 22-year-old woman who died in police custody in Western Australia in 2014. She was in jail for unpaid fines of \$3,622. Whilst in police custody, she became incredibly unwell; however, police officers did not take her cries for help seriously and with their racist lens assumed she was suffering a withdrawal from drugs. In fact, she had an infection in her broken ribs and died suffering from deep pain from sepsis. This is why we need a Voice to Parliament.

In the song *Yurala*, Spinifex Gum contemplate the impact mining has had on their country, on their community, on the environment, without any opportunity to be heard; when an elder, Long Mack, spoke up for his country but the white people in the city and in the parliament did not listen. This is why we need a Voice to Parliament.

In the song *Locked Up*, Spinifex Gum rightly ask:

Why're the kids locked up

Take this silence and blow it up

Why they go so young

Falling sisters and burning sons

They put our kids in the system

Findings, reports, and royal commissions

Numbers, statistics when they're making decisions

Assess the risks and build another prison

I find those lyrics really difficult to listen to—and I should—and that is without having any lived experience. We should be challenged on these issues. That is why we must have a Voice to Parliament. Spinifex Gum sing wonderful songs of joy and hope too, my favourites being *Marliya* and *Sisters*; to know that these young First Nations women will fight for a better future than is currently mapped out for them. This is why we need a Voice to Parliament.

I hope that this historic change in South Australia that is unfortunately not being supported by those opposite will be followed later this year by a Voice to the federal parliament. This bill, introduced by our Attorney-General in the other place, marks historic change to the way parliament and government engage with Aboriginal people. It provides direct access to this parliament, to ministers and chief executives, and it delivers another key election commitment of the Malinauskas Labor government, a government that is governing for all South Australians.

I am proud to be a part of a government that back in 2019 committed at a state level to implementing the three core elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice, Treaty, Truth. Back in 2015, the federal Referendum Council was established to start the process to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the constitution. It undertook consultations through 2016 and 2017 before the First Nations National Constitutional Convention was held at Uluru in May 2017.

This convention gathered 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over four days. The convention drafted and overwhelmingly adopted the Uluru Statement from the Heart—a generous invitation from First Nations people to the nation to walk together for a better future. The Uluru Statement called for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the constitution (Voice); a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations (Treaty); and truth-telling about First Nations history (Truth). Now in South Australia, we are taking the first step, which is to deliver to Aboriginal people in South Australia a Voice. This is not easy, and nor should it be, but it is essential that we walk together into the future. We used to be a state of firsts, and this government is bringing progress back to South Australia.

Commissioner Agius, as the state's inaugural Commissioner for First Nations Voice, undertook two rounds of consultation before this bill we are debating today entered parliament. From August to October 2022, the commissioner spoke with around 450 people at 30 in-person

engagement sessions both in metropolitan Adelaide and regional South Australia. Following this, Commissioner Agius delivered the first engagement report, and then the government released the draft First Nations Voice Bill 2022, based on the feedback from these consultations. This bill was published on YourSAy for public feedback, and Commissioner Agius commenced a second round of in-person consultations.

We should be clear: this is not rushed; it is considered. It is not a surprise; it is following extensive consultation. It is not the panacea to all challenges facing Aboriginal people, but it is part of a process started eight years ago at the federal level and six years ago in South Australia. It is clear from the first round of consultation that First Nations people want to see a direct Voice to the South Australian parliament; the Voice to represent the diversity of the South Australian First Nations people, including nation group diversity, gender, youth and LGBTQI+ people; and direct access to government decision-makers, including cabinet and chief executives.

As a unionist, I am proud to say that the union movement are allies in calling for a Voice to Parliament. In fact, I first learnt of the Uluru Statement from the Heart from Thomas Mayer, a Torres Strait Islander man and an MUA union official. Thomas is a tireless campaigner for Voice, Treaty and Truth, and I thank him for the education he has provided the union movement on the value of having a Voice to Parliament.

As we know, First Nations people have inhabited this continent for at least 60,000 years and comprise the oldest living culture on our planet. A culture that has existed for so long is one to celebrate and nourish. However, First Nations people continue to experience significantly worse outcomes than the wider population in a range of areas, including life expectancy, education, justice, health and more.

Is the Voice a silver bullet to cure all of these? The answer is clearly no. However, what is also clear is that current programs, policies, frameworks and systems have not worked to reduce the disadvantage that so many First Nations people experience. Therefore, listening to Aboriginal people and giving them the Voice they called for with the Uluru Statement from the Heart is a way to address the issues they experience. What is true is that policies to support First Nations people are more effective when First Nations people are involved in their design. The Voice will give Aboriginal people more of a say in the decisions that affect their lives, a long overdue voice on the matters that affect them.

An opportunity such as this should not have party politics disrupt the passage of recognition. The health, education and incarceration outcomes for First Nations people can be addressed with a mechanism like the Voice to break down systemic barriers. With the hopeful passage of this important legislation, I have hope. Giving First Nations people a seat at the table, I look forward to truly listening. I am so proud to be part of the Malinauskas Labor government to deliver this important reform. I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Planning) (16:06): There really are crucial moments in the nation's history, and in the colour and movement of Australian life, that come to define us, and I think this is one of those moments, particularly in regard to reconciliation.

We all look at particular moments. The 1967 referendum, which saw the removal of section 127, saw the removal of what was then lawful race-based discrimination against the Indigenous people of this country. That removal saw, finally, the counting in the Census of the population numbers of Indigenous Australians, First Nations Australians. That is a critical moment in our country's history. People forget that in 1944 the Fourteen Powers Referendum had failed, which also included measures to improve the life of First Nations Australians.

In 2008, I was nearly elected to the federal parliament, and I saw one of these moments firsthand in the national apology. What we saw there was a prime minister responding to a moment in the life of our nation. It was a moment of great emotion. It was a moment of great importance in the national life because it had been such a long time coming. It had been debated and thought about and considered for such a long time beforehand and, of course, had been denied by a previous prime minister.

When you witness a prime minister making that apology in the house—and I think Kevin Rudd deserves a lot of credit for doing so. But, of course, Jenny Macklin, who was a minister at the time and just a wonderful human being, a terrific contributor to our national life, played a really key role in organising all of that. That moment meant so much to people. I remember being pleasantly surprised, or pleasantly enthused, by the fact that it was not just people inside the parliament and not just a full chamber or a full gallery, it was people on the lawns out the front of Parliament House and in parks and schools around the country who tuned in to that broadcast, to that moment.

In a very real sense, that changed the way we talk about these things. It changed the way we think about these matters, and it made everything that follows possible. Having been part of a national Labor government which undertook that measure, it is now a great honour to be part of a state Labor government with a Premier who is leading the way on the Voice.

I think it is a similar moment in our nation's history. In this case, the state of South Australia is acting I think as a state should, to a certain extent, as a proving ground, a testing ground, a social laboratory, to pressure test ideas in preparation for the nation doing them. By being the first state to undertake this through legislation after a considered period—as the member for Gibson said, a considered period of consultation, of thoughtful interaction with South Australians about the model—we are now putting that into practice in legislation in this house.

Just like with the apology there was opposition then, and I can remember the members who did not attend the apology, and how that was acknowledged as a mistake that they made at the time, because they missed a moment in the life of the country, and that was an important moment. Nobody now wants to re-prosecute whether or not we should have made an apology and, in a decade's time, once the Voice is operating, once it is part of our state's fabric of doing things—not just in terms of the mechanisms that it puts in place, but part of the culture of listening, of thinking, of considering, of making our government better, more responsive, of getting better outcomes—then I think those opposite are going to look back at this moment and see that they missed a really important moment in the state's history, a moment where they could have made it bipartisan, and could have made a better decision for this state, a more courageous decision for the state.

We could have had bipartisan consensus. I think that would have been a really uplifting moment. As it is, the legislation will be uplifting, it will be positive, it will mean a lot, but I think those opposite are going to look back in the course of time and come to regret their decision to oppose this legislation, because it is important legislation, important for, as I said before, a deeper sense of reconciliation with Indigenous people, First Nations people of this country.

Just before the apology we were all standing in line to get past security in Parliament House—MPs and other people waiting for admittance—and I remember talking to this lady from Western Australia, and her story was one of those stories you do not forget. She talked about being removed from her parents, being forcibly put in an orphanage in Western Australia until she was basically an adult. She got a limited amount of schooling, but she did an enormous amount of work picking fruit, picking apricots in this orphanage which had a farm attached to it.

Having picked apricots myself, to do that summer in, summer out without any compensation, without any recompense, it was just part of the fabric of her early childhood. If we think about stories like that: being removed from your parents—often for no good reason at all other than the state administration at the time deciding to do that—and then being forcibly placed in an institution, and then being forced to work the entire time when you are in that institution, we would not contemplate those things that occurred at that time, and yet they are very real stories within the living memory of our country. For that woman, being in the gallery for the national apology, and for all her family and forebears, her grandchildren, it makes an enormous amount of difference about how they view our country and about what kind of country we are.

When you see the Uluru Statement: Voice, Treaty, Truth, that is not a difficult concept to get in your head. A Voice to Parliament, an ability, in a very real way, to influence parliament for our First Nations people, that is a critical part of reconciliation. Obviously, a Treaty is a critical part of reconciliation. Of course, Truth, that is the real history of the country. You hear it from the lips of that woman I waited in line with during the morning of the apology.

When I think back to my own high school days in Kapunda, whenever we talk about these matters, I always think about my mate Jimmy Karpany, because Jimmy was an Indigenous man. When I think back to country towns in those days, there was this level of racism which was just part of the fabric of everyday life. It would be very, very confronting today but it was commonplace then. I often think about the experience Jimmy would have if he was going to school now—year 9, year 10, year 11—compared to when he actually had.

I think we have come so far, just in my lifetime, just in the 30 to 35 years since I was in high school. Our country has made such a great degree of progress. It is not enough. We know that it is lacking in so many ways. Reconciliation is a long journey, but when we think about our own lifetimes, our own experiences, the experiences of our friends, of people we grew up with, how much different things are today, I think that is why we need legislation like this. It is part of a journey towards a goal and we will get there by doing things like the Voice.

It is really critical that we address some of the criticisms that are out there saying that this will be a third chamber of parliament. There are a whole lot of people who are drumming up fears out there in sections of the community. Fear is often a powerful motivator in the public mind. It is often a feature of our politics, but there really is not anything to fear here. This is a democratic proposition. It is the election of First Nations Voices by local regions. It is First Nations Voice being formed by the two presiding members of those regions.

It is making sure that the First Nations Voice can communicate directly with this parliament by first of all ascertaining the views on matters of interest to First Nations people; to provide an annual address to parliament on issues affecting First Nations people; to speak through its joint presiding members on the floor of parliament in relation to any bill it considers relevant; to present reports to parliament on issues affecting First Nations people, either through its own initiative or on the request of either house of parliament; and to meet twice yearly with cabinet, with departmental chief executives and to hold annual engagement hearings with ministers and chief executives on initiatives and expenditures with their agencies affecting First Nations people.

If you go through that list, there is nothing that is out of character or out of step with the nature of our parliament or, indeed, any parliament around Australia. Every parliament could easily adopt the model that we are considering in this legislation today and it would not be a detriment in any way. It would only be an adornment to any of these parliaments: it would only be to the benefit of any of these parliaments to have such an arrangement in place.

It is a really sensible model. The Attorney-General and Commissioner Agius have gone out there quite sensibly in a considered manner and have brought us back a very well-structured model that suits the parliament, that will suit the community and that, once this legislation is passed, will find a great place in the imagination of this state.

South Australia has always prided itself on being the first, on being innovative and thoughtful in terms of social policy and progress. We see here today that same pioneering spirit, that same kind of thinking forward about the future, thinking about where we might want to be—in this case, in our relationship with the First Nations people of the state—and to provide an example for the rest of the country that this can be done, that there is no reason to fear, that there is no reason to delay progress, that there is no reason to think that this is for another time or that it is somehow inconsistent in dealing with all the other challenges we face.

We cannot move forward in this country on many of the issues that affect us—poverty, climate change, housing and all these other things—unless we are also moving ahead on reconciliation. The great truth that we have to reconcile ourselves with is that there has been a terrible dispossession as a result of the establishment of colonies, whether they be penal colonies in New South Wales or free-settling ones here in South Australia. There has been a terrible dispossession of our First Nations people, and we have to come to terms with that. We have to reconcile ourselves with just the very harsh reality of our history.

If we do that, and we do it in a careful, considered and thoughtful manner, in a manner that I think was inherent in the Uluru Statement, which is a very generous statement—a statement of a great knowledge that you sense somehow in this continent—we will realise that this very sensible piece of legislation that the government has brought to this parliament has so many careful features

in it which are all about accountability, about getting better results, about delivering better on the ground, about a constant focus on the great practical challenges we have. Also, participating in that generosity that underpins the Uluru Statement, it provides an example to our country about how we can move reconciliation forward, walking together.

It will be one of those moments in time that we will look back on and think to ourselves that we really did appeal to the better angels of our nature. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:24): I acknowledge that today in this house I stand on Kurna land and that sovereignty was never ceded by our First Nations people. In doing so, I add my voice to support the bill before us—the bill introduced by the government's Attorney-General in the other place, the Hon. Kyam Maher, the first Aboriginal man in the state's history to be appointed to the position, and the person ultimately charged with bringing us the legislative framework we speak on today, the First Nations Voice Bill.

It is fact that we cannot undo the wrongs of the past but we can work toward creating a better future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, the First Nations people of Australia, and the bill before us today forms part of the long and winding road to achieve this.

I stand here today proud to be part of the Malinauskas government, which is again honouring a commitment, a promise to implement at a state level here in South Australia the three core elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart: Voice, Treaty, Truth. Before the last election, the Premier committed to implementing a state-based version of the Uluru Statement. He said:

We believe in Aboriginal self-determination to guide and protect the oldest living culture on our planet.

We have committed to Aboriginal statues and monuments to remember the great people of our past and educate future generations. We have committed to transferring Tauondi College to Aboriginal control and ownership to help secure its future. To better care for our country, we will establish a First Nations advisory group to speak directly to the Minister for the Environment. Together with federal Labor, we will provide more than \$15 million to give Yadu Health in Ceduna a new home, and we will legislate to enshrine the Nunga Court as part of our justice system, ensuring that Aboriginal elders have a voice in sentencing offenders and the healing of victims.

The First Nations bill before us today to which I speak delivers on the first part of the Premier's promise, establishing a fully elected First Nations Voice to our state parliament and government. The bill is the culmination of two extensive rounds of engagement with South Australia's First Nations communities and the broader community across the state, led by the recently appointed Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Dale Agius, a proud Kurna, Narrunga, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri man with connection to country across South Australia.

Also a member of the commonwealth's First Nations Referendum Working Group, his job was to engage with more than 400 people across seven metropolitan and 17 regional and remote communities across the state, and then to deliver a report on his findings. It is meaningful and it will make a difference to a people who have continued to suffer greatly. I want to thank the hundreds of willing South Australians who came to participate in this process, and congratulate the commissioner on the smooth completion of an enormous task undertaken in a matter of seven months.

The publicly released draft First Nations Voice Bill was followed by a second round of consultation, both in person and online via YourSAy. There has been much to say and our government has listened. We listened when the community highlighted the need for the Voice to reflect the diversity of Aboriginal communities with the final bill including requirements for a number of committees to be established by the State First Nations Voice, including the First Nations Elders Advisory Committee, the First Nations Youth Advisory Committee, the Stolen Generations Advisory Committee, and the Native Title Bodies Advisory Committee.

There are a number of modifications that resulted from the consultation, including the provisions designed to ensure that the Voice does not impact on native title agreements or other First Nations organisations, and a clearer definition of the terms 'First Nations person' and 'traditional owner'. It is intended that a group of community leaders consider the various views expressed during consultation and recommendations on the boundaries for the Local First Nations Voice under the model, with the final boundaries to be prescribed in regulations.

I think this goes to show how much drive there is within South Australian communities for an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. The will for it has a momentum that is embracing our public, showing them that there is nothing to fear, but something rather to strive for, in making the lives of First Nations people better and, in turn, making us all better.

I was a member of the Rudd Labor government and present on 13 February 2008 when the Prime Minister delivered the apology to our First Nations people, which in part said:

For the pain, suffering and hurt of the stolen generations, their descendants and for their families left behind,

To the mothers and fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities and for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

Indeed, it was an emotional day for thousands across the nation and the thousands who gathered in Canberra in the house and on the hill outside federal parliament. It was another step on what, for our First Nations people, has been a long, often excruciating journey. For more than 60,000 years they have inhabited the continent but today, sadly, these proud people continue to experience poorer outcomes in areas including but not limited to health, life expectancy, education and justice.

Just a few weeks ago, on 9 February, on introducing the bill in the Legislative Council to a packed chamber, the Attorney-General said:

In the decades and centuries gone by, the laws of our state and those of the colony that preceded it have done so much to disadvantage, discriminate against and disempower Aboriginal people. Today, this government seeks to use the laws of our state to achieve exactly the reverse.

The Voice to Parliament will provide Aboriginal people of Australia with more of a say, a voice on decisions that affect their lives.

Some are asking, 'Why do they need this Voice?' Simply put, the programs and frameworks over the years have failed to significantly reduce the impact of this disadvantage on so many First Nations people on a day-to-day basis and over their lifetime. So, how will it work? Some of the key points are that the Voice will be elected by First Nations people within each region across the state; it will have a gender balance; and the Voice will elect joint presiding members, the primary conduit for the Voice to Parliament. Their roles will include:

- the right to speak on legislation that the Voice considers affects First Nation South Australians in either the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council, but not both, on any bill through one of its joint presiding members;
- the right to prepare reports to parliament and to provide an annual address;
- the opportunity to meet with cabinet and departmental officials to ensure that issues affecting First Nations people are heard across government; and
- annual engagement hearings to examine how government expenditure is used to support First Nations communities.

While it is important to note that this legislation is designed for us to hear the Voice and to act upon recommendations, the Voice itself will not override other Aboriginal bodies or First Nations utilities in the determination. The Voice will not administer funding. It will not deliver programs. It will not have a veto power and it will not be a third chamber of parliament. What it will do is to provide a Voice to Parliament on any matter that impacts on our First Nations people.

Throughout the development of this bill, each step of the way it was hand in hand with South Australian Aboriginal communities. This is needed reform in the space of self-determination that will have everlasting effects on education, health, housing, food supply, wellbeing, justice, choice and much, much more, which will impact the lives and life spans of our First Nations people. It will give a voice to First Nations people and help guide better outcomes.

Consider the Bringing Them Home report. This was tabled in federal parliament in 1997, and it contained 54 recommendations on redressing the wrongs imposed on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by a raft of race-based laws. That report, of course, was the one that led to the national apology that was stubbornly rejected by the former Prime Minister John Howard, before it was put up by the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008. These were wrongs done to the Aboriginal

people through legislation handed down by decades of government that was supposed to be there for Australians. They were in a sense race-based laws.

The report showed that the people of the stolen generation, children forcibly taken away from their parents, have endured ongoing hardship. They are in fact 50 per cent more likely to be charged by police, 30 per cent less likely to enjoy good health and 10 per cent less likely to have a job. It shows that more than 50 years after the stolen generation essentially ended, descendants of those people taken away from their communities are still impacted. They are still suffering. The Voice will go a long way to addressing some of these recommendations.

The Kurna traditional welcome, Wanti-naa, translates to mean, 'Where are all of you going?' Well, today I hope that those opposite are listening to the reasons why the Voice to Parliament is a positive, why it should be supported, why they should not be afraid and that South Australia will again be written into the pages of history with another first through the passing of this legislation, the Voice to Parliament bill, which will assist in delivering a clearer pathway for the First Nations people of our state and beyond. That is where I hope we are going.

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (16:36): Today I rise to speak on what is to me the most important piece of legislation to be put before this chamber in this term of government. It is commonly held that South Australia developed differently to other states and territories. It is said that as a state free of convicts we were more progressive and we placed a higher value on civil liberties than other parts of the world at the time.

In some aspects that may be true, but there is no denying the fact that when it comes to the historical treatment of our First Nations people South Australia shares the same inconvenient truth as our interstate neighbours. It is reflected in the very first sentence of the South Australia Act 1834 which described much of the state as 'waste' and 'unoccupied lands'. It is reflected in the massacres perpetrated by colonial settlers against strong communities that had existed in these lands for tens of thousands of years.

It is reflected in the pain and suffering felt by victims of the stolen generations, a truly awful practice that persisted for far too long. The truth is that for Aboriginal people European settlement in South Australia led to displacement, dispossession and generational trauma that persists to this day. Sadly, the effect of this truth is still being experienced. As the Uluru Statement from the Heart outlines, proportionally First Nations people are the most incarcerated people on the planet. On almost every measure, First Nations people were left behind, whether it be in relation to the health of their community, the educational outcomes of their children or life expectancy. We see that First Nations people continue to experience worse outcomes than the rest of the population.

These statistics are not just numbers on a page: they represent the very real lives of thousands in our state who should not be living with the extreme disadvantage that history has afforded to them. Throughout all of this, Aboriginal people in South Australia have continued to be strong and resilient. They make an irreplaceable contribution to our state and our way of life and they have consistently for many decades called for their voice to be heard.

Their voice is diverse. There are hundreds of peoples, cultures and languages across the country, many of them here in South Australia. This diversity gives strength to the messages that they have about how this state should act on the matters that affect them. Their voice matters. The messages and ideas that First Nations people have for all of us about how to close the gap and how to end systemic disadvantage is invaluable. Without their voice, history will surely be set to repeat.

Yet their voice has been unheard. Throughout the 165-year history of the South Australian parliament, there has been almost no representation of Aboriginal people in this place. Until the Hon. Kyam Maher in the other place, I do not know of another parliamentarian who identified themselves as Aboriginal. When the Uluru Statement was made, it was powerful. It clearly identified that First Nations people want a Voice and that without it our continued efforts to end generational disadvantage will be wasted.

I am very proud that the South Australian Labor Party, under the leadership of our Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher, and our Premier, was an early adopter and committed to

Voice, Treaty and Truth. Now, having been elected less than a year ago, it is up to all of us to make that commitment a reality.

The bill before us presents a model for a representative Voice that has been extensively consulted on. It is, in my view, a comprehensive and considered set of reforms. It will provide the ability for Aboriginal people to issue their Voice directly to the state's key decision-makers, including our parliament, our cabinet and our chief executives.

This is a place for debate, and I expect that there will be debate of this bill. I expect that there will be amendments that will be made. But we do not want to have inaction or delay. I hope when it comes to making final decisions, particularly at the third reading, all of us in this chamber will consider what we can do in our small part in responding to the Uluru Statement to provide Aboriginal people with the input that they have deserved for so many decades.

Tomorrow in this house I will table the South Australian Multicultural Charter. This is the core of the new South Australian Multicultural Act that was enacted on 2 December 2021. There has been considerable consultation with members of the South Australian Multicultural Commission, universities, the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement and the public.

One of the key things that moved me so much in this charter was the focus on how we represent and recognise First Nations. From the different consultations that I attended, this was first and foremost what people wanted to see represented in this charter: to acknowledge a culture of 60,000 years, the oldest living culture in the world.

The South Australian Multicultural Charter acknowledges Aboriginal peoples as the traditional owners and occupants of the land and waters in South Australia, who continue to maintain and develop their cultural and heritage beliefs as the longest living diverse culture with a significant historical and ongoing role as the First Nations people in South Australia. That is the key start when we talk about the charter. The charter will also acknowledge the achievements and challenges of the generations who came before us in bringing together new and emerging communities that help shape South Australia's identity.

The charter talks about before, it talks about now and it talks about the future. When you look at the Uluru Statement from the Heart, it talked about the next stage after Voice, Treaty and Truth. That is called 'makarrata'. It is the next stage in the journey of the struggle and the progress towards coming together—the coming together after a struggle.

For me, this is something that is not only recognised by our multicultural and our diverse community. I remind us of who that is: one in two of us were either born overseas or have a parent born overseas. This is us. These people who have migrated here recognise how important it is to recognise First Nations. For me, I think it is a recognition, perhaps, of their own struggles, and for many whose voice was not heard in their own country to see how important recognition and voice is. Their willingness, their openness and their enthusiasm to respect, acknowledge and empower our First Nations has moved me in my role as Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

This coming together after the struggle is important. I turn 50 next month, and sometimes you think, 'Where did those decades go?'

An honourable member: What date?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON: The 19th. But the reason I raise that is because of the change in our recognition of First Nations. When I went through school, I learned more about the Boer War than I did about Aboriginal culture, tradition and recognising the diversity of language and the richness of culture. Yet in my lifetime I have seen that change, and not just from us recognising that we are here on Kurna land but recognising that truth needs to be told—that we need to have difficult conversations about how we treated our First Nations people.

For me, there was a complete lack of knowledge and a complete lack of understanding about how government, legislation and policy impacted people's lives. They ripped up families in a belief that one ethnicity is stronger than another, one way of life is stronger than another, and that there is only one way to live. But that puts aside humanity. It puts aside the recognition of the depth of how

people work between languages, whether it is songlines, how you provide food, your knowledge of the land or your connection to the land—we dismissed that so much. It is only now that I see my son at school understanding it, acknowledging it and understanding how important it is to know the stories, to know the connection to land and to value the oldest living culture on Earth.

I do think that we are on the second part of our journey. It is about acknowledging the truth, but it is the coming together after the struggle that is important: when we consider the story told from two perspectives, both that of settlement and that of invasion, and that the maturation of Australia will be marked by our ability to understand both perspectives. That is why the Voice and representation here is so important. I am ready for that second part of our journey.

It often says the third part of our Australian story is written by generations of migrants from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific, and the world over. They have come here to make their home in this continent. They have made Australia a multicultural triumph over the diversity and unity. I look around this chamber at the diversity that is here, but the diversity has not gone far enough, until this legislation came forward. So I ask people to consider this as our coming together after a struggle, to consider that this is the best way forward, and for that I commend the bill to the house.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (16:50): I rise today to speak on the First Nations Voice Bill 2023. I would like to preface my comments on this bill by saying I am very aware of the significant ground that needs to be made on the divide between Aboriginal communities and their families in our state. As a state, we have a long way to go to address systematic and structural racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias. We know we need to make ground to improve outcomes for our state's Indigenous people.

I note that the intent of the bill is to create a connected, direct and independent line of communication for First Nations people to SA's parliament and the government to allow important shared communication by locally elected regional members. I have no doubt the direction of the bill is well intended; however, I have strong reservations about what the bill will deliver for Indigenous people of our state.

It is my hope that the model proposed for the First Nations Voice Bill does make some ground to address the disparity we see between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. I fear, however, the Voice to Parliament will fall short of delivering on some of the key injustices and inequality faced by Indigenous communities. They are many.

Educational outcomes: we know that high levels of education have been linked to better economic, social and wellbeing outcomes for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Ensuring early years learning, retaining Indigenous children in schooling systems, supporting developmental progress, supporting Indigenous students to complete year 12, and increasing Indigenous representation in tertiary education are all fundamental outcomes we need to be striving for.

Incarceration outcomes: Indigenous youth are sadly over-represented in detention, while incarceration of Indigenous people in South Australia make up 24 per cent of inmates.

Health outcomes: nationally a 2018 study on the burden of disease found that Indigenous Australians as a whole lost almost 240,000 years of healthy life due to ill health and premature death. Major contributing diseases include mental and substance use disorders, injuries, cardiovascular disease, cancer and musculoskeletal conditions, where respiratory diseases also contribute substantially to non-fatal burden.

Family and relationships: we have seen the rate of Aboriginal children entering care increasing, and the statistics for sexual assault of Aboriginal women at a level three times that of non-Indigenous women.

Life expectancy: ABS statistics indicate that nationally the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women is 7.8 years less than non-Indigenous women, and 8.6 years less for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men compared to non-Indigenous men.

Income: we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consistently earn lower average incomes from employment and private sources than non-Indigenous Australians, and are more likely to suffer from poorer health outcomes.

Isolated communities are all marginalised further when we look at statistics in relation to each of the indicator areas I have just identified. As I mentioned, I do hope that the bill does deliver better outcomes for our Indigenous people and communities. Unfortunately, I am not convinced. We can do lots of talking, but what we need is action. I would like to be convinced about how the First Nations Voice at the parliamentary level will ensure grassroots engagement and how delivery will occur with Indigenous people to deliver tangible outcomes.

In itself, the First Nations Voice Bill creates its own layers of bureaucracy. It is difficult to see how this process will work with or complement the range of work and mandates of a range of existing First Nations bodies, which are preserved under clause 7 of the bill. This model has been layered over the top of numerous existing advisory bodies, structures and advocacy groups, which I am told number more than 190.

The bill itself establishes layers of local and state bodies and at least four other possible more separate advisory bodies. Will it actually assist in ensuring there are resources and policies directed efficiently in the best and most effective way possible to enhance education, decrease incarceration and improve incomes and health outcomes?

I note the Productivity Commission in the 2017 Indigenous Expenditure Report highlights that the expenditure per person was around double for Indigenous people in Australia compared with non-Indigenous people. The resources are being allocated. Let's make sure they are being used effectively. Let's make sure our policy settings are right.

I think we should rather be addressing some of the layered bureaucratic and delivery shortfalls in our current systems that have given rise to so many of the generational inequities that we see today. As an elected Liberal member, I value small, efficient and effective government. I do share concerns I have heard on the bill:

- I am informed that it will cost \$10 million over four years to implement. I am concerned about the bill as it is currently drafted, including the lack of detail about the remuneration of committee members;
- the electoral process;
- general allocations;
- how one individual not elected by all South Australians will be able to come into the parliament and speak on any or every bill; and
- the absence of a limit on the number of committees that can be established, their terms and other details.

More information is needed about how this proposal will play out.

We have had a number of speakers and a lot of people have spoken on this. It is a very easy topic to talk about all the shortfalls, problems and issues that we know, have seen, acknowledged and observed right throughout South Australia and beyond. There is no doubt there are some massive issues. I am really, really worried that this process meets emotional connections. It meets a desire for greater conductivity and greater connection through voice, communication and advocacy, but where is the substantial stuff that actually says what is going wrong today, what needs fixing, how can we make it better, how can we get it to where it is needed and actually change the results and the outcomes that we know have been rolling on year after year in history?

There is nothing more sure than there are Indigenous Australians out there immensely successful in any field. We can see them. We also know that at the other end of the spectrum there is a tail, an isolated group and communities of Indigenous South Australians who feel there is no prosperity, no future that looks bright for them, that everything seems bleak and not only do they get to feel and see that but that is exactly what transpires.

What is then interesting is that we as representatives, 47 members in this chamber and the upper house chamber members of the state parliament, are trying to advocate. We see and recognise these issues and suddenly, by having this sort of process, it sort of beggars belief that you just suddenly turn this all upside down and there is a ray of sunshine, as we sometimes say on an

item, and everything changes just because this communication suddenly invents something that is not there or not being used at the moment. It actually questions what this democratic building and parliament stand for if this system is failing so badly for this sector of the population and the disadvantaged.

With what has been advocated by those who have spoken in favour of this bill—mostly by the government—there are heartfelt strings and emotional feelings. Most people talk genuinely about the issues that are out there, and finding solutions. But this is one of the things that I think South Australian MPs in general—if you're in business, and your business was about Aboriginals and the Indigenous population surviving and thriving, you would not just go and change your communication strategy. You would put a whole lot more in place than some Voice bill to change the outcomes for these Indigenous Aboriginals who are suffering so badly, outcomes that we all talk about and know need to be better.

So, I appreciate the intent of the bill. I hope it delivers tangible outcomes for Indigenous people in South Australia, but I am unable to support it.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (17:00): Naa marni. Ngai nari Jayne Stinson. Marni naa pudni. Kurna Miyirna ngadlu. Kurna yarta tampinhi. Ngaityalya. I rise to support this bill and all that this bill means: a voice for Aboriginal South Australians, hearing from and listening to Aboriginal people, the first and original inhabitants of this land that we all love. It is a voice all of us in this place can do much more to listen to and to act upon. There are many challenges we face in this world, and there is so much to do in this place, but for me there are two overriding challenges for our generation: climate change and reconciliation.

The plight of Aboriginal Australians is something I have thought long and hard about for much of my adult life, and even some of my childhood. Issues of race, and my observations of the experiences of our Aboriginal people, has been woven into my own story: from childhood experiences through to my career as a journalist and, most especially, the transformative time that I spent in my twenties, working and living in north-west WA and Central Australia. Those memories and stories, experiences and events, have altered my views and deepened them over the decades, and also added many layers of complexity.

Having grown up in different towns across country Australia, I heard people talk about Aboriginal people when I was a child, but rarely was I exposed to Aboriginal culture. It was not something really discussed, taught at my school or talked about in my family. It was a period of time when stereotypes about Aboriginal people ran rife, and racist slurs were really only starting to be called out publicly. It was a time when, in country towns like mine, the language about Aboriginal people was often coarse and, frankly, racist.

I was barely a teenager when Pauline Hanson came to the fore, and tensions ramped up. In my little coastal town, Hanson held a rally and hundreds of people turned up—adults I knew. I remember feeling surprised that so many shared her views and were willing to picket the streets in support of her opinions. I must have been 13 when I was talking to my friend at school about it, and really I had no concept that she was Torres Strait Islander. I remember her with awesome, curly-blond hair. She was very funny, cheeky and popular—and the best at the 100-metre sprint, which I always hoped to win but never did. At school, I was oblivious to her race. I never asked her about it, and I never asked any of the other students about their backgrounds either.

The first time I turned my mind to her Aboriginality was when I saw her pain at some boys latching onto the sentiments expressed by Pauline Hanson and parroting them to her in the schoolyard. She defended herself, and she yelled back, but I think from then on she was always known as the naughty kid as she dealt with racist taunts. Skip forward 20 years, and I had a beer with her at our school reunion. Our lives had turned out so differently. She had six kids, she had been in violent relationships that she had to flee and she still lived in our hometown. She was the same funny, cheeky person from school, but all grown up, harder and wiser. She had led a tough life in many ways, with intense loss and tragedy—but she is also a brilliant, caring mum and a good person. I felt really lucky to be able to see her again and soak up a moment of her sunshine.

But, of course, I did wonder how her Aboriginality had shaped her life so far, how much of the ingrained generations of trauma and racism infiltrated and directed her life. Suffice to say, many

of the key indicators of disadvantage that we know exist for Aboriginal people were marked in her life story thus far.

We know Aboriginal kids are less likely to complete high school or uni, we know the tragedies of child and infant loss, of child protection interventions, of contact with the justice system and incarceration, primarily as victims, of domestic violence, of unstable housing, of ill health. Those are all features of many Aboriginal people's lives. Many of my colleagues have traversed those appalling statistics as part of this debate. I often reflect on her experience and what I would want, what she would want and what all of us would want for her children and her children's children: a life that is freer and more just, safer and fairer.

When I finished uni, I got a job with the ABC in north-west WA. It was a very remote location, the most remote in the ABC network at the time, and I covered huge native title agreements and had the great privilege to celebrate those by sitting down with Aboriginal people to eat kangaroo cooked in the earth, hear amazing Dreamtime stories, experience traditional dancing, and all in the dust of the most remote parts of our nation.

But I also reported on the degradation of the Burrup Peninsula and the destruction of the oldest petroglyphs or rock art in the world. I reported on the conflict of Aboriginal heritage and mining, and skyrocketing crime and incarceration rates among Aboriginal people. I also learned of the Flying Foam Massacre on the Burrup Peninsula close to Karratha where I lived at the time. In short, in February 1868, a policeman abducted a young Aboriginal woman at gunpoint. Nine Jaburara men staged a rescue and the police officer was speared in the attempted rescue at Nickol Bay.

What followed was the government authorised systematic annihilation of the Jaburara people, with pearlers and pastoralists assembling mounted parties to murder groups of Aboriginal people including women and children. The atrocities saw the near extinction of the Jaburara. I do not think many could claim that those early atrocities of violence and dispossession have not influenced the position of Aboriginal people who live there today. It is a familiar story across our country and it is our greatest national shame.

After several years reporting in WA, I moved to Alice Springs as the ABC's TV reporter. My experiences there were joyful and celebratory and beautiful and breathtaking, filled with song and rich culture and sweeping landscapes and the most spectacular art, curious characters and unique insights, but my time in Central Australia was also undeniably challenging, conflicting and confronting.

Some memories from our red heart will never leave me and were horrific, vile and shocking. This was in the period immediately before and during the intervention, and I was reporting on the depraved and hopeless situations many men, women and children were living in, conditions that exceeded what I had seen in the slums of India or in the poorest parts of Africa.

I had firsthand experiences of violence and fear as I lived in Central Australia, and I reported on too many murders and shocking events. But my knowledge of the travesties of Central Australia at that time were gleaned primarily by listening to heart-wrenching stories told to me by Aboriginal people in my work as a reporter. It was hard to get people to tell those stories so when they did, it really meant something to me and it stayed with me.

I actually find many of my most disturbing memories, and even the most devastating stories that I reported on publicly at the time, unspeakable to recount now. The level of violence and human tragedy and pain inflicted upon fellow humans is beyond anything that I can put into words. The depth of violence, sexual assault and paedophilia, mental illness, addiction, coupled with the lack of education, health care and economic support was mind blowing, and it was inextricable from the dispossession and trauma of the European arrival that preceded it. I do not share these insights to shame or shock, although we all should of course be shocked, but to draw the link between invasion and where Aboriginal people find themselves today.

Living and working in Central Australia deeply shaped my thinking about Aboriginal affairs and my motivations in my own career. In my teens, like all teenagers, I thought I had the solutions about Aboriginal affairs, but I knew nothing. Even now I am aware of the limitations of my capacity to understand the experience of being Aboriginal in this nation.

I viewed all of this from a place of privilege. Even as a young, underpaid junior reporter, often working alone or with just one other person, I still held a privileged position. The situations I put myself in as a reporter were of my own free will. Largely, I was free to leave and I was fundamentally safe. That included reporting on lawless riots, venturing into communities with violent petrol sniffers and just about getting stabbed in the leg, visiting town camps at night—which I would not recommend—and even attending footy games for fun on the weekend there were weapons secreted across the ground in preparation for conflict or for defence.

Going out at night in Alice always was, and unfortunately still is, very risky, especially for young women. My ability to walk away if I chose was so starkly different to the position many Aboriginal people found and still find themselves in. For economic, mental, physical, historical, family, geographical, safety and cultural reasons they cannot leave. The tragedy and trauma persists and it is inescapable for many.

Altogether, my time in Central Australia was a revelation and it was life changing for me—the sharp collision of so much beauty set hard against so much despair. I would not give up that time for anything, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to bear witness and tell the stories of Aboriginal people via the ABC, but I am glad that there are now more Aboriginal people telling their stories themselves, and I look forward to even more doing so in the future, whether directly or through the increasing number of Aboriginal reporters and First Nations media.

What did I learn from my time in Alice Springs? Amid all the contradictions, was there any clarity? To be frank, I am still reflecting on that, and the conversations I have now with Aboriginal people continue to shape and inform my own approach. There are many different experiences of Aboriginal people across this nation and my insights living in Central and North-Western Australia are just a sliver.

But there I learned that intergenerational trauma is deep and dark and almost unfathomable. I learned that there is no quick fix. There is no one policy or thing that will solve the immense and life-threatening problems faced by Aboriginal people. There need to be lots of actions and investments and policies, and there is an immense amount for us to do. But, critically, I learned that self-determination and community empowerment are key. They are surely at the root of the answers that we seek. If dispossession and disempowerment are at the origin of this generational tragedy then surely self-determination, representation and empowerment are at least a large part of the answer, and the place to start. Surely having a platform to discuss and be heard, to negotiate, to inform is part of the answer or, maybe put another way: Voice, Treaty, Truth.

The varied experiences I have had since as a reporter, victim advocate and now an elected member have seen me reflect upon what I have observed, and I have drawn upon that knowledge repeatedly in the work I do. But the question does arise: what role do I play? For many of us there is a question about whether we even have a right to discuss and raise these issues as non-Aboriginal people. Are we drowning out someone else's views? Are my experiences contributing anything to the debate? What should I be doing with this feeling that we all need to do something?

These days we have the concept of an ally, which I think provides a useful way of thinking of ourselves as non-Aboriginal people in the fight, but I also think that those of us sitting here need to go a bit further and recognise that we are the holders of power right now and we can use that power and share that power in the ways that we feel advance the cause. So I really see this bill, the First Nations Voice Bill, as an incredibly powerful exercise of our power.

We are not diluting the parliament's power or that of any one of us here. We are using our power to extend greater power, greater voice to another group, a group who has been denied that access to a voice and power for so long, a group like no other, a group who are the original and first inhabitants of Australia, a group who did not choose to share or surrender their power or authority in this land.

This bill is the answer, one of many answers to the question of what we here can do. We can fully commit ourselves to self-determination for Aboriginal people. The Voice in this bill, to me, is an exercise in very practical self-determination, the kind of self-determination and self-direction that provides a solid foundation for future acts to achieve real change. By voting for this bill, we are fronting up to the fact that the things we have been doing have not worked and that we want to find

things that do work and that self-determination surely lies at the heart of the answers that we need to find alongside Aboriginal people.

The Voice is not a threat: it is an opportunity, an opportunity for our parliament to be informed, to listen, to engage, to seek answers, to build a relationship, to reconcile. The Local and State Voices are advisory bodies only. The Voice is not a third chamber of parliament and it is not responsible for administering programs or issuing grants, but it will be a powerful Voice direct to parliament and to government on the issues affecting First Nations people. There is no threat and no harm done.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart, which this bill draws its origins from, is a generous invitation from First Nations peoples to our nation to walk together for a better future. This bill delivers at a state level on the triple-pronged call for action in the statement. This is the Voice part of Voice, Treaty, Truth. It is the first step along a longer journey.

I accept that others have had different ideas about how this Voice might be achieved in SA and I commend the former government and the former Premier for the work done on the previous bill. It should be seen as part of the work that is now before our parliament. But I am encouraged at the amount of consultation and depth of consultation that has happened since with Aboriginal people to inform the refinement of the model—six months of solid engagement, but of course a much longer period of contemplation and information drawn upon.

I want to thank Kaurna, Narungga, Ngadjuri and Ngarrindjeri man, the Voice commissioner, Dale Agius, a friend and someone I admire for his tireless work and leadership. There are divergent views in the Aboriginal community about how the Voice should work, and that is to be expected and embraced, but he has done the work to reflect what the Aboriginal community want. That diligent process gives me great faith in this approach and confidence in voting for it.

I am also really proud to be part of a team and this whole parliament that is leading the way on delivering a Voice, here and at a national level. We often tout that South Australia is a progressive and history-making state, but honestly some of those achievements are a long way back in history now. It is a great source of pride to be standing here contributing to this legislation, which I truly believe is nation leading.

This bill has an important role in paving the way for the Voice referendum later this year and I am delighted that South Australia is forging a path that will show how a Voice is not so scary, can be executed well and does not limit the power of others but shares it. I am also really excited about the connections that will be forged between this South Australian Voice and that of the national Voice, which I so dearly hope all Australians support.

Many have asked: what will this bill, this Voice, actually achieve? It is not a silly question. It is good to have a sense of urgency to deliver practical change, and I understand concerns about symbolism being prioritised over action. But it is foolish to think of this bill as a panacea and that is not what we are voting for in this place. Will the Voice eliminate intergenerational trauma? No. Will it bring total equality? No. But what it will bring is a greater capacity to speak and be heard, a formal avenue in which listening to Aboriginal people is front and centre. What it will bring is a valuable lens over the legislation that we make in this place and that lens will help our work.

It provides a solid and valuable foundation for further action, led by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people alongside all Australians. It has not escaped me that there is a difficult conflict inherent in any model of interaction with the parliament. This apparatus asks Aboriginal people to engage in a European institution, that of the parliament, in order to be heard. I can understand how that is challenging. I can understand why some would not want to entertain such a prospect. Maybe in future we will find ways to hear Aboriginal people to a greater extent on their terms, like we have with Nunga and Circle Courts. However, this is what we have right now and the system that we need to work within.

I want to close by expressing a few thankyou's. Thank you to all the Aboriginal people who have shared their experiences with me over the decades. Thank you to all of the people who contributed their views to this bill. Thank you to all the people who are thinking carefully about how they are going to vote in the upcoming referendum and speaking with their friends and family about the value of the Voice.

Thank you to Dale Agius, who I spoke of earlier; your leadership is instrumental. A very sincere and heartfelt thanks to our Aboriginal affairs minister, Kyam Maher, and his team. Kyam, I know big change does not happen without big personal sacrifices, and I hope you and your staff are watching this debate and will watch the passage of this bill, and you can absorb the moment and realise that everything you have worked for is worth it. I support the bill.

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

A quorum having been formed:

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (17:22): It is a true honour to rise and speak in support of the First Nations Voice Bill. Before I begin, I want to thank my colleagues from both chambers of parliament for their contributions in support of this bill. Thank you to the many who have been so wonderful.

I deliberately choose not to speak for too long, for I am not the Voice. It does not escape me that what is before us is historic. This is a time when the nation's eyes, maybe even the world's eyes, are upon us and cheering us on to do something fantastic. This is a story of good old South Australia leading the charge to do the right thing, and I could not be prouder.

Having said that, while I am very enthusiastic for this piece of legislation, in many ways it sows the seeds to make me even more excited and optimistic for what comes next. While establishing the Voice is truly symbolic, as I said in my maiden speech, actions speak much louder than words. I am optimistic that this will lead to many positive actions. I have high hopes, and may the work that follows be a profound guiding light, which I hope the rest of the nation chooses to follow.

Having grown up on Peramangk country and now living on Kurna land, I have had the privilege to meet many inspiring First Nations people and look forward to leaders present and emerging being represented within the Voice to the South Australian parliament. I am also fortunate to have lived on Larrakia country for 2½ years. These years helped shape my views around what we must do for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Put simply, it is time to get out of the way and let them be heard. For this reason, I make the deliberate gesture of keeping my contribution short.

In my time in Darwin and across the Northern Territory, my eyes were opened to both the amazing and the somewhat difficult aspects of life for our First Australians. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people representing over 26 per cent of the Territory's population, this was a special time in my life to live among so many First Australians.

I saw countless nations—from the desert to the saltwater and places in between—experience a lifestyle that in many parts was enviable. There were fantastic foods like barramundi and magpie geese; art, dance and stories captivating the world; and kindness and a spirit of generosity without compare. But these beautiful and amazing lives were also saddled with adversity, some of it so complex that I realised we, as outsiders, can only imagine it.

As I went about my work in the Territory, my eyes would see issues and I would think to myself how much I wanted to help. Working in policy I thought I could come up with something that could make a difference—these are words very similar to those expressed by the member for Badcoe. Then one day it dawned on me: I could be as well-meaning as I liked, but I saw the world through my eyes, through my own standards and perspectives. My time in the Territory made me realise how limited these can be.

For this reason, I will not elaborate on where there are issues of concern. Aboriginal people have a right to be proud, and I have faith that the Voice will do this far better than I can. That does not mean it presents an opportunity to abdicate from my responsibilities as a lawmaker. The Voice will do its work and we will all be here to listen and then to act. While we must build bridges between all Australians, we are never going to do this properly if we see things through a single lens or by letting only one side speak. My personal journey into realising what I could do to help drew me to conclude that it was time to sit down and listen.

Our past actions have sometimes been cruel. Other times they have been well-meaning, and while these may have led to some successes we need to also accept and own the numerous failures. We cannot keep going down this same path, which is why the Voice is a much better way. As a government, we are mature enough to accept that there will be truths spoken that we will be uncomfortable with. They must be confronted, for we do this knowing we are not beyond scrutiny. We ask our children to face up to their actions; now we must ask this of ourselves.

I have seen so many wonderful things linked to Aboriginal culture. With this in mind, I am deliberately ensuring this contribution is not just about the difficult areas of policy. Not forgetting that there is a yin to every yang, the Voice will be an unrivalled platform for celebrating all that is wonderful about the oldest surviving cultures in the world. Remember, there is a strong undercurrent to share wisdom accumulated over thousands of years. Embracing this notion can only make us stronger.

So while there is some hard work to be done, we should be also thinking of the amazing possibilities of where the Voice can take us all, together. While the work of the Attorney-General is excellent, we all accept that more is needed to improve the lives of Aboriginal Australians, for this is not an end point but represents a beginning.

I have heard numerous arguments as to why this bill or the national referendum should not be supported, and I do not accept them. If even for a split second these arguments were entertained, all of them seem to discount the value of what a platform like this can give. We all know that from little things big things grow, so we cannot discount opportunities evolving into something bigger and better as time goes by. Let us be clear: the architects of this bill want this—as do I.

It is nobody's intent to lock this in and to then walk away. The Voice should lead to more change, and it will hopefully speed things up. More importantly, any future change will be guided by an elected cohort of Aboriginal leaders. For these reasons, I could not be happier to support an Aboriginal Voice to our parliament. It is time for us to stop making laws for the first Australians, but instead make laws with them.

In speaking to this bill, as I do with many contributions to this house, I take a moment to thank those who have worked hard to bring it before us. I understand the desire to bring this to parliament began while Labor was in opposition, and I want to thank the staffers, both past and present, who have worked for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or the Attorney-General, who have been there for this journey. Nobody is under any illusion that the resources afforded to an opposition are scarce, which makes this bill even more remarkable, and we are here today to make it all happen.

I extend my congratulations to all the political staff, and also those within the various departments. They have moved quickly, yet thoughtfully, and therefore powerfully, to bring this nation-leading legislation to life. In saying this, I make it clear that their work has been thorough with extensive consultation. These sentiments extend to the fantastic work of Dale Agius, a proud member of the Parafield Gardens Soccer Club within my electorate, who has been and continues to be exemplary as the Commissioner for First Nations Voice. I am happy for all involved and want them to know that they have every right to feel proud.

Within South Australia, the Attorney-General has been the driving force, and I can only imagine how special this occasion is to him. If he was the driving force, the Premier has been the vehicle to allow this to happen. The leadership of both has been second to none. While we do not need reminding that the origins of this bill began in Uluru, I want to point out how fitting it is that as the closest capital city to the rock, the legislative pathway to the Voice should begin here. Let's not also forget the work of the First Nations National Constitutional Convention that got things going back in 2017.

There is still some distance to go, but I am pleased that South Australia has taken the first steps to begin the journey to ensure that we can ultimately walk together. There were 16 members in the Referendum Council, and I extend my appreciation to them, as I do with the 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives who helped shape the Uluru Statement from the Heart. This sowed the seeds that led to a movement and, for all involved, I want to offer my congratulations and wish you all the best.

The road ahead is long, noting the statement also calls for Treaty and Truth to follow. We should embrace these, just as we are prepared to do so with the bill before us. I am proud to commend this bill to the house, and like so many of my colleagues who have spoken so eloquently in this debate, I look forward to joining them and the wider community for the journey ahead.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

At 17:34 the house adjourned until Thursday 9 March 2023 at 11:00.