

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 14 June 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

PUBLIC FINANCE AND AUDIT (AUDITOR-GENERAL ACCESS TO CABINET SUBMISSIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (10:31): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise today as the lead speaker for the opposition and indicate the unequivocal support on this side of the house for the Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill 2022. The bill will provide the Auditor-General additional powers to access cabinet submissions in order to complete their audit and fulfill their statutory responsibilities to this parliament to ensure that financial approval and delegation, as well as proper administrative processes, have been adhered to.

The bill will clear up issues raised by the Auditor-General in the 2022 annual report, whereby the Auditor-General was impeded from doing their job because this government and this Premier refused to provide access to cabinet submissions requested by the Auditor-General. I think it is important to take the opportunity to look back at how we have reached this point and how it has become necessary for the opposition to take the lead as a result of the Malinauskas government failing to be open and honest with the people of South Australia.

Since the election of the Malinauskas government in March 2022, the Premier has refused to provide the Auditor-General with access to any of his government's cabinet submissions. This shocking lack of transparency and accountability led the Auditor-General himself to declare that the change of government has certainly changed the scenario for access. That is right: the change of government has hindered the ability of the Auditor-General to do his job.

This was not an issue that was raised during the four years of the Marshall Liberal government, where cabinet submissions were provided to the Auditor-General on request. Since the March 2022 election, the opposition has provided all eight cabinet submissions that the Auditor-General has requested of us in full.

There is an arrogance of this Premier and this government. The Premier has confirmed time and time again that he does not intend to give the Auditor-General any cabinet submissions that he requests into the future. The Premier and the Labor Party have continued to make statements defending these actions, statements that without context are true but could only be interpreted by any rational or logical person as being just plain misleading.

Statement No. 1, and I quote: 'The government operates on exactly the same framework as its predecessor'—technically true. Premier's circular No. 47 still exists and provides the Premier with the ability to release requested cabinet documents to the Auditor-General. Under the last government, requested cabinet submissions were approved for release. Under Labor, the Premier has released none—rejected every request. So, yes, while the same framework exists, the practical outcome is completely different.

The secrecy is down to one person: the Premier of this state. If the Premier's intent is just to reject every request, why even keep the framework at all? What purpose does it serve if there is no intent whatsoever from this government to allow the release of any cabinet submission documents? The circular is there so that the Auditor-General can do his job and avoid having to provide qualified opinions as he was forced to do in relation to the Labor Party's sports and infrastructure election grants program.

Statement No. 2, and I again quote: 'The only people in South Australia who are entitled to cabinet documents are members of cabinet themselves'—again, technically true. Leaving aside the long list of political staffers, departmental staff and others who have access outside of cabinet members themselves, it ignores the convention of providing requested documents to the Auditor-General that existed prior to 2016. It also ignores the fact that the Premier need only follow our lead and introduce a bill to this parliament should he wish to provide that entitlement to the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General must feel like he has gone back to the future, because this lack of transparency is in the DNA of the Labor Party. This may be a different government, but it is certainly the same old Labor.

When the Auditor-General was asked in a Budget and Finance Committee hearing whether powers to access cabinet submissions would help him undertake his functions, he quite simply replied yes. Why would any reasonable member of any government seek to obstruct an independent authority such as the Auditor-General from doing their job? It lacks transparency, accountability and integrity. It is not responsible government and it begs one question: what does the Premier know and what is he trying to hide? That is how we got to this point, and it is time for members opposite to stop the obstruction and join us in supporting this bill.

This bill is designed as a first step towards broader reform. For this reason, and to avoid the need for an assessment to be undertaken as part of the process, the bill only provides access to cabinet submissions. This avoids the potential issue of releasing sensitive cabinet documents that are not relevant to providing the Auditor-General with the necessary information around spending decisions that are contained in the cabinet submission itself. In practice, provisions in the bill would allow the Auditor-General to request a cabinet submission document from the department responsible for the submission or from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or the Cabinet Office.

The bill provides relevant legal protections to cover the individuals who provide the document. It also outlines the strict requirements of the Auditor-General in maintaining confidentiality of a document provided to them only for the purposes of an audit. Further, the bill sets out the requirements around any necessary disclosure in a report that must be followed by the Auditor-General. The bill also requires that the Premier or the opposition leader, depending on the cabinet submission sought, must be notified when a request is made. The bill will act retrospectively.

In the preparation of this bill, the opposition looked at other jurisdictions and what they are doing. The federal Auditor-General can access necessary cabinet submissions. In Western Australia, the Labor government introduced a bill to provide express legislative right of access to their Auditor-General. In the words of the former WA Premier McGowan, 'The Auditor-General serves a critical role in public integrity.' In New South Wales, the former Perrottet Liberal government introduced a bill also to provide their Auditor-General with access to cabinet submissions necessary to undertake their obligations.

It is time for all of us in this place to step up and to act. Every member of this place has a responsibility to their constituents to ensure that government is honest and that it is accountable. It is sad that the opposition has had to act and to introduce this bill, because this should not be a matter for debate. This should be a debate that is actually taking place in government business, as it has done interstate.

This bill has already passed with the support of the entire crossbench through the Legislative Council. The only opposition to its passage is the Labor Party. It should be part of any responsible government to ensure that the Auditor-General can fulfil their statutory responsibilities to this parliament. This is what this bill will achieve and I commend it to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:40): I am pleased to rise to support the Public Finance and Audit (Auditor-General Access to Cabinet Submissions) Amendment Bill. I commend the shadow treasurer, the member for Colton, for bringing this bill to the house and for the work that he did, along with our colleague the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place, to prepare this bill. The member for Colton and the shadow treasurer has already outlined some of the work that went into the preparation for this bill and noted that when introduced to the Legislative Council, the Greens, SA-Best, One Nation—the entire crossbench of the Legislative Council—joined with the Liberal Party in supporting this bill and bringing it to this place.

The only roadblock to its advancement now is the government, but I fear that they are reluctant to support the bill because the reason for its very existence lies in their inability to open themselves up to the scrutiny of the Auditor-General by providing cabinet submissions such as the former Liberal government did, such as former Labor governments did prior to 2016. We do not know why they are so reluctant to open themselves up to the scrutiny of the Auditor-General, but it is that fear of transparency and accountability that has created the reason for the bill in the first place, and I fear they are going to take that fear of the sunlight to the vote on this bill.

The Auditor-General is not some scary bogeyman figure the government should fear. The Auditor-General is a statutory officer who, on behalf of the people of South Australia, conducts inquiries into the integrity and the accounts of government departments and, indeed, should be able to provide that scrutiny to cabinet documents. It is an integrity and accountability measure that the former Liberal government did not fear. The only documents I ever recall being denied to the Auditor-General on their request were those that required the permission of the Premier now, as opposition leader as was then, the Labor Party from previous cabinet decisions prior to 2018, required the Labor Party's permission to release them. Those are the only ones I recall.

Since the election, I should also say that the Leader of the Opposition has been asked on a number of occasions by the Auditor-General, by Cabinet Office, whether we would allow cabinet submissions undertaken during our time in government to be released to the Auditor-General. They are the only cabinet submissions the Auditor-General has seen since the election, as I understand it. We have said yes when the Auditor-General has provided that request while the government says no.

The Premier in this house on a number of occasions, when asked why this government is not releasing cabinet documents to the Auditor-General, has used the excuse of cabinet confidentiality. That confidentiality, as the shadow treasurer identified before—well, the way the Premier talks about it you would think that the only 15 people in the land who had ever seen any of these cabinet documents were the members of the cabinet itself. But we know that there are senior public servants, there are people in the Cabinet Office, there are people in the departments, there are chief executives of the departments who have access to those documents. There are political appointees in ministers' offices and, indeed, in the Premier's office who have access to those documents.

The Auditor-General does not. That the Auditor-General does not when so many others do—and I have no problem with those people having access because they are part of the machinery of government that enables cabinet to function—the idea that cabinet confidentiality should be used as a shield against the Auditor-General being able to use their full purpose with access to those documents to apply proper integrity and scrutiny on the government, is a complete nonsense. It is a farce. It is unsustainable.

It is a farce that the Premier, Peter Malinauskas, has been using since 2018, when he was appointed as opposition leader and he started at that point—elected by the Labor Party, against a full field of candidates no doubt. At that point, in 2018, he commenced his campaign, his continued and intentional obstruction of the Auditor-General accessing those documents.

He was not the first; Jay Weatherill was the first. The former Premier introduced this approach in 2016 and the Auditor-General complained and expressed concern then. We in the opposition, as we were then, said, 'We wouldn't behave like that in government,' and we did not. But this is a government, this is a party, that since 2016 has not provided scrutiny for the people of South Australia.

This is not for cabinet documents to be seen by everybody and it is not for cabinet documents to be released to the entire world: this is to the Auditor-General, a man of significant integrity who has had no questions placed on his integrity in any way that I am aware of—who has had no questions over his capacity to perform his duties or to handle sensitive documents or sensitive government information—other than that this government does not want him to have the opportunity to observe the decision-making process behind these cabinet documents.

Several years ago, a significant inquiry was undertaken into the schools building program. It found many good things happening in the schools building program, but it did raise the question of how the choices were made in the initial \$692 million worth of projects that were chosen when the Weatherill government was in place and the lands titles office was sold. This became the basis for many of the about 97 projects selected. They were announced by the Labor Party in 2017. The Liberal Party, wanting to give certainty to these schools very soon, announced that if we were elected in 2018 we would match every one of those commitments, which we did. Indeed, many of those commitments have now been completed and have significantly improved schools.

But there are 500 public schools, and we have identified dozens and dozens of them, potentially well over 100, that do need some further work. Ninety or so were chosen by the Labor Party, and the amount of money that was spent on each of them was determined by the Labor Party. There were some controversial decisions in that. For example, at Norwood Morialta, which was seen to be the beneficiary of a \$30 million project, the Labor Party never told anyone before the election that \$15 million of that was predicated on the sale of land at Rostrevor for housing.

That decision was overturned, thankfully, and that land is now going towards building a new school. The purpose in raising this example is that the Auditor-General would have loved to see the cabinet submission that went into the cabinet to make those decisions about the \$692 million, the 97 or so choices. I have not been told this officially, but my understanding is that there were many suggestions that did not make the cut.

Whether those suggestions were in the cabinet paper or not, prepared by the education department, we will not know until the expiry of time for those cabinet papers to be revealed comes up. The Auditor-General would have liked to know. The Auditor-General would have liked to know if there were suggestions made by the education department about schools that should get funding or whether the amounts of money that were provided in those suggestions were sufficient.

When we did the assessment through 2018, and announced it in early 2019, of how much money would be necessary to deliver our commitment of year 7 to high school, it took into account works for upgrades that were already planned. Indeed, a number of schools were identified that not only needed new infrastructure for the year 7s but needed new infrastructure for the kids who were already there.

These schools were not unknown to the education department in 2017 when the Labor government determined how much money should go into that schools building program, yet that cabinet did not provide money to those schools as part of that \$692 million and there were funds provided to other schools. There was an interesting geographical mix that did not necessarily align perfectly with need. We had made those commitments and those schools were all worthy, but were they the most worthy? Well, we will not know because the Auditor-General did not have access to that cabinet document.

Even though we were in government, the Labor Party did not allow access to that cabinet document to be provided to any integrity body—the Auditor-General is the one I am thinking of in particular—to allay any doubt. So the purpose for this bill should not be necessary because it should just be the convention that was maintained up to 2016, and observed from 2018 to 2022, that governments provide the Auditor-General with access to cabinet documents. The fact that the Labor Party refuses to provide any of them has created this need.

It is not that there is an excuse that in one particular case or on one particular cabinet submission the Labor Party have identified a specific need why this information is so sensitive, so secure, that the Auditor-General cannot see this one. No, they applied a blanket rule: they do not believe the Auditor-General ought be entitled to see these documents.

Well, we disagree, and we believe that they have nothing to fear so long as they are acting with integrity. They should support this bill and demonstrate that they have nothing to fear from the transparency measure, which is so confined that the Auditor-General alone can see the documents rather than their being released to the general public. On behalf of the general public, on behalf of the people of South Australia, the Auditor-General can apply themselves and their scrutiny and their consideration to whether these cabinet decisions were taken appropriately. I commend the bill to the house.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:50): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes22
Noes15
Majority7

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)	McBride, P.N.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G.
Pratt, P.K.	Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Szakacs, J.K.	Marshall, S.S.	Boyer, B.I.
Hurn, A.M.	Hutchesson, C.L.	Cowdrey, M.J.

Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

ELECTORAL (CONTROL OF CORFLUTES) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 17 May 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:55): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes22
Noes15
Majority7

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)	McBride, P.N.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G.
Pratt, P.K.	Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Boyer, B.I.	Hurn, A.M.	Szakacs, J.K.
Marshall, S.S.	Hutchesson, C.L.	Cowdrey, M.J.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMMISSIONER BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 March 2023.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:59): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes	22
Noes.....	15
Majority	7

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Ellis, F.J.	Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)	McBride, P.N.
Patterson, S.J.R.	Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G.
Pratt, P.K.	Speirs, D.J.	Tarzia, V.A.

Teague, J.B.

Telfer, S.J.

Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Szakacs, J.K.
Hurn, A.M.Marshall, S.S.
Hutchesson, C.L.Boyer, B.I.
Cowdrey, M.J.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (TARGETS) AMENDMENT
BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 2 November 2022.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:04): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes24
Noes.....15
Majority9

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.
Ellis, F.J.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K.
Teague, J.B.Batty, J.A.
Gardner, J.A.W. (teller)
Pederick, A.S.
Speirs, D.J.
Telfer, S.J.Brock, G.G.
McBride, P.N.
Pisoni, D.G.
Tarzia, V.A.
Whetstone, T.J.

PAIRS

Szakacs, J.K.
Hurn, A.M.Marshall, S.S.
Hutchesson, C.L.Boyer, B.I.
Cowdrey, M.J.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (11:09): I move:

That standing and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable Government Business to take precedence forthwith over Private Members Business, Other Motions, to 1pm, and that Private Members

Business, Other Motions, set down on the *Notice Paper* for Wednesday 14 June, take precedence over Government Business today after the completion of grievances for the equivalent period of time for which Government Business took precedence over Private Members Business earlier today.

Motion carried.

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of year 8 students from Galilee Campus, Cardijn College at Aldinga, guests of the member for Mawson. Welcome to parliament.

Motions

CHILDREN IN STATE CARE APOLOGY ANNIVERSARY

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (11:10): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that 17 June 2023 is the 15th anniversary of the formal apology offered by the government of South Australia to children abused in state care;
- (b) notes the continuing significance of the apology to those people who were abused while in the care of the state;
- (c) acknowledges the enduring legacy of the late the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC as commissioner and the staff of the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry;
- (d) acknowledges the ongoing work of staff in the Department for Child Protection and many non-government organisations to support victims of abuse crimes;
- (e) acknowledges the work of survivors, advocates, the police, DPP and the wider justice system who work to achieve justice for victims and hold perpetrators to account; and
- (f) reiterates the apology made by the then Premier the Hon. Mike Rann to those who were abused in state care.

On 17 June 2008, then Premier the Hon. Mike Rann stood where I am standing today and said the following:

That this parliament recognises the abuses of some of those who grew up in state care and the impact that this had on their lives.

Only those who have been subject to this kind of abuse or neglect will ever be able to fully understand what it means to have experienced these abhorrent acts.

For many of these people, governments of any persuasion were not to be trusted. Yet many have overcome this mistrust.

You have been listened to and believed and this parliament now commits itself to righting the wrongs of the past.

We recognise that the majority of carers have been, and still are, decent, honourable people who continue to open their hearts to care for vulnerable children.

We thank those South Australians for their compassion and care.

We also acknowledge that some have abused the trust placed in them as carers. They have preyed upon our children.

We acknowledge those courageous people who opened up their own wounds to ensure that we as a state could know the extent of these abuses.

We accept that some children who were placed in the care of government and church institutions suffered abuse.

We accept these children were hurt.

We accept they were hurt through no fault of their own.

We acknowledge this truth.

We acknowledge that in the past the state has not protected some of its most vulnerable.

By this apology we express regret for the pain that has been suffered by so many.

To all those who experienced abuse in state care, we are sorry.

To those who witnessed these abuses, we are sorry.

This apology from the Hon. Mike Rann was a moment of historical importance for South Australia. It was an acknowledgement of the failings of this state and its institutions in their duty to protect some of our most vulnerable—those children who had been placed into state care.

Today, as we mark the 15th anniversary of the apology made in this chamber, I want to take the opportunity to again reflect on the impact that institutional abuse has had on the lives of so many vulnerable and innocent children.

I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the people who experienced institutional abuse. It is to them that we said sorry 15 years ago and it is to them we reaffirm that apology here today. We do this because we know that, for so many, that abuse was only the beginning of so much pain, so much fear, so much loss.

Ki Meekins is one of the children whose life was forever altered by his treatment in state care. I want to thank my parliamentary colleagues, particularly Frank Pangallo and Tammy Franks, and especially recognise Ki's lawyer and advocate, Jennifer Corkhill, for their tireless advocacy on his behalf in bringing his case to my attention.

The story that Ki has shared is frankly one of true horror. During his formative years, he experienced neglect, violence and sexual and physical abuse at a time when he should have had the love, encouragement and protection that every child needs and deserves. However, the people who were meant to care for Ki, to love Ki, to ensure that Ki did not come to harm, were the very people who betrayed him, who abused him, who robbed him of so much of his childhood and took so much from the man that child became.

When he attempted to call out his tormentors, his abusers, he faced further insult. It is a shamefully common story that he is met with disbelief and denial, causing yet further torment and further suffering. As a result, he was not afforded the counselling or support that he needed or any sort of dignity or compassion. But Ki is here today, and to Ki, as Premier of this state I want to say that I am truly sorry. I am sorry for what was done to you, what was said to you, what you were accused of, what you had to go through to get to this point in this room, where finally you can trust that you are heard and that you are believed. What is worse is that Ki's story is not unique. His suffering is not unique.

We recognise that abuse can dramatically and irreversibly change the trajectory of a person's life, robbing them of the opportunity to reach their full potential, to have healthy relationships and to live a life free from fear and trauma. For so many, these devastating effects continue to cast a deep shadow over their lives, and today I also want to take this opportunity to recognise those who shone light upon this darkness. First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the survivors and advocates who have fought so bravely and for so long to have their voices heard, and to them I also say the state is sorry.

It is on their behalf that we extend thanks to those who have dedicated their working lives and their volunteer hours to addressing the wrongs committed against children in state care. It is on their behalf that we recognise the work of Ted Mullighan and his staff, and it is to them and their families that we pledge afresh our commitment to do what we can to prevent further crimes against children. Thank you for your strength, your courage, your advocacy and for fighting for change.

Until the end of March 2023, the commonwealth Department of Social Services, the agency responsible for administering the National Redress Scheme, had received applications from in excess of 1,100 individuals relating to South Australian government institutions. Think about that number for a moment and the individual stories it represents, the pain experienced, the potential lost. I recognise the incredible strength and courage each and every one of those people have shown in applying to the National Redress Scheme. Their ability to make this application is a living testament to their resilience and their determination.

I also want to highlight the work of the South Australian services whose informed, professional and sympathetic work implementing the National Redress Scheme makes a difference for those who walk alongside on this journey—countless non-government organisations. Today, I want to say to Ki, everyone like Ki and everyone let down by the very system that should have offered

love and protection in those critical years, that we are sorry. I want to tell you that we recognise your courage, your resilience and your refusal to let this injustice rest. Your stories, your lives, your experiences—they matter.

Your being here today is truly a testament to the human spirit itself. How anybody could overcome such an abuse of trust, such horrific circumstances, and then be able to tell and share their story for the benefit of others is truly remarkable and an extraordinary credit to each and every one of those survivors. We are thankful that you are here with us today, and I commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (11:20): On behalf of the opposition, the Liberal Party of South Australia, I rise to support the government's motion in the spirit of bipartisanship, recognising that 17 June 2023 is the 15th anniversary of the formal apology that was offered by the South Australian government to children who were abused in state care. Today, I would like to acknowledge the presence of people in the gallery today, some of whom were personally impacted as previous wards of state, some of whom may have cared for them and others who have made a professional contribution towards supporting those individuals—many over several decades in duration.

In 2008, the then Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann MP, apologised to children who were abused in state care on behalf of the South Australian government and the South Australian parliament. He stood up in this place, in this chamber, and made that heartfelt apology. The government's formal apology came following the South Australian Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, undertaken by Commissioner Ted Mullighan QC and completed in April 2008.

The inquiry commenced in 2004 and over some four years investigated the deaths of 924 children in state care, including 1,592 allegations of sexual abuse that occurred in South Australia between the 1930s and the early 2000s. Those numbers roll off the tongue with a disconcerting ease, but behind each of those individual numbers is a humanity, a depth of feeling, a depth of tragedy which must be acknowledged, which must be reflected upon, and, as the Premier has undertaken to reiterate again today, which must be apologised for. Commissioner Mullighan heard from 406 males and 386 females. He noted in his report:

Many told the Inquiry it was the first time they had disclosed the sexual abuse, and many said it still affected them as adults.

Their contributions confirmed that sexual abuse is widespread, the reporting rate is low and the effects can be devastating and lifelong. Evidence that was provided to the inquiry demonstrated that sexual abuse occurred in every type of care facility. It occurred within institutional care, it occurred within smaller group care, it occurred within residential care units, in foster care and family care, and in secure care facilities.

The report tells a tale of abuse against children of various ages, children who had disabilities and children of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. It is a tragedy that occurred, and we must acknowledge this and continually commit to changing, putting in the safeguards to ensure that such things cannot happen again and always be vigilant as governments and as oppositions, working together to make sure that these things cannot occur again.

The final report made 54 recommendations to address the inadequacies and failings of the framework for children in state care. These range from legislative reform to improved administration and record keeping within government agencies, the creation of independent specialist services and improved resourcing for the sector. One of the recommendations was that government make a formal apology.

The apology on 17 June 2008 was an important day to acknowledge the impact that these unforgivable experiences had on the lives of children who were trusted into the care of the state, who should have been provided with safe and nurturing environments but instead found themselves the victims of sexual abuse through absolutely no fault of their own. This occasion signified a chance for survivors of abuse to be recognised and to start their journey towards healing and recovery but also to ensure that our governments support strategies and policies to prevent the sexual abuse of children in state care from occurring again.

I hope that as a government and as leaders in our respective communities we have improved the standard of care which is provided for children who are entrusted to the care of the state. I hope that as government and policymakers we are constantly striving towards improving outcomes. I hope that, for children who are currently in care, they know that they will be listened to and that they will be supported should they ever need to have to tell their story in the future.

This apology 15 years ago marked a very important moment in South Australia's history. It acknowledged pain, it acknowledged suffering, but I hope it also acknowledged the desire of our state's leaders, of whatever political persuasion, to do better, to care better and to fight to ensure that such things do not happen in the future. I commend the motion to the house.

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) (11:27): I rise to wholeheartedly support this motion recognising the 15th anniversary of the children in state care apology. In offering this support, I acknowledge those who join us today. To the remarkable people who spent time in state care, I honour you and I express heartfelt gratitude for your bravery and your voice. You have been, and you are, so very strong continuing being here today with one another. Your capacity for love and kindness and continuing to walk in the face of adversity is extraordinary.

I thank you for your presence and compassion, advocacy and fearless empowerment, and encouragement of others who may have shared a similar experience to your own to come forward and speak up, offering love and support as they traverse their journey. To the courageous and relentless advocates present, I thank you for the work that you do in standing with those who have spent or are still spending time in state care. Your support and encouragement, your holding of them, have empowered their voices and lifted them up to lead their best lives.

Thank you for walking with people, steadfast, kind, strong and focused on justice. As we approach the anniversary of the children in state care apology, it is so important that in this place, and indeed beyond, we deeply, sincerely reflect on the devastating effect of abuse experienced and that the passing of time does not diminish the pain and hardship that individuals continue to endure as a result of horrific abuse. It is my steadfast hope that through honest, deep reflection and meaningful action we can work toward a future where every child and every adult is treated with the dignity and respect they always and absolutely deserve and be enabled to live their lives free from horrific abuse.

All children and young people are precious and deserve to be safe, cared for, loved and empowered to have the best opportunity to physically, mentally and emotionally thrive. It is incumbent upon every one of us in this place that we do what we can to help ensure that they can, and it is incumbent upon all of us in this place to honour those for whom this has not been their experience who have suffered abuse.

Fifteen years ago, former Premier the Hon. Mike Rann formally and rightly apologised on behalf of the government of South Australia to children who were abused in state care. This was a significant moment in our state's history that represents the acknowledgment of the harm that had been done to vulnerable young people. On that day, former Premier Rann said:

I acknowledge that nothing any of us say here today will take back the pain these children have carried into their adult lives. Nothing that we say will be able to change the past actions, the past abuse that was experienced by some of those who were placed in state care.

As we continue to reflect on these words and this moment and the challenges of the past and the challenges of today, it is vital that we come together to acknowledge all who have experienced such pain and abuse and hold them in our hearts and that we renew our commitment and our determination to protect and lift those most in need. Through this motion, we do that, and we strengthen and reiterate our commitment to doing what is in our power to prioritise and help ensure the safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable children and the affording to them of every opportunity to thrive.

As the Minister for Child Protection, I assure you that I am viscerally utterly determined to advance change that makes a difference in children's lives and that, as I go about that quest, I will carry each of you and your experiences in my heart and in my mind. I acknowledge that for many

survivors the devastating effects of the abuse they experienced is a vivid memory present, pervasive and pressing every day, despite the years and decades that may have passed.

As the Premier stated, today we see and acknowledge all who are here, all who are unable to be, and we continue to remember children and their stories and recognise how the trajectory of life for some was irreversibly altered by abuse, sometimes robbing them of the opportunities to reach their full potential, to have healthy relationships and to live free from fear and trauma.

The Department for Child Protection is responsible as successor agency for more than 110 historic and some contemporaneous institutions where children were tragically neglected and abused. At the end of March 2023, hundreds of individuals had made a National Redress Scheme application to allege abuses within those institutional settings.

At a state level, for every person who experienced abuse in an institutional setting and who was failed by the child protection system, there is rightly a dedicated team, the Redress Response Team, within the Department for Child Protection. I am grateful for the work of that team and heartened at the outcomes achieved with survivors who have participated in that process of direct personal response with each formal response attuned as much as possible to the story, the wishes and the culture of survivors.

To date, hundreds of survivors of institutional abuse from a child protection setting have accepted an offer of a direct personal response. Our work, however, continues. And continue it must because we know that the volume of children experiencing a lack of safety continues to grow—because one in three South Australian children are now reported to child protection at some point during the course of their childhoods, because families are increasingly facing the complexity of deeply interconnected issues, and with this children continue to be removed from their families.

In grappling with these stark facts, we are compelled to advance reparation and together, across government and communities, move towards building a better, safer, kinder future for children, free from abuse. Working towards this, successive state governments have rightly acted on the recommendations of the inquiry led by former Supreme Court judge Ted Mullighan and the federal royal commission and also the Nyland royal commission and other coronial inquiries.

Intertwined with and alongside those actions, we are determined to begin to build a child protection and family support system where children, their safety, wellbeing and ability to grow up strong in community and culture, are at the centre of every single effort. We are committed to operating within a safeguarding framework that aligns with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. We are working to embed a therapeutic model of care in our care facilities and strengthening training requirements for staff, focused on responding to trauma.

At the core of our child protection and family support system, we are endeavouring to privilege the voices of children and young people. We are establishing avenues for children and young people in care to seek an independent person to advocate on their behalf, and we support and rightly enable representation of children and young people by young people who have had their own care experience and who are passionate about being a voice for others.

We are rightly moving away from the use of those large residential care units that were a legacy of that institutional approach to caring for children and young people, and we are prioritising, every moment, improvements in physical, emotional and online safety. We know that the online world and e-safety are complex, ever-evolving issues, with technology advancing at a fast pace and becoming a bigger part of our lives. We are committed to a sustained focus on online safety to provide protection for precious children from online predators. We are enabling the Guardian for Children and Young People to conduct a visiting program for children and young people in residential care.

We want to progress change across government and community agencies with a view to doing all that we possibly can to assure the safety of children in care. Again, this work does and must continue because while any child is at risk we have so very much more to do. I thank every person who has undertaken work in this area for their commitment, including the Department for Child Protection staff, SAPOL, the Office of the Director for Public Prosecutions, others in the justice system, advocates, community workers and all those who play a role.

Most importantly, again, to the survivors with us today and to all who have experienced abuse, I unreservedly apologise for the mistreatment, the abuse and the neglect that you suffered. We know that too many of you have suffered enduring effects from the failures of the system, which denied you your childhood. For this loss, disempowerment and grief we say sorry, and we firmly resolve as a government and as a state to do all in our power to help ensure that all the children whose care we are entrusted with are protected from harm and treated with dignity and respect.

I speak today grateful that the apology was made 15 years ago and pleased that significant changes are beginning to be advanced. I also speak with each of you here today in my heart and my mind, and with children currently in care in my heart and in my mind, as I continue deeply knowing that there is so much more for me, and indeed all of us, to do, and as I renew that visceral commitment to relentlessly working toward change that keeps children safe, strong, loved and nurtured—as they always should be. I commend this motion to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:40): I, too, take the opportunity to commend the motion. As the leader, the minister and the Premier have already said, we join as one here today in remembering and reiterating the apology that was made by the then Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann, 15 years ago—and made to you. I acknowledge your presence here in this chamber today: you, those survivors; you, those who know better than all of us what that legacy means; and you who live daily with the outcomes of the events that occurred over those many decades in our state.

I say that in particular in circumstances where—and he reiterated this on the 10-year anniversary—the then member for Cheltenham cited it as his single proudest significant achievement as minister when, in 2004, Jay Weatherill went about the steps to establish that commission of inquiry, led by the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC. On this occasion, I particularly recognise, as the words of the motion do, the dedicated work of the Hon. Ted Mullighan in the course of those years. It was, I think as comes out on the page, a journey of discovery for him and, in what turned out to be those last years of his life, a signature significant achievement and contribution to the state of South Australia that built upon a lifetime of contribution to the state of South Australia.

I mention you because, as Jay Weatherill said five years ago, this was a significant inquiry indeed, if only for the reason that it was established not for the purpose of its announcement, the media splash that might follow, the recommendations and actions that might follow from it, but from the process of its establishment and for the occasion that it provided—as it turned out, over four years—for you to tell your stories and for the Hon. Ted Mullighan to hear, to collate, to compile, to understand, to bring together, to provide some capacity for the reconciling of those experiences with our own understanding and what we can do going forward into the future. Here you are, 15 years on, as witnesses. Ted Mullighan is no longer with us, but you are.

I just cite one aspect of the observations of Jay Weatherill five years ago because it goes to the way in which the inquiry was established. He cited the experience of one survivor; you might be here today. He said that there was one woman who participated in the inquiry and later said:

'Before this inquiry, my family used to look at me as a bit of a broken-down wreck and somebody who was struggling with their life. After this inquiry, they saw me as a strong woman who had survived this extraordinary set of events and was still standing.' She was able to retell the story of her life to herself and also to her family and, in that way, making herself strong.

I hope that is true for her still today, and I hope that is true for many of you.

As you know, among the 54 recommendations of the Hon. Ted Mullighan's report, one, recommendation 38, was that there be an apology, and that apology was issued on the occasion when the government tabled in this parliament its response to the inquiry. The government at that time accepted the bulk of the recommendations that were made by the Hon. Ted Mullighan. We have reiterated that apology now on multiple occasions.

I have said in the course of these remarks that the inquiry had a special significance not for those recommendations only that came from it but for the process and for the occasion that it provided. I refer to the remarks of the Hon. Ted Mullighan in the opening of his report because I think it makes clear that 15 years ago, as today, we had not come to a point where all things are reconciled, that all things are made good and that we have solved or come to grips with those horrible

experiences many of you have lived through. In the opening words of his report, the Hon. Ted Mullighan noted:

The number of children being placed in care has increased; there is a shortage of foster carers and social workers; children tend to be placed according to the availability of placements rather than the suitability; and serviced apartments, motels and B&Bs are used for accommodation because there is no alternative. Such a system cannot properly care for an already vulnerable group of children, let alone protect them from perpetrators of sexual abuse. More resources must be made available to deal with the crisis, as well as to implement necessary reforms for the present and the future.

That is still true today, those words in 2008, 15 years ago. It is well, therefore, that in the presence of so many of you who have taken the trouble to come to this place we reflect on the present and think about the challenges of the future, and you will continue to bear witness to those challenges that we face.

We know that preceding the work of the Hon. Ted Mullighan came the significant work of the Hon. Robyn Layton KC, who had reported in 2003 already, and the Keeping Them Safe report contributed to those aspects of what we ought to know and be able to act upon, a significant work indeed. It was, however, part of what we needed to learn at that time, and we were some 10 years over a journey from the time of the Layton report until the time of the children in state care report before we started to see these matters coming properly to the public attention.

So it is right and reasonable for us to reflect as we do, but also to express our continuing anger and our continuing disappointment that we cannot say that we have done enough for those who have suffered. We have not done enough for those who are suffering now and we must continue to redouble our efforts to ensure that those most vulnerable in our state are better taken care of.

We know that the focus of the Hon. Ted Mullighan's work was on those children who suffered in state care. That suffering continues. It is also something that is perpetrated by parents. It is also something that is perpetrated by individuals who will look to do those most horrendous things. We need to be on our guard to prevent that and to protect those most vulnerable children in all circumstances.

We are here today to recognise the particular work that you have done, together with the Hon. Ted Mullighan, in contributing to the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry. It is my hope and my dedicated task to ensure that what we do now and going forward is informed and assisted by that extraordinary work, so that when we come on future occasions to reflect on and to reiterate an apology we can do so in a meaningful way against a background of improvement. That is our task for the future.

I thank you again, all those of you who have troubled to come to this place today. I hope that we can continue to work together for improvement into the future. I commend the motion.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (11:52): I rise to speak in support of the motion acknowledging the 15-year anniversary of the apology to children in state care. This apology is as contemporary now as it was then as we stand with you survivors, supporters, friends, warriors and allies—people who continue to fight for what is just and what is right for all of you.

I recall the day of the apology. I recall listening to then Premier Mike Rann, as a mother, as a nurse and as someone who had already shared an experience and lived with people recounting stories through the course of the work that I undertook, but also during that period of time when I myself was experiencing a different form of trauma.

The importance of the apology to me at that point woke up an awareness, an awareness of how we have to acknowledge history and how we must work with people who have experienced trauma, and particularly abuse, in order to be able to change the future. If we do not acknowledge the past and what has gone on to so terribly damage particularly children, vulnerable children, there is no way that we can change the future. So this apology means a lot now to all of us here in parliament. It means a lot to the public. It has meant a lot ever since the day it was delivered.

I acknowledge the work of members of parliament. I acknowledge the work of so many people in royal commissions past in order to try to seek answers for change. I lament the slow

progress, the slow progress of acknowledgement, the slow progress of change, and I feel somewhat hopeful with the conversations now happening that we are on a pathway to making a difference in that.

This year, like no other year, it is so important for us to acknowledge the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care; the over-representation of Aboriginal people who have suffered the trauma of having children removed from their homes; the over-representation of Aboriginal children, and in fact young people, who have been in care or currently are still in care, in youth justice, experiencing separation from families and the trauma that comes with that, that simply cannot be healed, that simply cannot be repaired without the love of family, real family.

The consequences of these traumas, the traumas that so many of you have experienced, are long-lasting. They are generational. They are not something that can be healed with an apology. I do hope, though, that it gives some sense of hope that we are looking you in the eye and committing to making sure that we do better, that we, as people who work in this space, will do better.

I am committed absolutely to making better homes, to helping you help our community make better homes for children, to trying to put the brakes on children leaving their homes and being taken from their families, to better supporting families to look after their children in their own homes. It is a determination, it is a reason for me being here, it is a frustration that we cannot make everything better so fast, but I am absolutely committed to continuing to do that work alongside all of our parliamentary colleagues. We all intend the same outcomes.

I have one little quote that I am sure the member for Lee would be quite familiar with. This is one piece of a speech made by Ted Mullighan on retirement that inspires me to continue to work, to listen and to use the proper narrative to do what we are doing. On retirement, Ted Mullighan said:

I trust that the community will not always want to pursue the relentless goal of increasing punishment as a way of fixing society's current problems. I would very much like to work with offenders and help them realise the effects they have had on victims of their crimes.

Today, that still means a lot to me in terms of how we learn and how we can help people to remediate and repair and change their pathways, and make for a much stronger, kinder community.

I echo what has been said by members who have already spoken and, I am sure, what will be said by members who will speak after me; that is, I absolutely apologise for the treatment—for the disgusting treatment—of children by community members who were put in positions of trust when they had nobody else to trust. They had to trust the people who were there to care for them, and they were treated so disgustingly, and I am so sorry.

As I said before, I am so sorry that it takes so long, as well, to turn the tide on this and to make change. But I will work constantly to try to make our community much better for all of you. I commend the motion.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:00): As a new member to this chamber, it is my first opportunity to rise to support this motion by the Premier—that this house recognises that 17 June 2023 will be the 15th anniversary of the formal apology offered by the government of South Australia to children abused in state care. It is critical that the parliament continues to recognise the ongoing suffering and trauma of survivors and the continuing significance of that first apology being offered by our state government.

When former Premier Mike Rann tabled the report of the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry in 2008, he made a commitment to the people of South Australia that there would be an apology to those who were abused as children in state care. As a result of that commission of inquiry, led by the late the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC, South Australia was to discover the horrific prevalence of sexual abuse and neglect that had been perpetrated against our children.

By his own words, Commissioner Mullighan confessed that with all his experience nothing—nothing—had prepared him for his discovery of the foul undercurrent of our society that had been causing great harm and lifelong trauma. From 2004 until the apology in 2008, this inquiry was his sole focus, and what he uncovered was appalling to conceive. What he delivered to our state was a comprehensive retelling of the lived experience of survivors of sexual abuse while in the protection of the state.

I take this opportunity to share some personal reflections. At the time, I was a classroom teacher in a country school in Mount Gambier, and I had the privilege as part of the leadership team to be a primary school counsellor—they are now called wellbeing coordinators. This role allowed me to focus on the wellbeing and resilience of the entire school community, and there were certain responsibilities that fell to me in that role as I interacted with agencies like the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service; the Department for Families and Communities (FACS), previously FAYS, I think; DECD, the Department for Education, which became Families SA and, of course, now, the Department for Child Protection. The agency names may have changed, but the dedication of the staff did not.

One of the most serious responsibilities I had in that role was to establish relationships with students in the school that would then enable them to feel safe enough, particularly students in state care, to make disclosures of abuse. It was a time when those disclosures enabled students to find their voice, to share their story and, hopefully, to trust that the adults they were sharing that information with would keep them safe and do right by the notification of the disclosure that was being made. Of course, I expand that to teachers more broadly and the responsibilities they had when I was teaching and they still have around making mandatory notifications.

It was essential that we were creating and we continue to create safe learning environments for students in our schools who are living in state care. I want to reflect on the importance of language. At the time that I was practising, we were familiar with the term we innocently used and talked about, 'GOM kids', and I am sure it is familiar to some of you. It stood for guardianship of the minister. It has now changed to under the guardianship of the CEO, but that language added to the stigmatising of students and children who were in state care. I want to recognise the shift that we have seen to more respectful language.

I want to pay recognition to the leadership of the Department for Child Protection, the current minister and the work that the department do every day to ensure that we are seeing best practice in our sites. Teaching students who were in state care did require—and it still does—compassion, patience, kindness and an attentiveness to hidden signs of trauma that could present as behavioural issues in the classroom or in the schoolyard. It required a supportive and forgiving school culture lest our students be misunderstood and penalised.

During that time as a primary school counsellor, I was to meet Commissioner Mullighan as he travelled the state on rotation to meet with survivors. He was taking evidence, of course, and reassuring them that they would be heard and that changes would be made. He was generous enough to make time to meet with us as a professional group. For a man with such a heavy load, he had made time to meet with primary school counsellors in the South-East to support, reassure and guide us in our roles and the work that we were doing to keep students in state care safe at school.

I had a chance to speak to the commissioner and ask him what his own strategies were for processing the heavy evidence and submissions that he was receiving. While he was happy to indulge that question, he was generous to a fault in reflecting on his own practices to decompress and to process these sad stories, but he was very quick to turn back to us as a profession and talk to us about what our strategies were for self-care. I say that because the generosity he had in just listening to us as professionals I can only assume flowed over into those very private sessions where he was taking evidence from survivors.

Commissioner Mullighan was very well chosen, I think, and I certainly will not forget meeting him. I hope that the member for Lee takes heart and is uplifted by some of the reflections that have been passed on in the chamber today. He certainly had a calming influence on us as a group of professionals as he charged us to fulfil our duty to continue to keep the school environment safe for students who were living in state care. Since that time, however, sadly more reports have been initiated, more abuse has been uncovered and more children have been traumatised.

However, along the way there has remained a support network dedicated to the prevention of abuse and the provision of better care for children in care. I want to acknowledge those advocates: frontline workers in SAPOL and the Department for Child Protection, the leadership of outgoing chief executive officer Cathy Taylor and Fiona Ward, frontline staff, those who work at the Child Abuse

Report Line, not-for-profits like Foster and Kinship Carers, and members of the public who have made notifications to that report line. I want to thank them for their efforts.

The sexual abuse crimes that were perpetrated and then disclosed to the inquiry are unforgivable. I offer my own apology to those of you who are here today, to those of you who are live streaming and to those who are no longer with us to receive this repeated apology. I sincerely thank you for coming today.

To pay my respects to the origins of this important state recognition, I wish to repeat the words that were proffered to you by the author of this apology. Former Premier Mike Rann told this house:

That this parliament recognises the abuses of some of those who grew up in state care and the impact that this has had on their lives...

By this apology we express regret for the pain that has been suffered by so many.

To all those who experienced abuse in state care, we are sorry.

To those who witnessed these abuses, we are sorry.

To those who were not believed when trying to report these abuses we are sorry.

For the pain shared by loved ones, husbands and wives, partners, brothers and sisters, parents and, importantly, their children, we are sorry.

We commit this parliament to be ever vigilant in its pursuit of those who abuse children.

I commend this motion to the house.

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (12:10): I would like to start by thanking the Premier and the minister for bringing this motion and also acknowledging the bipartisan support that it has. I was honoured to be the shadow minister for child protection in 2018 and to move that motion to commemorate the 10-year anniversary. I hope that we continue to mark the apology so that it should never fade from our minds.

I would like to reiterate my remarks from that time which have not faded; in fact, in that time my resolve has certainly grown. I would also like to acknowledge that we gather on Kurna land today, and the particularly devastating number of Aboriginal children in state care.

I would like to start by acknowledging the presence in this house of former wards of the state, people like Priscilla, Beverley, Jeannie, Jen and Michael, whom I have known for many years, but also those who are not with us anymore, including my dear friend Alby. It is for you that this motion is being moved. It is to you that we say sorry, and it is to you that we reaffirm the apology of 15 years ago here today.

It is on your behalf that we extend thanks to those who spent their working lives and their volunteer hours addressing the wrongs committed against children in care. It is on your behalf that we recognise the work of Ted Mullighan and his staff, and it is to you and your families that we pledge afresh our commitment to do what we can to prevent further crimes against children.

For most of us, our childhoods were spent with our parents and siblings and extended families. We shared meals together, we filled our hours in each other's company and we grew up in warm, loving and safe homes. Most of us grew up never questioning that we were loved or safe, and it was not really a thought that would have passed our young minds; it is something that we took for granted. We never realised the security, the self-confidence and the sense of aspiration that we were gifted by virtue of growing up in such families.

While all families have ups and downs and as children grow up their relationships with their parents grow in complexity, most of us made it to adulthood without having to worry about the basics: being fed, being clothed, being housed, and being kept safe from harm. Most of us here went to sleep at night knowing that there was a bright day to welcome us, filled with possibilities. However, all of us in this place now know that not everyone is so fortunate.

It is easy to explain away the lives of people abused as children in care as eventuating because of poverty, drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness, socio-economics, poor parenting models or sometimes even interventions by the state, especially for Aboriginal people. It is easy to think that

it would never happen to us, that our lives were a world away and so different, and that our parents made better choices or were better parents, but that is simply not true.

All that stands between many of us here, who did get to experience stable, secure and loving homes, and those who did not, is luck: the luck of being born into a family with fewer challenges to overcome, or maybe the luck of being better equipped to deal with those challenges when they arrived. It is easy to see children in care as the other, particularly those who have experienced abuse, and see care leavers as different from everyone else. But there is no difference at the start. Luck and circumstance conspired against people when they were too little to help themselves and directed their lives in ways most of us cannot understand and will never understand.

To those joining us in person here or online today I say this: most of us have not experienced what you have, and we can only imagine the absence of hope, the feeling of being alone, the pressure of uncertainty, the weight of responsibility, the feelings of guilt and confusion, and the belief that nothing is going to get better. We can only imagine the sexual and physical pain and torment that many of you have endured. We can only imagine the emotional and mental scars left on you and your confidence and your belief in the goodness of humans. We can only imagine the detriment that has been caused to your life, to your relationships and your prospects, and your lost and altered futures.

Although the state does and should provide support and services to you, and admittedly sometimes fails in that, we also know that the best medical help, counselling, justice services and support in the world cannot turn back time. To care leavers I say that we do not pretend to know what it was like for you—we cannot—but we can listen to you, we can learn from you and we can keep your stories in our hearts as we put our minds to reducing and ultimately eliminating crimes against children. That is all we can do and what we should do. It may seem like a small thing but it is very powerful—and we sitting here have the power to create that change.

While we know the ugly and depraved experiences that are part of the fabric of your life, we also know that you have triumphed over adversity. You are here. You are valuable members of our community. You are enlightening people like us and urging us to strive to change things for the better, and we hear you. Out there in the world there are care leavers, including those who are child victims of crime, who are leading businesses, sport, arts, education and the Public Service. There are survivors who are leading their communities just like you here today.

As the former chair of the Victim Support Service and a long-time reporter working very closely with victims of crime, I have come to learn the importance of an apology—admission, acceptance and sincere apology. While every victim of crime is different, for many a recognition from their abuser that they understand the impact of their offending is vitally important. Our courts do put some weight on apologies made to victims and that is fitting because a sincere apology signals to a victim that their pain is recognised.

It can assist a victim to deal with offences against them and begin to work through the complex emotions and implications of sexual and other forms of abuse. It can aid a prosecution and reduce the degree of re-traumatisation for victims. It can serve as a public confession and a vindication for a victim too. Many victims I have worked with as a journalist have told me their very painful stories because they wanted to ensure that others are not subject to the injustice that they have endured. They want to warn the community about an offender and all offenders. An apology can give some glimmer of hope that an offender understands their crime and will not do it again or at least is less likely to reoffend.

Really, the same can be said of the state. The apology made 15 years ago by this state to children who were abused in state care was all of those things: an admission of wrongs done in institutional care over many years and the immeasurable pain from those crimes, a confession that these crimes are still committed to this day and that that needs to be stopped and a pledge to do what we can to put right the wrongs of the past and act to protect vulnerable children in state care. Churches and NGOs joined the state in that apology, and they should be commended for that.

Mike Rann as Premier and Jay Weatherill as the then Minister for Families and Communities made the apology on behalf of all South Australians. It was an emotional and moving day for many, and I know many of you were there and so was I. I remember the tears shed, the outpouring of

emotion and the many years of pent-up frustration at not being heard suddenly all tumbling out. It was also cathartic for the state, as many apologies can be, but of course an apology does not wash away immense and long-held suffering and, by definition, an apology always comes too late.

Saying sorry is important. Recognition of hurt caused and endured is important. We, as a new generation of leaders here in this place, thank those leaders and the parliament 15 years ago for making that apology. But apologising is not a cure and it is not a solution. It has been 15 years since that momentous apology. We have to admit that there are still crimes perpetrated against children in state care and that there are still people who burrow their way into our child protection system with the aim of manipulating and molesting our most defenceless. I hope one day that will not be the case.

A lot has changed in 15 years. We have seen the establishment of the first Commissioner for Children and Young People, we have seen reams of legislative change, we have seen upgrades to working with children checks. We have seen the establishment of the Early Intervention Research Directorate, a huge increase in kinship care since 2002 and the establishment of a standalone child protection department. We have seen responses to the Chloe Valentine coronial report, the Mullighan report, of course and multimillion dollar investments for the implementation of the Nyland royal commission. We have seen the National Redress Scheme and the removal of time limits for children who wish to take civil legal action against their abusers later in life.

Amid these reforms is the ongoing day-to-day work of carers, police, lawyers, the DPP, victim support services and victims rights commissioners, the NGOs, the departments of child protection and human services, among others, the medical and mental health professions and those who work with victims and protect those currently in state care.

But the biggest change, so care leavers tell me, is a shift in community attitudes, a greater awareness of the plight of children in care—and that is the most fantastic thing in the last 15 years. I take this opportunity to thank all those who work in the sector for their big hearts, their long hours and their selfless dedication to helping others. Although their jobs are incredibly challenging, they are vital and we appreciate the difference they make to lives every day.

I would also like to take the opportunity to express gratitude to the late Ted Mullighan QC and his family. It is due to him and his groundbreaking inquiry that the apology was made 15 years ago. Many in the gallery knew Ted, as did many of us in this chamber as well. I count myself incredibly lucky to have known him for a little while.

The work he undertook on behalf of our community was heartbreaking and soul shaking. We all owe him, his family and his staff a great debt for undertaking it. I especially thank my good friend and colleague the member for Lee for loaning his dad to us. We know that it took a toll, but what he achieved was immeasurable good. I am sure that he is looking down on us all as today we reaffirm the apology and, with it, our commitment to do all we can to protect children in state care.

Lastly, I would like to raise an issue in honour of my dear friend Alby. Many of those who were victims of historic child abuse in care are now in their 50s, 60s, 70s, and even older, and they are looking to their retirement. It is natural as we age to harbour concerns about our care in our senior years. Some of us will remain in our own homes or live with family; some of us will be cared for in aged-care facilities. That is a stressful and daunting prospect for any individual, but imagine if the last time you were in institutional care, and dependent on the care and goodwill of others, you were sexually, physically or mentally abused. The thought of returning to such care must be truly horrifying, and certainly Alby impressed that upon me. God rest his soul.

People have raised with me the hope that the state might provide an additional level of attention and support for people who were abused in state care as they approach their senior years. That support might include additional effort to ensure they can stay in their own homes and avoid institutional care or receive additional counselling and medical assistance while transitioning into aged care. I urge the minister, the Premier and all those in this place to keep that in mind and we will see what we can do for these people who have already suffered so much. Today, to you I say: we are sorry.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (12:24): I, too, rise to support the motion. It is a time of reflection. I look to the gallery, and for those who have been abused, for those who have been strong, for those who have come out today in support of others I thank you. What we have seen over many years has been spoken about today: the child abuse, the vagaries of some of those who were more vulnerable, those who were impacted and put into the trust of those who were untrustworthy, those who abused the system and those who have left a scar on the memories of many of you here today.

I was one of the lucky ones. I had a loving mother who wrapped her arms around me and gave me that love and support—but I was one of the lucky ones. What I have listened to today really is a reflection on those who were not so lucky, those who have remained and stood the test of time. If we look around today's society, we are reflecting today on that day, 17 June, 15 years ago when the then Premier made that apology. It marked a significant turning point in the state. The impact of the late the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC, his staff and those who gave him the support and a better understanding of what needed to be done through the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, cannot be understated. It played an integral part in righting our wrongs and paving a better future.

Time has been the healer, but time does not always heal every wound. Some of those wounds of what people went through are unimaginable. Families were torn apart. There are those individuals who have stood the test of time and those individuals who have supported others who were less fortunate than themselves. The hard work of the Mullighan inquiry cannot be understated.

As has been said through the excellent contributions here this morning, the vulnerability of our children in state care, the failings of the state to protect children who deserved better and the apology that could not be understated still stand today. As legislators and representatives of our communities, we are representing those communities. As part of my contribution today, I am here to make a formal apology on behalf of the people of Chaffey. There are many people still living today with the scars.

There are still many children today in care who live with the vagaries: they live with some level of uncertainty knowing what history presented. History has tried to right some of those wrongs over many years. There is the ongoing work of the Department for Child Protection, its staff, the non-government organisations, the volunteer organisations and individuals. They are playing their role in making our society a better place, making society more caring and more accountable, and making sure that governments of all persuasions are working in a bipartisan manner so that we can have a fairer society—a society that is held to account and a society that is proud of what it has achieved over many years.

Some of the services and organisations in my electorate that I speak to regularly include Families SA and the Department for Child Protection. I must say that one of the great achievements of the Mullighan inquiry was taking child protection out of the education department and making it a standalone agency that could deal with the issues, the complexities and the vulnerability of those who were impacted so that we could deal directly with a society that had lived those nightmares, lived those memories, that were handed down, in some instances from generation to generation.

I acknowledge the carers in these areas. Most of them have been honourable, compassionate people who are dedicated every day to care for vulnerable children. I must say that they all play an integral part in supporting victims of abuse crimes. As a legislator, I give a commitment that I will play my role in making society a better place, a safer place and more accountable. I will take every opportunity to make a contribution so that we do make society a better place and more accountable.

The anniversary continues to serve as a reminder of our commitment to protecting all South Australians, not just the most vulnerable. It is important that we continue to recognise the mistakes made in our past and ensure that they do not happen into the future. We must remember that child protection is everyone's responsibility. With care, with compassion, I say to all of you who have been impacted and those of you who are here supporting those who have been impacted: we apologise.

The state of South Australia is a better place from the Mullighan inquiry. The state is a better place for us as legislators to have a better understanding of what has happened in history, allowing time to heal some of those wounds but making sure that we do everything we can to make society a safer, better and more acceptable place.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (12:31): I rise, along with all the other colleagues who have spoken in support of this motion, to lend my support to the motion to apologise or reiterate the apology that was provided in this place 15 years ago. I will speak only briefly. Colleagues here who have spoken before me have covered very well the history of the inquiry, its conduct and also the recommendations, including the apology, but I just want to make a couple of reflections from the outset.

Nearly all of us, except perhaps the member for West Torrens, were not here when the inquiry was first announced. It is my understanding that back at that time there was not only the proposal by Jay Weatherill, the then minister responsible, to the then opposition but a wholehearted acceptance from the opposition that this was an important inquiry to undertake, to legislate to give the inquiry the powers of a royal commission and to agree on the commissioner.

I was obviously not party to the work that was undertaken. In fact, my father spoke very rarely about the work that he was undertaking at the time, but some of the reflections that have been made by other members, including the member for Frome, the member for Badcoe and the minister, are right in that it was deeply, deeply affecting work.

I just want to talk about the way in which the commission was constructed and how it was conducted. As enormously grateful as I am and, no doubt, the rest of my family are to hear the reflections that have been made on my late father and his work in the commission, it was a broader organisation with not only support staff but other investigators. I certainly understand that it was an enormous task from Jay Weatherill and my late father as well as everybody on the commission to try to ensure that the commissioner had some credibility with people who for many years, sometimes decades, had been given cause to have a fundamental distrust of government and all government institutions.

There had been inquiries and there had been reports before over some more recent years but also going back over earlier years. It was anticipated at the beginning that the inquiry might go for perhaps six months, that perhaps a dozen or a few dozen people might come forward. It was the task of the commission as it was constructed to try to make clear to the community that not only was it going to be a genuine effort but that people would be listened to and believed.

I think that more than 1,000 people approached the inquiry, which shows the level of not only unspeakable abuse that had been occurring over many decades here in South Australia but also the incredible effect that that first person who approached the inquiry had. I cannot imagine the trepidation or anxiety for that person, making the decision to overcome their distrust, their fear, and make themselves available for that effort. That first person opened the door to many hundreds of others so that they could be believed, their horrific experiences would be taken into account.

Pleasingly, there were, as the member for Frome and the member for Heysen said, many dozens of people who were finally, after decades, after many years, taken to account, prosecuted, arrested and jailed for the crimes they had committed. But today, along with reiterating the apology, with commemorating the extraordinary work of the commission, I just want to acknowledge that first person for being so brave and opening the door for so many others. I commend the motion to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:37): I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my support for the apology referred to in the motion before us today, acknowledging the 15th anniversary of the apology in this place by the Hon. Mike Rann, Premier, and contribution by then minister the Hon. Jay Weatherill. In the preface of the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, the Hon. E.P. Mullighan QC, Commissioner, said:

Nothing prepared me for the foul undercurrent of society revealed in the evidence to the Inquiry; not my life in the community or my work in the law as a practitioner and a judge. I had no understanding of the widespread prevalence of the sexual abuse of children in South Australia and its frequent devastating and often lifelong consequences for many of them...

Before the Inquiry I had no understanding that people who had been abused felt fear, guilt, shame and responsibility, which contributed to their silence...

I was not prepared for the horror of the sexual cruelty and exploitation of little children and vulnerable young people in State care by people in positions of trust and responsibility, or the use of them at paedophile parties for sexual gratification, facilitated by the supply of drugs and alcohol.

I had no understanding that, for many people, a consequence of having been sexually abused as a child was the loss of a childhood and an education...

As the Inquiry progressed I soon felt a deep sense of privilege and responsibility at having been entrusted with the disclosures of people's most painful memories. I observed their selflessness and courage in sharing their stories as part of their process of healing, but also their desire to assist in some way to prevent future sexual abuse of children in State care.

I have such gratitude for the work of the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC, who I had the good fortune to work with briefly on a panel many years ago. Today, I offer my heartfelt appreciation to each of you here in the gallery who came forward to tell your story and those who enabled these stories to be told through their support as family members and friends, as well as those who could not be here today but have a story of their own of abuse in state care. Thank you for your bravery, for your courage and for making a difference to the lives of those you may never know, enabling them to have a better life because you have put your voice to your own tragic, sad experiences.

The term 'hero' comes from the ancient Greeks. A hero was a mortal who had done something so far beyond the normal scope of human experience that they may leave behind an immortal memory. To those here today, I am so deeply sorry for the experiences that impacted your life. I am so grateful that you found the strength to speak out. You may not feel it, but you are true heroes.

Motion carried.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (SEXUAL OFFENCES) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 13 June 2023.)

Ms STINSON (Badcoe) (12:42): I think it is quite fitting on the back of the motion that we have just had that this parliament now moves straight on to considering this particular bill and what more can be done in relation to preventing, deterring and punishing sexual crimes that are committed, particularly against children.

Yesterday, I was at the point of talking about the particular element of this bill that deals with bail. To refresh memories, I was talking about the fact that, while at the moment there is nothing in the law that means the gravity of the offence of production of illicit child material should not be treated as a serious offence, what this particular amendment does is make that quite explicit.

This limb of the election commitment that was made by the then Labor opposition is fulfilled by legislating a special principle that bail authorities must take into account when considering bail for persons charged with child exploitation material or childlike sex doll offences and the seriousness of those offences. The principle states that, when considering the gravity of the alleged offence, the bail authority must take into account the harm that people who deal with child sex abuse material cause to children by contributing to the demand for the abuse of children.

It is quite plain, and I think most people in this house would recognise, that there is really no difference between the direct physical intervention with a child, the sexual abuse of a child directly, and essentially utilising (for want of a much better word) the product of that abuse—that is, the photographic or video material that comes from someone else abusing a child. At the end of the day, it has the same impact on the child: the child is being abused. In fact, in some ways they are re-abused every time the material is viewed, shared, downloaded, distributed or traded.

While authorities are currently already free to take this into account, and often they do—and I want to acknowledge that police, court authorities and magistrates do often take that gravity into account—this will be a legislated principle. It will enshrine it in law and make it quite explicit to those who are making the very difficult task of deciding on bail; it will make it very explicit for them.

It will specifically draw their mind to the harms of child exploitation material in each case and ensure a uniform approach between bail authorities, which is really important. It will also create a legislative statement about the gravity with which the parliament views this type of offending—and we have just heard from members in the last motion debate just how seriously we take that.

I also want to acknowledge that deciding on whether bail is or is not granted is quite a difficult decision. My experience as a reporter is that bail is often an area of media and public interest, of great criticism. Certainly, when the public or media commentators think that the judiciary or the police have got it wrong they are pretty quick to point that out and seek and reflect the views of the public about those particular bail decisions.

It is important that we make this as clear as possible to give some comfort to those who are making those decisions so that the public at large can have faith in the integrity of those decisions. That is where the enshrining of a uniform approach really comes into play, as well, because the public wants to have confidence that where bail is granted—or indeed is not—it is applied on a fair basis. This amendment really helps that, and it will assist police, in particular, who often have to make decisions about bail. It better equips them for that really tough decision-making process.

I want to turn to another element of this bill, and that is the language around commercial sexual services. This bill alters the language used in part 3, division 12, of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, which contains offences in relation to commercial sexual services. These include forcing a person to provide commercial sexual services or knowingly using a child in those services. The phrasing of 'provide commercial sexual services' will be amended and changed to 'perform commercial sexual acts'.

I am sure members can see the difference there in terms of describing this activity as a service as opposed to being forced into an act. Victims of such crimes would certainly not see themselves as providing any sort of service. It is quite uncomfortable and inaccurate language, and although this is a tiny change I think it will make a difference. For victims, often sitting in court and hearing read out the descriptions of crimes, the technical names of crimes, can have an incredibly jarring and upsetting impact.

Last sitting week, I had the privilege of spending some time with the amazing Grace Tame, and last sitting week this parliament gave effect to changes to language in our laws that she was campaigning for. Very importantly, she has been working hard to remove the term 'relationship' from our laws. Many decades ago, we would have thought that was fairly straightforward language, to describe a connection of one thing or person to another as a relationship, but of course she has pointed out—as many victims have pointed out—that language is not only quite triggering but also incredibly offensive to suggest that a child could even consent to or engage in a relationship.

Of course, these are not relationships; these are crimes. They are cold hard crimes committed against children, and language matters when we are describing that. It matters to us in this place when we are describing offending but it also, most importantly, matters to victims who have to sit through days, weeks and sometimes months of court hearings. I am sure everyone can understand how difficult and retraumatising it would be to hear again and again phrases like 'relationship' or 'services' attributed to them or the acts committed against them. This language better reflects the exploitative nature of that offending and I absolutely commend that.

I would also like to recognise that several elements of these amendments come from the work of the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place. She has done some remarkable work not only around childlike sex dolls but also, much more broadly, on the issue of offending against children and sexual offending against children. I want to recognise that she has had a very direct influence on these amendments we are talking about today. Indeed, she queried whether the word 'services' was appropriate, and of course we are seeking to change that today. The language is not intended to alter the scope of the offence, and I understand that the Director of Public Prosecutions has been consulted about that and raised no objections, which should come as a great comfort to the house.

I might also briefly touch on the sentencing discounts, which make up the third part of this bill. At the moment, essentially there is a loophole that makes it easier for people who possess child pornography or child exploitative material and childlike sex dolls to get bigger sentencing discounts. That loophole exists where, although these child sex offences are indictable offences, they are not

considered serious indictable offences and so they do not attract lower sentencing discounts for guilty pleas in the same way that most other child sex offences do, such as producing child exploitation material and grooming children online, which are classified as serious indictable offences.

The election commitment in relation to sentencing discounts is fulfilled by amending the Sentencing Act to class possession of child exploitation material or dealing with childlike sex dolls as a serious indictable offence for the purpose of the discounts. You may say, 'Well, why would we even want to be offering discounts to people?' but of course it is a longstanding principle in our sentencing system. Justice delayed is justice denied, and the provision of discounts has quite an impact, accordingly, on encouraging people who are guilty to plead much earlier.

That is incredibly important when it comes to victims of crime. It is immeasurably different from pressing charges and having an offender admit their guilt, even if they are only doing it for a sentencing discount, rather than victims being hauled through that process I discussed earlier—that retraumatisation, hearing all the offences, having to take the stand themselves, hearing things sometimes from decades earlier dredged up again and often in a fairly public environment. If that can be minimised by offering sentencing discounts to those who admit their crimes and plead early, then that is a good thing.

These child sex offences would therefore attract a lower sentence discount for guilty pleas compared with other indictable offences. Discounts would be capped at 25 per cent, rather than at 35 per cent for the earliest pleas and so on. This change will emphasise that possession of child exploitation material and childlike sex dolls is considered equally as serious as other child sex offences and treated the same. I commend this bill, I commend those in the other place, particularly the Attorney-General, who has been working on this, and I hope that it has swift and unaltered passage through this place.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:54): I rise to indicate my support for this important bill that enacts another Malinauskas Labor government election commitment as part of our Justice for Victims policy. This policy promised to close loopholes that make it easier for people who possess child porn or childlike sex dolls to get bigger sentence discounts or bail.

The possession of child porn and childlike sex dolls is alarming, and it should concern all South Australians that offenders who possess this material are not considered at the same level as other child sex offenders. Therefore, these child sex offences are indictable offences, not currently considered serious indictable offences, and so do not attract lower sentence discounts for guilty pleas in the same way that most other child sex offences do, such as producing child exploitation material and grooming children online, which are serious indictable offences.

The commitment in relation to sentence discounts is fulfilled by amending the Sentencing Act to class possession of child exploitation material or dealing with childlike sex dolls as a serious indictable offence for the purposes of the discounts. These child sex offences would therefore attract lower sentence discounts for guilty pleas compared with other indictable offences. This change will emphasise that possession of child exploitation material and childlike sex dolls is considered equally as serious as other child sex offences. Exploitation of children, whether the offender is directly abusing the child or fantasising about it, is abhorrent.

A similar loophole in the legislation relates to the Bail Act, which this bill will amend to ensure that when considering the gravity of the alleged offence the bail authority must take into account the harm that people who deal with child sex material cause to children by contributing to demand for the abuse of children. Whilst authorities are already free to take this into account—and often do—a legislated principle will specifically draw their mind to the harms of child exploitation material in each case, ensuring a uniform approach between bail authorities, and create a legislative statement of the gravity with which the parliament views this type of offending.

The final aspect of this bill relates to altering the language in part 3, division 12, of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act, which contains offences in relation to commercial sexual services. These include forcing a person to provide commercial sexual services or knowingly using a child in commercial sexual services. The phrasing of 'provide commercial sexual services' will be amended

to 'perform commercial sexual acts'. This language much better reflects the exploitative nature of the offending.

These are more important reforms being made by our government to protect children from harm and will be followed by changes to the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, which are currently before the other place. I commend this bill to the house.

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) (12:57): Can I please thank everybody who has contributed to this debate in this house and also the Attorney-General, the Hon. Kyam Maher, who led debate in the upper house. Can I also please thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros, as I did in my earlier remarks, for her steadfast contribution to advancing change in this space, including through this legislation and the progressing of this legislation.

It is absolutely incumbent on all of us in this house—and, indeed, on members of our community, leaders across sectors beyond—to do all that we possibly can to help prevent and end the horrific scourge of abuse against children. As I said in my earlier remarks, our government took to the election a steadfast policy to advance the changes that we need to. I am very pleased that as we progress this legislation we are taking an important step in advancing that suite of policies, suggested legislative change and set of programs. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Petitions

UNLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms STINSON (Badcoe): Presented a petition signed by 472 residents of South Australia requesting the house to urge the government to deliver an all-weather, multisport pitch at Unley High School.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis) on behalf of the Treasurer (Hon. S.C. Mullighan)—

Regulation made under the following Act—
Aquaculture—Fees Notice—No. 2

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. G.G. Brock)—

Local Council By-Law—
Corporation of the Town of Walkerville—No. 6—Amendment By-law

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call questions without notice, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of students from Nazareth Catholic Community College, who are guests of the member for Cheltenham, member for West Torrens and the member for Newland. Welcome to parliament today. It is an absolute pleasure to have you with us. I also wish to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Denise Calligeros, John Calligeros and Chris Calligeros, guests of the member for Elizabeth. Welcome to parliament.

*Question Time***DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING**

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:02): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier received guarantees from the Prime Minister that South Australia will have continuous naval shipbuilding at Osborne? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: It was reported yesterday in *The Australian* that the Hunter class frigate project is, and I quote, 'now in doubt', and, a further quote, 'an early draft of the Defence Strategic Review called for the entire project to be axed'.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:02): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. This is a really important and substantial topic to the future of our state more broadly. The short answer to the question is yes, simply because the Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence, who also, of course, is the Deputy Prime Minister, have made clear that they are committed to a continuous surface shipbuilding program here in South Australia. In fact, more than that, there is a specific recommendation within the Defence Strategic Review calling for exactly that.

So, yes, to summarise that for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, in respect of his question: yes, there is an assurance from the Prime Minister that we will have a continuous surface shipbuilding program here in the nation. Of course that has to be located in Osborne.

The report in yesterday's *Australian* went more specifically to the future of the Hunter class program, which is something that I have naturally taken an interest in, given that we are now seeing we are on the precipice of steel being cut for the first of the submarines. The prototype development has been very much in train down at BAE now for some months, and the state government—in fact just this afternoon I received an update in respect of the state government's submission that we are making towards the surface shipbuilding review that has to be concluded or be reported back to the commonwealth government by September this year.

As part of that submission, we are making clear that the surface shipbuilding review effort should actively contemplate the extraordinary consequence that we would see if there were any substantial change to the Hunter program in terms of its timing, in terms of our ability to continuously recruit people to the naval shipbuilding workforce that will be required in this state for decades to come.

Recently, I met with BAE Systems, their global CEO, who explained to me firsthand exactly what their recruitment profile is regarding the Hunter class program. A number that isn't in the minds of too many South Australians I don't think, but I think should be, is the fact that they need to recruit somewhere in the order of 2,000 additional people between now and the end of 2026 just for the Hunter program.

Any disruption to that would undermine the effort to be able to recruit people in a way that is going to be necessary, and that's just for the surface shipbuilding program before we start talking about load, for instance, on the back of FCD work on the Future Submarines program, or even the upgrade to the Hobart class submarines that is work that is going to be done between both ASC and BAE here in Osborne—sorry, not Hobart class but the air warfare destroyer, which is the Hobart class.

That work is equally critical, and from memory I think that requires around about 800 people in its own right. All that gets undermined if we see a substantial change to the Hunter class program, which is why we are advocating accordingly, which is why it is very much the state government's view that nothing of consequence in there should be changed and which is why I have a degree of confidence that that would be exactly where the surface shipbuilding review ends up.

Naturally, it is appropriate for the commonwealth to review the program to make sure the Navy's requirements will be met, particularly given the change in scope in terms of naval policy on the back of the nuclear submarine program. Nonetheless, we are confident about Hunter and what it means for the future of our state.

DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:06): Supplementary to the Premier: in relation to the state government's submission that the Premier referred to, the surface fleet review, can the Premier outline the key themes of that submission and whether or not it specifically urges or recommends that the Hunter class be continued?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:07): I would be happy to. There are a range of areas that the submission that the state government makes will focus on. If I were to give a couple of key themes, they would be these: firstly, we've got a situation in which we are trying to convince young Australians in our labour market, which is as tight as it has ever been, that they should choose naval shipbuilding as a career. What has in no small part prevented young people from making that choice in the past is the constant state of policy flux that naval shipbuilding has found itself in.

We were building the AWDs. We got on top of the AWD program, it was performing well and then it stopped. Then we were going to have a Japanese class of submarine, then we were going to have a French class of submarine and now of course we are going to have the nuclear submarine program. There was a question about what the Future Frigate program was going to be and the conclusion arrived at Hunter.

Now we find ourselves where *The Australian* is writing articles calling the future of the Hunter program into question. All of this undermines the confidence that young people I think deserve and reasonably require to be able to say, 'Naval shipbuilding is something I want to spend my life doing.' Every time we see a chop and change in policy we undermine that effort, and that will be a substantial theme of our submission.

The second big theme, of course, is that we want to make clear to the commonwealth how committed this state government is to investing in the education, training and skills that are required to develop the workforce program of the future. Not having a substantial policy in regard to education, training and skills around naval shipbuilding in and of itself will be something that the surface shipbuilding review will look at because the lack of workforce represents a risk to the program. What we want to demonstrate to the reviewers is that they can have confidence on the back of what the state government is doing, and that is a lot. That is a lot.

The Minister for Education, Training and Skills, who unfortunately isn't in the chamber at the moment, can speak to this with great authority, but we have made a decision as a government to build five brand-new technical colleges in our high schools, which in no small part will contribute to the development of that workforce.

At Findon Technical College, which is being built as we speak and which will be open at the beginning of next school year, only less than two years after this government has been formed, there will be a technical college in the western suburbs of Adelaide where a young person can put their hand up to do the advanced manufacturing program at that school, and when they complete that program they will be guaranteed a job at BAE Systems working on the frigate program. They are the sorts of innovative investments that this government is making to develop the workforce of the future.

Then, of course, what we have started to do is reinvest in TAFE. Rather than cut TAFE, this is a government that is reinvesting in TAFE. Then, of course, there is what we are doing—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —to play an active role in higher education policy in this state by actively pursuing and supporting the process of—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni: One-third of staff in four years.

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —potential university amalgamation or the creation of a brand-new university here in South Australia. So whether it be a high school—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Morphett!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —whether it be a TAFE or whether it be what we are doing at university, this government has a serious program that will see more young people being able to have the skills that are required to participate in the naval shipbuilding workforce of tomorrow. That's what we are committed to. That's what we are delivering, and it will be central to the submission that we make to the federal government in its naval surface shipbuilding review.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

STATE BUDGET

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:11): My question is to the Treasurer. Did the Treasurer promise to deliver budget surpluses and, if so, has he kept his promise? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Before the election, Labor promised, and I quote, 'No new taxes, no tax increases and the state budget will be kept in surplus.' The Treasurer forecast a \$233 million surplus in his first budget and a \$206 million surplus in the Mid-Year Budget Review, but it was revealed yesterday that the 2022-23 budget will be in deficit to the tune of \$249 million, a half-billion dollar turnaround, despite historic additional tax revenue.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:11): I thank the member for Colton for his question. He is right we committed to no new taxes. He is right we committed to no tax increases. I am interested to hear the member for Colton say that we promised to keep the budget in surplus, because the state budget was—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —in deficit—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Colton! Member for Morialta!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —last financial year, a \$829 million deficit. For the member for Colton to claim that the budget is in surplus and it's incumbent on this government to keep the budget in surplus—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —is a furphy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Badcoe!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: It is a furphy, and that was the last of three deficits delivered by the previous Liberal government. Our commitment was to get the budget back into surplus, from deficit—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —back into surplus. I do wonder—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley is warned for a second time.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —about the basic grasp of state finances that the member for Colton doesn't seem to have—doesn't seem to have.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The budget is in deficit. It has been deficit for three years. We made a commitment to bring the budget back into surplus. We were aiming to do it this year and, yes, we won't be doing it this year because we think spending money on providing supports to Riverland communities to help them recover from the floods is important. We think spending additional money on our healthcare system is important. We think providing additional funding to the child protection system is important.

While we have committed more than \$600 million of additional expenditure since the Mid-Year Budget Review on those measures, the member for Colton might be interested to see tomorrow that, yes, we have had the benefit of a very strong economy over the last 12 months; yes, we have had the benefit of additional payroll tax, land tax, conveyance duty revenues—

Mr Cowdrey: Where has it gone?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: 'Where has it gone?' he says. Not only can he not grasp the basics of state finances but it seems he can't listen either. He can't listen. Riverland floods, healthcare system, child protection.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I tell you, we'll be in here with soft puppets next, Mr Speaker, in the efforts to educate the member for Colton. It is extraordinary. He can't get the basis of his question right, won't listen to the answer and ignores the facts.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta is warned, the member for Unley is on two warnings and the member for Badcoe is on one warning.

STATE BUDGET

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:14): Quite entertaining, sir. My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer reconfirm his commitment to no new taxes and no tax increases?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:15): Yes.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens! The member for Florey is warned.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey! If the member for Newland was earlier overlooked, she is also warned. The member for Colton has the call.

PUBLIC SECTOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:15): My question is again to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer advise how many executive positions within the public sector, in particular for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, have been cut or created since the election? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Prior to the election, Labor said it would cut and save nearly \$41 million by axing 50 executive positions within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, a key target for the job cuts.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:16): Oh dear. Yes, we said that we would cut executive positions. Yes, we said that there would be 50 full-time equivalent positions cut, but we didn't say that they would all be cut from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. What we said was that they would be cut from across government agencies, and the advice that I have is that we have successfully implemented that. We are on track for delivering all 50 FTE reductions across executives and deliver those savings as we committed to.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Badcoe! Member for West Torrens!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Adelaide has the call.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for West Torrens, order!

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:16): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house in relation to recent news in respect to the Women's and Children's Hospital?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): I would like to thank the member for Adelaide for her question. I am very grateful for her question. No doubt I know the member for Adelaide has a particular passion for healthcare service delivery in our city. The member for Adelaide has been a powerful advocate of a brand-new Women's and Children's Hospital in our state, and I very much look forward to that being delivered in due course.

We, of course, also know that we have an existing Women's and Children's Hospital that has had a degree of underinvestment in the past that this government is rectifying. In fact, back in 2018 I was advised by the Minister for Health that the former government was in receipt of important information from the College of Intensive Care Medicine saying, 'Here are a suite of actions that you need to actively contemplate in order to maintain the important training accreditation that is critical to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the women's and kids.'

Of course, that action was not taken to the extent that was required and the training accreditation at the Women's and Children's Hospital for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit was compromised—was compromised—something that the shadow minister for health has been rather vocal about. This government has been committed from the moment that that news was drawn to our attention to addressing this, and we have made a number of policy decisions to ensure that the training accreditation is reattained at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

The Minister for Health and his team deserve extraordinary credit for making those decisions in conjunction with the Treasurer and the government. We have now seen to the recruitment of a number of additional full-time staff who are required to work in that unit with the view to getting that accreditation back. Then only yesterday the government announced that, in this year's state budget, \$20 million of capital funding would be provided exclusively to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at the existing Women's and Children's Hospital with the view to getting that accreditation back.

Having made the announcement, yesterday the CEO of WCHN wrote to the College of Intensive Care Medicine. On receipt of the news about the government's plan to recruit more staff to invest in their unit, they wrote back today—24 hours later—and they have written here:

Dear Ms Gough,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 13th of June 2023 regarding progress on matters relating to the accreditation of training [at the PICU at the Women's and Children's Hospital].

We note there has been significant progress with an increase in registrar and consultant FTE, and a staged capital works plan for the PICU that is about to begin.

Given this...accreditation for paediatric general training...is effective immediately.

We have got the accreditation back at the Women's and Children's Hospital because of the decisions that the government is making in this budget and the one prior. So budgets matter, Mr Speaker.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: It turns out that budgets matter.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Morialta!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: While those opposite are running around with cardboard cut-outs, running around with cheap stunts, on this side of the house we are making the decisions to deliver better outcomes for the health of South Australians, and there are none more important than our young South Australians, the people we committed ourselves to looking after, the next generation.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: And this budget—in the space of 24 hours before the budget has already been announced—has got a win with the training accreditation back because this government delivers.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order, sir.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta on a point of order.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The Premier quoted from a document and I seek that he now table it.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: With great pleasure, sir.

The SPEAKER: Very well.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kaurna! Member for Newland! Member for Badcoe!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Chaffey! The document has been tabled, to be taken in and distributed.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER PAYROLL TAX

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:21): My question is to the Treasurer. Has the Treasurer been briefed on the outcome of Thomas and Naaz v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue in New South Wales? If so, is the government taking any steps in response? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The opposition has been advised that this case has the potential to change the way GP practices and their contracted GPs are treated for the purposes of payroll tax. Many have expressed concerns that a change of approach in terms of payroll tax could lead to a decrease in bulk billing rates and, in some circumstances, it could cause GP practices to shut their doors. The Queensland government has publicly ruled out imposing this tax treatment change on GPs.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:22): I thank the member for Schubert for her question. She is right to raise it; it is an important question because we are in the middle of a national GP crisis at the moment. We have a fundamental shortage of GPs. GPs are finding it very, very difficult if not impossible to keep up with demand.

The federal government has announced measures in its budget to increase bulk billing incentives to try to not only incentivise GPs to make bulk billing services available to people but also to try to improve the overall revenue of GP practices and keep GP practices viable into the future.

This issue has emerged as a result of a case which was taken in New South Wales about whether GP practices are liable for payroll tax.

Payroll tax arrangements in Australia have been consistent since 2008. Leading up to that date there was an effort amongst states and territories in payroll tax harmonisation, and one of the key outcomes of that was to make sure that each state and territory was levying payroll tax in the same way—not necessarily in terms of rates or thresholds, but in terms of the application to different types of workers and also different types of wages.

What has come out of this New South Wales case is that there are some GP practices that had arranged themselves in a way that meant that the operators of those GP centres had assumed that they were not liable for payroll tax on the wages being paid to GPs when, of course, the Payroll Tax Act has been consistent for 15 years that wages above a certain threshold—we've got a tax-free threshold here in South Australia—are liable for payroll tax.

Some GPs, some GP practices, are paying payroll tax, and some that assumed they had no payroll tax obligation are worried that they are in fact liable for payroll tax. What happened in Queensland was the Queensland government basically made two commitments. They committed—and a similar approach would normally be taken here in South Australia—that the state revenue office would, after undertaking some compliance activity, work out that, if there is a payroll tax liability, then that payroll tax has to be paid and also paid retrospectively, including with penalty and interest as well as the obligation going forward. Queensland has said that they will not apply it retrospectively, and they have said that they will apply it in the future, but they won't apply it for the next two financial years, and that will give noncompliant GPs time to come into compliance.

Other states and territories are considering their positions. What I can report to the member for Schubert—and I understand that she is engaged with the royal college here in South Australia—is that we are continuing our conversations with the royal college. We are very, very sympathetic with the circumstances that some of their members find themselves in, where they are worried about having a payroll tax obligation they weren't aware of. We are also very cognisant that we need to treat everybody equally, not just generally across the payroll tax but within the GP industry, if I can refer to them like that, so that whatever arrangement we strike with the royal college and their members is as equitable as possible for the remaining GPs who have been paying payroll tax to date.

HUTT ST CENTRE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:26): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Will the minister commit to ongoing funding for the Hutt St Centre's Aspire program? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: The Aspire program, which was supported by the former Liberal government, is seeking \$9 million over the forward estimates. An independent evaluation of Aspire has conservatively estimated that this investment would save the South Australian government \$14 million. Without ongoing funding, the Hutt St Centre will be forced to stop taking referrals from 1 July and then will need to wind down, with no alternative service.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Premier is called to order.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:27): Thank you very much for the question. I think it has been well canvassed in this place and in the community that Hutt St was subject to losing funding under the previous Marshall Liberal government. As a result, along with Catherine House and Vinnies, we were left in a situation here in South Australia with the rollout of a whole new homelessness sector service, known as the Alliance services, with a critical shortage of supports and also uncertainty for many staff moving forward. We made it our business to make sure we fully understood those consequences and fully engaged with the sector regularly, and I continue to do so.

Going into the election, we actually committed to—and have already—rolling out the funding of \$2 million each to Catherine House, Hutt St Centre and Vinnies. Without that funding, they would have stopped taking new clients last year, so that Aspire program was already under threat because of the Liberal government and the way it handled those services and the transition to the Alliance services.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We have worked very hard to fund not just those services but other services that also were left short—I think it is called health to home out at Holbrooks. There were domestic violence support services which were left without any funding attached. There were a whole range of them. I meet regularly with homelessness service providers, and I have every confidence that we will provide the requisite supports to the homelessness sector that they need to continue services. Along with Minister Champion, I am also part of the national round table of ministers that meets regularly to discuss housing and homelessness, with the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement as a fundamental and critical part of that negotiation.

Members may be aware that there are some absolutely dreadful circumstances looming for the housing and homelessness sector moving forward if those opposite don't get their mates in Canberra and the Greens to vote for the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: —Housing Australia Future Fund.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, there is a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The interjections from the member for Chaffey and the member for Newland will cease. There is a point of order from the member for Morialta under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, sir: standing order 98. The question was about whether the Aspire program of the Hutt St Centre would be continued.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The minister has now diverted to talking about federal legislation and whether the Liberal Party, the Greens and others will vote for it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! I have the question. I will listen carefully. I bring the minister to the question. We have had some context. One minute remains.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. All the matters we are discussing in terms of the provision of homelessness services, the provision of housing outcomes and support within those housing outcomes, are—if you are not aware—part of the Aspire program.

The Aspire program is completely unable to function if there are not the requisite outcomes for housing. The housing services cannot be provided without homes, and those homes cannot be built without the money that is to be provided through the Housing Australia Future Fund, which is currently in limbo in the federal government, which can be influenced, as we all know, by a united front coming from all of us to lobby—

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: —the federal Liberal Party to vote for it in Canberra and help us to support all the services here in South Australia.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hammond, order!

AUTISM SA

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:31): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Is the government going to be maintaining, reducing or increasing funding to Autism SA, in particular for their diagnostic testing program through the Department of Human Services, and will that program and others be continued?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:32): Put simply, we met with Autism SA today and we discussed the plan, moving forward, which they have been working on with us, together, collaboratively, in order to come up with a plan that ensures all people needing an autism diagnosis in South Australia will receive one.

We have committed to extend the funding for Autism SA until March next year while we work together to prioritise the full funding—not a subsidised model, which is currently the case. I'm sure—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: You can stop talking. Do you want the answer or not?

The SPEAKER: Minister, order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I understand it's complex, but the Autism SA—

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The current arrangements have been \$310,000, which has funded in part the diagnostic pathway for people who need one via Autism SA, and the gap funding is somewhere between \$800 and \$1,000. This gap is absolutely unobtainable for a number of people in our community, a number of people in at-risk families, families who are complex in their needs, families who need support.

We are working now with Autism SA to try to achieve the best possible outcome for children who are in that cohort—potentially, youth justice pathways, a whole range of children who are at very high risk—whose families cannot afford to pay gap payments of \$800 to \$1,000, nor can they wait for years on a waiting list to get that diagnosis. We have spoken to Autism SA today. I am happy to give a fuller brief if the member is interested and provide a guarantee of the current—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I don't even know what's funny. What is hilarious?

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, you will not respond to interjections. You have the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hartley, it is unnecessary to gesture.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I'm very happy to sit and provide a fuller brief in regard to it. Today, the galaxy's first Assistant Minister for Autism, I understand, and I met with Autism SA to provide some certainty moving forward to continue the same funding arrangement until March. In the

meantime, we will work out how to prioritise and pathway those children and people in the community who need it the most to ensure they get those diagnostic services.

HOSPITAL AVOIDANCE HUBS

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update the house on how the new ED avoidance hubs will provide relief to our emergency departments?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:35): I thank the member for King for her question and for her interest in making sure that South Australians can get timely care across the health system. Yesterday, the Premier, the Treasurer and I were able to visit Sefton Park, where there is an emergency department avoidance hub that has been in operation, to see the work that the doctors and nurses have been providing at Sefton Park through the Central Adelaide Local Health Network.

This is one of currently two hubs that are in operation in the metro area at the moment. The other is in the southern suburbs based at the Repat site, which is called the SALHN CARE model, which is specifically focused on older people at the moment.

Between those two hubs, they are able to take a substantial number of emergency ambulance visits and also urgent referrals from GPs and virtual care services—people who otherwise might have gone to emergency departments but can get a level of care at these centres that is somewhere in between the life-saving emergency department care and GP standard care. It's a higher level of care that can provide that intermediate level of care, which is important in terms of people avoiding the need to go to emergency departments when they might be able to get care elsewhere.

We were able to speak to a number of the patients who just happened to be there yesterday who had been brought there. All spoke very highly in terms of the care that was being provided, the way they had been treated and the timeliness of that care, so ultimately it was a good outcome for those patients and a good outcome for the health system overall because it means that those patients don't end up unnecessarily in emergency departments, ambulances don't end up unnecessarily getting ramped at emergency departments and much faster care for those people overall.

That is why we have committed in tomorrow's state budget to establishing two more of these centres—one to be in the northern suburbs and one to be in the western suburbs—so we will have a network of four of these centres across the city. That will mean right across metropolitan Adelaide there will be the ability either for GPs to refer to one of these centres, other than referring their patients to an emergency department, or for ambulances to take patients there instead.

This is obviously just one part of our emergency department avoidance strategies. The other area that has been talked about recently as well was in terms of the work that we are doing in relation to people with mental health conditions who might otherwise be able to seek care other than going to an emergency department, which often can be a very disruptive place in terms of the lights and the noises. It's not necessarily a great place, unless you really need to be in one.

Obviously, we have the Urgent Mental Health Care Centre in the city, but we are also establishing a new crisis intervention service in the northern suburbs together with the federal government. We are working with the federal government also on new Head to Health services that will be based in the Adelaide Hills and also in the southern suburbs, with one specifically focused in the southern suburbs on children who have very little other option at the moment other than going to the Women's and Children's Hospital emergency department, which we know has seen an increased number of mental health presentations.

So, overall, between the work on these emergency department avoidance hubs and the mental health Head to Health services and other urgent mental health services, the other mental health service of course that we have recently established is the service that has been running in

partnership with Sonder and the Adelaide PHN in the Salisbury area as well. All of these provide benefits for patients and less pressure on our emergency departments.

LIMESTONE COAST LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK

Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister inform my community when a replacement for Ngaire Buchanan, the CEO of our local health network, will be announced, acknowledging her last day is in 14 days' time?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:39): I thank the member for his question and for his passion about services in the Limestone Coast area. I particularly would like to thank Ngaire, who has provided excellent service to the Limestone Coast as the inaugural CEO of that health network. We understand the rationale for her wanting to take on other opportunities and I think go back to New Zealand, but we thank her very much for her service.

I understand that there is a recruitment process underway. Obviously, under the Health Care Act we now have a devolved model of management, and the local health network board and its chair, Grant King, are leading that process. Under the Health Care Act, as members may be aware, the appointment of the CEO is not a matter for the minister or a matter for the department chief executive or other members of the department. It is a matter for that local devolved board to appoint their own chief executive officer in consultation with the department and the minister, but ultimately it's their decision, so they have been going through a process.

I understand that they have acting arrangements that will be in place upon Ngaire's departure. Obviously, this is always a balance between making sure that through that process they are getting somebody quickly, but also we want to make sure that we get somebody of the highest possible calibre for what's a quite significant role in our healthcare system and one of our most important regional roles that we have in terms of providing those services in the Limestone Coast.

I am happy to discuss offline with the member as well a more detailed update in relation to that process the board is undertaking, but the latest update I had was that not only are they going through that appointment and selection process, undertaking the national search as you would expect them to do, but also they have acting arrangements that will be in place for between when Ngaire departs and the appointment of a new chief executive.

WALLAROO HOSPITAL

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:41): I have a question for the Minister for Health as well. Can the minister advise when the glass doors and facade at the Wallaroo Hospital will be repaired and whether any extra security will be supplied in tomorrow's budget? With your leave, and that of the house, I will explain just a touch further, Mr Speaker.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: On 15 February, the minister and I toured Wallaroo Hospital on the morning after a vicious attack which damaged significantly the front facade, and as of Monday, which was four months later, the hospital was still boarded up, the windows haven't been replaced and we haven't had any extra security provided to keep the staff safe.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:42): I thank the member for his passion for his local services and particularly Wallaroo Hospital. This was a vicious attack and one that we condemn completely in terms of what happened at Wallaroo Hospital a few months ago. The advice that I have had from Roger Kirchner, who is the Chief Executive of the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network, is that the glass in terms of those doors is imminently to be replaced.

I understand there is now quite a process that local health networks have to go through since the former Liberal government privatised a lot of the maintenance operations through the Ventia scheme, so that is quite a lengthy process that they need to go through. Previously, the local hospitals were able to just use local contractors as required. Now they need to go through this central process in terms of allocations through Shared Services and Ventia. But I understand the good news is that it is about to be replaced.

In relation to security, the local health network and its board have been undertaking a review in relation to security of Wallaroo Hospital. They have also been looking at the work that's been happening across the state in relation to this. Obviously, part of that work has been undertaken through the Port Lincoln hospital, where we had committed at the election that we would undertake a review of security following a spate of violent incidents that had happened at that hospital. We now have security in place at that hospital.

There has been a review that's been underway and I understand is in the process of finalisation. That will provide guidance for local health networks across the state in terms of the management of security risks, where security guards are necessary, where other measures are necessary in terms of providing that safety for staff and for patients alike.

I understand the local health network board will be considering their own work and their own review of that incident but also looking at the work that's been coming out of the Eyre and Far North Local Health Network in their review in terms of security at Port Lincoln. We certainly completely denounce any attack on our health workers, and I certainly hope that we, through our police and our court system, make sure that any attack on our health network, our health staff or our patients is treated with the upmost seriousness and the full force of the law.

KURLANA TAPA YOUTH JUSTICE CENTRE

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (14:44): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Will the government fund additional staff at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre in the state budget? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Director Amanda Lambden said on 12 May that, and I quote, 'basic human rights, legal rights of the child are being breached' due to staff shortages at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:45): I do thank the member for Heysen for the question. We have had conversations about youth justice and both of us are entirely committed to making sure that we do everything we can to ensure that young people who find themselves in the youth justice trajectory get the best possible support they can.

It is fair to say that staffing at Kurlana Tapa has been a challenge for some years now. We know that it is in a very tight and competitive labour market where the types of people that we really need working in Kurlana Tapa are also much sought after to work in a range of other environments like schools, child protection, and a whole other set of social services sectors, and those skills are much sought after and don't just happen overnight. They take time to develop, and it is also not just the qualification; it is actually a whole range of wraparound experiences that support that development, and also there is a deal of investment needed to retain staff.

What we have been facing over the last 15 months is an extremely tight labour market when it comes to this type of worker that we are trying to recruit, and there were certainly, and still are, some challenges. It is quite a vulnerable and susceptible cohort in an institutional environment where young people—with quite a high number of Aboriginal young people as well—are at risk in terms of illnesses. We need to make sure workers who have had or are experiencing COVID or flu are not working. That was a significant problem last year. It is still a bit of a problem now, but not quite so much.

There have been challenges and some of those have been talked about in the public realm, as you say, in regard to not just recruitment but retention of staff in what is a challenging role. It is also a very rewarding role to change a young person's life. Addressing it has been a priority and there have been a number of strategies that I have put into place in cooperation and consultation with the youth justice directors and management at Kurlana Tapa. That includes rolling recruitment. We have been having monthly information sessions for youth workers—these are all new initiatives—which provides an opportunity more regularly for youth workers to find out what it means to work in Kurlana Tapa and what that role could be going forward.

We have been also targeting recruitment of Aboriginal workers to ensure that young people within Kurlana Tapa can maintain cultural connection and cultural inclusion. We have been doing intakes every six weeks as well with new staff; that is more frequent than previously. Also, we are providing additional workplace supports in order to improve retention of workers. We have also strengthened our relationship with the PSA, and we have met more frequently with the PSA, and we are considering and supporting more permanency of roles within Kurlana Tapa.

I think all of those things have seen between 40 and 50 new workers—I believe that to be correct; I will correct it if it's not—recruited to Kurlana Tapa over the last 12 months. Importantly, I believe we are on track to meet the Closing the Gap target of reducing Aboriginal young people in custody by 30 per cent by 2031.

VISITOR ECONOMY

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (14:49): Can the Minister for Tourism update the house on South Australia's most recent visitor economy results?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:50): I thank the member for Light for his question. We have now had 10 out of the last 12 months of sensational results for our visitor economy. The most recent results were for the month of March. Let's remind ourselves about what happened during that fantastic time.

The Fringe Festival announced that they had been the first festival in Australia to sell a million tickets, and, of course, there were absolutely record-breaking ticket sales for WOMADelaide as well. I was out with the industry at the time, talking about the fantastic hotel occupancy rates that we were seeing during March. So we already had a really positive feeling before the recent data was announced that March was going to be a brilliant result, and it has been.

Following a record-breaking January and a better than expected February, March proved extraordinary for our South Australian tourism industry. Earlier this week, I announced that the visitor spend in South Australia in March 2023 was 34 per cent higher than its pre-pandemic 2019 figure. The \$906 million result is the third highest month on record. It follows the \$930 million spent in October 2022 and the all-time high of \$940 million spent in January 2023.

New National Visitor Survey data for March 2023, released today, shows the strongest monthly comparison growth since the start of the pandemic: intrastate overnight spend was at \$303 million, up 52 per cent on pre-COVID levels; interstate spend was \$324 million, up 32 per cent on pre-COVID levels; and domestic day trip spend was \$209 million, up 57 per cent on March 2019.

Of course, this individual night occupancy hotel data is backed up fantastically by the new data showing that we had the strongest month and that we also had incredibly groundbreaking individual night hotel occupancy. It was the best ever average for Adelaide hotel accommodation: 8,376 rooms booked each night of the month—a fantastic result that we are seeing. The top two nights were the Saturday of the March long weekend of WOMAD and the Tuesday of the Ed Sheeran concert during the same week—absolutely fantastic results.

Of course, we still have some work to go, and we are focusing on the international market as it comes back stronger and stronger. We are currently at 87 per cent of seats that we had pre COVID, but we are looking to increase this number as we go and build up that international demand to get back to our state.

Just last week, tourism operators from South Australia have been showcasing their offerings in a roadshow in the UK and in Europe. The roadshow supported 29 international-facing operators to meet and network with leading travel agents and product managers in key UK destinations. Joining the roadshow in the UK were agents and product managers from Scandinavia, Germany, Italy and France.

As well as these one-on-one workshops and networking events, operators met with 300 leading industry experts. These operators are highlighting South Australia's world-class nature experiences, our luxury accommodation, our Aboriginal cultural experiences, our tours and, of course, our food and wine offering. At the end of this month, I will be announcing our next

year-on-year results, and I am looking forward to more fantastic figures for Awesome April and Magic May.

TUMBY BAY JETTY

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Will the government commit funding to the Tumby Bay Jetty in the state budget? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: The Department for Infrastructure has been developing business cases for some select jetty upgrades across the state, and my community at Tumby Bay are desperate for their jetty to be reopened.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:54): If only they had a mayor who cared, previously. This is a good one for the students in the room: imagine being Mayor of Tumby Bay and then complaining about infrastructure that you oversaw that needed an upgrade and then complaining about it in the house and demanding that Labor fix it.

I have to say, I am stunned that the Liberal Party is going anywhere near this—anywhere near this. The previous Weatherill government had an amazing record on jetties. The previous Marshall government got zero on jetties—zero, zero out of 10 on jetties—and now that there is a new Labor government again they know our track record on jetties, so what are they doing? They have their hand out: 'Please, sir, can I have some more?'

I have to say, these regional communities that have been let down by their local members of parliament, who have let them down so long on regional infrastructure, are now waiting on a Labor government to go out and fund regional infrastructure. I remind the member for Flinders about the arrangement in place on that regional jetty. I remind the member of an arrangement in place and who is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens, there is a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Taylor! The member for Morialta on a point of order under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 98: the question was non-provocative. It was straightforward and the minister—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: The minister is debating, against standing orders.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey is called to order.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley, order! There is going to be a committee into that very shortly, I understand.

Mr Brown interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Yes, member for Florey. I have the point of order, standing order 98. I bring the minister to the substance of the question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you very much, sir. The previous government commissioned a report into jetties, which is held in cabinet-in-confidence and can't be released to the government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Badcoe! Member for Newland!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: While the shadow minister for energy yells out, 'Hellas Soccer Club', attacking the Greek community of South Australia—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Are you going to yell out yasou, are you?

The SPEAKER: The member for West Torrens, there is a point of order from the member for Morphett, which I will hear once interjections subside, under 134.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Morphett.

Mr PATTERSON: I ask the member to withdraw and apologise. I did not say anything of the kind. It's disgraceful.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for West Torrens, the member for Morphett has taken offence.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I apologise. The member for Morphett did not say those remarks. I apologise. It was the member for Chaffey. So I apologise to the member for Morphett.

The SPEAKER: Very well.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Once again, the member for Chaffey back to form on the Greek community again, sir—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —on the Greek community again. Jetties, quite frankly, are our passion—our passion—and the Liberal Party only has one more sleep to wait to see what it is we are going to do for our regional communities and their jetties, because we know the importance of jetties, unlike members opposite. We know how key these are to regional communities. We know how key jetties are to the heart and soul of a regional community. I wonder what the member for Flinders and all his colleagues would say to those regional communities that had their jetties closed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hartley, your colleague the member for Morialta raises a point of order with me under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, sir: standing order 98.

The SPEAKER: Very well.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I have the question. I understand that there has been a degree of rhetorical flourish. It might be described as context. In any event—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! In any event, we must come to the substance of the question. Minister.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Sir, rhetorical flourish is part of any good response to the opposition.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, I think it works well with standing orders myself. I think it works exceptionally well with standing orders. We are committed to South Australia's jetties. I do remind the house that there are a number of jetties that are under the care and maintenance of our local councils. Those local councils have a requirement as part of our lease arrangements with the South Australian government to maintain these jetties in a proficient and stable manner.

I accept that through potentially some previously poor management, there may have been some issues about care and maintenance of some jetties, but if the state government is required to help we are here to help.

An honourable member interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Newland!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I know how important regional communities are to members opposite, so it would be nice if perhaps when they are not in opposition and they are actually in government they do something for those regional communities, rather than simply complain when they are in opposition about what is not being done in their regional communities. The question I ask is this: why does this jetty need upgrading now if it didn't over the last four years?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! I understand the point of order has been withdrawn because the minister has concluded his answer.

VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Veterans Affairs. Will the government commit additional resources towards mental health services for veterans in the state budget, particularly for those living in regional and rural areas?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:00): This is a—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, you have the call.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Thank you, sir. This is a very important question in relation to veterans' mental health and it is something obviously both the state government and the federal government are taking very seriously. We obviously have a royal commission underway at the moment in relation to veterans' suicide, which the South Australian government is contributing to as part of its work.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey!

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In the meantime, though, we are listening to our veterans community and we have a Veterans' Health Advisory Council that provides advice to the government on how to improve veterans' mental health, and I met with the new presiding officer of that recently. We continue to listen to their advice in relation to how we can improve mental health, and they obviously also provide advice to the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

Obviously we have a number of key veterans' mental health services, most predominantly the Jamie Larcombe Centre at the Glenside site, which provides those specialist mental health services for veterans. In addition, there are a variety of other services that are based at the Repat site as well, and we are working with veterans' groups who provide services on that site.

The other element of course is that the member for Elder also serves as the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Protection. This is one of the issues that the Suicide Prevention Council, which she chairs, is looking at in terms of the development of the statewide Suicide Prevention Plan as

well. I know that they have been speaking to representatives in relation to veterans' mental health as part of the development of that plan as well.

I think there is absolutely commitment from the state government in terms of improvement in this area. We know that there is a lot more that needs to be done, and we obviously eagerly await the outcomes of the royal commission, working obviously as well with the commonwealth government, who have substantial responsibility in terms of the health care they provide to the veterans community. We will continue to do everything that we can, working with them, to make sure that we can improve the mental health of veterans across South Australia.

Grievance Debate

STATE BUDGET

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (15:02): Just a fortnight ago, I gave a speech in this same spot when I outlined how this year's budget surplus had evaporated. Well, the Treasurer has now revealed that it has not just evaporated: it has been obliterated. When it comes to managing the state's finances, one thing is now glaringly obvious to all South Australians—this is the same old Labor and they cannot be trusted to manage the state's finances, simple as that. Let's look back at what has occurred.

The original surplus of \$233 million, gone. We have historic tax revenue that has been delivered and presumably spent, \$324 million in additional GST revenue as at the federal budget just a month ago and \$192 million in additional state tax revenue as at the Mid-Year Budget Review, a Mid-Year Budget Review that I also note contained over \$50 million in flood recovery funding, of which up to half is expected to be clawed back from the commonwealth Disaster Recovery Fund.

Still, at that point in time, noting the floods, a \$206 million surplus was projected by the Treasurer halfway through the financial year. Now we know that we are set for a \$249 million deficit when it is all said and done. This is the same Treasurer who just six months ago was on morning radio effectively asking people how he should spend the additional tax revenue. Now where are we? A two-week pre-budget sell of excuses and apologies. The windfall, as he called it then, has been more than overallocated.

What has happened to the \$155 million of savings tasks allocated to non-frontline services? Will frontline services continue to be spared moving forward? How many executive positions within the public sector, in particular within DPC, have been cut and created since the election? How has the first financial year's \$42 million of savings been made across government? Rik Morris, Sam Crafter and a few others have well-paying jobs heading agencies that never existed prior to the last election, and how many FTEs are within those agencies? These are all questions that we will certainly be asking tomorrow.

We have had, though, significant expenditure in health, yet the Labor Party has delivered record ramping and resorted to trying to switch out the target metric such is their confidence in themselves that they will fix the ramping crisis. This blowout in spending is simply extraordinary. We will have more details tomorrow regarding the exact scale of the blowout once we can conclusively add the additional taxation revenue to the lost surplus and the gained deficit, but I suspect the true blowout is much more than the Treasurer has initially admitted to on the back of infrastructure blowouts, departmental overspend and savings tasks that simply were not achieved.

In just six months, this Treasurer has gone from press release headlines stating that his Mid-Year Budget Review delivers on his surplus to headlines in *The Advertiser*, including, 'Stephen blows the budget', and 'Funding fudge would fail maths class'. As I said a fortnight ago, the reality is that this state's finances should have been in a place to provide relief to all South Australians who need it—typical hardworking South Australian households—through energy rebates.

With an unanticipated GST windfall and historic tax revenue due to inflation, this government should have been in a place to help more South Australians. It has not been a good couple of weeks for the Treasurer. He often likes to talk about D-grade performances; well, his financial mismanagement effort this year certainly does not even meet that grade.

NAIRNE RAIL CROSSINGS

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (15:07): As members will know, the Australian Rail Track Corporation line intersects a number of roads within the township of Nairne. This is the primary rail freight route between Adelaide and Melbourne. Those streets include Woodside Road, Old Princes Highway beside Burns Street (which I will return to), Jeffrey Street and Bartley Street. Warning lights have been installed at each of these crossings, but there is no level crossing with gates or any grade separation. Nairne is growing at a significant rate. It is a community, I feel, that needs much more additional investment.

It is possible for vehicles to drive into the path of oncoming trains, including large interstate freight trains which frequently use the line, as I foreshadowed. Several of these level crossings have been the site of accidents or near misses. Recently, there was a near miss where a bus driver ran a red light at the Old Princes Highway level crossing at Nairne. It has been the subject of a good deal of media interest, and that interest is appropriate.

I have indicated that over the years a number of collisions or near misses have occurred, not just at that level crossing. Over a year ago, a car became stuck attempting to U-turn at the Jeffrey Street crossing. Fortunately, the driver was not injured. I understand that the driver jumped from the vehicle seconds before a train collided with it.

I indicated earlier in my remarks that Nairne and surrounds are rapidly growing. There has been a good deal of focus on Mount Barker in my community, but of course there is growth right throughout the Adelaide Hills: Nairne, Littlehampton, Woodside to Lobethal, through of course Mount Barker and further south towards Strathalbyn. It must be the case that there is an equal focus on safety improvements, including, where appropriate, barriers at level crossings, together with improving heavy infrastructure and, where necessary given the climate of the Hills, resurfacing a number of our roads.

I think it is right to emphasise in this place and right to emphasise to the minister that an additional safety investment is appropriate at each of these level crossings but particularly at Old Princes Highway. I call on the state government to investigate whether grade separations could be constructed in Nairne, particularly at Old Princes Highway. If that is not possible, crossing gates are becoming increasingly necessary as the township continues to grow.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:10): I take this opportunity to touch on some regional health issues ahead of tomorrow's state budget. Minister Picton has an opportunity in his second budget to put regional SA back on the national health radar by offering greater incentives to attract doctors and nurses who are urgently needed in our country towns.

States like Victoria and Western Australia have already been aggressively poaching our frontline health workers with offers to pay their relocation costs, bonuses and study fees. WA is already offering 350 graduates the chance to have up to \$12,000 of their HECS debt paid off, while our government has been quite sluggish and some of our country hospitals are on the brink of service collapse because they cannot fill the rosters that they have.

The Victorian government are so committed to competing for and stabilising their health workforce that they are offering \$201 million in a range of initiatives that include \$37 million in sign-on bonuses for new nursing graduates to encourage them to enter the public system and \$32 million for medical graduate incentives to undertake general practitioner training. In Queensland, health workers who move from interstate will pocket \$20,000 after completing a year of service in that state. Doctors in Queensland who take up jobs in regional areas will receive an additional \$70,000.

A \$5,000 cost-of-living bonus for nurses and midwives to train in the regions is also up for grabs. Thousands of dollars, millions of dollars, are on the table around the country while our state minister is slow to respond. It is not enough for the health minister here to say that he has incentives on the table. Interstate, they are redoubling their efforts and making second and third attempts to aggressively recruit frontline health workers from South Australia—and our health workforce are in their sights.

While our workforce is being poached, a lot more needs to be done for country patients as well. It has been my priority for a long time now to focus on country health patients and their need to access affordable transport to get to their treatment, which is often in the city. It should not be a hardship that, because they live in the country, there are extra and additional costs for them just to access the same level of treatment as metro patients, which is why I held a community forum late last year to bring attention to this inequity for many country patients in my electorate of Frome.

I am calling on Minister Picton to address the pleas that have been made by Kerry Rowlands, the CEO of the Cancer Council SA, who is also asking the state Labor government to increase the accommodation subsidy allowance within the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme. It is currently \$40 a night for singles and \$80 a night for couples. Country people who are diagnosed with cancer or other illnesses that require treatment have so many more decisions to make about leaving home—paying for fuel; organising arrangements for children or grandchildren, pets or livestock; making arrangements for work; and of course isolation from loved ones, not to mention the uncertainty of their own diagnosis and recovery.

When they arrive at the Cancer Council lodge on Greenhill Road, they benefit from all the comforts of home and the best of care, but cost-of-living pressures are also impacting on the standard of living. I think it is clear that it is essential that we see the government look at the accommodation subsidy of \$40 and seek to increase it. The current rate is just not in line with cost of living, and it certainly does not cover in any way a hotel room.

South Australia's PATS accommodation rates remain the lowest of any state, risking many rural patients being left out of pocket. In some instances, people are choosing not to seek that treatment in the city at all. PATS plays an important role in assisting low-income earners in regional and remote South Australia. They are receiving life-saving treatment which is unavailable closer to home, and PATS plays an important role in ensuring that all South Australians have equitable access to treatment, no matter where they live. This second budget from Labor is another opportunity to prove to regional South Australians that they have not been forgotten.

PORT AUGUSTA

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:15): I rise today to talk about a number of topics regarding Port Augusta. I want to start on a positive note, because there are some serious negatives when it comes to Port Augusta and the level of crime and antisocial behaviour in the community.

On some of the positive notes, we have made a number of commitments to the Port Augusta community and those commitments are now rolling out. One of the really good ones is that for the first time the Arid Lands Botanic Garden has received state support, and a couple of gardens here in Adelaide have also received state support. Over the four-year term \$3 million has gone towards the botanic garden, which will seriously help the Port Augusta council. In fact, that contribution had a very dampening impact on the need for a rate rise in this financial year.

We have also committed \$32 million to a tech college in Port Augusta, and that is rolling out smoothly. Construction has not yet started but it is not too far away. There is \$8 million committed to the hospital, and I hope that is going to be just the first of the down payments on that hospital, which does need a bit of work. It is also exciting to see the new ambulance station taking shape as well as the additional ambulances and officers who are going to be employed in Port Augusta. That will have a really positive impact.

Moving on to one of the issues that is a short-term, mid-term and longer term strategy being employed to address the level of antisocial behaviour and crime in Port Augusta, we see the Department of Human Services taking a lead role and there is now a far greater degree of collaboration in the community to address some of these issues. The council has been very constructive, and there is a very good relationship with SAPOL. They fully realise that we cannot arrest our way out of some of these situations but, at times, arresting is something that does need to happen.

That is one of the things I want to talk about. Just the other day SAPOL put out some information to indicate what they are doing. During the summer months they would increase resources into Port Augusta to address some of the issues around the growth in numbers during that

time of the year. What they have also done for the first time, given some of the numbers in Port Augusta, is that in late May they applied a lot of additional resources in Port Augusta across the police force. As well, the commissioner and deputy commissioner have been up there, and there have been a lot of high-level meetings about Port Augusta and meetings with a whole range of organisations in the community.

As I said, the police have recognised that they cannot arrest their way out of the situation in Port Augusta, but it is interesting that since the commencement of those additional resources in late May—and that is being reviewed on a two-weekly basis—there has been a very significant increase in arrests, almost as a direct result of those additional resources. There have been 66 arrests and 18 reports, and of those 66 arrests 42 have been adults and 24 have been juveniles.

One of the issues we have in Port Augusta is with juvenile crime and antisocial behaviour. Some of the responses to that are going to be complex and they are going to be long term. We did have a lot of success with a program we introduced in November, the Community Outreach program, which was a replacement for the City Safe program. As a result of that program, over 450 people have been assisted to return to country, and of that 450 around 90 were minors, so that has been relatively successful.

We came to the party on that because we believed it was not the council's responsibility to fund it and the opposition when they were in government would not fund it. This was a simple thing to do to address some of the issues in Port Augusta, but there is a long way to go, and I fully recognise that in Port Augusta antisocial behaviour and crime for many people is the number one issue.

STATE BUDGET

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:20): I rise with the pending state budget coming up tomorrow. I hope my fears will be alleviated when the budget is handed down because my fear is that the Minister for Trade and Investment may be Champion by name but he is no champion for trade and investment here in South Australia and neither is his government.

If being proactive and on the front foot in fighting for trade and investment opportunities in South Australia and having vision, foresight and a plan were a race, the minister would barely qualify for the participation award and his government are the equivalent of a hurdle.

On trade and investment, the contrast between the former government's vision and plan and theirs is clear. We went to the last election with a tested and clear plan. We successfully opened trade offices that put South Australia in good stead, and we would have opened more trade offices to drive trade and investment growth in our economy.

We were in the throes of opening a Paris trade office for the European Union export market and had further committed to opening offices in Germany, India and South-East Asia. In their first 100 days of this government, the minister and the government cancelled a critical trade office, taking an unnecessary back step on trade and investment for South Australia and returning us to the former years of the Labor government with investment and trade—returning us to the former years of Labor government ministers travelling on junket trips and defunding trade offices.

Which trade office did they cancel? Of course, it was Paris, of all places. At a time when the Australian-European Union Free Trade Agreement is being negotiated, South Australia is walking away from an absolute golden opportunity. The decision to cancel the Paris office and retreat from the European Union entirely was economically reckless and seriously short-sighted and shows the risk this minister and his government pose to South Australia's economy.

But allow me to remind this house of what the minister said in recent estimates about opening trade offices. When asked about the decision to cancel the Paris-based EU trade office, the minister said, 'We are confident we can service that market from London.' This is a country that has just left the European Union after a rather tumultuous breakup, so where is the vision?

This was not just a once-off; rather, it was reiterated several times, with the minister saying, 'We believe that all of Europe can be serviced and dealt with through our substantial office in London.' We have an agent-general in London who is on three days a week; if we are serious about gaining traction on free trade agreements with the United Kingdom, give him a full-time job and allow him to

do his work as it should be. Again, we listened to the minister's rhetoric: 'That has not been entertained by the government.' Again, where is his plan?

While it is extraordinary to learn that the minister and the government never entertained the idea of new trade offices, it is frightening to come to the realisation that they never had any foresight or vision or even a plan. Considering they knew at the time that Australia was pursuing a European Union free trade agreement, yet deliberately took the opening of new trade offices out of the budget, this is nothing more than an economic policy brain fart.

Shockingly, the minister twice characterised this decision to cancel the trade offices as a 'savings measure'. Cancelling trade offices, and intentionally not entertaining the idea of any new offices, was to this minister and this government a cost-saving measure to their budget.

So what does this tell you about their last budget? It tells you that it was a budget of missed opportunity. It tells us that it was a budget where the needs of South Australian exporters were not duly considered. Given their apparent backflip on trade offices—I should say concessions that the Liberal Party policy was the right one to begin with—it leaves a big question mark over their upcoming budget. What else are they not entertaining?

My fear for the upcoming budget is that the trade and investment portfolio is a lead economy driver. It is a lead agency that will grow our economy. It gives our small businesses the opportunity to become large businesses. It gives business the opportunity to have that connection into our trading destinations, our trading countries.

I must say that a quick search of the department's website shows very little in the way of announcements. Why? There is no vision. There is no vision in the trade and investment minister's thinking. I am very concerned, as this is a very important economic portfolio, and this minister is hellbent on sticking with his planning reform and has no interest in the economic reform that South Australia so desperately needs.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:25): This week, we celebrate Men's Health Week 2023. The theme for this year is Healthier Habits. The theme leads to a focus on encouraging men and boys to build healthier habits by identifying small changes they can make in their lives to improve their health and wellbeing.

Men's Health Week is an opportunity for the community to acknowledge the health and wellbeing challenges faced by men and boys in our society. During Men's Health Week, a range of activities and events are held throughout Australia to provide men and boys with opportunities to reflect upon their own health and wellbeing and also participate in various events and activities.

I would like to spend a moment or two focusing on some local events and groups. In my region, these groups and events are held to support men and boys and provide them with the opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing. Importantly, Men's Health Week is also a week when the community can respond to the challenges faced by men and boys and support them. It is important that we focus on the health of boys and men because the reality is that healthy men and boys means healthy families and relationships, and healthy families and relationships means healthy communities.

The Northern and Gawler Men's Wellbeing Network, with the support of AnglicareSA and under the guidance of local community connections worker John Goodge, are tomorrow holding a men's wellbeing and services expo at the John McViety Centre. The expo will provide local men and boys with access to a range of stalls and activities designed to provide them with information about services available to them. It is also an opportunity for men to interact with other men and to highlight the issues that face them. I would like to congratulate John and his team on organising and hosting this important event in the Northern Adelaide region.

Since 2007, Willo's Men's Shed in Willaston, adjacent to Gawler, has been supporting local men by providing them with a shed where they can share time with other men. Quoting from their website, this is what the Willo's Men's Shed tries to do:

The Men's Shed was established to provide a shed substitute for...men who may no longer have access to their own shed, garage or workspace which they can call their own. Importantly, though, the shed also exists to provide men with a setting distinct from the pub or a football club...

In other words, it provides men with a whole range of different opportunities to interact with men. I quote:

In the workshop the men work on their own projects or do a lot of community work. They do repair work on furniture, etc., for the local nursing home, the Gawler Show, etc. All the moneys made by the shed are reinvested in the shed itself.

Again, here is a local group that is supporting the health and wellbeing of men by providing these activities. The success rate can be seen in the attendance of this shed.

The other activity and group I would like to briefly mention are the new men's tables. Gawler now has a Men's Table. The Men's Table, while it is new in South Australia, has been operating in the Eastern States for some time. In fact, it started in 2011 when a group of men decided to have dinner with the intention of having a place to connect with other men and talk about the highs and lows of their lives. They have been meeting once a month ever since to talk, laugh, and share what has gone on for them, and they have forged meaningful relationships based on the trust in and acceptance of each other.

Belonging to one of these Men's Tables contributes to men's mental, emotional and social wellbeing and has been a powerful vehicle to change men's lives. The Gawler Men's Table was launched recently by co-founder of Men's Table Australia, Mr David Pointon. I am actually a member of the Gawler Men's Table, and I can highly recommend this group to other men in our community, where they can find a place to share their life experiences and improve their health and wellbeing.

Motions

AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (15:30): I move:

That this house—

- (a) congratulates the South Australian Australian of the Year, Tanya Brumfitt, and South Australian nominees Andrea Madeley, Marie Shaw KC and Professor Christopher Daniels;
- (b) congratulates the South Australian Senior Australian of the Year, Sandra Miller, and South Australian nominees Eric Siggurs, Eugenia Tsoulis OAM and Margaret Fischer AM;
- (c) congratulates the South Australian Young Australian of the Year, Awer Mabil, and South Australian nominees Felicity Graham, Josh Cavallo and Zainab Kazemi;
- (d) congratulates the South Australian Local Hero of the Year, Christine Robertson, and South Australian nominees Elizabeth Habermann, Marigold White and Neil Davis; and
- (e) celebrates the contribution, dedication and excellence of these outstanding South Australians.

It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to rise to move a motion that congratulates the recipients and nominees of South Australia's Australian of the Year award winners in the most recent round of this type of recognition.

The motion appropriately provides to the house the names of all the recipients and the nominees because we know that the significance of being a nominee, while they may not have had their name chosen by the judges, should not be overlooked. To get onto the list of nominees is substantial in itself, and it really is worth recognising and celebrating in our state's parliament today. Again, I would emphasise that the last point—that is, 'celebrates the contribution, dedication and excellence of these outstanding South Australians'—is befitting for all the nominees, not just for those who took out the top title in each category.

The South Australian Australian of the Year Awards really do highlight people who are making a particularly powerful, significant, meaningful and substantial contribution to life in South Australia. You do not get onto a list of nominees or become the overall award winners in each category without having made substantial sacrifice, and not just sacrifice in your own lives; the sacrifice given often by family members, by friends and by other associates can be significant, so I think it is worth recognising and celebrating that today.

I guess by being able to talk about these recipients in this chamber it elevates the level of recognition and, once again, gives them a fitting tribute to recognise what they have contributed towards our state. The nominees come from all walks of life, as the categories require. They include young and old—people living in regional South Australia, people living within metropolitan Adelaide and people contributing in many varied and different ways to making our state the place that it is.

I can absolutely guarantee that not a name on the list—neither the winners nor the nominees—would have set out for this sort of public recognition when they commenced doing what they have done, a multitude of things, to get on this list today. Their contribution is substantial and it is also authentic. It has been undertaken for the right reasons. The fact that they have received this level of recognition is, I am sure for them personally, simply icing on the cake for some and for others perhaps a little bit embarrassing, but it is through their endeavours and what they have achieved for others, not for themselves, that they have achieved this honour.

I want to walk through each of the category winners and provide a little bit more information on what they have done because I think it is worth delving into their contribution to South Australian life in a little bit more detail.

Starting with Taryn Brumfitt, the winner of the South Australian 2023 Australian of the Year Award, Ms Brumfitt is well known to many people here. She is a body image activist, a director, writer and a speaker who has been able to reach over 200 million people with her work in fostering positive body image. She has been recognised by the UN for leading Body Image Movement, an Adelaide-based organisation that teaches people to love the skin they find themselves in.

Her documentary *Embrace*, released in 2016, has detailed the serious issue of women's body loathing and Ms Brumfitt's own experience in body acceptance. Her documentary has been seen by millions and is available today on Netflix. She has also released four bestselling books and, in September last year, released *Embrace Kids*, a companion parenting book, with body image expert Dr Zali Yager. Ms Brumfitt and Dr Yager also created the Embrace Hub, a research-based resource for parents, children and communities for embracing body positivity.

Her contribution is to an area that is perhaps often overlooked as requiring emphasis by government agencies and not-for-profits, but it is growing in emphasis as the world we live in today, infiltrated by social media and image as it is, really requires us, as community leaders and as governments, to pay close attention to finding policy solutions and responses to the issues around body image. Taryn's leadership here is gratefully received by many thousands of South Australians, but obviously her reach has much more significance than that as well. I would like to congratulate Taryn on receiving the Australian of the Year Award in South Australia, and I encourage her to continue blazing the trail as she has done to date.

Aboriginal rights activist and advocate for Indigenous health and welfare Sandra Miller won the South Australian Senior Australian of the Year. Ms Miller of Glandore is a proud Wirangu woman from the Ceduna area and has broken barriers for Aboriginal women aspiring to leadership roles. For decades, Ms Miller has pushed to change government policies for Aboriginal children and Aboriginal people. She has represented her community in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance and at the United Nations. Her huge influence continues to be a strong voice in her community as well as in her leadership roles in Aboriginal health and legal rights groups.

Socceroo and Barefoot to Boots founder Awer Mabil won South Australian Young Australian of the Year. Barefoot to Boots is a not-for-profit organisation with the aim of better health, education, policies and gender equality for refugees. Mr Mabil of Walkley Heights grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp after his family fled Sudan and came to Australia at the age of 10. After he reached his dream to play for the Socceroos, his sister tragically died in a car accident, seeing the family suffer some incredible hardship beyond what they could ever have anticipated. In this hardship, he feels he is unbreakable, and knowing that young people see him as a role model drives him to perform. He is an incredibly worthy recipient of the South Australian Young Australian of the Year.

Finally, we have the South Australian Local Hero winner, Christine Robertson, co-founder of Lost Pets of South Australia and creator of the Chipblitz program. Ms Robertson of Ridleyton co-founded Lost Pets of South Australia in 2013 to reunite lost pets with their owners. Over 65,000 pets across the nation have received a microchip thanks to Ms Robertson's efforts developing

Chipblitz, which cut the cost of microchipping pets to just \$10 and has seen many, many people reunited with their beloved pets who might not otherwise have been. Chipblitz is the biggest pet microchipping program in the Southern Hemisphere, and over 44,000 pets in South Australia have been microchipped through the program.

This group of people, as well as the other nominees, are great South Australians, and it gives me a great feeling of privilege and honour to be able to talk about them, to celebrate them and to recognise them in our parliament today. I commend this motion to the house.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:41): I rise to speak in support of the motion from the Leader of the Opposition, and I have been advised that there is a typo in paragraph (a), which we will move to amend.

South Australians have an extraordinary track record of punching above their weight in so many different fields, and that has been reflected in recent times through the Australian of the Year Awards. I think three of the last five recipients of the Australian of the Year have been South Australians. That is a great credit to us as a state and certainly to those individuals, who can be proud of their individual efforts.

Taryn Brumfitt is an extraordinary human being whose contribution has been quite amazing and who has done incredible work that has had a positive impact on so many young women and men throughout the nation, and it is work that continues to grow. The performance of Taryn's Netflix documentary has been extraordinary. It has won a number of accreditations and milestones, including at one point being one of the most downloaded episodes anywhere in the world, including within the US. The positive outcomes of that, and the impact that will have on young people as they contemplate body image into the future is, I think, wholeheartedly positive. In today's day and age, particularly in a day and age of celebrity and social media, this is a really worthwhile effort and it has the recognition that it deserves.

In regard to other recipients, including South Australian of the Year and the Young South Australian of the Year, those stories speak for themselves, and the Leader of the Opposition I think covered them well, but I did want to pay also a particular degree of credit to Christine Robertson, who is a local constituent of mine in the seat of Croydon. Christine lives in Ridleyton, and the work she has done regaining lost pets is quite amazing and no doubt has made a really positive contribution to the mental health of so many South Australians who have found themselves potentially in a difficult situation when losing a pet, and its prevention is an incredibly worthwhile cause that is worthy of recognition.

Marigold White is also a great human being I have had the opportunity to meet. She has also done great work and is a local constituent of mine. This motion goes a long way to recognising those individual efforts, but also I think it is a demonstration, again, for a comparatively small jurisdiction in the commonwealth, of how much we punch above our weight. I commend the motion to the house, subject to a minor alteration, which I move as follows:

Delete 'Tanya' in paragraph (a) and insert in lieu thereof 'Taryn'.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:45): I rise to commend the motion, and to amplify those remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in bringing it, and welcome the support of the Premier and the government for the motion. What an extraordinary institution the Australian of the Year is, accompanied as it is by its companion awards, the Senior Australian of the Year, the Young Australian of the Year and the Local Hero of the Year. We are indeed right and humbled, as we so often are when we are reflecting on significant occasions as members of this house, to celebrate the contribution, the dedication and the excellence of these outstanding South Australians.

I would like to come back to a couple of them in a moment in the short time that is available to me, but I want to also recognise one outside the South Australian cohort but who is nevertheless one of the national winners, Amar Singh, winner of the Local Hero. He is New South Wales based and well known to many and making a tremendous contribution to the breakdown of social faith and other barriers.

I am very much looking forward to the occasion of the Australia Day Awards luncheon on Friday where I will have the opportunity to represent the Leader of the Opposition when we celebrate

the Australian of the Year, our very own South Australian Taryn Brumfitt, but also we will be honoured by the presence of Amar Singh, the Local Hero 2023. So I recognise him in addition to all those South Australians who are the subject of the motion.

As is now well known, if it was not already, Taryn Brumfitt is a South Australian of truly extraordinary accomplishment, and in little old South Australia it is encouraging to know that there is someone who has reached, we understand, more than 200 million people globally through her contribution to improving the way people consider themselves, their bodies and their overall wellbeing. She has achieved recognition by UN Women and is well and truly a worthy winner of the Australian of the Year. I look forward very much to the occasion on Friday at which we will be able to recognise those two national recipients in particular. I thank on this occasion Jan Chorley, Chief Executive Officer of the Australia Day Council of South Australia, for her ongoing excellent work.

I recognise and congratulate the other South Australian winners: Senior Australian of the Year, Sandra Miller; South Australian Young Australian of the Year, Awer Mabil; and our South Australian Local Hero of the Year winner, Christine Robertson. Among those nominated for Australian of the Year was Marie Shaw KC. Having known Marie in now a variety of capacities over almost 20 years, I want to make some particular remarks about the extraordinary contribution, dedication and excellence of Marie Shaw's life and generosity within and beyond South Australia.

Marie grew up near Lock on Eyre Peninsula in the tiny town of Warrachie. She was at school at Lock before coming to Adelaide and going into the legal profession. It is well known that she was a judge of the District Court from 2005 until 2010 before deciding to return to the bar where she has continued to have stellar success as a leader of the profession, and she is presently President of the Bar Association in South Australia.

At the outset of her time as a judge of the District Court, it was apparent to Marie that there was the capacity to intervene and to improve the lives of vulnerable children who were by then coming before her at the court. She had seen in her own life the positive effect that sport could have on children, particularly on her daughter who lived with dyslexia. That combination of personal and professional experience led her to set up what might have otherwise been somewhat improbable: the Ice Factor. Over the last 18 years or more, it has turned into this incredible bridge between support and the opening of opportunities for children in various states of need not only to achieve sporting excellence but also to achieve a whole range of other things in their lives.

As is Marie's style, I have been invited to come along and get involved in the Ice Factor's activities along the way. Marie has been dogged, committed, steadfast and tenacious, and all those variety of qualities that it takes to, as it were, single-handedly found, build and develop this phenomenon: the Ice Factor. I mention as well that in 2017 she set up the ice hockey team known as the Kurna Boomerangs—the first Indigenous ice hockey team that has then toured Australia and, as I understand, internationally as well. A lot more can be said, and Marie Shaw's contribution to the law in this state is the topic of long and further remarks, but there is not the time now. That combination of inspiration and activities really is something that is quite outstanding.

I also take a moment to recognise another of those nominees for Australian of the Year: South Australia's Professor Chris Daniels. I do that in the particular context of having seen him at work, having worked alongside him and having admired his capacity to bring all things important to the environment to the fore, from public advocacy engagement through to engagement on the radio to leading just about every institution that is familiar to people in South Australia in the environment space, from Cleland Wildlife Park to, currently, Green Adelaide.

We had a common experience when, now some years ago, he chaired the Nature Foundation of South Australia. That extends in recent times to his directing and chairing Koala Life and having a significant role in developing a better understanding in the recovery of koalas from this South Australian base. There are many, and we could talk on it at greater length. I congratulate them all and I commend the motion to the house.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:55): I rise in support of the amended motion and wish to congratulate everyone who was acknowledged in the motion. I would like to pay a special tribute, though, to Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt. Taryn is one of my constituents, so I am very, very proud she is an Elder liver.

Taryn's work has meant a lot to me personally and to millions of people across the world. I, like far too many people, particularly women, have spent way too many years hating my body. I think about the cumulative hours I have spent talking myself down, holding onto the bits of me I do not like, counting calories and exercising for punishment not for gaining strength. I think about all these things that I have done to my body because I hated it and how much I do not want that for other people and how many hours I could have used to do much more useful things. I think the work of Taryn to help us to embrace ourselves and to embrace our bodies is incredibly meaningful, and I am so pleased that she has been properly acknowledged in this way.

Her line in the movie *Embrace*, when she said, 'My body is not an ornament; it is a vehicle,' was something that really resonated with me and something that made me go, 'Okay, this has to stop,' because we are so much more than this shell on the outside, and we have so much more to offer—I have so much more to offer—and I want to make sure that we can all support one another. I am so proud that someone in my area has been able to make such a tangible difference to so many millions of lives and also given us the tools to help make lives better for our children.

I never want my daughter to be worried about her body. I want her to know that she is much more than that. What is on the inside really does count. I thank Taryn for helping me realise that and for really pushing me to do better. She does not know me—other than my being her member of parliament and potentially the person she voted for, fingers crossed—but she has made an incredible difference to so many people's lives. I know, for me, she has helped me to improve the way I speak about food and our bodies to young people in my life.

I remember when I was about 13 an older woman in my family at a dinner at a Chinese restaurant, when they came round and said, 'Who wants dessert?', touched my hand and said, 'Oh, we don't need any, do we?' Some 23 years later, that has stuck with me. Our words matter, and children overhear what we say all the time. I often hear people say, 'I am going to go on a diet,' 'I don't like this,' and, 'I need to get a bikini-body ready.' When they say things like that, I actually now pull them aside and say quietly, 'Can you please not speak that way in front of my little girl? I don't want her hearing you disparage your body. I don't want her hearing about diets. I don't want her hearing about weight gain.'

I know I cannot protect her from that in the big, wide world, but I would like the people around her to speak about ideas and exciting things and history and things that are a lot more meaningful than how many calories are in a banana. I am proud that I am creating that environment at least at home and at least amongst our loved ones.

I do not think that older relative was trying to be nasty. I think that was a way for a very long time that women related to one another, that women spoke to one another. You were not allowed to say, 'I think I look great, I love myself, I am strong. My body does what it needs to do and it helps me to be the person I am.' For a long time, women shared diets and shared body hatred, and I think we can all be part of changing that conversation. I am really proud that Taryn was one of the first people to start the conversation on a really lowball level, so I congratulate her and thank her. I commend the motion.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (16:00): I am speaking in support of the motion and want to wrap up the idea that all the people on this list of very important, wonderful nominees are part of a bigger picture, part of a movement in our state, in our community, that wants to make the community a better place. In doing that, I want to list off the nominees and also talk about some of the fantastic organisations they are connected to. Maybe people might read this and look up some of those organisations and potentially become involved.

The winner of the South Australian of the Year, Taryn Brumfitt—what an inspiration! I could not do any better to sum up some of the work she has done than the member for Elder has just done. Women, children, girls, boys, men should not be ashamed of their bodies and should not spend the whole day focusing on how to make it different: just get on with life and appreciate the fact that you have two feet earthside or the ability to actually get involved in things.

I did go to the gala of *Embrace Kids* and was completely inspired by the children and by the way the message was drawn out by Taryn through the making of that with the producers. It was just incredible, and I recommend anyone to sit down with their kids and watch that terrific piece of work.

Andrea Madeley, a lawyer and activist for workplace safety, does incredible work, and Marie Shaw's work has also been well articulated by the member for Heysen. She is doing such great work connecting kids who often do not get up in the morning and have a vision for the future, even for lunchtime, giving them hope, self-respect and determination in a quite brutal sport like Ice Factor. It is fantastic, and she has done a terrific job over many years, not just there but also in her wonderful career.

Then there is Professor Christopher Daniels. Koala Life is just extraordinary, and I believe he was the first CEO of that organisation. That is incredible, and he has a fantastic legacy. The Senior South Australian of the Year winner, Sandra Miller, is a Wirangu woman from the West Coast, if I recall correctly. What an activist and what an advocate for Indigenous health and welfare. She is a completely incredible woman.

Eric Siggurs is a volunteer with Disability SA and Technology for Ageing, and Eugenia Tsoulis OAM is CEO of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre and the Settlement Council of Australia and has done so many wonderful things to break down barriers. There is Margaret Fischer, co-founder of Feast, the Adelaide Queer Arts and Cultural Festival. What a warrior. We all love Margaret Fischer and her work over many years.

Then we have the South Australian Young Australian of the Year winner, Awer Mabil, for co-founding Barefoot To Boots. Watching this journey has really been a sight to behold. It has really made a huge difference in kids' lives and not just those kids closely connected but those of us watching on with that inclusion work. It is just incredible.

Thank you, Josh Cavallo, for your openness. Thank you, Josh, for your work towards equality and being such a champion and also, obviously, being a soccer player. You are okay at that, too, I reckon. There is also Zainab Kazemi, a multicultural advocate and volunteer.

With all these people, there is this theme, this brave, bold, go out and get it, be inclusive, everyone is equal kind of attitude. It is just fantastic.

I have a special place in my heart for Felicity Graham, author and successful graduate of foster care. She is a wonderful human being. You would not meet anyone more incredible than Felicity. I had the pleasure of bumping into her at a number of different events. I am so grateful for Felicity's bravery and bold steps to make a difference for children in care.

The Local Hero of the Year is of course Christine Robertson. There is no feeling so gut-wrenching and empty than getting home and finding the doggo or the cat not there. It may have disappeared because a gate has been left open or a door not shut properly. It is an awful feeling. Lost Pets of South Australia has reunited thousands and thousands of people with their four-legged friends. That work is absolutely outstanding.

Elizabeth Habermann, without people like you and your bravery and your journey in the name of your son to affect courageously the thinking and the conscience of people here in South Australia, we would not see voluntarily assisted dying in place. What a wonderful human being you are. What a generous and kind human being you are.

I met Marigold White, co-founder of Uniity, last week to discuss some of those incredible ideas around breaking down the barriers of loneliness and how we can connect Marigold's organisation with other places in our community, such as community centres and community sheds, that we are really committed to.

I did think about voting against the motion because of Neil Davis. He is alright. He is okay. Neil, in all reality, you are a good bloke and you do go out in our son's name and change the world one conversation at a time, so congratulations on your nomination. They saw right through it. But I will vote for the motion, and I will indeed commend it to the house.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (16:08): I rise to support the amended motion. Australia Day eve 2023 was a fantastic evening for South Australia, as not one but two of our nominees in the Australian of the Year categories were successful and I will speak in more detail about Taryn Brumfitt and Awer Mabil soon.

However, it is also appropriate to acknowledge the South Australian nominees who, whilst not reaching the national level, have also made significant contributions to our state. I will take an opportunity before diving into the Australia Day Awards to acknowledge some of the King's Birthday Honours recipients and congratulate them. I particularly congratulate:

- Moya Dodd AO, a trailblazing former Matilda, international football player and administrator for FIFA;
- John Camillo AM, unionist, for significant service to industrial relations in the manufacturing industry;
- Craig Caldicott OAM, who since being awarded his bronze medallion in 1969 has spent countless hours at the Brighton Surf Lifesaving Club, as well as dedicating his time to state and national surf lifesaving bodies; and
- Will Sergeant OAM for significant service to the LGBTIQ+ community of South Australia, including as his alter ego Dr Gertrude Glossip.

The night of 25 January 2023 was a special one, as Taryn Brumfitt and Awer Mabil did our state proud. Taryn, a body image activist, director, photographer, writer, speaker and documentary filmmaker, was named Australian of the Year for her decade-long campaign to encourage women and children to embrace their bodies as they are.

She said children started off believing their bodies were strong and powerful before changing their minds. She told ABC radio after her win: 'We really need to help our kids across Australia and the world because the rates of suicide, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, steroid use [are] all on the increase related to body dissatisfaction.'

This is truly shocking to hear, but we know that it is true. Our girls, young women and young men have for too long been defined by their weight, their look, their clothes. I am glad that Taryn is fighting against this, particularly in the age of Instagram and other social media platforms that amplify the pressure on young girls and women to look a particular way. The way that Taryn celebrates her body has changed the way millions of women across the world look at their own. Taryn had achieved the perfect body as determined by society but realised there was a better way to be comfortable in your own.

Taryn shared before and after images of the two looks on social media, and over 100 million people reacted to the post. What started with a simple social media message has had such a significant impact across the world. Taryn says that her focus for the year will be our children and body image for men. She will be addressing the women in leadership symposium to be held during the upcoming Women's World Cup. This symposium, The Power of Her, will be held on Tuesday 8 August at Adelaide Oval, coinciding with the FIFA round of 16 match.

Speaking of football, it is now time to speak about our star Socceroo Awer Mabil. His exploits on the football field inspire young people, particularly young people from refugee backgrounds across Australia. However, this is not why he is Young Australian of the Year. Awer achieved this award in recognition of him being co-founder of the not-for-profit organisation Barefoot to Boots, which aims for better health, education, policies and gender equality for refugees.

Awer and his brother and co-founder, Awer G Bul, grew up in a Kenyan refugee camp after their family fled civil war in Sudan before coming to Australia at 10 years of age. Awer started his charity by taking jerseys and footballs that he had collected from football clubs in South Australia to the Kakuma area in northern Kenya.

Next, the brothers collected equipment from the old Royal Adelaide Hospital and donated it to a new hospital in Kenya while also providing sanitary pads to girls so that they could go to school with confidence. This is all work that Awer did not have to do, but he chose to do it to improve our local community and the lives of children half a world away in Kenya.

Despite all this good work, Awer's own life has not been without further tragedy, losing his sister in a car accident at Andrews Farm. However, it is the experience of hard times, the memory of his sister and the knowledge that young people see him as a role model that drive him. He is a truly inspiring young man and, like Taryn, richly deserving of this honour.

While Taryn and Awer were national winners, there were also many South Australian finalists to represent South Australia on the national stage. The first is lawyer and workplace safety advocate Andrea Madeley. Andrea helped develop South Australia's International Workers' Memorial Day Service, bringing together bereaved families and community members each year to remember those who have tragically lost their lives at work.

Following personal tragedy in 2004 when her 18-year-old son Daniel died in a preventable workplace accident, she has become a tenacious advocate for others affected by workplace death and injury and a powerful voice against unsafe work practices. Andrea has lobbied members of parliament and submitted numerous proposals under Australia's model work health and safety legislation.

Professor Chris Daniels is an environmentalist, zoologist and science communicator who has popularised citizen science in Australia. Chris was a driving force in Adelaide becoming a National Park City and spearheads efforts to connect South Australians with nature. He also uses the arts to promote conservation, has written 11 books, a musical theatre on koalas, delivered comedy for the Adelaide Fringe and advocates for numerous South Australian nature authors.

Margie Fischer AM is a force in the queer community. In 1997, she co-founded the wildly successful Feast Adelaide Queer Arts and Cultural Festival, our state's major not-for-profit queer celebration of pride and diversity. Margie was chair of the board for 11 years and is now a director of Feast Queer Youth Drop In, a vital bimonthly safe social space for LGBTIQ+ young people.

Staying with our queer community, next is football trailblazer Dr Josh Cavallo, who in 2021 made sport history by coming out as gay, making him the first Australian A-League Men's player and the only gay male professional footballer currently playing top-flight football in the world. Josh did not intend to be a trailblazer; he just wanted to be himself but, because of his coming out, numerous other top league footballers across the world have had the confidence to follow suit. Josh is humble, he is outspoken and he is a champion for the queer community, which has taken him from London to LA Pride. However, it has also seen him receive vile homophobic bullying and abuse on social media and during games.

Multiculturalism and helping migrants is something that Eugenia Tsoulis OAM has been doing for 25 years as CEO of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre and founding member of the Settlement Council of Australia, which she has been involved with for 20 years, a significant commitment that has impacted the lives of tens of thousands of new migrants. However, it was in her primary school days that she started helping her fellow Greek migrants settle into life in Australia. Once a week, before school she would act as a translator to help bus conductors deliver Greek men to potential employers around Adelaide.

From new migrants to children in care, Felicity Graham is an author, advocate and CEO of Fostering Change Australia, sharing her experiences of the foster care system to empower children in care who feel forgotten. So many of us cannot imagine living in a home without anyone we know and are connected to, and being cared for by strangers, but it is the reality of so many children in our community, so it is so important that people like Felicity give them a voice and give them hope.

Giving people hope is what Neil Davis has done since 2008 following the death of his beloved son, Sam, in a one-punch attack. Neil co-founded the Sammy D Foundation, which provides one-on-one mentoring for young people at risk of offending and antiviolence education programs to schools, junior sports clubs, and young people who are part of the juvenile justice system. Neil has spoken to nearly 200,000 young people across South Australia, delivering a simple message: violence is never the answer. That is a message we need to spread to all South Australians as we fight against violence in our state.

It is my pleasure to honour all these people in our community who have rightfully received these awards, and I support the amended motion to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Moriaita—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (16:18): I am really pleased to have the opportunity to speak on this motion this afternoon about the incredible achievements of our Australians of the Year, particularly those from South Australia. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. David Speirs, for bringing this motion to the house which, judging

by the efforts of previous speakers, will be a moment of bipartisan unity as we all in this house celebrate these achievements of these outstanding South Australians who have been nominated for Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Local Hero.

To the South Australians of the Year who were also nominated in the national awards, I particularly want to reflect on Taryn Brumfitt and Awer Mabil, and I will read the others at the end for the record. Taryn Brumfitt I met the other night. She was the guest speaker at the 40 Under 40 awards and an inspiration to all those present at what was a high-achieving room full of young people eager to deliver on their potential in life to be their best and to share their experiences with the community. They were worthy of being nominated there, and Taryn Brumfitt was identified as somebody who was using her platform to achieve her best in life.

Daniela Ritorto's interview with Taryn was a really high moment of the night. She shared a number of the things that she had shared through her documentary work or her public work previously. Some of the stories that she shared about the resilience that she had to demonstrate, and the efforts that she had to make to see the movie *Embrace* succeed in the way it did, were really incredible to hear.

I remember that, after the speech, she identified that I was the shadow minister for education and had a platform of my own. She spent a lot of time talking about the use of the platform of Australian of the Year to achieve positive social outcomes. She saw that I had a platform, too, as shadow minister, and wanted to particularly encourage me to watch the subsequent film, *Embrace Kids*, and I committed to doing so.

This was only several days ago, and I have not yet watched it, but I reiterate that commitment to the house. Indeed, I encourage others to watch it as well; that was my purpose in bringing it up here. *Embrace* is very well known; it has been seen by very many people. *Embrace Kids* is more recent, and I look forward to seeing it.

As one of the other speakers mentioned, I reflect on the young people in our own lives, in our families and in our communities. We want them to love their bodies. We want them to feel powerful about who they are without feeling that they have to aspire to some unnecessary, unreasonable and, in many cases, unhealthy potential ideal, as society might see it.

The superpower that comes with loving one's body as it is, as Taryn Brumfitt referred to it on the night, is extraordinarily important. If those young people can have that in mind as they go about their lives, they will be happier, healthier and will potentially achieve more. It is not our life's purpose to be at war with our body, as Taryn said. I think it is really great to acknowledge this achievement by someone from South Australia who is making her mark not only around Australia but on the world stage as well.

I am particularly pleased, as the member for Morialta, to reflect on the achievements of Awer Mabil. Awer Mabil is, as has been reflected on by many, the Young Australian of the Year and a Socceroos player currently playing with Sparta Prague. I think he is moving to Spain imminently. His is an extraordinary life story: a South Sudanese heritage, growing up in the world's third largest refugee camp along with 180,000 other displaced people in Kenya.

He came to Australia, where we hope—and we talk about it at our citizenship ceremonies—to realise the dream that we aspire to in this country to enable people to fulfil their potential, to be their best and to have opportunities. Awer Mabil certainly has grasped those from a background of challenge. Indeed, while he would want to be remembered and recognised for his achievements and the contribution he makes, the fact that his success has come from a background of such challenge cannot but be noticed and, I think, be an inspiration to many.

Awer Mabil's soccer career has also enabled him to have a platform of his own for his charity Barefoot to Boots, which is supported by being Young Australian of the Year. His experiences no doubt informed him on the importance of helping refugee families and people to understand what they need in terms of health support, education and welfare. Indeed, for a young refugee seeking to play soccer, a kit is particularly important. Barefoot to Boots is providing that support to many people's lives at the moment. I congratulate Awer, we all congratulate him, on the way that he is using the platform he has achieved through his own hard work as an opportunity to help others.

Here is the bit where, as a local member, I am very proud: Awer playing for Adelaide United played a season, his first season in the seniors, with the Campbelltown Red Devils, right here in Newton in the Morialta electorate. I was recently talking to Don Leombruno, the club president; Italo Zanatta, the fundraising director; and Julie Ciccocioppo, the secretary, and everyone at the Campbelltown City Soccer Club is very proud of the work Awer has done. He was recruited, and he played for the seniors in 2012. I believe he played 14 senior games for Campbelltown.

It turns out in life that not everything happens. We do not achieve all our goals. If Awer had stayed in the NPL for another year he might have been part of Campbelltown's famous 50th anniversary league championship the following year. But, no, he went on to other things. Some might consider them more successful, but he did miss out on a fantastic night at Hindmarsh Stadium when Campbelltown won that final the following year.

Seriously, Campbelltown is celebrating its 60th anniversary on Saturday week at a special function, and Awer's achievements will be amongst the many achievements over the 60 years but I think it will be a very special achievement. Unfortunately, he could not be there on the night—he is overseas; he has a job that obviously requires that—but to Awer Mabil, his family and all those who have helped him along the way, we acknowledge that hard and important work.

Congratulations to all of those who were nominated for the Australian of the Year. In addition to Taryn Brumfitt obviously, Andrea Madeley, Marie Shaw and Professor Chris Daniels were nominated. The Senior South Australian of the Year is Sandra Miller, and the other nominees were Eric Siggurs, Eugenia Tsoulis and Margaret Fischer. In addition to Awer Mabil, the other nominees for Young South Australian of the Year were Felicity Graham, Josh Cavallo and Zainab Kazemi. The South Australia Local Hero is Christine Robertson and the other nominees were Elizabeth Habermann, Marigold White and Neil Davis.

We celebrate your contribution. We thank you for the contribution you have made to South Australia. We thank you for the role you play as role models in our community, inspiring our young people and everyone in our community to be our best, to find opportunities to contribute to our society and make this state a happier place through our efforts every day.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (16:26): I rise, too, to congratulate South Australian of the Year Taryn Brumfitt and nominees Andrea Madeley, Marie Shaw KC and Professor Christopher Daniels; also the South Australia Senior Australian of the Year, Sandra Miller, and nominees Eric Siggurs, Eugenia Tsoulis OAM and Margaret Fischer AM; South Australian Young Australian of the Year, Awer Mabil, and nominees Felicity Graham, Josh Cavallo and Zainab Kazemi; and finally the South Australia Local Hero, Christine Robertson, and nominees Elizabeth Habermann, Marigold White and Neil Davis.

It is really important that we are able to stand here and congratulate these people who have contributed so significantly to our community. I would like to touch briefly on Taryn Brumfitt, who was not only South Australian Australian of the Year but Australian Australian of the Year. Taryn is founder of the Body Image Movement, director of the inspiring documentaries *Embrace* and *Embrace Kids* and author of four books. The Australia Day Council website speaks of Taryn, saying she is an award-winning filmmaker, bestselling author and internationally sought-after keynote speaker.

In 2018, she was recognised in the *Australian Financial Review* 100 Women of Influence Awards and received the SA Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership from Women and Leadership Australia. On Friday, at the Australia Day Council lunch, I look forward to hearing Taryn be the keynote speaker. I know from what I have read already that she is going to have a significant impact, not just on children and women but also body image for men.

The South Australian Young Australian of the Year, Awer Mabil, is a fantastic winner. His journey has been absolutely amazing. It is not the usual pathway that you see. He was born in a Kenyan refugee camp to South Sudanese parents who fled the civil war there. That is where he learned skills, on a dirt pitch with balls made from plastic bags. Who would think that one day he would be playing in the World Cup?

At the age of 10, Awer and his family came to Australia through a humanitarian resettlement visa and they settled in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. He excelled at football—in Australia, we

call it soccer—at a junior level and made his senior debut for Campbelltown in 2012 at the age of 16. Of course, this led him to the professional contract with Adelaide United. He made his debut there in 2013.

Awer represented Australia at youth level, and in 2018 made his senior debut for the Socceroos against Kuwait. He was instrumental in the qualification of the Socceroos to the 2022 World Cup, and at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar he fulfilled his dream to compete on the world stage.

Awer's achievements are not just limited to his professional football; he saw a need and he followed his instinct, which led him to co-found the not-for-profit organisation Barefoot to Boots. Barefoot to Boots has donated over 2,000 kilograms of football boots and uniforms to the Kakuma camp and other surrounding refugee camps. The not-for-profit organisation is not limited to football equipment, as visits have also highlighted the need for educational materials and medical supplies, and contributions such as incubators, ultrasounds, laptops and books have already been sent to address some of these needs.

They are two amazing people, two amazing South Australians who have become Australian of the Year in their categories. I would like to mention also Senior South Australian of the Year, Sandy Miller, a proud Wirangu woman from Ceduna area, who has been a trailblazer. breaking down barriers for Aboriginal women aspiring to leadership roles at a time when they were under-represented. Sandy has represented her community in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance and also at the United Nations.

The second South Australian state recipient of Local Hero 2023 is Christine Robertson. What an amazing woman and what an amazing idea she came up with. Today, more than 65,000 pets across Australia have received a microchip thanks to Christine Robertson, who also co-founded the Lost Pets of South Australia charity, reuniting people with their pets when they have strayed or wandered off, sometimes not with terrific endings. I am pleased to say that many of them, as a result of the work that Christine has done, have been reunited with their families.

On both accounts, we have been in that situation, where our little blind dog had managed to get out (still unknown how to this day), and it was Lost Pets of South Australia that reunited us. We have also had the opportunity to contact them regarding a couple of dogs we found, and they were reunited as well. So Christine had amazing foresight into what she was doing and I know she has a passion for it.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the CEO of the Australia Day Council of South Australia, the amazing Jan Chorley. I am the Premier's representative on the Australia Day Council board. I have seen the work that Jan and her staff do and the incredible Australia Day program they delivered this year over two days. I look forward to continuing to work with Jan and the board to deliver what I believe has become an amazing program. I would like to quote from the Australia Day Council website, which states:

We acknowledge our past, recognise our inspirational people and communities, embrace and encourage diversity and inclusion for all Australians. Attitudes to Australia Day are changing. We are listening to all views about not just the day, but what Australia is now and will be in the future. We are part of that conversation and will work with others to help facilitate it.

On the Australian of the Year Awards, it states:

Each year our nation celebrates the achievement and contribution of eminent Australians through the Australian of the Year Awards by profiling leading citizens who are role models for us all. The Australian of the Year Awards honour incredible Australians who have gone the extra mile to create a better country for us all. We all know someone that goes above and beyond in contributing to a greater community—the quiet achievers, the community heroes, the leaders and the doers.

I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (16:34): Just briefly, I would like to thank all the speakers this afternoon for making their contributions. With an immense level of bipartisan spirit, we thank these South Australians for their contribution to our state. What makes this state great is its people—and these people are exceptional. They ought to be celebrated, congratulated and thanked for their contribution to our state.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

UN WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:35): By leave, I move my motion in an amended form:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 5 June 2022 was UN World Environment Day;
- (b) acknowledges that the focus for 2023 was solutions to plastic pollution under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution; and
- (c) notes the work of the Malinauskas Labor government to support sustainable solutions to the climate crisis and reduce plastic pollution.

The day 5 June shone a light on the state of our environment and what we can actively do to make improvements in this space. It was, of course, United Nations World Environment Day—its 50th year in fact since its inception on 5 June 1973. Since its inception, it has been used as a platform to raise awareness and promote action to protect and preserve our precious environment. It is very much an opportunity for everyone, whether they be individuals, community organisations or governments, to come together and collaborate within their respective capacities to ultimately help protect the environment whilst also working together to address the many challenges that our environment currently faces.

In line with this year's UN World Environment Day theme, we were asked to beat plastic pollution by making choices that in turn will help make a big difference. By ensuring that we are making a choice not to use single-use plastics, we are helping to not add to the massive plastic problem we currently face in this space. Every year, 21 million shipping containers' worth of single-use plastic is created and, if we do not make the small changes to the way we interact with plastic, this is only going to increase.

It is chilling to think that half of all plastic produced is used only once and then thrown away. Even more chilling is that worldwide, out of all the plastic that is produced, only a fraction of the plastic is recycled. This waste ultimately finds its way into our landfills or, even worse, out into our highly valued natural areas and oceans. This problem, which is only going to get worse if we do not change our relationship with plastic, is what has caused the United Nations to declare that the plastic pollution of our oceans is a planetary crisis.

We may use these plastic products only once, but they live on much longer than that. They simply do not break down, only ever becoming even smaller bits of plastic, which we all know as microplastics. The plastic problem has become so enormous that we have found microplastics in deep oceans, in Antarctic ice and even in our own food supply, ultimately ending up in humans. By adopting more sustainable practices and reducing or even eliminating our use of single-use plastics, we will play an instrumental role in combating the environmental, health and increasing economic impacts that plastic waste is causing.

It is imperative that we act and that we think about the ways we can pull back on consumption and learn to live within the capacity of our natural world. To do this in the face of the risks posed by climate change, while also doing all we can to protect our biodiversity, is one of the greatest challenges we will face in human history. We must learn to embrace other ways, such as the circular economy, re-using rather than exhausting our finite resources.

South Australia has often been at the forefront of initiatives to keep rubbish out of landfill, and recycle it. As far back as 1977, we introduced the container deposit scheme, which also had the benefit of keeping this rubbish out of our streets, our local waterways and our pristine beaches. By incentivising people to return their containers, we have managed to lead the nation with an impressive return rate. Beverage containers, even more impressively, contribute to only 2.8 per cent of the litter on our streets and in our precious ecosystems.

We have also seen that around the country other states are finally following suit and implementing their own container deposit schemes, something we have proven works over these past 46 years. Keeping this sort of waste out of our ecosystems keeps waste from polluting our precious waterways, keeps litter away from our native wildlife and ensures it does not wash out into

our amazing beaches. It is about preserving our ecosystems and ensuring that they have what it takes to thrive.

In recent years, we have found ourselves again on the front foot, having banned the use of single-use plastics, including straws, cutlery and polystyrene cups, and in 2009 we were the first state to implement a ban on lightweight, check-out-style plastic bags. Last year, we went further to allow people to bring their own containers to cafes, restaurants and supermarkets for takeaway food items. Businesses still have a right to choose whether they will or will not allow customers to use their own containers, but in South Australia businesses know of the need to reduce waste and want to be an active part of that change, helping to contribute to the climate change response.

Small businesses are especially keen to act on climate change and reduce their use of plastic. In fact, there were 900 attendees at South Australia's inaugural Industry Climate Change Conference, which was held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April 2023 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The need for business and governments to work together and for collaboration between all businesses, big and small, was a key theme across the two days. The desire and opportunity for knowledge sharing were highlighted, including an SA-specific community of practice for carbon accounting and decarbonisation.

We have asked a lot of our planet, but we are quickly approaching a threshold where our demands of the planet for unlimited resources can no longer be met and we will have to be responsible for ourselves, our wildlife and our waterways. We will have to make better environmentally conscious choices, and as a government we are set on enabling businesses and consumers to be able to make these choices. One way we are doing this is by supporting the development of the circular economy to transition away from a throwaway economy to one where resources are recycled and re-used.

Shortly after coming to government, we also declared a climate emergency in May 2022. This signalled our clear intent to act and reaffirmed our state's commitment to building science-based policies to prepare South Australia for the realities of an increase in extreme weather, climate shifts and increases in global warming. In the Malinauskas Labor government's first state budget last year, we committed to action on climate change. That commitment included:

- \$3 million for Friends of Parks groups for nature restoration activities;
- \$6 million for private landholders to preserve existing natural environments, which are often found on private land and can form part of wildlife corridors;
- 15 new Aboriginal rangers to give Aboriginal people greater say over our natural environment;
- the creation of a biodiversity coordination unit in the Department for Environment and Water to work with university researchers; and
- \$2 million for the Citizen Science Fund to involve the public in collaboration with scientific research to increase scientific knowledge.

Governments certainly have a role to play in addressing climate change, but it is not a job for government alone. We all have a role to play in this collective effort, with everyone from individuals and small businesses all the way to the top able to make a difference and play their part and act on climate change. Together, we can act and ensure a sustainable future for our planet, which for so long has given us everything we could have asked for, and we need to give back. I know for sure I will continue to play my part.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (16:44): It gives me great pleasure to be able to make a contribution on this motion, which seeks to acknowledge World Environment Day and particularly focus in on the theme of World Environment Day 2023, which is to beat plastic pollution. We have some amendments to follow, but I will not move them; I will leave that for a colleague. However, I would like to spend just a moment reflecting on South Australia's heritage as a really significant leader in relation to sustainability, particularly when it comes to reducing the impact of pollution and litter and, particularly in more recent times, reducing the impact of plastic pollution on the natural environment.

It gave me a great deal of satisfaction, as environment minister, to be able to continue our bipartisan heritage in South Australia around litter reduction and plastic reduction, in particular, when we saw passed the single-use plastic ban legislation—the first state in the nation to ban a whole range of single-use plastics. We set up the legislation in such a way that items could continually be added to it as the market provided solutions or as the community demanded or, perhaps even better, a blend of both.

We went with the ban, seeing straws, cutlery and drink stirrers banned in the first tranche and then, moving through that tranche, polystyrene cups, expandable polystyrene bowls and a whole range of other items booked into the legislation into the future. It has been pleasing to see the new government take advantage of that legislation and continue with it, albeit at a slightly slower pace and perhaps with unnecessary delay in some of the bans.

However, we are at least continuing to move forward on that trajectory, which has seen South Australia establish itself with a national, if not international, legacy when it comes to dealing with the scourge of plastic pollution in our outdoor spaces, in our creeks and, of course, in one of the areas that particularly comes to mind when dealing with plastic pollution—that is, our seas and oceans. We know the impact of that is so significant on our wildlife, which consume these items and suffer as a consequence.

South Australia's heritage in this area can be traced back to the late 1970s, when we brought in our container deposit legislation. In fact, Victoria is only now catching up, some 46 or 47 years later, with legislation to bring in a container deposit system in that state. It is nice to be ahead of the Victorians, but perhaps this is one area where we wish we were not that far ahead because, with Victoria being such a laggard in this space, it has meant significant plastic pollution entering the natural environment via Victoria and probably, from time to time, ending up in South Australia through our rivers and shared coastline. That is disappointing, but at least they have been able to get their act together and catch up after almost half a century.

Our heritage in this area can also be pointed to in 2008-09, when single-use plastic bags at point of sale were outlawed, resulting in the customer having to bring their own bags along with them to supermarkets. At first, there was a bit of an outcry, but South Australians quickly adapted and realised that this was the right thing to do.

The single-use plastic ban came in 2021 and then, as the member for King pointed out, the Greens, the Labor government and the Liberal opposition worked together on a small piece of legislation last year that has the potential to make a big difference: to remove liability from the point of sale, the vendor, when someone takes their own re-usable container—whether that is Tupperware or some other plastic item—down to the supermarket or the deli to get filled up. It was really important to undertake the small piece of legislative change removing that liability so that there were no barriers in the way of people or vendors trying to do the right thing.

Our heritage in this space is substantial and it is something that we should be really proud of. I reflect on our four years in government and what we were able to achieve not just along the lines of the single-use plastic ban but also in getting a huge amount of practical action in the environment, such as trees in the ground through the Greener Neighbourhoods program and working with local councils to get our urban areas climate ready. We know that more trees, more shrubs and more greenery in our urban areas reduce the urban heat island effect and more canopy cover cools our streets, increases amenity and, of course, creates habitat for native wildlife.

We were really disappointed when the current minister chose to discontinue that program—an active disincentive towards people and particularly councils greening our parks and greening our streets. In fact, in the last budget—and I really hope it is not repeated in tomorrow's budget—the Malinauskas Labor government instituted cuts of \$70 million across practical environmental programs.

There were cuts to the Home Battery Scheme, cuts to opportunities to see electric vehicle charging infrastructure put in place, cuts to the Greener Neighbourhoods program, cuts to a program that would have restored the River Torrens in the heart of the CBD and cuts to a program that would have seen a turbocharging of the Greener Neighbourhoods program in Adelaide's central business district.

So, while we had the focus on the suburbs, that was cut. There was additional funding under our government to green our CBD to create green walls, green roofs and cool corridors through the city, but it was all cut under this government as part of a \$70 million onslaught against a practical environmental program.

It always bemused me—and it was the greatest example of virtue signalling and gesture politics—that on a Tuesday we declared a climate emergency in South Australia and on a Thursday, two days later, the budget ripped \$70 million of practical environmental initiatives out of the environment portfolio and the energy portfolio where there was some crossover.

None of the pre-budget announcements have involved extra assistance for our natural world in South Australia. Anything that has been announced in the lead-up to tomorrow's budget has been an environment-free zone. I really hope that tomorrow's budget does not continue Labor's legacy of cuts in the environment department, which are catastrophic and do not go back one year; they go back 20 years.

We had the most significant cuts instituted by the environment department handed down by Minister Ian Hunter between 2014 and 2018. It left that department a withered husk of its former self and unable to fulfill its basic legislative requirements, in my view, around areas like compliance, native vegetation clearing and elements of the Landscape Act. I see that legacy continuing. I see where they left off with the cuts in 2018 continuing again under the current minister. We really hope that is not the case tomorrow, but we will be watching very closely.

When it comes to biodiversity protection and biodiversity conservation in this state, an act will not cut it by itself. I support the government's endeavour to create a biodiversity act, but not if it is duplicated legislation and not if it is more compliance for the sake of compliance. I want it backed up with practical action and financial incentives for councils, landscape boards, private landowners, individuals and NGOs across this state to be able to get active in the space of conservation and biodiversity enhancement in this state.

There are plenty of great things about this state's natural environment, such as about 5,000 kilometres of coastline and 21 per cent of our state as national parks. We have a great legacy on this front, but let's not squander it by putting gesture above practical action.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (16:54): I move to amend the motion as follows:

Delete all words in (c) and replace with the words:

- (c) condemns the lack of action by the Malinauskas Labor government to implement initiatives which support ecosystem restoration or address plastic pollution in South Australia; and

Add a new paragraph (d):

- (d) congratulates the previous Liberal government for their practical initiatives to invest in restoration and preservation of ecosystems, and to maintain South Australia's reputation as a world-leading jurisdiction on waste management initiatives, including reducing plastic pollution.

I have spoken in this house before about the approach of those opposite when it comes to protecting South Australia's environment. I have said it is all virtue signalling, it is all gestures and it is all words. Well, today they could not even get the words right. This motion before the house I think still has a typo in paragraph (a) referring to 2022 World Environment Day, but the original motion as it stood was very curious indeed, referring to the theme of 2023 World Environment Day as being ecosystem restoration, which is a very fine theme indeed except it was the theme two years ago, not this year.

It is little wonder that those opposite want to talk about the environment in South Australia two years ago because it has been at least a year of Malinauskas Labor government in which we have seen nearly no action when it comes to protecting our environment. Perhaps the even more curious thing about the motion as it originally stood is that presumably it was meant to be an opportunity for those opposite to talk about the Malinauskas Labor government's great efforts in ecosystem restoration in South Australia.

What was the one big highlight that those opposite wanted to talk about in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration? It was in the former paragraph (c), which congratulated the Labor government on prioritising biodiversity protection through the introduction of a biodiversity act.

Again, I checked the *Notice Paper*. There is no biodiversity act on the *Notice Paper*. The one great achievement from one year of Malinauskas Labor government is a piece of legislation that has not even been introduced into this house. It is all virtue signalling, it is all gesture, it is all words and today they could not even get the words right.

If we were going to talk about ecosystem restoration, we would not be talking on this side of the house about a bill that has not yet even been introduced. Instead, we have been talking about practical policies that help to restore ecosystems in South Australia. We might have spoken about our record investment in national parks by the former Liberal government, underpinned by record investment and record expansion.

We have seen the creation of Glenithorne National Park. We have seen the creation of the largest national park in the country. We have seen a number of parks across the state be upgraded in their level of protection, including Cleland National Park in my own electorate. It was a pleasure to be out on a very wet day last Friday planting trees with the Friends of Cleland National Park.

Speaking of Friends of Parks, if we were talking about practical action that you could take to restore ecosystems, we might have spoken about the previous government's boosting of Friends of Parks funding to \$750,000 per annum. We might have spoken about our increase of park rangers, a 45 per cent increase in park rangers. Right across our ecosystems, in our parks but also our coastlines, we have seen investments by the former Liberal government. Investments were made in shellfish reefs as well as seagrass restoration, and indeed in our suburbs as well.

We saw last year the Malinauskas Labor government cruelly cutting programs like the Greener Neighbourhoods program, which would have seen up to 10,000 trees and shrubs planted in streets across metropolitan Adelaide and across our suburbs. We have seen the Greening Adelaide's Heart program slashed, which would have seen a range of initiatives for a greener, cooler, wilder CBD and really important projects for our River Torrens as well.

On this side of the house, when it comes to ecosystem restoration, what we want to talk about is this big list of practical projects I have just spent five minutes outlining. What those opposite want to talk about is a piece of legislation that does not exist, a bill that does not even exist. That is some record for one year of the Malinauskas Labor government when it comes to taking practical action to protect our environment. But, of course, we are not meant to be talking about any of this today. We are not meant to be talking about any of this at all because the theme for this year's UN World Environment Day is beating plastic pollution.

That is a very apt theme indeed for us here in South Australia because thankfully, now the motion has been amended, it is an excellent opportunity to talk about South Australia's world-leading efforts when it comes to tackling plastics pollution—whether it be our incredible work as far back as 1977 in introducing a container deposit scheme, a groundbreaking and hugely successful scheme; whether it be work in 2009, when South Australia became the first state in the entire country to ban single-use lightweight plastic bags; or whether it be more recent work by the former Liberal government, spearheaded by the now Leader of the Opposition, in banning a whole range of single-use plastic items, whether it be plastic straws or cutlery and then, a little bit later, cups and bowls and plates.

Again, whether it is ecosystems two years ago or whether it is plastics today, we see one side of the house focused on real, practical action. The work the previous Liberal government did in banning single-use plastics was nation leading; in many respects, it was world leading. Importantly, the legislation we introduced was drafted in such a way that allowed the phased rollout of more single-use plastics over time. Pleasingly, we are going to see that happen over the coming months and years here in South Australia—real practical action on the ground.

One of the biggest challenges we are facing at the moment in South Australia, and indeed around the country and the world, is soft plastics; particularly, we have noticed that here in Australia and South Australia in the wake of the collapse of REDcycle. I do again note that it was the work of this side of politics that was interested in helping to solve this problem going forward, and I commend the work of the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place for setting up an inquiry to look into just that and to look into the opportunities for South Australia to recycle soft plastics right here in the wake of REDcycle.

Whether it is plastics or whether it is ecosystems, on this side of the house it is real, practical action. On the other side of the house, it is virtue signalling, it is gesture, it is words but, perhaps most extraordinary of all today, it is words that they cannot even get right.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (17:02): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the amended motion, and I think it is important that we do have that contribution to put government priorities into perspective. For a long time, I have been a very strong advocate for reducing the use of single-use plastics in particular. South Australia has a long history of reform in single-use plastic, and I think it all started way back with the container deposit, which really set a platform for South Australia to be the leaders nationally in reform.

We have seen the banning of single-use plastic bags or the shopping bags they once were; sadly, we still see some of them, but they are part of the retail sector. It is about how we address the ever-emergence of those single-use plastics essentially into our waterways and onto our roadways, and eventually a lot of it goes into our landfill.

For a very long time now we have seen the benefits of what the container deposit scheme has meant here in South Australia. I travel the highways extensively and have done for the majority of my life. What I have seen and continue to see, once you go across the borders into other states, is a significant change in the landscape. If the sun is in the right spot at a certain time of the morning or the afternoon, there is a glistening of plastic containers and plastic bottles. We see all sorts of glass on the roadsides as well, and that is a real indicator of what we as South Australians now take for granted. Most of us collect them, store them and return them for the deposit. In some instances, it is quite a valuable asset to people who are professional can and bottle collectors and that is their income. I think that has been a highlight in South Australia leading the way.

In my travels, whether it is here in South Australia or whether it is nationally, or even if I look at some of the international waterways, I am absolutely horrified by what I see, that is, the legacy of some countries. For example, if you go to some of the South-East Asian countries and you go to their oceans and their marine sanctuaries, you see large cohorts of plastic floating in the ocean, in the surf, in some of those bays and coves.

One of the experiences I have had has been a trip to Bali where, as far as I can see, there are more single things floating in the ocean than are manufactured. An absolute horror and a vivid picture in my mind is going out on a fishing boat for a day's fishing and having to push your way through myriad plastic and rubber products. We should hold our heads high that here in South Australia we are pioneers in being strong advocates for removing single-use plastics and single-use products out of our waterways, our roadways and our landfill.

Obviously, this year's theme is focused on beating plastic pollution, and it has had an impressive history. I have already covered some of it, as well as now being able to reflect on the former Liberal government's mantra. The now Leader of the Opposition is a very strong advocate and, proudly for him, it was one of the legacies he left as a minister—I think proudly, because he made a difference.

As his contribution has already stated, we did see a little bit of pushback, but we saw the benefits of that, whether it be the single-use products in the first tranche of non-use or then the polystyrene cups and food containers. They are the scourge of visual pollution and what it means for the roadsides and the waterways. Not always are people prepared to go into those environments and remove it, but we do see great action by some of the volunteer environmental groups.

However, I look for improvement opportunities here in South Australia. We have the River Torrens that runs through this beautiful city. It comes out of the foothills and runs through the city and down to the ocean. For far too long, my memory has been scarred by the amount of rubbish and pollution that the River Torrens carries through the course of its journey out to sea. Maybe, as a government or with an opposition's bipartisan lead, we need to look at ways that we can put more structures into our waterways to capture that pollution and build on the great work we have already done. I think that is a legacy I would very much like to see.

I recently attended Hort Innovation, which was a great expo, an AUSVEG initiative here at the Convention Centre, where I ran into a South Australian manufacturing business that are the only

business manufacturing BioBags. Those BioBags are 100 per cent compostable and used for food containment. We are now seeing them in a lot of our supermarkets, particularly the independents, and we are actually seeing them in Woolworths. They are the BioBags in the fresh food section that we now see taking over from what was traditionally a single-use plastic bag.

I urge the other major retailer—I think it comes by the name of Coles—to hurry up and get with the program. They need to get the BioBags into their supermarkets so that they, too, can play their part in reducing the number of plastic bags that eventually can hit our waterways. They threaten native species. They are a scourge on the biodiversity of our waterways. Eventually, it all ends up in landfill one way or another, and I think it is important that we continue to bang the drum and be proud.

Sadly, we are seeing this motion that has been put before us today. I am quite alarmed at the lack of government contribution to this motion. I notice that we have seen three on this side, with maybe another one to come. We have seen one on the government side. I would like to see more of you make a contribution. I think it is only fair. I am not being critical, but I would just like everyone to step it up. If I was going to be critical, the next two minutes might be it, because I am going to touch on the River Murray and environmental water.

The South Australian Labor government have been very vocal on their ethos with saving the River Murray and making sure that we have the right amount of environmental water back into the river to sustain a healthy working river and to sustain a healthy environment, yet, blow me over, last sitting week that I was here I heard that the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water is now going to take water out of the River Murray for hydrogen. They cannot even meet their targets when it comes to meeting the basin plan.

I have heard the Minister for Energy and Mining talk about 200 megalitres. If my calculations are correct, between eight and 10 litres per kilogram of hydrogen is the water usage, deionised water. I think if we do our sums, the target for this \$590 million plant will be somewhere in the vicinity of 36,000 kilograms of hydrogen. I do stand to be corrected, but that is a lot of water. That will take somewhere in the vicinity of six to 10 gigalitres of water. I am hoping that that minister will come up and make a contribution. He might even be able to correct my figures, but I fear that they are somewhere around the mark.

This government must uphold the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. It must continue to look at all ways of contributing to the environment, making sure that we have sufficient water. Whether it is through buybacks, whether it is through infrastructure programs or whether it is through efficiency programs, we have to put all the cards on the table so that here in South Australia we are playing our role in having a healthy working river and a healthy environment. It is critical that the government of the day does everything in its power to achieve that.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (17:12): I rise in what looks like being somewhat constrained circumstances to make a contribution in support of the motion as amended by the member for Bragg just now. As I do, I take the opportunity to reflect on the motion as it stands on the *Notice Paper*, as I understand it is proposed to be amended and corrected thereby by the member for King and in its form as proposed to be amended by the member for Bragg, which really does the motion a great deal of favour because, as has been traversed, clearly, whatever has occurred, the original presentation of the motion has gone off on some completely different tangent to that which was intended. Can I start by saying that we certainly embrace the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and that is important. Some years ago, I understand there was a UN World Environment Day that was dedicated to ecosystem restoration, and I think we would do well to maintain a focus on that throughout.

I am conscious at all times when it comes to the environment that I represent an area that constitutes one of Australia's recognised biodiversity hotspots in the Mount Lofty Ranges. We know that that recognises both its diversity and its vulnerability, something that Professor Chris Daniels remains a keen advocate for with the range of different contributions that he has made to the environment including, very particularly, in those areas of the Adelaide Hills that I represent.

We had the occasion, just some short while ago, to recognise the important work of Professor Chris Daniels, including presently, importantly, as the chair of Green Adelaide. It is important when we talk about ecosystem restoration that, yes, it is good to focus on a global initiative, the sort of

things that the UN can bring, but we would do well here in the state parliament to look also very close to home, indeed to the square mile that surrounds this parliament, because it is recognised worldwide for its uniqueness, for the contribution it brings to wellbeing in the City of Adelaide, and it is part of what makes Adelaide and South Australia so special and unique.

So it is in those circumstances that was it not just truly fabulous news to see the results of the campaign that has been sustained by members of the community and Friends of the Parklands—led, I am very proud to say, by the Leader of the Opposition, and my friend and colleague the member for Bragg—calling in a dedicated way for the Malinauskas government to reverse the ill-fated course that would have been a terrible outcome for those beautiful Parklands at Park 21, that would have built structures on those precious Parklands, and recognise the 8 June decision of Labor finally to heed those calls, to cave to public pressure, and to scrap the proposal to build those barracks on the Parklands.

It is a result, as I have said, of months of the opposition standing shoulder to shoulder with the community at rallies and events focused on that single objective. I can tell the house that that decision, that change of course, has been noted not only here in South Australia but among those who follow things like UN initiatives within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and I know that it will stand Adelaide and South Australia in good stead for the long term.

The amended words focus on the challenge that is plastic pollution, and beating plastic pollution is what the member for King would amend the motion to focus on. There are all sorts of ways of bringing attention to this global problem. I notice 4Ocean bracelets are out there now that people can acquire, that constitute a reduction of plastic in the Pacific Ocean, an important way to address something that is known globally, but again, close to home.

It is an occasion to congratulate the work of the then Minister for Environment and Water, now Leader of the Opposition, for his tremendous leadership in this state, and it ought to be celebrated, in bringing to the parliament and passing legislation to ban single-use plastics. It continues a strong legacy that we enjoy in South Australia, but it takes practical action. It takes more than just making signals about what we all feel is good to do in the environment. You have to do practical things, take practical steps and, when you talk about legislation, not come along and talk about how you might aspire to introduce this or that, and then not find it on the *Notice Paper* more than a year in.

You need to see it introduced, passed by the parliament and then implemented in practice, and that is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition managed to do in his time as Minister for Environment. I commend to the house the motion as amended by the member for Bragg, and I look forward, through the twists and turns of amendment that the motion has been assisted by in the course of this debate, to its finally being adopted in that improved form.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms Stinson): Do you seek leave to continue your remarks?

Mr TEAGUE: I do note the time. I had rather anticipated the ringing of the bell. If it assists the Acting Speaker, I will seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Bills

STATUTES AMENDMENT (NATIONAL ENERGY LAWS) (EMISSIONS REDUCTION OBJECTIVES) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:21): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996, the National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011 and the National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:21): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The government is delivering an important national reform to incorporate an emissions reduction component into the national energy objectives—long overdue reforms. The Statutes Amendment (National Energy Laws) (Emissions Reduction Objectives) Bill 2023 reflects the commitment by all Australian governments to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or earlier. This is a momentous day.

Introducing an emissions reduction component into the national energy objectives was one of the first actions agreed by governments under the National Energy Transformation Partnership on 12 August 2022, a partnership which is a framework for national alignment and cooperative action by governments to support the smooth transition of Australia's energy sector. The three energy objectives are the National Electricity Objective, the National Gas Objective and the National Energy Retail Objective. These objectives are set out in the national energy laws made up of the National Electricity Law, the National Gas Law and the National Energy Retail Law.

Each of the three energy objectives will seek to promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity, gas and energy services for the long-term interests of consumers with respect to components, including energy price, quality, reliability, security and safety. As currently framed, the energy objectives do not refer to emissions reductions, either directly or indirectly.

Changing this will send a clear signal to wider industry, market participants, investors and the public of all Australian governments' commitments to achieve a decarbonised, modern and reliable energy system that contributes to the achievement of Australia's emissions targets. These reforms are long overdue.

This bill will integrate greenhouse gas emission reduction and energy policy into the national energy laws. This is something that this government has been fighting for for decades on this side of the house. The bill's amendments will clarify that the Australian Energy Market Commission, the Australian Energy Market Operator, the Australian Energy Regulator and other decision-makers under the laws should explicitly consider the achievement of emissions reduction targets alongside the existing components when they use their respective powers and functions.

For the year ending September 2022, electricity generation accounted for 32 per cent of national emissions due to the significant share of coal and gas in electricity generation. Other stationary energy, from the direct combustion of fuels, accounted for around another 21 per cent of total emissions, and fugitive emissions contributed another 10 per cent.

In the 2021 financial year, South Australia emitted 21.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, representing a 42 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the 2005 financial year. South Australia also met 100 per cent of its operational demand from renewable resources on 180 days in 2021. That was the legacy of the Rann-Weatherill governments. That was the legacy of the hard work we did to decarbonise our economy—something that members opposite mocked.

Further reducing the emissions footprint of Australia's electricity and gas networks can play a substantial role in achieving net zero and interim emissions reduction targets by promoting a higher share of low or no emissions renewables and storage. This will also help achieve South Australia's emissions targets, its state emissions reduction plan under development and its aspiration to achieve 100 per cent net renewables by 2030. Reducing emissions from the energy sector also supports the decarbonisation of other high-emitting sectors, including transportation and energy-intensive industry.

As we transition towards a low emissions energy system, these changes are intended to ensure the transition is managed in the long-term interests of consumers—in respect of not just emissions reduction but also price, quality, safety, reliability and security. The bill seeks to incorporate an emissions reduction component into the national energy objectives through amendments to the National Electricity Law, set out in the schedule to the National Electricity (South Australia) Act 1996; the National Gas Law, set out in the schedule to the National Gas (South Australia) Act 2008; and the National Energy Retail Law, set out in the schedule to the National Energy Retail Law (South Australia) Act 2011.

The bill frames the emissions reduction objective by reference to the achievement of targets set by a participating jurisdiction, be it the commonwealth, a state or a territory, for reducing or that are likely to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. These targets could include those with an explicit objective of emissions reductions or those that are likely to contribute to emissions reductions, such as a renewable energy target or an electric vehicles target. The intent of this wording is to allow energy market bodies the discretion to consider appropriate targets relevant to a matter under consideration. This reform is groundbreaking. This reform ends the climate wars.

The bill requires the Australian Energy Market Commission to prepare, maintain and publish a targets statement that lists the targets that must, at a minimum, be considered by decision-makers, comprising government or regulatory entities such as market bodies, in applying the emissions component of the national energy objectives. If either the Ministerial Council on Energy or the minister of a participating jurisdiction gives a written direction to the Australian Energy Market Commission to add or remove a target from this statement, it must comply with this direction.

The intent of this target statement is transparency for market participants and other stakeholders. It provides a publicly available and up-to-date list of government targets that, at a minimum, decision-makers must take into account when assessing which targets are relevant to each matter under consideration. As with the existing components of the national energy objectives that include price, quality, safety, reliability and security of supply, the emission reduction component will sit within the existing economic efficiency framework that underpins the current national energy objectives.

Under this framework, decision-makers under the national energy laws will be obliged to consider the emissions reduction component alongside the other components in making their decisions. In this way, the emissions reduction component is not intended to sit above or be prioritised over any other component within the objectives. This will ensure that the national energy objectives continue to promote the long-term interest of consumers through efficient investment, operation and use of energy services.

The legislative premise of 'efficient' assumes that the long-term interest of energy consumers in the national energy laws will be maximised through the efficient investment and use and delivery of relevant energy services. This was formally expressed in the original second reading speech associated with the introduction of the National Electricity Law. The premise was reiterated later in the National Gas Law and the National Energy Retail Law, and the amendments in this bill are not intended to change this intent.

Processes affected by this bill include a range of functions, powers and obligations assigned to the market bodies, all of which are already required to be undertaken regarding or with the consideration of contributions to the achievement of the relevant energy objective. Examples of relevant functions include system planning and economic regulatory functions, rule change determinations and self-initiated and statutory reviews and reports. The new emissions component is not intended to affect the Australian Energy Market Operator's operation of wholesale markets, including its role in managing real-time activities that includes dispatch and scheduling.

The bill commences from assent, but the application of the amendments is delayed for two months, except in relation to the Australian Energy Market Commission, so that it can undertake reviews and law changes that are considered critical to progress priority rule changes, and the Australian Energy Regulator and the Economic Regulation Authority in relation to revenue determinations and access arrangements listed in the bill.

For all other processes, the application of the amendments is delayed for two months to ensure market participants have sufficient lead time to prepare for law changes. With that, I seek leave to have the remainder of the second reading explanation and the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

For the avoidance of doubt, processes which have progressed to a final decision before two months from assent will not be subject to the amended objectives. This includes decisions on Rate of Return Instruments.

To ensure the emissions component effectively operationalises the functions, powers and obligations assigned to the market bodies, a number of priority rule changes have been identified. To facilitate this, the Bill contains provisions for the Australian Energy Market Commission to take early actions on relevant rule change requests by Energy Ministers ahead of commencement of the Act.

The Bill also provides for the South Australian Minister to make the initial set of Rules relating to the national energy objectives. Noting the intent for Ministers to submit rule change requests to the AEMC, it is expected this power would be used for changes required for initial operationalisation of the amended objectives. Once the initial set of Rules has been made, or nine months from commencement of the Bill, the Minister will have no power to make any further Rules.

The transitional provisions in the Bill are set to maximise opportunities to capture the emissions reduction benefits of the reform to the objectives.

The default position for market body processes that have commenced but not been completed as of two months from assent is that the amended objectives will not apply. However, the Bill provides discretion to decision makers to apply the amended objectives to processes that have commenced, recognising that market bodies are in the best position to assess whether the amended objectives could be applied in a way that satisfies process and consultation requirements.

For multi-year processes such as Regulatory Investment Tests, gas access arrangements and electricity revenue determinations, the Bill specifies when each process is considered to have 'commenced' for the purposes of determining whether the amended objectives would apply.

However, for some revenue determinations and gas access arrangements identified by participating jurisdictions, the Bill contains a provision to direct the amended objectives to commence from assent. This is despite them having 'commenced' as defined in the Bill and gives no discretion to market bodies on this matter. This has been done to ensure emissions are considered immediately on commencement to reduce uncertainty and delays to critical investments that could support emission reductions.

The Bill requires that where a decision-maker proposes to exercise the discretion on whether to apply the amended objectives to processes that have 'commenced' before two months from assent, best endeavours must be made to ensure that administrative guidance be issued by the entity within 45 days from commencement of the Bill. For the case of the regulatory entity being the Australian Energy Regulator, the Bill requires guidance to be issued 45 days from commencement, but as for other decision makers, whether or not it proposes to exercise this discretion.

This guidance must explain how the amended objectives are likely be considered in making decisions related to these processes, to provide clarity and transparency for market participants. However, if the entity does not issue the guidance within 45 days, it does not limit their power to exercise discretion.

Introducing an emissions reduction component implies that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a new category of market benefit to be assessed in market body decisions and processes where appropriate. To operationalise the emissions reduction component under an economic efficiency framework, a methodology for valuing emissions reduction for the purposes of regulatory decision-making is required.

Consequently, the Bill contains power to make regulations on matters relating to the achievement of emissions reductions targets in the amended objectives. Alongside the priority rule changes, governments are considering the appropriate approach to valuing emissions reduction to support implementation. The regulation making power could be used by Energy Ministers to provide direction on valuing emissions reduction.

Before a regulation or rule is made, the Bill also requires that where a decision maker issues guidance on valuing emissions, the guidance must be consistent with any direction from the Ministerial Council on Energy. There is also a provision requiring that proponents for potential new electricity network investment undertaking a Regulatory Investment Test follow the Australian Energy Regulator's guidance on valuing emissions reduction. This provision is to prevent inconsistent planning outcomes from proponents applying different approaches for valuing emissions reduction before more formal arrangements are in place.

I commend this Bill to Members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *National Electricity Law*

4—Amendment of section 7—National electricity objective

The national electricity objective is amended to include the achievement of targets set by a participating jurisdiction for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions or that are likely to contribute to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

5—Insertion of section 7AA

New section 7AA is proposed to be inserted:

7AA—Regulations may prescribe matters for national electricity objective

The section provides that the Regulations may prescribe a matter relating to the achievement of targets referred to in proposed section 7(c) of the Law.

6—Insertion of section 32A

New section 32A is proposed to be inserted:

32A—Targets statement for greenhouse gas emissions targets

The AEMC is required to prepare and maintain a *targets statement* setting out the targets set by participating jurisdictions referred to in section 7(c). Other provisions relate to the targets statement.

7—Insertion of section 90ED

New section 90ED is proposed to be inserted:

90ED—South Australian Minister may make initial Rules relating to national electricity objective

The South Australian Minister is authorised to make initial Rules relating to implementing the change to the national electricity objective. Other provisions relate to such Rules.

8—Amendment of Schedule 3—Savings and transitionals

Savings and transitional provisions are inserted into Schedule 3 for the purposes of the measure.

Part 3—Amendment of *National Energy Retail Law*

9—Amendment of section 13—National energy retail objective

The national energy retail objective is amended to include the achievement of targets set by a participating jurisdiction for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions or that are likely to contribute to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

10—Insertion of section 13AA

New section 13AA is proposed to be inserted:

13AA—National Regulations may prescribe matters for national energy retail objective

The section provides that the National Regulations may prescribe a matter relating to the achievement of targets referred to in proposed section 13(b) of the Law.

11—Insertion of section 224A

New section 224A is proposed to be inserted:

224A—Targets statement for greenhouse gas emissions targets

The AEMC is required to prepare and maintain a *targets statement* setting out the targets set by participating jurisdictions referred to in section 13(b). Other provisions relate to the targets statement.

12—Insertion of section 238AC

New section 238AC is proposed to be inserted:

238AC—South Australian Minister may make initial Rules relating to national energy retail objective

The South Australian Minister is authorised to make initial Rules relating to implementing the change to the national energy retail objective. Other provisions relate to such Rules.

13—Amendment of Schedule 1—Savings and transitionals

Savings and transitional provisions are inserted into Schedule 1 for the purposes of the measure.

Part 4—Amendment of *National Gas Law*

14—Amendment of section 23—National gas objective

The national gas objective is amended to include the achievement of targets set by a participating jurisdiction for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions or that are likely to contribute to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

15—Insertion of section 23A

New section 23A is proposed to be inserted:

23A—Regulations may prescribe matters for national gas objective

The section provides that the Regulations may prescribe a matter relating to the achievement of targets referred to in proposed section 23(b) of the Law

16—Insertion of section 72A

New section 72A is proposed to be inserted:

72A—Targets statement for greenhouse gas emissions targets

The AEMC is required to prepare and maintain a *targets statement* setting out the targets set by participating jurisdictions referred to in section 23(b). Other provisions relate to the targets statement

17—Insertion of section 294FC

New section 294FC is proposed to be inserted:

294FC—South Australian Minister to make initial Rules relating to national gas objective

The South Australian Minister is authorised to make initial Rules relating to implementing the change to the national gas objective. Other provisions relate to such Rules.

18—Amendment of Schedule 3—Savings and transitionals

Savings and transitional provisions are inserted into Schedule 3 for the purposes of the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Patterson.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (PROTECTION OF PROSPECTIVE TENANTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

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

No. 1. New clause, page 6, after line 12—Insert:

6—Amendment of section 101—Application of income

Section 101(1)—after paragraph (a) insert:

- (ab) for the benefit of an industrial association or organisation registered under a law of the State or of the Commonwealth that the Commissioner is satisfied has a primary purpose of advocating for and representing the interests of tenants, rooming house residents and residents of residential parks; and

At 17:33 the house adjourned until Thursday 15 June 2023 at 11:00.

*Answers to Questions***WELLBEING STAFF**

12 The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4 November 2022).
With regards to the 55 new wellbeing staff that have been announced:

- (a) how many have started and where are they located?
- (b) when will the rest of the 55 be fully recruited?
- (c) what roles will the other 45 people play (noting that the government has announced there will eventually be 100 extra staff in total)?
- (d) will they be new roles in the department or repurposed from other existing staff?
- (e) when will those details be announced?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

The government is investing \$50 million over four years for 100 FTE mental health and learning support specialists to provide more support to students across South Australia. As you will be aware, I have made a number of announcements about these roles, including as recently as 10 February 2023.

There are 20.7 FTE that have commenced service delivery through the School Mental Health Service.

All positions will be advertised by 30 June 2023 with the aim that staff begin during terms 2 and 3 this year. A country-specific round of recruitment has closed and is currently in panel process in addition to a metropolitan selection panel. Positions not filled through these rounds will be re-advertised in early June.

Staff that provide clinical supervision and line management are allocated in central locations.

The other 45 FTE roles deliver important expanded services such as the social work duty line, specialist support to autism inclusion teachers and specialised support for Aboriginal students. A number of these roles have already been publicly announced, and I will have more to say regarding these roles shortly.

DANCE HUB SA FUNDING

19 The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7 February 2023).
Can the Minister for Education, Training and Skills advise:

Why has the Malinauskas Labor government cut funding to Dance Hub SA, and will the government reconsider this decision and reinstate the funding?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised:

That the department has analysed past transactions and has no record of any payments made to Dance Hub SA.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Under the current GP agreements, GPs are remunerated depending on their payment model, which was offered taking into account workload, rurality and complexity of each hospital site as well as each local environment. As a result, the value of each GP remuneration can fluctuate over the course of the year and would be difficult to determine. If the \$59 million were to be divided across all GPs who are part of the agreement, currently 397 GPs, the average annual estimated increase in fees is approximately \$148,600 per GP.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Of the 13 contracts that had not been signed at 1 August 2022, all have been fully executed by both parties except for one that was created in anticipation of a GP commencing who has since advised that they are no longer interested in the role.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

There are currently 301 GPs, including GP Registrars, providing emergency department services. Some of these GPs provide services at multiple sites across multiple local health networks and across differing clinical domains such as obstetrics, anaesthetics, emergency department, inpatient and surgical services.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

After receiving further advice, I wish to clarify that the 45 per cent retention and attraction allowance in the RMCLHN was not approved by the Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing.

These decisions remain a matter of employment subject to approval by the chief executive.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The average attraction/retention allowance payment is \$66,657 across local health networks.

The SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2017 at clause 29 sets out employee entitlement to attraction and retention allowances and is binding on all employees covered by the South Australian Medical Officers Award.

Consistent provisions avoid competition across Local Health Networks for employees.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Under the current GP agreement for the period to 1 February 2022 to 30 June 2022, 125 contracts have been executed. For the period 1 July 2022 and heading towards 30 June 2023, there have been 24 contracts executed with four contracts currently being reviewed by the supplier in anticipation of contract execution, bringing the total number of executed contracts to date to 149. It should be noted that contracts are progressively developed as local health networks identify and finalise negotiations with new GPs or existing contracts varied to include or remove new and departing GPs from a contracted GP clinic or practice.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

SA Health has a Criminal and Relevant History Screening Policy (July 2021) which sets out requirements, roles and responsibilities.

In addition to the policy, required staff have their screening assessed by a credentialing committee (committee) within the relevant local health network. For example, upon commencement of allied health or medical staff employment, the employee needs to provide proof of screening to the committee.

It should be noted that employees who commenced employment prior to the introduction of National Police Check (NPC) screening requirements, and whose role is otherwise not subject to legislated screening checks (e.g. working with children, aged care or disability) may not have a screening record as initial employment was not subject to the current employment standards as per the above policy. It should also be noted that all SA Public Sector employees are required, under the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, to notify their employer if they are charged with a criminal offence.

Inconsistencies and weaknesses in the approach to monitoring of employment screening checks at the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) was the subject of findings by the Auditor-General in the 2021-22 Interim Audit. As part of the commitment to addressing these concerns, CALHN committed to remediation.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (2 November 2022).

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

CALHN is currently conducting a catch-up program to ensure all CALHN staff are compliant. This program will continue into 2023.

Following a further audit in late 2022, CALHN found 8,449 staff members with either an outstanding diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa) vaccination or incomplete vaccinations records, with a further 8,047 staff

members compliant with the dTpa vaccinations and records kept. The Office of the Auditor-General's audit took place in August 2022.

CALHN is an adult-only service, so there is no exposure to neonates, who are at greatest risk of infection from pertussis. tetanus and diphtheria are not person to person transmissible infections in a healthcare setting.

Estimates Replies

SPECIALIST NURSE RECRUITMENT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

21 specialist nurses from our election commitment are budgeted to commence during this current financial year.

GP FEE FOR SERVICE AGREEMENTS

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

As of 26 September 2022 there are 391 GP contracted under the rural fee-for-service agreements broken down into local health networks as follows:

- Barossa Hills Fleurieu—154
- Eyre and Far North—28
- Flinders and Upper North—19
- Limestone Coast—31
- Riverland Mallee Coorong—94
- Yorke and Northern—65.

LIFELINE BROKEN HILL COUNTRY TO COAST

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The Lifeline Connect Centre model was presented in an information sharing session to Wellbeing SA on 24 June 2021.

Since this date, I understand that Wellbeing SA has not had ongoing discussion. However as the member would know, I have received a letter co-signed from the member for Stuart, member for Narungga, member for Frome, Legatus Group and Lifeline Broken Hill Country to Coast and I understand my office has set up a meeting to discuss this matter further, and I will be inviting Wellbeing SA to be part of that discussion.

I also know that the new Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention, Nadia Clancy MP, has hit the ground running and already visited the Clare Connect Centre to discuss the services currently funded by the Country SA PHN.

APY LANDS, CAMHS STAFF VACANCIES

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The former liberal government took away physical services on the APY lands and switched to a telehealth model with no in-person support for the community.

After more than 14 months, this government returned physical services to the APY Lands and the planning for the community consulted integrated model of care, led by Aboriginal clinical staff from across the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) and the Chief Psychiatrist.

I am advised this means staff are visiting fortnightly (one week on and one week off), and that a pathway for urgent mental health clinical issues has been developed which includes the option of telehealth.

Myself and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs asked that the recruitment strategy be revisited and another recruitment process be undertaken, with the aim to attract the workforce needed to provide an on-lands service delivery. WCHN and OCP are currently working on this.

Ensuring that mental health support and other services, including Child and Family Health Services, are back on the ground is a huge increase from what they had under the former government, who removed the in-person supports for this hugely vulnerable population of kids and families who need help.

OFFICE FOR AGEING WELL COMMUNITY GRANTS

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

1. The Age Friendly SA (AFSA) grant round was established in 2016-17 as an action under the Age Friendly SA Strategy and available annually specifically to local government.

Under the Age Friendly SA grant program, local governments can apply for once-off funding to deliver projects that contribute to an age friendly South Australia, creating all ages friendly communities that support older people with diverse backgrounds and experiences to age well in place, and be recognised for their valued contributions across their lifetime. Funded projects align with and contribute to the priorities of the Age Friendly SA Strategy and South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025.

2. In relation to the Grants for Seniors, local government can apply for once-off funding, whereby they are in a genuine partnership with an eligible non-incorporated organisation with the intention to auspice a grant.

The Grants for Seniors grant round is intended to open alongside the Age Friendly SA grant round, with the proposed allocation of \$150,000.

These grants fund up to \$5,000 for goods such as equipment or materials that support social engagement for older South Australians, or up to \$10,000 for projects related to supporting cultural, social, educational or active ageing activities for older South Australians. Funded projects align with and contribute to South Australia's Plan for Ageing Well 2020-2025.

ADULT SAFEGUARDING UNIT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

In 2022-23, the budget allocation for advertising expenses to promote and raise awareness of the Adult Safeguarding Unit is \$52,000.

The Adult Safeguarding Unit also leverages other Office for Ageing Well media campaigns, such as the Stop Elder Abuse and new Tackling Ageism public awareness campaigns, to raise awareness of the signs of abuse and mistreatment and how to contact the Adult Safeguarding Unit.

Data collected by Adult Safeguarding Unit shows an increase in calls to the unit when these advertising campaigns are in market.

ENTERPRISE CHEMOTHERAPY PRESCRIBING SYSTEM

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The Enterprise Chemotherapy Prescribing System (ECPS) project will be deployed across 21 SA Health sites including 15 regional sites. The following table lists the health sites and their location:

Health Site	Location
Metropolitan Health Sites	
Central Adelaide LHN (CALHN)	
Royal Adelaide Hospital	Port Road, Adelaide SA 5000
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital	28 Woodville Road, Woodville South SA 5011
Northern Adelaide LHN (NALHN)	
Lyell McEwin Hospital	Haydon Road, Elizabeth Vale SA 5112
Southern Adelaide LHN (SALHN)	
Flinders Medical Centre	Flinders Drive, Bedford Park SA 5042
Noarlunga Hospital	Alexander Kelly Drive, Noarlunga Centre SA 5168
Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN)	
Women's & Children's Hospital	72 King William Road, North Adelaide SA 5006

Health Site	Location
Regional Health Sites	
Barossa Hills Fleurieu (BHFLHN)	

Health Site	Location
Gawler Health Service	21 Hutchinson Road, Gawler East SA 5118
Kangaroo Island Health Service	5 Esplanade, Kingscote SA 5223
Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	87 Wellington Road, Mount Barker SA 5251
South Coast District Hospital	56 Bay Road, Victor Harbour SA 5211
Eyre and Far North (EFNLHN)	
Ceduna District Health Services	3 Eyre Highway, Ceduna SA 5690
Port Lincoln Health Service	Oxford Terrace, Port Lincoln SA 5606
Flinders and Upper North (FUNLHN)	
Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Service	71 Hospital Road, Port Augusta SA 5700
Whyalla Hospital and Health Service	20 Wood Terrace, Whyalla SA 5600
Limestone Coast (LCLHN)	
Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service	276-300 Wehl Street North, Mount Gambier SA 5290
Naracoorte Health Service	101 Jenkins Terrace, Naracoorte SA 5271
Riverland Mallee Coorong (RMCLHN)	
Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital	96 Swanport Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253
Riverland General Hospital	10 Maddern Street, Berri SA 5343
Yorke and Northern (YNLHN)	
Clare Hospital	47 Farrell Flat Road, Clare SA 5453
Port Pirie Regional Health Service	Corner The Terrace and Alexander Street, Port Pirie SA 5540
Walleroo Hospital and Health Services	Ernest Terrace, Wallaroo SA 5556

AGED-CARE ACCREDITATION

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

There was one facility audited last financial year and two planned for this financial year, noting that most audits are unplanned.

TOM'S COURT

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The Tom's Court Hotel contract expired on 30 November 2022.

It is understood that a full-time onsite duty manager was retained by the hotel.

The hotel is responsible for ensuring that it sourced at its own cost, the personnel and resources necessary to perform the services in accordance with the contract.

Wages of staff employed by Tom's Court are not required to be reimbursed by SA Health.

AMBULANCE STATION UPGRADES

In reply to **Ms PRATT (Frome)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

There are ten station upgrades at:

- Marion
- Elizabeth
- Whyalla
- Mount Gambier
- Keith

- Peterborough
- Mallala
- Goolwa
- Wallaroo
- Aldinga.

We are working with SA Ambulance to finalise an implementation plan.

TRANSFER OF CARE DATA

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Destination Hospital	Jul21 (Hrs)	Aug21 (Hrs)	Sep21 (Hrs)	Oct21 (Hrs)	Nov21 (Hrs)	Dec21 (Hrs)	Jan22 (Hrs)	Feb22 (Hrs)	Mar22 (Hrs)	Apr22 (Hrs)	May22 (Hrs)	Jun22 (Hrs)
FMC	945	999	871	1,040	796	946	864	617	948	1,100	1,410	1,314
RAH	893	989	908	1,067	618	532	409	438	1,024	785	1,047	1,307
Lyell McEwin	245	265	214	204	273	263	191	192	288	331	386	569
QEH	248	286	270	345	182	166	203	143	257	217	354	379
Modbury	134	131	155	139	184	130	138	84	119	129	150	180
Noarlunga	44	33	29	49	45	41	51	18	37	41	41	72
Women's & Children's	28	23	24	24	38	32	34	29	38	28	32	31
Total	2,537	2,727	2,470	2,867	2,137	2,110	1,890	1,522	2,711	2,632	3,420	3,854

It should be noted that there are some minor discrepancies to the total delayed transfer of care times released each month due to calibration of data that continues to occur after the data's release.

TRANSFER OF CARE DATA

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Data relating to transfer of care between SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) and local health networks is available via live dashboard on the SA Health website. This provides a real time snapshot throughout the day.

Additionally, monthly data is also published on the SA Health website and is readily accessible to the public.

SAAS CODE OF CONDUCT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

There is no specific SAAS code of conduct. All SAAS employees however are bound by one or more codes depending on their role and profession.

The Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector is issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment and applies to all public sector employees, including those employed by SAAS. The Code of Ethics was last updated in January 2022.

PREMIER'S AMBULANCE NIGHTSHIFT

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The Premier joined SA paramedics in their ambulance for a nightshift for more than six hours from 8.30pm Saturday night, well into the early hours of Sunday on 4 June. This experience enabled the Premier to see firsthand just how dire the need was for more ambulance officers and paramedics.

What this opportunity demonstrated to the Premier was that the system the Labor government inherited was one under so much pressure, that there is no respite for ambulance workers. It also gave medical staff throughout the system the opportunity to tell the Premier about their experiences working in SA's healthcare system.

This important opportunity for the Premier to see firsthand the dire state of the health system caused by the Liberals' significant underinvestment over the past four years was confirmed prior to May 26, though the exact moment it was organised could not be determined.

SMALL PROJECTS

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The composition of these projects and their timing can be summarised as follows:

Project	Projected Completion Date
SAAS headquarters internal fit-out	June Quarter 2022
Lyell McEwin Hospital – land acquisition	June Quarter 2023
Citi Centre fit-out	June Quarter 2022

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The shadow minister can refer to www.newwch.sa.gov.au for this information.

HOSPITAL CAR PARKING

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The CALHN car parking revenue budget from staff car parking as at June 2022 was \$5.8 million. However, under the emergency management direction, enacted under the Marshall Liberal government, staff car parking fee were frozen. Therefore, no actual revenue raised from staff car parking at CALHN during 2021-22.

CAMHS RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL CHILD PSYCHIATRISTS

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Five child psychiatrist positions are to be appointed as follows—1 FTE in 2023, 2 FTE in 2024 and 2 FTE in 2025. As at 19 March 2022, there was a total of 3.58 FTE consultant psychiatrist vacancies in CAMHS, calculated on a YTD average basis.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The former Liberal government had no plans in place to fund services further than two years.

Since that funding ended, Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network (BHFLHN) and the Women's and Children's Health Network (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) have worked together to provide additional clinical staff in the bushfire affected areas and ensure services are available to those who need it.

Both LHN's remain committed to prioritising and supporting community members affected by the bushfires, and the longer term support needs of people affected by natural disasters, is currently being factored into mental health planning.

WORKFORCE PLANNING TIMELINE

In reply to **Mrs HURN (Schubert)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The previous government failed to make workforce planning a priority which resulted in critical workforce shortages. Our government already has workforce planning underway to make sure that we can address the issues we have inherited from the previous Liberal government, and to plan for the future.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE VACANCIES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The number of unfilled positions in SA Health Mental Health Services (MHS) as of 30 June 2022 is 103 FTE.

The number of unfilled positions in SA Health Mental Health Services as of 30 June 2021 was 156 FTE.

A 10-year strategic, workforce plan for mental health is being developed over this year, and several short-term critical shortage workforce plans are being developed now to address current unfilled positions.

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING WORKFORCE STRATEGY

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The previous government failed to make workforce planning a priority which resulted in critical workforce shortages. Our government already has workforce planning underway to make sure that we can address the issues we have inherited from the previous Liberal government, and to plan for the future.

MENTAL HEALTH BEDS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The 72 metropolitan mental health rehabilitation beds will be located at Modbury Hospital (24 beds), The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (24 beds) and Noarlunga Hospital (24 beds). Each site requires capital works. This is fully funded in the state budget over forward estimates and will be delivered in the next three years.

MENTAL HEALTH AMBULANCES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Funding has been allocated to LHNs in the following manner. Figures provided relate to the 2021-22 allocation. Subsequent annual allocation will be based on the allocation formula adjusted for indexation.

- SA Ambulance Service \$913,500
- Northern Adelaide LHN \$304,500
- Central Adelaide LHN \$304,500
- Southern Adelaide LHN \$304,500
- TOTAL \$1,827,000

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) has a well-established peer support program that provides confidential support to SAAS volunteers using a team of trained peer support officers (PSO). PSOs are SAAS staff who have undertaken special training to help their colleagues cope with personal or work-related difficulties. They do this voluntarily in addition to their normal roles within SAAS. In addition to peer support they can also help connect to a team of mental health professionals (MHP) who are part of our Employee Assistance Program.

The peer support program is one element of the SAAS Employee Assistance Program. The purpose of the program is to promote the physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing of SAAS staff and their families in a confidential environment.

There are a nine volunteer staff trained as PSOs.

All SAAS volunteers complete stress management as part of their accredited training course.

WAIT TIMES FOR REHAB SERVICES

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

The average waiting time between clients receiving an assessment and entering an NGO-operated residential rehabilitation program in metropolitan Adelaide for the 12-month-period ending 30 June 2022, was 27 days, and in regional South Australia it was 22 days.

It is important to note that rehabilitation for people experiencing issues with alcohol or other drugs is tailored to individual needs. People with less severe dependence can often successfully address their issues through

supportive counselling, whereas people with severe dependence may require medically supervised withdrawal as an inpatient or, undertake home based withdrawal if their treatment can be safely delivered in this environment.

Following withdrawal, which takes approximately five days to complete, a small percentage of people with complex needs who are at higher risk of relapsing may enter a longer term residential rehabilitation program, such as The Woolshed program in the Adelaide Hills near Strathalbyn, run by the Drug and Alcohol Service South Australia (DASSA), or a residential rehabilitation program funded by SA Health and operated by a non-government organisation (NGO).

There are also several private residential rehabilitation options available in South Australia.

The Malinauskas Labor government is investing \$24.2 million to meet growing demand for extra rehabilitation and detox beds across the state, with a clear focus on boosting services in our regions.

This investment includes boosting funding for family drug support so they can continue to provide vital counselling and support for families who are affected by their loved ones' drug use. Importantly family drug support are now able expand support groups to five new areas, starting with three extra metropolitan groups in Willunga, Modbury and the Holdfast Bay area, followed by at least two more groups to be set up in regional locations in 2023-24.

PAEDIATRIC EATING DISORDER SERVICE

In reply to **Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey)** (17 June 2022). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing): I have been advised:

Breakthrough have advised that expected completion is in the 2024-25 financial year.