

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 21 March 2024

The SPEAKER (Hon. D.R. Cregan) took the chair at 11:00.

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.

Motions

ENDOMETRIOSIS

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:01): I move:

That this house establish a select committee on endometriosis to inquire into and report on—

- (a) the number of women in South Australia who suffer from endometriosis;
- (b) the barriers to getting a diagnosis, gaining access to treatment including primary care, specialist clinics and ongoing pain management;
- (c) the current treatment and supports available, their evidence-based effectiveness and potential side effects and impacts;
- (d) the impacts to employment of sufferers and employer best practice in supporting women with the condition;
- (e) education available to young women, healthcare professionals and others;
- (f) research and trials currently being explored in Australia; and
- (g) any other related matters.

I want to thank everybody for being here in thanking the house for the opportunity to move this motion to establish this very important select committee, and I hope it has the support of everybody here. It is important because endometriosis is a debilitating illness that affects over 14 per cent of girls, women and those assigned female at birth in Australia, yet it can take six long years to get a proper diagnosis. That is six long years of living in pain.

The disease often, but not always, starts in teenage years and is often dismissed as period pain, but it is far more than that. For those who do not know, endometriosis is a debilitating condition where cells similar to those that line the uterus grow in other areas of the body, most usually around the ovaries and uterus, but not always. They can grow outside the uterus.

The endometrial cells found outside the uterus grow to form patches that bleed and leak fluid around the time of menstruation which can lead to inflammation, scarring and lumps. The patches stay in different parts of your body—for example, the lining of your pelvis, your abdomen, your upper abdomen, your abdominal wall or, more rarely, outside your pelvic area. In my case, it was up inside my rib cage.

I have also recently found out that it can lead to reverse menstruation, where menstrual blood flows back through the fallopian tubes and into the pelvic cavity instead of out of the body. The blood contains endometrial cells from the inner lining of the uterus. These cells may stick to the pelvic walls and surfaces of pelvic organs. The symptoms are endless and the pain is ongoing.

For young people, it can lead to issues at school, including absenteeism and a reluctance to take part in sport and other activities. Later, in the workplace, the pain endured and often an inability to concentrate impacts the sufferer's opportunities to learn and contribute. Quite often, employers do not understand, are not compassionate and do not see it as a plausible reason that someone is not up to their best or able to come into work.

This morning I spoke to John Cranwell from Active Inclusion, who is very open about talking about periods as a male, and he suggested that when he speaks to groups of women and asks them how many days of their sick leave each year they use for pain management of periods or endometriosis, it is often 70 per cent. That is 70 per cent of their sick leave, which does not leave them much if they have the flu or other illness.

For me, it just meant I soldiered on—as a chef, as a bank teller, as an organiser—because I was too embarrassed to talk about it. I always had a male boss, and I just could not admit it. I could not go up to him and tell him what was wrong with me. That was before I began working for a union with a boss and a national secretary who were compassionate and who did understand.

On one occasion I was working from home, and I had to lie down due to the impact of the heavy painkillers. Unrelated, the National Secretary of the Finance Sector Union, my employer, Julia Angrisano, called me to talk, and I admitted to her that I was lying down due to endo. She was shocked that I had been working, and we talked about how menstruation leave was necessary and overdue, and I am now proud that my union, the Finance Sector Union, has been working through enterprise bargaining with its largest employers to establish menstruation leave and some, to their credit, provide it.

From my experience, I grew the strength to talk about it, and those here know that I have spoken about it here on several occasions and that is now in the history books. I am not afraid or ashamed to say it anymore: endometriosis, endometriosis, endometriosis. One of the interesting things about endometriosis is that symptoms can vary from person to person and, for that person, from month to month, but they can be so bad sometimes that the person cannot even get out of bed. They need to take those heavy painkillers just to be able to move, which leave them exhausted, sleepy and nauseous.

As I mentioned, endometriosis mostly affects reproductive organs and can lead to infertility, but it can also be found in other parts of the body, which causes the sufferers to have pain all over. How can a disease that causes so much pain, that affects so many women, not be on the radar of some health professionals when sufferers seek diagnosis? According to Endometriosis Australia, despite the growing awareness of endometriosis, the community and many health professionals lack a genuine understanding of the life-defining disease, which affects one in seven women—14 per cent of the population—and has no cure.

Efforts have reduced the diagnosis time from seven to 12 years to 6½ years on average, but much more work needs to be done. According to Jean Hailes for Women's Health, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving women's health across Australia, this is because symptoms vary between women and symptoms also change over time. Also, period pain is often accepted as normal. Some women have asymptomatic endometriosis, which means they do not experience infertility or common symptoms such as pelvic pain. In these cases, the condition may not be found unless there is an unrelated operation.

There is so much to learn and understand, and my hope is that this select committee will provide our government with the information it needs to deliver better policy and better funding to support sufferers. The federal government announced their national plan for endometriosis, which aimed to improve patient and medical community understanding of the disease, but there are many girls, women and those assigned female at birth who suffer in silence as they are either unaware they have the disease, are embarrassed or are unable to access the care that they need.

In 2021, on rough figures, 5.1 per cent of Australians were living with diagnosed diabetes, 2.9 per cent with heart disease and, on rough numbers again, 6.9 per cent of Australians suffered from endometriosis, and they are the ones that knew that they had it. Given half the population is wiped out due to them not having a uterus, the numbers are alarming.

Endo warrior Deanna Wallis, who is here today, has been suffering for over 16 years, has just had her 14th surgery and can no longer have children and is fearful of the impact on her brain and mental health. She has had various experiences throughout her years and raised concern about the hospital system, where for some visits she has been located in the Flinders Medical Centre maternity ward, which is just heartbreaking for someone facing infertility. I want to thank her for sharing her story and for being here today with her mum.

Multiple studies show that when a person has chronic pain-related endometriosis their quality of life decreases. They may feel depressed or anxious. These mood issues can cause them to experience more pain, creating an unpleasant cycle. When someone suffers from endometriosis, they often cannot predict how they will feel from day to day.

Carrying out regular activities can be difficult, making them feel angry, sad, frustrated, anxious and sometimes desperate to change their situation. Needing to cancel important plans or skipping events with family and friends can cause sufferers to feel like endometriosis controls their life, contributing to feelings of isolation, disappointment and low mood. One survey in America found that about 50 per cent of women with endometriosis experience suicidal thoughts or feelings related to their gynaecological condition.

There is work being done in regard to research and support. I would like to thank the team from Robinson Research Institute who are here today. They work tirelessly to better understand the disease, as well as creating support services such as EndoZone, which, for those who are not aware, is a fabulous website with information, symptom checkers and advice not only for sufferers but also for physicians.

Endo can be so bad that sufferers not only feel terrible but can feel embarrassed to talk about it—to even say the word or speak about their periods, as I said earlier. We need to do more. It happens every month for quite possibly 40 years of a woman's life. In the first few months after I found out my pain was not just period pain but endo, I remember contemplating the thought that every month there are three to five days of pain coming. It is just soul destroying, and sometimes the pain can last a lot longer than that.

I definitely did not contemplate back then that I would ever have an opportunity or a platform in government to create a select committee to really get into the detail of this wretched disease, but I am so incredibly grateful that this opportunity has arrived. I would like to thank the Minister for Health for his support, and all members of the government, and I hope that I can do whatever I can to help our endo sisters.

As I said, it is so incredibly bad that sometimes all you can do is laugh at the hand you have been dealt, otherwise you will probably cry. I can advise tears have been shed many times, but raising awareness and making it normal to discuss, so that we can all share the experience, is so important. I know that today—I am not sure if she is here yet—Libby Trainor Parker is coming to support us as well. She has done such a great job in raising awareness through her books and also her award-winning Fringe show, and I appreciate her support as well.

More needs to be done in research, treatment and ongoing care, as well as education of both the sufferer and the treating physicians and surgeons. It is not just about a sore tummy; its impact is life-changing. A select committee will allow the government to hear directly from sufferers, researchers, educators and treating physicians about how girls, women and those assigned female at birth can be supported, treated and educated, and where investment needs to be directed.

In closing, I would like to again thank the Minister for Health for his support, and all the people who have come along today to support me, including my family—which has two other endo warriors up there—and everybody else in this chamber who supports this and supports the government to help our endo warriors.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Frome, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of a number of significant people who are campaigning for endo awareness, including Ann Ferguson OAM—terrific to have you with us; members of the Wallis family—welcome and thank you for joining us; the Robinson Research Institute, which, of course, was earlier acknowledged; and many others who are campaigning for important reform.

*Motions***ENDOMETRIOSIS**

Debate resumed.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:12): I rise to speak in full support of the motion that is before us today. I thank the member for Waite for bringing this opportunity to the house. I would like to start my comments by welcoming our guests to the chamber. As the member says, the member for Waite recognises you as our endo sisters, so thank you for your time, thank you for your journey and your experience and, hopefully, your submissions to the select committee as we make our way through that.

I know that in his absence I speak also for the member for Unley, and the opposition more broadly, in supporting this important motion. The motion calls on the house to establish a select committee into endometriosis to inquire and report on a number of elements that I think, in conversation today, will expand on understanding that there is much yet to be understood about this disease and how it impacts women from a very young age to, as the member points out, often up to 40 years of our life. It is a long time to be living with those conditions.

On average, it takes 6½ years to be diagnosed. For women who are reflecting on their own personal health at least monthly, or trying to get on without their health being a distraction, the frustration for us is the misunderstanding, the misdiagnosis and the time that is lost in seeking that diagnosis. We understand what is happening to our bodies, but end up doctor shopping, or trying to impress upon GPs and experts in the health sector exactly what is happening to us and having that doubted or questioned, finding that as the expert on your own body you are not being believed and you have to go further to convince a practitioner what is happening to you.

I think that the committee is going to give the South Australian parliament a very important platform, voice and opportunity to investigate and hear submissions about research that strengthen the house's position to report back to health practitioners and to women who perhaps have not had an opportunity to fully understand what is happening to their own bodies, when some of the symptoms can present as back pain or period pain that everyone else is experiencing and is normal. How do we test that against someone else's experience when it is so unique?

I note that in the federal parliament a number of politicians at the time understood the importance of research in this space. We saw the establishment of the Parliamentary Friends of Endometriosis, creating awareness with speeches in the house at the time from the member for Canberra, Gai Brodtmann; the member for Forrest, Nola Marino; the member for Boothby, Nicolle Flint; and other honourable members who were very committed to advocacy, building awareness and bringing public attention, because that is the platform that we have as politicians.

It would not be a surprise to those who are here today that the former member for Boothby Nicolle Flint continues to take every opportunity to report on her own experience of living with stage 4 endometriosis. For those women who are living with endometriosis at any stage, I applaud your courage, your bravery and that roll-out-of-bed attitude, knowing that you are experiencing something that is silent and invisible.

To make reference to a comment that Nicolle Flint made about this, endometriosis is literally everywhere, impacting so many women. We need the facts, the symptoms, the treatment, the research, the support, and the stories of hope, recovery and resilience to be everywhere too. I think that the opportunity the member for Waite brings the chamber through this select committee definitely gives us an opportunity.

We know that endo is painful, we know it is misdiagnosed and we know it is misunderstood. Frustratingly, for many the only pathway to truly prove that you are living with endometriosis is surgery, and it might not be once or twice but multiple attempts, at cost and great intrusion.

Certainly, we have a million girls and women who in their lifetime will live with endometriosis in various stages. Whether it is diagnosed or not, the impact is real every single day. Whether its impact is to your schooling as a young adult, with days lost from study to have to manage the pain, or whether that impact, as we will discover, is in the workplace, it can present in many ways. It might

not just be the pain management but the events that you are missing out on, those special family moments.

Having those conversations with people in your workplace and line managers, whether they be female or male, can be embarrassing; they can be awkward. For those who have not had that experience, the level of ignorance may translate as a lack of compassion or understanding. The effort that a person has to go to just to have that conversation to negotiate a more flexible workplace or understanding takes its toll, I am sure.

The committee is going to grasp an opportunity to explore how we can support women living with endo who still expect to have a wholesome, fulsome family, sporting, study and professional life while not having to beg and plead for knowledge or understanding in the workplace and to have to explain every day what they are going through. Let the language flow, let the embarrassment and stigma cease, let the research and the findings that might come from our select committee inform South Australia in a way that I am sure the findings of the parliamentary committee in Canberra have also done.

In my electorate of Frome, I am often contacted by my own constituents who want to see more conversation in the public space about women's health. From a very young age our bodies change, and particularly for women like me in their 40s, whether they have had children or not, it is imperative that parliament leads the way and sets the standard for mainstream media to normalise the language around women's health and that we are not hesitant, ashamed, embarrassed or silenced to talk about infertility choices and about having children. Certainly our bodies change approaching perimenopause, menopause and, of course, the impact of endometriosis.

I began my remarks by welcoming our guests and sharing back with you the brave and courageous pathway that you have all trodden. The opposition supports the motion to establish this select committee and we thank the member for Waite for bringing this to the chamber.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (11:21): I rise also to support this motion and thank the member for Waite for bringing it to the house to establish a committee that I will be most pleased to be on. I look forward to being on the committee if that is the will of the house. I want to thank all of those who have come in to the gallery today for all the advocacy that you have shown over many years.

I must admit to not knowing a lot about endo, being fortunate enough to not have people in my immediate family who have suffered from this. Of course, I am very well aware that some women have much more painful periods than others. It was not until five or six years ago when I heard a couple of people talking about it publicly that I became aware of it. Bridget Hustwaite on Hack on triple j was talking about her experience and that made me appreciate what it was all about. I felt a bit bad that I did not know more about endo.

Jen Boyce, the bass player from Ball Park Music, was also out there advocating for women to talk about it and talk about it in a medical environment, explaining to your GP what it is you have and making sure that those people believed in the women who were telling them about the pain. I thought if the people in the medical fraternity do not all know about it, then it probably is not that surprising that a few of us blokes do not know all about it either. I want to thank Jen, who I met a few years ago and took around McLaren Vale with the rest of the band. We talked about it then. It was great to have these people in the public realm speak about their experience and advocate on behalf of other endo sufferers.

It is a reminder to people in public life that if you have strong views on something, do not be afraid to speak up because you will probably be educating thousands and thousands of people who, through often no fault of their own, are ignorant of the circumstances and what people are going through. You cannot be compassionate and show empathy towards people if you do not understand what it is they are going through.

Hopefully, through this parliamentary inquiry we, the men and women who are putting up their hands to be on the committee, and the broader parliament will shine a light on it, will make people feel more comfortable talking about something that maybe people have not talked about over previous generations. Once again, I would like to thank all those people who have come into the

gallery today. I would like to thank the member for Waite for bringing this motion to the house, and everyone who supports it, including those who are going to put up their hand to be on the committee.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:25): I also rise in support of this important motion and I commend the member for Waite. We spend a bit of time in this place doing stuff which is unimportant, it feels, but this is something that is obviously so very important to so many people in our community.

Can I recognise, as other speakers have as well, the gallery that is full in recognition of something that is really a silent and debilitating disease which you would not be able to understand until you are in the midst of it. It is something which I know my office has been very proactive in trying to find a way to be able to help the community, medical professionals and individuals around the state understand what it means to suffer with endometriosis.

I know that this motion is broad but I think it is really important that the different aspects that this committee will start to unpack are fully understood, in particular, not just the number of women in South Australia who suffer but also the barriers to getting a diagnosis and the current treatments that are available. As we have already heard, to get a diagnosis for endometriosis involves surgery, and that in itself is something that is daunting and often a last resort for people.

I want to share the story of a daughter of a constituent of mine, a constituent in her own right, who has been facing exactly this and was eventually diagnosed with stage 4 endometriosis. Her story would reflect so many stories from around South Australia where for so many years she was silent and she thought the pain she experienced through her monthly cycle was normal, because everyone experiences pain differently and it is hard to understand if this is something abnormal.

She had multiple visits, month on month, year on year to medical professionals trying to get an answer to this debilitating pain that she was facing and, as with so many other cases, probably misdiagnosis. Is it something that is dietary, is it something that has other causes, until finally you take that step to have that surgery and get that diagnosis.

Unfortunately, because of a lack of awareness of endometriosis through many years, a lot of these cases advance to a point where it actually starts to affect the other organs in the body and we see the detrimental effect. I am so pleased that in recent years there has been a greater awareness within the community and amongst medical professionals of this debilitating disease because it does give the opportunity to be able to have it perhaps as an early thought of a diagnosis rather than an afterthought.

I believe that the work this committee is going to do will shine a light on what potential research and treatments could be developed to, in the future, provide a better way for that diagnosis and that treatment. The story that I am sharing is a sad one because for over a decade this constituent, this friend of mine, faced this disease without knowing it, and faced it in silence within her family. The complications from her disease reached a point where she was at risk of losing her bowel.

As I said, the impact that has on other organs in the body can be significant and permanent. Having a committee in place here in South Australia's parliament can be a small step in the right direction to give sufferers of endometriosis and their families a voice, and have their perspective heard when it comes to making policies.

Also an important aspect, and one which is certainly, as I said, a passion of the staff in my office, is awareness and education for young girls who do not need to feel alone in their circumstances. Girls can gain an understanding of endometriosis through it being included in the health and wellbeing curriculum of years 9, 10 and 11 in secondary school, so that it be part of normal life as to what they might expect to face instead of having to face it in silence. As I said, I am very pleased to stand in support of this committee, and I am looking forward to the work that this committee can do to support such a large proportion of our population, as has already been mentioned by the member for Waite.

As the father of three girls, I am someone who is passionate about making sure that we support our young girls in their early years and through their whole life. To have a society that is able to support each other and provide that support for each other is really important, and this is something that has been faced by too many of our people for too long without that level of support. So I once

again commend the member for Waite for putting forward this committee and I look forward to the work that it puts out.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:31): I would like to congratulate the member for Waite for bringing this particular issue of endometriosis to this parliament and also thank the people in the gallery today who I know are here in support, not just of the select committee looking into it but of all women and families who suffer as a result of endometriosis.

As a young teenager, I was told by numerous GPs that the excruciating pain I experienced each month was really just a part of being a woman. It was not until a number of years later, and many visits to a GP, that I found out that it was not normal and that it was not just part of being a woman. In fact, my younger sister was diagnosed with endometriosis. She was asked by the specialist if her sisters had been diagnosed with the same condition, and she said no. When she came to me, we had a discussion, and so I made an appointment with the GP and requested to go to a specialist. As a result, I had laparoscopic surgery to remove scar tissue from endometriosis that was caused through the condition.

I have to say that throughout my teenage years at high school, and even at uni, women would just talk about it as though, 'It's just something we have to put up with,' not knowing that this excruciating, debilitating pain was not a normal part of being a woman and that it was not something that we should just expect each month. I was fortunate enough after many years to be able to conceive and have a child, and I have a beautiful boy today, but I know that many women are not that lucky. Again, I thank the member for Waite for bringing this select committee and I look forward to participating on it.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:33): I, too, join in supporting the motion of the member for Waite. I commend the member for Waite for bringing it to the house, and I thank you one and all, those who have come to fill the gallery this morning to support the motion and, I understand, to gather here in the building at the conclusion of this debate.

There is work to be done by the committee and, should the motion be successful, the terms of reference for the inquiry are wide-ranging and cover that range of subject matter that we all know is important to continue to learn more about, to shed more light on and to work towards improvement, as the member for Flinders has said, and others, in the course of the debate. We know that it has been a difficult matter in terms of even raising its existence over the long journey, and then actually charting a course from diagnosis through to addressing endometriosis is not an easy one. We all have friends and family, those we hear about in the course of our work, who have tackled that in their own way. One thing that is clear is that we ought to be applying all the resources we can to ensuring improvement.

I take the chance to highlight the extraordinary advocacy work of just one individual who I have been fortunate to know in recent years, and that is an extraordinarily accomplished young woman by the name of Holly Cooke. Holly will be known to many of us. Holly is an endo champion. She is now well advanced in her university studies. When she was in year 12 at school, she initiated an initiative for girls aged 15 to 18 called Girls Talk and used that, as then a young woman navigating her own experience, as a means of spreading awareness and really raising the difficulty of struggling with endometriosis.

Having had that experience as a schoolgirl, Holly continued to be an advocate in local and national media of all kinds. In a particular moment of achievement—and again I applaud the capacity of an individual who is willing to be able to get out and speak publicly on these matters—Holly went on the Q+A program on national television. As a participant in a broader conversation as a student panellist on youth engagement in public matters, she really took that advocacy to the national media spotlight.

Holly's achievements continued. She has been an outstanding earth sciences student and is going to, I think, do our state, our nation and the world great service on the geology side over the journey. I will look forward to admiring her achievements going forward. She is just one who I think ought to be saluted in the course of recognising the work ahead.

I hope the inquiry, should it be supported and established here, will draw on experiences far and wide. I hope that the outcome of its work will be to contribute something strongly for our local communities and I hope more broadly throughout the country as well. Again, I thank the member for Waite for bringing this motion to the house, and I commend it to the house.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (11:38): I would like to speak on this issue and thank the member for Waite for bringing it to the attention of this chamber here. I am very grateful that we have lots of speakers here in agreeance with the opportunity to have a select committee.

As the member for Mawson has indicated, as a male, I am not aware of lots of the issues that women go through. It is very ignorant sometimes of perhaps other males that we may not know about that. As the member for Flinders has indicated, he is a father of three girls. I am the father of two girls. What I have been able to learn is that some women are very reluctant to talk about personal issues. I quite frankly admit that I do not know a lot of the issues that women go through.

I will use an example: my late wife, years ago—this is a long time ago. We had the unfortunate experience of having a couple of miscarriages. She suffered from tremendous pain—tremendous pain. We thought it was just the normal period pain. We were very fortunate; we had two children after that, and we have grandchildren, granddaughters. But in hindsight, my late wife, Arlene, may have had endo, because she was absolutely bedridden for days with very, very bad pains.

I thank the gallery here for coming in today. It is great to see the support. I will mention that since my involvement with the Wallis family, which has been over the last few years, I have learnt a lot from the Wallis family, and also Deanna. In conversations, she has opened up about some of the challenges that she has had in her life. I asked her if it is alright if I mention her name, and she is quite okay with this.

As a male—and I am only speaking from my own point of view—I am learning a lot more about issues out there confronting not only men but also, very particularly, women. We as humans do not always feel like we want to be able to discuss some of the challenges we are having, whether it is a personal issue, whether it is a medical issue or whatever it may be. Coming back to the member for Waite and the member for Torrens, for women who are having this issue, their lives are not fulfilled for various reasons: the social engagements, sporting engagements and working engagements that they cannot do.

I am very flattered that we will have what I think appears to be the full support of this chamber here for this select committee. I am looking forward to doing whatever I can—not only as a minister but also as a member of parliament and also an opportunist in my own electorate and my own areas—to be able to help people like Deanna and others who are out there suffering from this but not bringing it into the public domain.

To the member for Waite: congratulations for bringing this. Thank you very much, from a personal point of view, to others speaking in favour of this motion by the member for Waite. I am looking forward to, hopefully, a successful passage through this parliament to establish this select committee.

Again, thank you very much for everybody coming today. It is absolutely fantastic that you show support. As the member for Flinders indicated, we do discuss lots of issues here and we consider them to be very important because we are representing people out there, but at the end of the day, there are certain things that maybe we do not bring on board or bring into the public domain. This one here is very important.

When I was the member for Frome, I had the opportunity to understand a bit more about lymphoedema, which is a challenge for not only women but men also. I make no bones about it: I learn every day, and I am sure everybody in this house learns everyday, but the only way we will learn about it is by people like you guys bringing it to our attention so that we are more aware of some of the challenges and issues.

I say to people: do not feel embarrassed about talking about issues—whether it is endo, whether it is lymphoedema, whether it is mental health issues or anything like that. The more we open up about it and the more we talk about it, the more we as lawmakers and legislators in this

house here can help those people out. Member for Waite: congratulations, and I am looking forward to the successful passage of this motion.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:43): I would like to thank everybody for their contributions and their understanding, even if you are unable to have the disease or do not have the disease but have that real passion to help us do everything we can to help our sufferers. I really appreciate all of your words.

Tammy Wynette once said that sometimes it is hard to be a woman. Let me tell you: if she was an endo warrior, she would have definitely put a bit more gusto behind that and said that sometimes it really sucks to be a woman. But we are here to try to do everything we can to bring awareness and to find ways to support women with this crippling disease.

To all of the endo warriors who are here today, to your mums, to your dads, to your friends, family and workmates who sit there and support you: thank you for coming along, thank you for being so willing to share your stories and for doing the work that we need across the state and across the country to try to help women in our situation. We are here today to bring on this select committee. I want to thank everybody for their support in that. It does sound pretty promising.

When I was 27 years old and I went in and saw the doctor and someone finally said, 'Maybe it's endo,' and I saw a specialist, and the words that came out of his mouth were, 'Well, what about you just have a hysterectomy'—at 27 years old—I said, 'No, thank you. I think we'll try a few other things first.' Today we have heard already this morning that one of our guests went to the doctor, to hospital, yesterday and was just dismissed.

We cannot have that anymore. We need everybody to know what it is. We need everybody to be talking about it, and this select committee is going a small way towards helping that. So thank you, everybody, again for your contributions. Thank you all for coming along. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

Ms HUTCHESSON: I move:

That a select committee be appointed consisting of the Hon. Leon Bignell, Ms Wortley, the Hon. D.G. Pisoni, Ms Pratt and also the mover.

I thank you all for your contributions, which I know will be very worthwhile.

Motion carried.

Ms HUTCHESSON: I move:

That the select committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and to adjourn from place to place and that it report on 28 November 2024.

Motion carried.

Ms HUTCHESSON: By leave, I move:

That the select committee have leave to sit during the sitting of the house today.

Motion carried.

Parliamentary Committees

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE: INQUIRY INTO BIOCHAR

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (11:47): I move:

That the fifth report of the committee, entitled Inquiry into Biochar, be noted.

On 27 June 2022, the Natural Resources Committee resolved to undertake an inquiry into biological charcoal, or biochar, to address the increasing interest in biochar's production and use in South Australia and around the country. The committee received 25 submissions and conducted nine hearings from 16 June 2022 to 6 July 2023. The committee undertook three separate site visits to current and potential biochar producers in South Australia. Additionally, the committee staff attended

an Adelaide biochar summit and the Australian biochar industry 2030 roadmap launch in Canberra. The Australian and New Zealand Biochar Industry Group (ANZBIG) hosted both events.

The committee heard from representatives of state government departments, local governments and related government bodies; individuals and not-for-profit organisations; industry associations and groups; private companies and institutions, including consulting firms, producers and suppliers; and academia.

Biochar is a form of charcoal with high carbon content produced by burning biomass in an environment devoid of or with extremely low amounts of oxygen and has applications in the agriculture, livestock and water sectors.

I want to thank all those who gave their time to assist the committee with this inquiry. I commend the members of the committee for their contributions to this report: Sarah Andrews MP, the member for Gibson; Mr David Basham MP, the member for Finniss; the Hon. Ben Hood MLC; Ms Catherine Hutchesson MP, the member for Waite; the Hon. Frank Pangallo MLC; and the Hon. Russell Wortley MLC. I would also like to thank previous committee member the Hon. Nicola Centofanti MLC. All members have worked cooperatively on this report.

I would also like to thank all the committee staff who worked so hard on the report, in particular the researchers and secretariat, who brought so much knowledge and information together to distil down into a report on what is a quite complex subject matter, something I encourage anyone with an interest in biochar, agriculture or other things we could be doing in regional South Australia to have a read of.

I would also like to thank the member for Heysen. I remember we caught up with you down at Macclesfield one day. You came out and saw what the committee was doing and heard from some of your constituents who were big advocates of biochar. It is early days, but I know that in the area I represent on Kangaroo Island there is a proposal for a biochar project there that, if it goes ahead, it is claimed will be the biggest in the world. But, like a lot of things, things work at one scale and need to be proven up to see if it can work on a much bigger scale.

Once again, to all the committee members, all the witnesses, everyone who provided input into this inquiry and to the staff for their very valuable work that they put in, thank you so much. I commend the report to the house.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (11:50): I thank the member for Mawson for bringing the motion to the house and for the work of the committee on its inquiry into biochar. It is a committee that is dear to me. I know the capacity of that committee to do important work in the state and particularly in the regions and in the interests of understanding how best to manage, preserve and enhance our natural resources.

I appreciate the reference in particular to the good work of Maccy Biochar. I was really glad that the committee could come to Maccy to see the work that Maccy Biochar has been doing. It is a small group of passionate folks who are interested to promote what biochar can do, to learn themselves about how to best produce biochar and to provide a setting that might serve as a demonstration for things that might be done at a greater scale on the biochar front.

Maccy Biochar is broadening out now, offering to come to people in the area around Macclesfield and to take woody material and turn it into raw biochar and then to mix that with other organic fertiliser and so on. They are focused on the main purpose of biochar being its capacity to contribute to help fight climate change locally, and then, by learning more about how soils work, to improve soil quality at the same time.

There are a whole range of initiatives in which biochar is being blended with other soil nutrients to improve productivity. We are learning all the time that there is so much to soil and to the productivity capacity that can be enhanced, and this is one of those additional benefits. I am glad the committee has undertaken this work with a focus on biochar, and particularly that that has been able to take in the good work of those good folks at Maccy Biochar.

Just one matter that is timely: such has been the contribution of Maccy Biochar in this area that they have been the recipients recently of an award and some further support to be able to get on with continuing their work. I commend the motion and commend Maccy Biochar in particular.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: LOWER BROWNHILL CREEK CAPACITY UPGRADES

Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:55): I move:

That the 56th report of the committee, entitled Lower Brownhill Creek Capacity Upgrades, be noted.

The Brownhill Keswick Creek catchment area is approximately 70 square kilometres and incorporates significant portions of the south-eastern, inner-southern and south-western suburbs of Adelaide, within the local government areas of Adelaide, Burnside, Mitcham, Unley and West Torrens. The catchment comprises four significant watercourses, namely, Brownhill Creek, Keswick Creek, Glen Osmond Creek and Park Lands Creek. They are crucial drainage watercourses in metropolitan Adelaide that flow into the Patawalonga River.

The Stormwater Management Authority (SMA) proposes to double the flow capacity of a section of Lower Brownhill Creek, which forms part of broader suite of flood mitigation works and measures identified through a 2016 management plan for the affected local government areas. This plan proposes a series of works collectively referred to as the Brownhill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, with the main aim being to mitigate significant flood risk and help safeguard properties from the four major watercourses in the catchment.

This catchment has a history of flooding, and a low standard of flood protection has been the subject of numerous studies and investigations over several decades. Whilst a major flood event has not occurred since 1930, the lower portion of Brownhill Creek, located in the south-western suburbs of Adelaide, is at a great risk of flooding. The proposed upgrade will consist of works to 3.3 kilometres of the Brownhill Creek channel, beginning at Anzac Highway at Ashford and ending at the south-eastern corner of the Adelaide Airport.

The channel is primarily situated within a 12-metre wide drainage reserve on land owned by the City of West Torrens, and comprises sections of earthen and concrete lining. The capital cost of the project is \$56 million, and construction has commenced and is scheduled to occur over a seven-year period.

The Stormwater Management Plan for the catchment represents a culmination of complex and protracted negotiations between the catchment councils and proposes a series of works and measures, including wetlands and detention basins, channel improvements, and culvert and bridge upgrades. The project works will be within council-owned drainage reserves, with some sections encroaching and intersecting upon privately-owned land, which involves existing concrete channels through residential properties.

Completion of these capacity upgrade works, along with subsequent stages of the Brownhill Keswick Creek Stormwater Project, will provide flood protection to over 3,900 properties, including critical services, such as Ashford Hospital and the South Australian Ambulance Service. The project will also protect critical transport infrastructure, including the north-south corridor, interstate rail lines and the Adelaide Airport. The key aims of the upgrade are to:

- mitigate the impacts of flooding, including in the occurrence of a one in 100-year flood event;
- improve the quality of stormwater run-off to meet targets set in the Adelaide Coastal Waters Quality Improvement Plan;
- maximise the beneficial reuse of stormwater;
- protect and enhance riparian ecosystems;
- ensure effective land use planning outcomes; and
- promote sustainable asset management of stormwater infrastructure.

The successful delivery of the Lower Brownhill Creek upgrades will utilise the principle of working progressively in an upstream direction to ensure the downstream reaches of the creek system can cater for the increased water capacity.

To facilitate this, the upgrades have been categorised into a series of 10 work packages, starting at Netley and finishing at Ashford. The Brownhill Keswick Creek Stormwater Board will be both the major client and the principal in the project management delivery. The project director will provide the SMA with regular status reports through all stages of the project.

The SMA has incorporated sustainable development principles into the scope of the project, and optimising whole-of-life costs and environmental impacts have been a key focus in the design process. Active design strategies have been employed to incorporate a naturalised channel solution through areas of public open space.

Extensive consultation and engagement are ongoing and a reference group has been established to inform the design of the channel upgrades in open spaces, which is inclusive of input from Kaurna traditional owners. It should be pointed out that the Attorney-General's Department has determined that there are no registered or reported Aboriginal sites, objects or ancestral remains within the project area.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Lower Brownhill Creek Capacity Upgrades project. Many witnesses appeared before the committee, and I would like to thank them all now collectively for their time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Badcoe for her statement to the committee supporting this important project in her electorate. Based upon the evidence considered and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

Bills

DISABILITY INCLUSION (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 20 March 2024.)

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:00): I rise to speak on the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023 that is before us today. The disability inclusion bill passed by this parliament in 2018, and the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA), went some way in making clear South Australia's role in supporting people in our community with disability, through focusing on rights and inclusion in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, and Australia's National Disability Strategy.

Throughout my working life, including as a state schoolteacher, a member of parliament, as the secretary of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, and in my personal life, I have found myself advocating for persons with disability, and it is fair to say that the journey has often been one of continuous hurdles. For many in the community, from the very young to the most senior, the day-to-day challenges of living with disability can be overwhelming and, given that around one in five people in our community experience some form of disability, it is imperative that the surrounding issues receive government attention.

Legislation around disability inclusion is so important, because the vast majority of people with a disability have always and will continue to rely on mainstream services to go about their lives. I know that Minister Cook, in her role as Minister for Human Services, is dedicated to doing all she can to make the day-to-day lives of those with disability easier to navigate, whether it be through legislative change, access to services, suitable housing or appropriate infrastructure.

Our vision is that the disability inclusion bill, which will, with support, make some amendments to the Disability Inclusion Act 2018, along with commitments by the Malinauskas Labor government, will result in improvements to the lives of people in South Australia living with disability

and, of course, this includes their families. The act has, as a requirement, that the minister cause a review of its operation before the fourth anniversary of its commencement. It is this requirement that brings the bill before us today.

The independent review on this occasion was conducted by Mr Richard Dennis AM PSM. It included multiple consultations with peak organisations, individual stakeholders and members of the public, along with written submissions. A peak sector in-person forum and a public forum were also held along with a YourSAy survey. In a nutshell, the aim of the review was to establish:

- how effective the state Disability Inclusion Plan and state authority disability access and inclusion plans have been in supporting the objects and principles of the act;
- how the act is operating in accordance with the objectives and principles;
- the extent to which the objects and principles set out in the act are being recognised and applied;
- any initiatives that could be adopted to enhance the alignment of the act with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031; and
- any other changes that should be considered.

The final report, which included 50 recommendations, most of which were broadly supported, was tabled in both houses of parliament in September 2022. Twenty of these recommendations related to legislation, nine to policy and, as is often the case in these types of reviews, 21 required operational considerations.

The Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill before us today addresses 14 of the 20 legislative recommendations. In saying this, it is important to highlight that other recommendations from the independent review into the act are being considered in the context of the review of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, and a review of the Disability Inclusion Plan. Among the 14 amendments addressed in this bill are ones that relate to:

- people with disability, regardless of age, having a right to be safe, and to feel safe, through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services and supports;
- amending sections within the act to enhance clarity and/or definition of the principles as they relate to people with significant intellectual disability, or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability;
- inclusion of a new section to provide for consultation and engagement activities by the minister on the operation of the act, and for both formal and informal committees to be established for this purpose.

There is another point the bill seeks to address that I would like to highlight: the amendment that requires the State Disability Inclusion Plan to contain a variety of provisions and that any documents prepared for the purpose of this consultation are in a form accessible to people with disability. This, of course, would include people with hearing and sight impairment.

I understand how significant this is, particularly through my association with See Differently with the Royal Society for the Blind, situated in my electorate in Gilles Plains, as well as Klemzig Primary School, the Centre for Deaf Education and Auslan Bilingual Preschool.

I want to commend the Minister for Human Services and her team for their strong advocacy and commitment to people with disability, as well as acknowledge the work in this space being carried out under the Malinauskas Labor government across a number of portfolios. Commitments that are making and will make a difference to the lives of people with disability, include:

- the establishment of the Disability Minister's Advisory Council;
- the commitment of \$28.8 million for the rollout of autism lead teachers in public schools;
- the development of the South Australian autism charter and State Autism Strategy, both of which have been subject to significant public and stakeholder consultation;

- in my electorate of Torrens, a grant to run a school holiday swimming and water safety program at The Oaks Swim Centre for children with autism, because we have learnt that it is autistic children who are the most vulnerable when it comes to drownings and near drownings;
- the establishment of the Office for Autism with an autistic director, and this office is currently running the Autism Works in the Community Grants Program, a program available to eligible organisations for activities that increase knowledge, understanding and belonging for the autistic and autism communities in South Australia;
- agreeing to changes to the National Construction Code that comes into effect from October 2024. This will increase minimum accessibility and adaptability standards to silver level of Liveable Housing Design Guidelines in Australia;
- the award-winning See Me For Me advertising campaign, highlighting people with physical, vision and intellectual disability;
- halving the number of people with NDIS plans in hospital who are discharge-ready, including those who were ready for more than 100 days;
- a review of Transition to Home services following quality and care complaints, which resulted in the implementation of training, staffing and process improvements;
- currently working through the 222 recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;
- currently working through the 136 actions arising from the NDIS review; and
- increased funding to the Community Visitor Scheme.

These are only a few of the actions that have been taken. It is these and other actions taken by our state government and federal and local governments that will make a difference to people with disability. Inclusion is paramount to wellbeing, and we should do all we can to achieve this for people in our community living with disability.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (12:09): I rise to contribute to the debate. The member for Flinders has already indicated, as lead speaker for the opposition in this place, that the opposition is broadly in support of the bill. That might be subject to the possibility of moving certain discrete amendments between the houses, but I think that has been indicated by the member for Flinders and by other speakers in the course of the debate.

In terms of context, the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 commenced on 1 July 2018, and it is the work of its first review that has been conducted by Richard Dennis AM PSM that has led to what the government has brought to the house as the subject of this amendment bill that is termed the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023.

At the outset, I recognise the work of the Marshall Liberal government in legislating the act, as it did in 2018, and then in instituting the review that was then required in an orderly way in March 2022—and we all know what happened almost immediately following the commencement of the review process.

I do commend Richard Dennis for his work, which he went about diligently in the course of 2022 and which has led to the 50 or 51 recommendations, depending on whether you join up the last two of them. What we see here is that, I think, about 14 of those recommendations have found their way directly into being the subject of this particular bill that is before the house. It might be appropriate to categorise a number of the other recommendations as being appropriately incorporated into other discrete legislation, where they relate to matters such as worker screenings and restricted practices and so on.

I think it is important to note that we have seen the commencement of the 2018 act, we have then seen its orderly review by Richard Dennis in the course of 2022, and we are here: it is March 2024, and I suppose the passing of time—that two years since the commencement of the review—is, to some extent, it has to be said, disappointing. Time marches on, but this bill—albeit

brought to the parliament last year, as the name of it indicates—is already several months down the track, so much so that, as I read it, we will see an amendment proposed to remove what is now an unnecessary schedule that would have provided for 'the annual report on the operation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan for the financial year ending on 30 June 2023' and then an interim report being provided for there, for the period 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Both those periods have well and truly passed. We are now charting a course that might be a matter for the committee, but it looks at this point as though we are really headed for substantive commencement of these changes to disability inclusion plans into the 2024-25 financial year and otherwise later in this calendar year. So it is a while coming in terms of the implementation of a review that was commenced and completed a couple of years ago now.

The act, in the scheme of things, is still relatively new. For the state to have a Disability Inclusion Act on the statute books is a statement, as other contributors to the debate have made clear, of clear intent by our state and our parliament to ensure that when we talk about taking real steps towards better inclusion and more complete participation in all respects of daily life for those living with disability we are doing something about it and we are taking on standards that have been adopted around the world.

Of course, the act is perhaps first and foremost an opportunity to state in terms of the statute the state's adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. That convention is well known. It was ratified by the Australian government in 2008 and that ratification, 10 years prior to the enactment of the act, was a demonstration of the Australian government's commitment to promoting and supporting equal and active participation by people with disability in what has been described as economic and social life, in ordinary day-to-day life in our community as well as in participation in jobs and family and in every respect.

We know what the convention is about. It is of long standing, and the act's purpose in setting out adherence to it remains at the core. The convention in substance requires that the operation, administration and enforcement of these matters the subject of the act are supporting and furthering the principles and purposes that are set out in the convention as much as is reasonably practicable.

The key means by which the act does this, and the only aspects that are the subject of this bill—perhaps I am being too prescriptive. The real work of the amendments the subject of this bill are towards consideration of part 2 and parts 3, 4 and 5 of the act, insofar as they primarily make adjustment to disability inclusion plans.

I indicate that those parts of the act that are not addressed directly in the bill include specifically part 5A—screening of NDIS workers; part 6—screening of persons working with people with disability; part 6A—restrictive practices; part 7—Community Visitor Scheme; part 8—National Disability Insurance Scheme; and part 9—information gathering and sharing. The act is also dealing with that range of subject matter.

As I have said, the purposes of this amendment bill are about implementing those 14 or so recommendations of Richard Dennis that apply really for the most part to the state disability inclusion plans and about considerations that might now be able to be described with more particularity in the light of the first four years of experience and in terms of what Richard Dennis has found.

Before I address that in any more detail, I want to recognise a bit of further context that might not be obvious to someone following the debate more broadly. We talked about the UN convention. The act and in turn the bill, indeed the recommendations the subject of the review, have been the subject of really thoroughgoing consideration by a whole range of stakeholders. We have interested members of our communities, of course, but I do want to single out the response of the LGA, which in what was really a very thoroughgoing, wideranging submission, set out to address each of those 50 or 51 recommendations of Richard Dennis and has really committed itself to a fairly detailed consideration of what the objects of the act mean for local government and what the disability inclusion plans mean for local government.

I recognise the LGA's keen and thorough involvement and, indeed, local government more broadly. I will be interested to perhaps explore any particular matters that have been raised by

individual councils. We know that the LGA is a well-recognised and well-respected body speaking up on behalf of individual councils, and so for the moment, I just highlight that aspect in particular.

The changes that are set out, as I say, in large part directing themselves to the disability inclusion plans, include some discrete changes to the principles that guide the operation of the act. I just want to single out in particular clause 4's insertion of a requirement that the minister 'seek the views of people with disability' when exercising the minister's task in accordance with requirements in the regulations and so forth. It is an important addition.

We continue to have a way to go in terms of structuring the identification of rights that all people have in community. That will be guided by experts to some degree. It is the task of legislators here in this place but it is perhaps an area in which the views of those who are living with disability in practical ways ought to be very much at the centre of how we continue to learn, so it is a very important change set out the subject of clause 4. Apart from adverting to the additional principle, there will be a new paragraph (ja) to section 9(1), the subject of clause 6, adding to the expression of those rights of people with disability:

...the right to be safe, and to feel safe, through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services and support, and through appropriate and accessible reporting mechanisms...

An important addition. In the same clause, and I refer to the greater particularity that has now been informed by the first review of the act, we see the insertion of a new principle in addition to those principles otherwise set out in the section, acknowledging the right of those people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability:

- (a) people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to disability have a right to feel safe, to enjoy dignity in their lives, and to participate in the community in meaningful way;

With that in mind in particular, I am mindful of the day-to-day life of my friend Andrew Sands, who is a resident in the Hills in Stirling, just around the corner from the Stirling Hospital. He has been happily there for a long period of time. Andrew is an ornament to our community and he enjoys the dedicated support of his parents, Ross and Janet, who have in turn been advocates for those living with disability, in particular adults with disability, and provisions for their care in circumstances where they require it and family members might ultimately be unable to provide that assistance.

Andrew lives with significant intellectual disability. It does not stop him from being very active in our community to the extent that Andrew is in the practice of publishing and circulating fairly widely a regular newsletter, more or less monthly, and by that newsletter he spells out this range of activities that he has engaged with in the community. It perhaps illustrates the nature of both challenges and opportunities. To take his recent newsletter in February this year, Andrew talks about participating in cooking classes run by OzHarvest, together with The Hut at Aldgate, a happy experience.

He is also benefitting from working alongside See Differently at the Royal Society for the Blind, which has interacted very positively with Andrew. He has got out and about in the community with the support of both family and organised community support. I always enjoy hearing from Andrew, and I think he is one example of illustrating the sorts of challenges and opportunities that we as legislators can better facilitate by doing our work. I commend the debate and participation of the committee in due course.

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (12:30): I rise today to add my contribution to the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023 and do so in the context of outlining and again reiterating the opposition's support for the bill. It is a bill that has been a long time coming in terms of being brought on for debate within this house. That is the reason that we have an amendment on file from the government to update the time frames of the rollout of the recommendations that arose on the back of the Dennis review.

The disability inclusion bill was moved under the previous government and for the first time provided a requirement for public agencies to develop disability inclusion plans to outline how they were going to deal with the issue of ensuring, as best as possible, inclusion for people with a disability within their service delivery, their workplaces and, more broadly, their interactions with the community.

Each of those agencies were, over a period of time, asked to develop these plans. Those plans have been in place now for a number of years, and part of the original act that was moved on the back of the bill through this place was to require a review to be undertaken on the back of that implementation to determine and assess how effective the disability inclusion plans have been in achieving what is, I certainly believe to be, the goal of the entirety of this parliament to, as best we can, develop, foster and improve disability inclusion across the whole of our community.

On the back of that review being undertaken, there were a range of recommendations that were made and put to government. Of those, a number were determined as not needing legislative change to be implemented. Those now rest with the government to roll out across the breadth of government agencies within South Australia. That responsibility lies entirely with the government itself. A range of those recommendations have been deemed to be requiring legislative change to implement. A number but not all of those sit within the bill before us today that we are considering, and that both the government in moving this bill and the opposition, as previously indicated, will be supporting.

For those who have been in this place across the time that I have been here, my contributions on the issue of disability I always find to be a reasonably delicate balance and one that obviously straddles my previous involvement and previous life, where being a strong advocate for people with a disability and changing the perceptions of disability within our community was absolutely at the forefront of everything that I did.

I know and understand that I have to balance that advocacy in the same way as charting my own course in this place with the interests and other areas of focus that I need to advocate for on behalf of my broader community and also my role within the party room. So, when I do make contributions on these issues, I hope they are taken in a way that is always in the best way possible—helpful, informed and with a view that is perhaps different to many others in this place and that comes from a place of personal experience as well.

If we look at the broader issue of perception of people with a disability, there are a range of different areas across our society that we still have work to improve. I do not think anybody within this chamber, the other chamber or many parliaments across the Western world would disagree with that fact. One of the primary and most important areas for every person with a disability is employment. We still have a long way to go in terms of representation, in terms of creating a workplace culture both within the public system and more broadly within the private sector as well, where all people with a disability can be comfortable to put their hand up and say that they are somebody with a disability, without fear of potential bias, perception or otherwise of what that would mean for their career or their job opportunities into the future.

We still have obviously issues of access across workplaces, this one itself here probably being one of the prime examples. Prior to two parliaments ago, there had not really ever been contemplation of a person with a disability in a wheelchair and how that would actually work in this place, noting that it is obviously a significant building that has significant historic value. But there are still parts of this building that need to be updated, changed or improved to make it as accessible as possible not just for those who work here and those who have the need to visit this building from time to time but also from a general public perspective of access to this building. It is something that I still think could be improved further, without a shadow of a doubt. It is something that I am sure the Clerk will be pleased to hear, as it is his domain and his responsibility. I think it is fairly obvious and goes without saying.

When it comes to the preparation of CVs and the interview process for people with a disability, again there are probably misconceptions and ways that we could improve that process both across the public sector and, more broadly, the private sector as well.

I will leave the domain of employment to one side, noting that clearly, in my view, it is one of the most important for that cohort of people that I am a part of. Employment is the very basis of our contribution to society more broadly. It is the basis of our fundamental place in terms of contribution, respect and acknowledgement of purpose. That is why any conversation around disability inclusion I think needs to start and end around employment.

But there are broader issues as well, particularly in the domain of sport, which is obviously one that I am well and truly accustomed to. There was something very special over the years that I was involved. While those involved in elite sport from a broader perspective obviously do everything they can to represent their family, themselves, their country, their support network and everybody who has got them there, there is something that makes Paralympic sports, something that makes sport for people with a disability, somewhat different, which is that we do it with an understanding and compete with an understanding that we are there for more than just sport.

The opportunity to shift from a preconceived idea of what is possible, that penetrates not just through sport but through the wider community, the legacy that is being left by the Paralympic movement and more broadly disability sport over the last 20 years, again—this is my view—I do believe that has played in some way, shape or form an important role in shaping broader society's change and perception of people with a disability.

You need only look at the legacy of the London Games and what that meant for that city, what that meant for that public service at a national level, and what that meant for the requirements that were placed on corporate sector employees around disability employment. The legacy of the games, from the perspective of a person with a disability, was about far more than the two-week period of time where the athletes were in the pool, on the track or on the court. The legacy was the underlying societal change of the requirements that were placed on those employers, with disability employment being one of the key legacy items that was agreed to by that organising committee, but more broadly it was the penetration of seeing that spectacle—the change in the broader perception of people with a disability across the general community was significant over that period of time.

The minister and I have a shared passion for Special Olympics and its role in that journey in changing the perception of what is possible and laying the foundation for a better future for people with a disability past our generation as well. This is not something that is a linear concept; it is not something that stops with this generation. It is about putting in place the stepping stones of perception change that will outlast this generation and into the next.

If we look at the community sector more broadly, while I think everybody would like to think that we have made significant changes, it is probably one of the areas where particularly at council level—and again, this is a personal view—we could probably still do better. The opportunity for us to provide inclusive services at the council level is still something that I think sometimes leaves a lot to be desired.

I think we have had a significant shift in catering for those citizens in our society who need additional help in aged care. I think there has been a shift in the local government sector to be very cognisant of the particular services and ways that they can help and assist through a range of different programs at the local government level. I hope that, on the back of the original bill and the Disability Inclusion Act coming into force, that will provide some extra thought provocation within the local government sector as to what more can be done in this area as well.

Importantly, one of the departments required under the act to build their disability inclusion plan is the Department for Education. Again, if we talk about employment, the precursor to that is education. No different to any other child in South Australia, our goal and ambition as a parliament is—and should be—to provide everybody with the best education we possibly can.

While models of delivery have changed over time, while there have been shifts to, from and around the level of inclusion, and where those specific programs can contribute well to the development of a person with a disability, the underlying factor here is that the cohort of people that we are talking about is very broad. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. My view of what inclusion looks like may be very different from another person with a disability's view of what inclusion looks like.

There are some within the disability community who would still love to see programs that cater for a very specific cohort of people. There has been a more generalised view that the further we shift towards inclusion at all levels is a good thing. I am not here to say that one view or the other is right or wrong, but the very fundamentals of what has underpinned the shift, particularly at the federal level in terms of service delivery, has been about the individual.

If the individual and if the parents are still of the view that what is best for their child is a program that may be more specific than perhaps others would like, I think we still have to have an open mind as to what services are delivered within our education system and also within the community more broadly. At the end of the day, we are looking to achieve a goal.

Again, I note that this is not a homogenous view or a homogenous group of people by any stretch of the imagination, and we are as different as any other subsection of the community, but as set out in the bill itself, nobody is looking for anything more than to be supported and to be safe, to be treated no differently from anybody else, to be an equal contributor to society. To me, those are the fundamental underpinnings of what we are trying to achieve here.

The view as to the practical rollout as to what that looks like may differ, and again I think most of that is on the back of what we have just discussed: that in the broad subsection of people with a disability in the community there is no homogenous view of what inclusion looks like.

The underlying principles I think are well agreed—that everybody is looking for an opportunity to be treated as an equal, an opportunity to contribute to society, an opportunity to gain employment that fulfils their desires, wants and needs. How we achieve that we may have divergent opinions on, but at the end of the day if we are going to go down a path of seeking to highlight the individual as the very basis for what we should be seeking to support, then we should be still allowing, as best as possible, a broad range of different service delivery models to support that.

In terms of where to from here, obviously I think the timeliness of this change and for this bill to pass is of a level of importance now, to see the review being undertaken, to see the recommendations that were handed down. We obviously want to see progress on the changes and improvements that can be made to the plans that have been drawn up by the various public agencies and also to see those recommendations implemented as quickly as possible.

While the range of changes that require legislative instruments to effect have to work their way through that process, those that can be undertaken without the need for this place to be involved I certainly hope—and would be confident that this is the minister's view likewise—need to be progressed as quickly as possible.

There are further opportunities for us into the future still around broader reform in the public sector for people with a disability. I do not think in any way that we should limit ourselves just to disability inclusion plans. As I said at the start of my contribution, employment is and should always be the start and the end of the conversation, because that is the pathway to inclusion. It is a pathway to a life that is valued, a life that contributes to broader community and a life that provides the financial stability and independence that comes with a job.

I am very proud of the path I charted in contributing to that broader effort over the period of time, but I know that I am just one of many and was in a point of time in that transition. There are many who have come after me that continue through the Paralympic movement to chart that course and change perception and enliven what is a much broader campaign to change and improve the lives of people with a disability.

That is what this legislation is seeking to achieve, that is why the opposition will be supporting it, and that is why we must, at all times, across both sides of the aisle within this chamber, be considered, be mindful and be respectful of the different views that sit right across the full cohort and spectrum of people with a disability within our community. With those words, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (12:49): I, too, rise to speak in support of the bill, really as somebody who has been a layperson or a passive engager, if you like, of knowing people with disability, serious disabilities in particular. A very dear schoolfriend of mine at age 23 was thrown from a horse. He had his own livestock business that he started while he was still a teenager. He ended up with a break so high that he was technically quadriplegic and has been living a very satisfying and rewarding life in a wheelchair.

Some of the experiences earlier on when we did a lot more things socially together were having to deal with restaurants, for example, for a restaurant booking. You would make a booking and you would be courteous and say, 'By the way, we will need a chair removed because one of the

guests is in a wheelchair,' and when you got to the restaurant, the restaurant being obviously concerned about the impact that a person with a visible disability might have on other diners, you would find your table would be right in the far corner of the restaurant.

Every single person sitting at their table on the way to that table, which was allocated to you because you indicated you had a guest coming with you who was in a wheelchair, had to get up and move their chairs so that the person in a wheelchair could actually reach the table. We learnt from that. Every time we made a booking subsequent to that we would explain that there was somebody who was in a wheelchair and that we would need a table preferably without a pedestal with four legs so they could sit between the legs and it needed to be near the door.

Sometimes you had to explain why it needed to be by the door to the person taking the booking. The easiest way to explain that was to use the example of, 'If you don't, all of your diners will have to get up and make a pathway for that guest to get to the table. Do you want that to happen?' Of course, they did not want that to happen. Self-interest rather than courtesy is what has got the change of arrangements or the arrangements as requested.

I think one of the aims I would like to see from this amendment bill is a much broader awareness of disabilities and a greater acceptance of them for general members of the community. To give another example, my same friend, many, many years ago, on a bright day was in his wheelchair in Rundle Mall wearing his sunglasses, and a young boy pointed at him and said quite loudly to his mother, 'Look, Mum, there is a blind man.' He had worked out that there was a disability there—he had the dark glasses on—and thought that he was blind because he was in the wheelchair.

I dream of a day when a disability is not considered as a barrier in so many more situations. Although I am very supportive of the provision of a membership of a committee for the minister, I would like to see those with committee ability appointed to committees other than just disability committees.

It is a bit like when women first started being appointed to boards, they tended to be appointed to boards to deal with mothers and women's issues. To broaden out the acceptance and understanding of disability, we need people with disabilities appointed to economic boards, artistic boards, creative boards, boards with everybody else and not boards where the main criteria is that you have a disability.

The fact that you have a disability should have no bearing on your capacity or ability to sit on another board. It may well be that you will be able to bring some very valuable life experience to a board. A classic example is a training board, for example, where there are so many opportunities and there is actually a measure in that space for people with disabilities in training.

That brings me to the inclusion plan. There is a section there specifying measurable outcomes for each priority area identified in the State Disability Inclusion Plan. I would like to think that some of those measures would be employment and career outcomes—not just a job but an actual career pathway—and how we are seeing self-esteem as people become more independent with a disability through their employment and their careers. Outcomes in that space would be a very good ambition to be included in outcomes.

Life expectancy: my friend in a wheelchair, who is 61 this year, was told that he would be lucky to reach his 50th birthday. The fact that he is now entering his 60s shows how quality of life and health has improved for people with disabilities, but we still have a long way to go. Quality of life: not just life at home but social life, opportunities through quality of life and care are obviously important, but opportunity is also important. We do not want disability to be a barrier to opportunity. We want to ensure that as many opportunities as possible are available.

As the member for Colton said, we do not want a one size fits all. Opportunity will come in different ways for people with disabilities, and it is a matter of identifying support if needed, or awareness of those opportunities, so they can be adopted by those who want to do it. The biggest thing is measuring community-wide understanding of disabilities in the community and what impact that has for those with disabilities and what those who are sharing the community with people with disabilities should consider.

I do think that a lot of people, when coming across somebody who might have quite a severe disability, can find that quite confronting and not quite understand how to respond. We will often hear somebody speaking loudly to a person who is blind, thinking they are having trouble hearing what they have to say. I have seen that time and again. You have to remind them that that person can hear you but they might have trouble seeing you, so there is no need to speak more loudly to that person. A broader understanding is something that should be a measurable outcome of the specific clause in the bill. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12:59 to 14:00.

Ministerial Statement

AUTISM INCLUSION CHARTER

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:00): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: It is a great honour today, as we celebrate the state's first Autism Inclusion Charter, to table this important document, both here and in the other place. In the lead-up to the 2022 state election, when I was at street-corner meetings, forums or even just walking along the street, people were constantly talking about autism—not just once or twice but time and time again, and so we decided to host a number of forums focused on the autistic and autism communities.

The forums were continuously booked out. At all those forums we listened and learnt a lot. We learnt that the autistic and autism communities have long been fighting for change, long been waiting for a government to come up with a suite of dedicated policies and shine a spotlight on autism—and that is exactly what we have done. From appointing the world's first Assistant Minister for Autism, the Hon. Emily Bourke, from the other place, to the introduction of autism inclusion teachers in our primary schools, to the creation of the nation's first autistic-led Office for Autism, to the updating of our teaching degrees, I am proud that South Australia has been bold in its agenda of working to make our state not only a national but a world leader in autism inclusion.

All of our policies have the foundation of building knowledge. We know very well in this chamber that knowledge is power, and you cannot create change without knowledge. Now we have reached another important milestone: we are in the process of developing the state's first Autism Strategy, with a key component of the strategy being the development and implementation of an Autism Inclusion Charter.

The Autism Inclusion Charter contains four guiding principles that will underpin a whole-of-government approach to improving life outcomes for autistic people while also enabling a more knowledgeable and inclusive state where autistic and autism communities can thrive with opportunity, support, connection and belonging. Importantly, this charter is not just a pretty poster that will sit there collecting dust in every government agency; instead, every government agency will sign up to the charter, and government services will also receive support and training from the Office for Autism.

I would like to thank the Assistant Minister for the Office for Autism, the Office for Autism itself, the Department of Human Services, and all those who have contributed to the development of the state's first Autism Inclusion Charter. We know that when we welcome diversity, and especially neurodiversity, and different ways of thinking, we maximise opportunities for innovation and progress. This charter is just another way we can further this important mission for the betterment of our state. According to statute, I lay on the table a report on the South Australian Autism Inclusion Charter.

Parliamentary Committees

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE: FIRST NATIONS VOICE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:03): I bring up the second report of the committee, entitled First Nations Voice, and move that it be received.

Report received and ordered to be published.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call questions without notice, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of Denise Wray, wife of Don Wray, the founder of MiniJumbuk, and Darren Turner, John Finnis and Brett Woods, guests of the member for MacKillop.

As well, we see in the chamber year 12 legal studies students from Heathfield High School, guests of the member for Heysen. Welcome to parliament. Also, year 11 students and teachers from St Michael's College are with us today, guests of the member for Colton. Welcome to parliament.

Question Time

SMALL BUSINESS

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS (Black—Leader of the Opposition) (14:04): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to St Morris-based small business owner Sandip Silwal of Rusco & Brusco? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.J. SPEIRS: Today I visited restaurateur Mr Silwal. He is on the record as saying, and I quote:

I'm losing money every week at the moment. If things continue like this...I will unfortunately have to shut it down. Things are that bad.

I'm pushing myself to the limit, but it's do-or-die at the moment.

This is the time we need support. Anything I can get will be helpful.

Parliamentary Procedure

USE OF NAMES IN QUESTIONS

The SPEAKER (14:05): Before I call the Premier, I observe that previous speakers have drawn the House's attention to the use of specific constituent names. I understand that the approach taken by previous Speakers has been that where it is not necessary to name a constituent then members have been encouraged not to do so. However, where it is necessary, of course, then it might provide additional context. I just provide that guidance to the House. The Premier.

Question Time

SMALL BUSINESS

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:05): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. The truth is, of course, there are businesses within our community that are feeling the pinch of an inflationary environment. The nature of inflation, of course, is that it is insidious by virtue of the fact that it has an effect on everybody: households and businesses large or small.

There was good news during the course of this week. One of the costs that matters most to those in the hospitality industry—beyond their rent and their labour costs, which normally represent their biggest costs of doing business—is energy costs. Hospitality operators are significant users of energy. Just this week, we saw from our federal regulators in respect of the energy market that the price of electricity for small business in South Australia is going down.

I note that those opposite were very keen to associate themselves with forecasts only a few days ago suggesting that power prices were going to go up by 20 per cent. Well, yet again, they backed a loser, because that hasn't just proven to be untrue, it has been proven to be completely off the mark. We know that the direct market offer for small business in South Australia is seeing a reduction in power prices of between 8 and 9 per cent—8 and 9 per cent. That is a very significant quantum indeed.

What we also know is that those in hospitality, when they assess the public policy of the government versus the—well, they can't really assess it against the policy of the opposition, obviously, because there isn't any, but—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —in the absence of any policy from the alternative government of the state, they would have to look at the policy of the former government, and they will see a very clear contrast between this government and its support of the hospitality and tourism sectors, which has been ongoing, sustained and being delivered from day one in our very first budget, versus the former government's policy that, of course, wreaked—

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

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —significant harm—

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Colton!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —on the hospitality sector.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We know that in opposition, we did the work—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —of developing a policy—

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

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

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —that the Minister for Tourism made—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Treasurer!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The Treasurer is warned. The member for Morialta is on a second warning. The member for Chaffey is warned. The member for Florey is warned. The Premier has the call.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: When the shadow treasurer, now the Treasurer, the shadow tourism minister, now the tourism minister, and I were spending time with hospitality businesses in the tourism sector and otherwise, they were saying to us, 'What can a Labor government do for our industry? We have been decimated on the back of COVID. The government has been cancelling major events that want to continue. The Liberal government have really hurt us with all their land tax increases around the place that are having an impact on our business. What can you do about it?

We said, 'Righto, let's develop a major event strategy. Let's drive demand into our state. Let's provide stability and respect to taxation policy. Let's have a plan to increase generation capacity in South Australia, publicly owned rather than privately sold off, in respect to the energy market.' We are doing each and every one of these things. They are making a difference on the ground and we know a lot of businesses in the state are very grateful for it.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:10): My question is to the Premier. What is the Premier's immediate plan to reduce power bills for hardworking South Australian households? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: Following two large increases since the election of the Malinauskas Labor government, the \$12 adjustment this week leaves families on the default market offer still paying up to \$696 more per year for their electricity than they were in March 2022.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PATTERSON: Yes, I did and it had \$12 in there.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, Treasurer!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:10): It's an interesting question from the shadow minister for energy. He talks about the vast amount of South Australians on the default market offer. Only 10 per cent of South Australian households are on a default market offer.

Members interjecting:

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

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: In fact, sir, the AER also put out surveys of market retail offers throughout South Australia and, despite what members opposite are saying, despite apologising for saying that he said prices would be going up—remember that—the Australian Energy Regulator said that market offers in South Australia show that our prices here in South Australia are cheaper than those in New South Wales, cheaper than those in Tasmania and cheaper than those in the ACT. Another interesting fact for members opposite is that for the entire time that they were in office power prices were more expensive than they were under the previous Weatherill government.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey! The member for Morphett!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Remember that \$303 promise? Couldn't achieve it—couldn't achieve it. The truth about electricity prices and members opposite is that they are all bluff and bluster—bluff and bluster. They ask what is our energy policy. Our energy policy is detailed and laid out. Our policy is to bring forward our renewable energy target to 2027. Our target is to make sure that we have more renewables in the system. Our target is to be able to have more storage in our system by using hydrogen, by the overabundance of renewable energy.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Members opposite, their energy policy? Nothing. Nothing. They have no energy policy. They have announced absolutely nothing—not a thing.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Not the shadow treasurer. He hasn't announced a policy on energy. The shadow energy minister hasn't announced a policy on energy. They have no policies. All they have is complaints. Complaints in the absence of any alternative policy is just hot air—it's just hot air.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey is warned for a second time. Member for Unley! Members to my left and right, I appreciate there's a degree of kinetic energy in the system before an important by-election; however, the standing orders are still in place and if that energy has to be vented by adjustments in the chamber, then, of course, we will make them and we will make them early. The member for Florey is warned. Member for Playford, you too are warned or it may have been the member for Cheltenham. Perhaps you are a civilian casualty.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey, order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The Hydrogen Jobs Plan is at the heart of our energy policy. One of the aspects of the renewable transition—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —is storage. Storage is—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Member for Hartley is warned.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The key to the renewable transition is storage. There's that gap between intermittency and, of course, being able to supply power on a 24/7 basis. The truth about large-scale grid storage is that when we pushed to have the first grid-scale storage in the country here in South Australia members opposite mocked it like a tourist attraction. It's now a template across the world and that storage, through battery storage, has done a great deal of the heavy lifting.

The next part of that storage is hydrogen. Producing hydrogen when there is an overabundance of renewable energy, storing it and using it to fill that gap, will lower power prices, as opposed to the policy of the members opposite, which is nothing. Nothing. They had one policy at the last election and that was to privatise our backup generation.

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is on three warnings.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: That was it. They have no other policies.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Our policies are all about—

Members interjecting:

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

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —making sure that we can fill that gap with renewable energy, stored energy, which removes the need for gas to defer power—

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Unley!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: —and the less you do that the cheaper power prices are.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Hartley is on two warnings, the member for Morialta on three and the member for Unley on two. The member for Schubert, and then the member for Mawson who has been waiting patiently.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY REBATES

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:15): My question is to the Premier. What does the Premier say to small business owner Natalie Siegele of Pulp and Thread in Tanunda? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

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

The SPEAKER: There is a point of order from the member for West Torrens.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Standing order 97, sir: without the leave of the house that question is indecipherable. And I have to say, sir, these questions where the opposition—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Can I just finish?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: The explanation is by leave of the house. The question should stand on its own. That question without an explanation is unanswerable.

Mr Teague: There is no point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, there is.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Unley will cease his interjections. The member for Morialta will be heard under 134.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Directly to the point of order, firstly, your earlier ruling countenanced such a question being allowed. Secondly, every—

The Hon. S.C. Mullighan: What's the standing order?

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Standing order 97. Secondly, the precedent set by yourself and previous Speakers have allowed for questions framed in that way, including many questions from the members of the current front bench to me as the acting shadow minister for health in the previous government—all allowed, all asked and answered.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Firstly, my previous guidance to the house was not a ruling, it was an encouragement to follow the guidance that had earlier been offered by different Speakers. Second, there is some force in the matters that the member for West Torrens has raised; however, rather than to decide the point which might have future consequences for others seeking to ask similar questions, I will give the member for Schubert the opportunity to recast, as I anticipate she is about to.

Mrs HURN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the Premier: what does the Premier say to small business owner Natalie Siegele of Pulp and Thread in Tanunda in relation to the cost of doing business in South Australia? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: Ms Siegele is on the record in relation to the small business energy rebates as saying, and I quote:

I think I got the \$160 [energy rebate this quarter]. When you're looking at a bill over \$5,000 that's just nothing...when you're looking at a food and beverage business...that's just crazy, that's not even touching the sides.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): I thank the member for Schubert for her question. Again, I reiterate my remarks that I made earlier regarding the good news for the said business owner's electricity bill, with the news coming out this week that the price of electricity is coming down in South Australia. The Minister for Energy has already outlined the fact that in South Australia we enjoy the fact that our wholesale electricity price, which ultimately flows through to the prices paid by small businesses is lower in South Australia than what is the case in New South Wales, the ACT and Tasmania. There is still work to be done, and we—

Mr Patterson interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: There is still work to be done and our government has a plan to do that. What we are pursuing are policies that will reduce the price of power in South Australia. Unlocking renewable investment further is part of that. We believe that gas is an important part of the equation, providing firming capacity to renewables, which we know are the cheapest form of power. That, of course, stands in stark contrast to a kite-flying exercise and the most expensive form of power that we could see in the country that we are seeing being proffered by those opposite.

In respect of the business that the member for Schubert raises, the Treasurer in the lead-up to last year's state budget put a lot of effort into working with the commonwealth to craft a package that represents the single biggest cost-of-living or energy relief package for both households and businesses that we have ever seen in the history of the state. It made all of its predecessor schemes look modest in comparison. It provided for \$650 coming off the energy bills in one year for small businesses across South Australia, and \$500 for eligible households as well.

Does that on its own solve the problem? Of course it doesn't, but it is true to say that it made a material difference. In fact, ironically, for some households and potentially even some businesses, but more likely households, we saw families that actually ended up in front as a result of the size of the package, particularly where they consumed particularly low quantities of electricity. Of course, that wasn't everywhere. In fact, that was in an absolute minority of cases, but nonetheless it happened.

The other thing I would say to the business owner mentioned by the member for Schubert is I think it is relatively well known within the business community that the approach that all of us on the Treasury benches have, regardless of the portfolio, is a sincere and dedicated effort towards engaging with business, making sure that small business owners and their representatives have a seat at the table for significant government decisions that have an impact on them. It is that partnership and collegial attitude of working with employers in South Australia that has actually led to—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —a degree of momentum we are seeing in the South Australian economy. It is not the South Australian government that exclusively takes credit for us being the number one economy in the nation, according to CommSec or ANZ or other agencies that are telling us this independently now time on time. It is the fact that government is working hand-in-hand with business.

That of course is in stark comparison to what we saw with the prior government, where business had the door slammed in their face when they came in making representations; members of the Treasury benches, including in the highest offices, having tantrums at the first sign of criticism coming from business. We are willing to work with business. It doesn't mean we agree on anything, but we are willing to work with them, and that's good news for the business owners in the member for Schubert's electorate.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for West Torrens and the member for Colton are warned. I call the member for Mawson, as earlier foreshadowed, and then the member for Flinders.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

STATE ECONOMY

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson) (14:22): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the South Australian economy?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:22): I want to thank the member for Mawson for following the theme of the questions that have come before.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hartley!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I suspect the member for Mawson, when he asked the question, was particularly concerned about people in his electorate having a job, which all of us on this side of the house have a stern commitment to. I've got to say it is a good day for the people of Australia. It is good day for the people of South Australia because today for the first time in our state's amazing history we have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation—and not by a little bit. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation by a very long way.

It wasn't that long ago when we were in this place concerned about the prospect of people being out of work. We had members opposite predicting double-digit unemployment and predicting that the state was in all sorts of trouble with the loss of Holden and what have you, but yet here we are seeing a complete reversal of position, where no longer is the rest of the nation laughing at us. We are smiling at them because we have the best performing economy in the nation. We have more people in work than ever before. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation and the lowest unemployment rate in the history of the state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: It is 3.2 per cent.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Flinders! Member for Florey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: People watching question time online or in the public gallery must be thinking, 'What on earth are those opposite complaining about?'

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: What are they wailing about? They should be basking, like every other business owner, in the success that this state has provided.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order, member for Schubert!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: This hasn't just happened—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: This is not an accident. Yes, it is true that a lot of business owners have made active investment, taken on risk, put in jeopardy their own capital in the name of the state's growth. We acknowledge them. We thank them. They should be proud of their efforts. But

government policy has made a contribution to this too. In fact, I was a little alarmed that the would-be treasurer of South Australia, the alternative treasurer of the state, when he was trying to find a way on FIVEaa radio—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —to put a bit of a dampener on having the best unemployment rate in the history of South Australia and the nation—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: He tried to suggest, quote: 'This is the time of the year where we have a lot of casual work coming to South Australia based on the time of the year with our events schedule.'

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Florey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: They can't work out if they are Arthur or Martha. Are they for events making a positive difference for our economy or are they against them? Do they like Gather Round or do they hate LIV? I can't work it out. The shadow treasurer is right to, of course, acknowledge that events have a role to play in driving up jobs growth, but the most concerning element is the fact that the shadow treasurer does not understand the nature of seasonally adjusted figures, which of course by their nature factor in various aberrations we might see occur in the economy because of events.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The good news for the shadow treasurer is that it is all good. This isn't an unemployment rate because of a seasonal event; this is an unemployment rate because the state is going well. It is going places. We have a plan for the future—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey! Member for Flinders!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We are making sure that it is not growth just for growth's sake—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —and for the sake of people in South Australia, regardless of their skill level, we are making sure they have a place in the employment market, because all work provides dignity and we are making sure everyone's got it.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Chaffey is on three warnings, joined by the member for Colton. The member for Morialta is already on three warnings, and the member for West Torrens is warned.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Warned, member for West Torrens. The member for Florey is also on three warnings.

ASSAULTS ON POLICE

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:27): My question is to the Minister for Police. What is the minister doing in response to concerns about the number of assaults on police? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: At a parliamentary committee yesterday, the police commissioner admitted that police assault numbers were on the rise. Police statistics tell us that assaults on police officers were up 32 per cent when compared with the year before.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:27): I firstly note the member's question, and particularly some of the matters raised by the police commissioner yesterday. Can I say from the outset that I think that I can say this on behalf of every person in this place: an assault on a police officer, an assault on a frontline first responder, is disgusting. It is obnoxious. Often, when we contemplate public policy—as those of us on this side and those on the other side of the chamber have at various times—we look to various factors, we look to pull levers, we look to impact and effect change.

But if I am honest, this is one of those areas where, having spoken to the police commissioner, having spoken to senior police, having spoken to many frontline police and, in fact, having spoken to good mates of mine who are police, I can't wrestle with an easy outcome or an easy explanation here about why at any given time someone would see fit to spit on a member of our police or to assault in another way a member of our police. It is amongst the most outrageous things that we can see. It is no surprise to anyone in this chamber that I have a deep commitment to the notion and the philosophy that people should go to work, they should be safe at work, and they should come home safe from work.

What we simply will not excuse as lawmakers, as members of the government or as good, sound, reasonable-minded members of our community is to excuse under any circumstances one individual choosing to assault a member of our police. We have very, very strict laws when it comes to penalties attached to those who choose to assault frontline workers. I am also very pleased to be a part of a government that extended those additional penalties to ensure that retail workers were also treated in a similar way to never excuse that type of behaviour.

Mr Telfer: It's about assaults on police officers.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: The member interjects—I think an assault on any worker is disgusting and if there is an interjection—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: Whilst we have very strict laws—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: If you just give us a second and listen to the answer; this is a serious matter.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Flinders is warned!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: There are very serious penalties attached to assaulting a police officer. It is clear that an individual who chooses, either of their own free will, impacted by alcohol or other drugs, impacted by, at times, acute crises with mental health—in that outcome, if there is an assault of a police officer, they may not be deterred by these very strict laws that we have here in South Australia. It is my very strong expectation as minister that the courts will apply these laws in a prudent way to send a message to police and their families that police are not fair game when it comes to being at the hands of aggressive members of our community. But, fundamentally, I can't

get inside the head of a moron who chooses to spit on one of our hardworking police. It's obnoxious and we should never accept it.

POLICE RECRUITMENT

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:31): My question is to the Minister for Police. Have any overseas recruits applied to SAPOL, and, if so, how many have been accepted into the training program?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services) (14:31): I am very pleased to let the member know that there has been a very high number of people who have applied to be members of SAPOL; in fact, since the federal government approved our visa arrangements in late 2023, we have had over a hundred applications. We will, very soon, be able to start transitioning those applications into training.

Of course, it takes some time for overseas members, potential recruits, to move to Australia. The good news is that the training courses for international recruits—UK recruits, New Zealand recruits—are a much shorter course than the traditional nine months at the Police Academy for new South Australian or Australian recruits. That is because with international recruits we are targeting experienced police, police who have a wealth of experience, who know exactly what it takes to be a police officer.

Much to my genuine, probably, surprise at times has been the quick and overwhelming response that we have had through our pretty light touch in the early days, but now about to be escalated quite considerably, overseas recruitment. The reason that this is so important is that overseas recruits give us the ability as SAPOL—as it has and as it is with a number of other government agencies, including SA Health, where we as a government are committed to delivering extra staff—to provide support for the people on the frontline and to do it as quickly as possible.

The difference between us and those opposite is that we will actually fund the efforts to do that. We can't expect our police to just go out and continue to do the great work they do. We had a discussion before, which touched on what the Premier did around COVID, and the employment rate. But during the COVID years we asked so much of our police, but then coming out of COVID there was no plan to actually support them getting recruits through the door. We have had recruits who have applied to be police here in South Australia.

Mr Telfer: Is it a hundred coming or how many?

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Flinders, you have asked your question. The minister is on his feet. You are warned.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: I will probably have to try to forgive the member for this. You don't apply for a job and then be given that job the next day. There is a process.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: So we are—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: The member interjects and says how many—

The SPEAKER: You will not respond to interjections, minister.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: He hasn't listened for the last three minutes of my answer, where I indicated there have been over 100 applications. These are 100 applications from international recruits. We look forward to a very high number of those—I won't say all of those because the reality is that not every person who applies for a job, not everyone who applies to be a police officer, not everyone who applies for other professions will be ultimately successful.

The really good thing about our international recruitment efforts is that people who are applying for these roles know exactly what it takes to be a police officer. They've got experience doing that and what they are really keen to do and what they are really eager to do is to pick up that great profession and do it in this great place that we call home here in South Australia.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:35): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Has the minister received any feedback from current and former staff, donors, volunteers, scientists or members of the public in relation to the announced restructure of the South Australia Museum and, if so, how does she respond to that feedback?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:36): I thank the member for the question. There has been some correspondence coming through from various members of the public on the proposed restructure. It is currently an industrial process that is being undertaken at the moment between the Museum and its employees, so I won't comment on that process.

What we have seen, as I have mentioned previously, is an improved vision for the Museum here in South Australia, an improved vision for educating our youth, getting more engagement from the community, getting more visitors coming from interstate and overseas going into our Museum through a renewed focus on curatorial research. So that is happening as part of the strategic vision.

Yes, we have had feedback from a range of stakeholders. That has all been taken into account. There will be a public process starting in the next few weeks but, at the moment, there is an industrial process being undertaken and I won't comment further on that process.

SKILLED MIGRATION PROGRAM

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Industry. Will the minister reinstate the outer regional stream in the skilled migration program? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: The outer regional stream incentivised migrants to move to regional South Australia by offering permanent residency if they worked in a rural area for six months. Now, migrants are eligible for permanent residency after working anywhere in South Australia for six months. This is impacting on a number of migrants choosing to live in regional South Australia, including in my electorate of MacKillop.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:37): It is a very thoughtful question. In fact, I think it is an issue that came up when we had country cabinet in your area as well, and I do take it seriously. If we look at the way that the skilled migration scheme works, we applied for around—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: We applied for around 9,800 skilled migration visas for South Australia and we were only awarded 2,300 by the federal government. This is—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey, order!

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE: This is consistent with the way in which the federal government treated all states' requests for skilled visas and all were cut to a very low percentage, around the same percentage each. That is the federal government's prerogative, of course, but it does make it very difficult for us to be able to target skilled migration policies in order to supply the needs that we know need to be filled at least in the short term.

What they allowed for was 1,100 in the permanent skilled and 1,200 in the provisional skilled work program in regions. If you think about 9,800 down to 2,300, of which only 1,200 have been able to be allocated for the regions, that gives a sense of the very few places that we are dealing with.

The program that the member is talking about is one where, for short-term vacancies, a skilled migrant is able to apply to come to work in lower skill level vacancies—so not actually using

the skills that they have brought. They might be an engineer, but they come and work in a service station, for example. That was brought in by the previous government, but it was a good policy to bring in during COVID as a desperate attempt to try to build up enough migrants who are willing to work in the regions. The challenge, when you are dealing with such a small cap, is that to allocate a number to deliberately allow for people working below their skill level is probably not the right economic setting.

There are options available, nonetheless, for skilled migrants looking to work in the regions. Obviously, they can work anywhere for a vacancy over six months, but also there are the employer-based programs: the South Australian DAMA, which, again, was set up under the previous government and is working very well—and we are looking to explore ways in which we can adjust it slightly and continue—and also the commonwealth has an industry labour program. So there are still options for migrants to be able to be targeted by employers in the regions.

However, I recognise that there has been an impact. It may not be quite the impact that we think, given the driving down of the skill level that is being used, but it is something that remains on the list of possible options as we go back each year to the federal government to seek our overall cap. If at some point that cap lifts to an extent that we see that there will be utility in that, then we would not hesitate to reintroduce it.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:41): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Does the minister support the restructure of the Museum, including the removal of the 27 research science positions?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:41): I certainly support the vision of Dr David Gaimster and the board of the Museum with their new strategic vision. It will be a very positive step forward for the Museum to be able to engage more appropriately, telling our incredible southern Australian stories. To be able to do that and take the Museum forward I think is an exceptional vision for them to have. So, yes, I do support their vision. And I just note that currently the industrial process at the moment is to not remove 22 positions—

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: Twenty-seven.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: —sorry, 27 positions—it is to change 27 positions and have 22, so a net loss of five. That is what is being undertaken at the moment in terms of consultation. But the strategic vision for the Museum to be able to engage is to be able to have galleries that people are attracted to, to be able to tell our First Nations stories and to be able to tell our natural stories. We have the most incredible collection here in South Australia, the biggest collection of Aboriginal cultural items in the world. We need to be proud of that, we need to display that and we need to be able to teach our community all about our incredible South Australian stories, and this vision will allow that to happen.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morialta and then the member for Torrens, who has been waiting very patiently.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Arts. Can the minister advise whether the South Australian Museum will remain accessible and open to the public through the infrastructure changes to the galleries that she has just described? If not, for how long will it be closed?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:43): There is, as I said, a public engagement process yet to be undertaken on some of those details, but, yes, it will be open. As for any institution that might undertake work, there might be periods of closure, but there are absolutely no plans at the moment for any of that. We still have public consultation to come. What we do have,

as I said, are some incredible stories to tell, and I think we should tell them proudly, in the best possible way.

PUBLIC HOUSING

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (14:43): My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister update the house on the new public housing investment by the Malinauskas Labor government?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:44): Thank you to the local member for her keen interest. We are building a better housing future for South Australia, and this month the Housing Authority released the biggest tender package for new homes that we have seen in years. It's certainly bigger than anything seen under the previous government. This process will result in the construction of 167 new homes across metropolitan and regional South Australia, providing homes for those in need and supporting local industry.

Dependent on the bids from builders, which have now closed I understand, this will be between \$50 million and \$60 million worth of work, and our election commitment to prioritise local materials and labour means much of this will stay in South Australia, supporting our economy. The only reason we are in a position to go out to tender on such a large number of homes is because we have committed an extra \$232.7 million in this term of government to public housing. All of the additional funding was confirmed in our first budget and first Mid-Year Budget Review.

Before the election we committed extra funds to build 400 new homes and do many upgrades but, after coming to government, we have revised that, obviously, and, as I said before, we now have that additional \$232.7 million. But even with our commitment of extra funds we did face the prospect of public housing going backwards, and that further commitment will ensure that this does not happen. We are not committing just to build 400 new homes, but we are now expanding our public housing portfolio system by at least 400 homes.

To achieve this, we have had to stop the sale of 580 homes as well as actually increasing the building amount to 564. We will not go backwards, we are funding the replacement of worn-out homes, while adding more homes to the system. We have been joined in that commitment, as stated before in this place, by a federal Labor government providing \$135.8 million to social housing under the community housing and public housing banner, on top of that \$232.7 million.

At a time when many builders have been struggling, this kind of government investment helps to keep highly-skilled people in the industry and, through apprenticeships, build the workforce we are going to need for years and decades to come. The three things we need to boost are supply, supply, and supply, but targeted government investment means that we can also focus on the right kind of supply. This means housing for people who need it most because they are in no position to buy a home or even compete in a private rental market. This remains very tight. It also means that housing in regional areas, where we have seen towns and communities that were incredibly affordable previously are now also becoming places with limited availability and much higher prices.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our team at the SA Housing Authority on their success last night at the UDIA national awards. Our development team does a terrific job improving the amenity and the availability of homes across the neighbourhoods in our state. Yesterday they became the only South Australian winner of the top gong for diversity in development. I would also like to congratulate Sharyn Chadwick who is a senior project manager in Urban Renewal who was nominated for the Women in Leadership Award and just missed out to another highly qualified candidate from interstate. Our Housing Authority is in a good place, and I look forward to sharing many, many good pieces of news in the months and years to come.

HOMELESSNESS

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:48): I also have a question for the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister advise my community what can be done to assist people sleeping rough on Crown land in the Wallaroo Mines. With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: As the homelessness crisis worsens there are, unfortunately, people who have had to seek refuge on Crown land in the Wallaroo Mines. They are potentially suffering from addiction as well, and this has had an adverse impact on the community surrounding it, people like Carol Traeger, particularly recently as they have started lighting fires to help them cook, etc. These fires have also absorbed CFS resources who have been called to put them out, and so forth. What can be done to assist people sleeping rough?

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (14:48): I thank the local member very much for the question. We have done a significant piece of work with you, as well as the local member in regions where we have held country cabinets. This question is really important. Over a long time many people have associated sleeping rough and homelessness just with the suburbs and the inner city. In recent years, we have seen housing stress and homelessness also in regional areas that were once very affordable places to live, as I have just been speaking about.

A key part of addressing homelessness is providing public and community housing, which provides an affordable, safe and stable place to stay. We have very low vacancy rates in the regions and the officers provide a great service for people who do need that type of accommodation, who cannot compete in the open market and who often face a range of social, health and disability challenges.

With the investments I mentioned in the previous response—the \$177.5 million initially in the election commitment and then increasing that to \$232.7 million, and the Social Housing Accelerator money from the feds—we do have money to invest, and we made sure that that wasn't just for metropolitan Adelaide. We did make a commitment to build 150 regional homes as well, and I believe we will exceed that number.

Many regional homes have already been completed or tendered in the Upper Spencer Gulf region and the South-East, but within the recent tender which I have just been describing, there are actually 10 homes up for tender in the Yorke Peninsula region. The expectation is that that will provide for about \$3 million of investment in that area, with three in Moonta, four in Kadina and three in Wallaroo. A quick check that I have done on the asset system indicates that it took more than 10 years, we believe, to build that many previously, so to deliver that for the people of Narungga in a couple of years is really pleasing.

That tender, I believe, as I said, closed yesterday and I hope that there are many local builders in the region of Narungga, in the member's area, who are putting their hands up to participate in that building program. We expect construction will begin very soon on those successful tenders and the works should be completed in this coming financial year.

In relation to the specific rough sleepers, of course, those houses will take time to come online. Not being well versed with the actual people, obviously, and their stories, I can provide a general response and thank the member for reaching out in regard to this. As I said to the member about this issue only this morning, we have already secured a commitment from the Country North Homelessness Alliance to pay a personal visit with their outreach workers. They will work across a number of agencies to provide that service. We will provide feedback through the member's office as soon as that comes to light, and I will personally reach out as well to provide updates at whatever time they may come through—as long as it's not overnight. I am very happy to liaise with the member in regard to that.

Rough sleeping is a terrible thing. It is challenging. People can get themselves into spots of bother and danger, as the member has mentioned, around fires and safety, so the team will make sure that they reach out to emergency services to ensure that they understand what's going on also.

ADELAIDE BEACH MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:52): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. What consideration has the government given to the Adelaide Beach Management Review, and when will action be taken? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: In a document circulated by the City of Charles Sturt to members of the community, titled 'Coastal management: Adelaide Beach Management Review update', it says, and I quote, 'This was scheduled to go to cabinet in late 2023, but was pulled from the cabinet agenda by the government.'

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer) (14:53): This project and process is being managed by the Attorney-General in the other place, but I am happy to take the question in his stead because, as members would know, at the election we made a commitment, as the Labor Party, to review what would have been the catastrophically impactful plan of the previous Minister for Environment, the now Leader of the Opposition, to build a pipeline system from Semaphore down—

Mr Cowdrey: It's catastrophic on the southern beaches.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Cowdrey: I'm sure the member for Gibson wants hers shut down.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: The member for Colton interjects, of course, presumably because he supported so strongly the plan that was put forward by the now Leader of the Opposition when he was environment minister.

Mr Cowdrey interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I can speak with some authority about why this review is necessary by highlighting what some of the impacts would have been, for example to my electorate, the electorate of Lee, and in particular the impact along—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —and the impact that would have happened along not only the beachfront but also through the coastal dune system and also what would have happened to residences and also a new connection that was proposed to be established under the project. For example, at the very southern tip of West Lakes, effectively what the end of the rowing course is, as it abutts up to Trimmer Parade, the proposal would have seen a trench dug between the top of West Lakes, all the way to the coast, in order to have a new outfall pipe into the West Lakes system. It is certainly not part of the original West Lakes design and certainly not something that residents would have expected when they chose to invest in housing down there and locate their families down there. But that's not the only trench, of course, they wanted to build.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: They wanted to trench all the way down through the coastal dune system between Semaphore, all the way down to that part of Grange, in seemingly flagrant negligence of the environmental considerations of the local area, because in the middle of that local area is the last tertiary dune system—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: 'Wrong' they yell out. It's wrong that there's a tertiary dune system there?

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: He pretends to be a member for the western suburbs—pretends to be a member for the western suburbs. We undertook this review because we wanted a science-based approach about what would be in the best long-term interests of all of the coastal beaches—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —not what's just of benefit to one beach to the exclusion of others. We would take a science and a fact-based approach to what was—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Colton is on three warnings.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: —in the interests of the whole coastline. I sympathise with those residents and users of West Beach, which is why we have funded and engaged in the largest sand-carting regime in the interim period while we come up with a more appropriate, less impactful, science-based approach to managing sand along the metropolitan coastline.

I don't think any residents, whether they are in my electorate, whether they are in the member for Colton's electorate or whether they are in any other coastal electorate, deserve to have the proposition put forward, that the member for Colton fulsomely backs, which is digging massive impactful trenches, having loud pumping stations all the way up and down the coast—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I am not going to be lectured by the member for Hammond who, quite frankly, is not adjacent to the local area.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister's time has expired.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chaffey, order!

OUT-OF-SCHOOL-HOURS CARE

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister update the house on the rollout of pre-school out-of-school-hours care in South Australia?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:57): I thank the member for Newland for her question and for her invitation to come to the Fairview Park Kindergarten this morning where I was joined by the Premier and the Treasurer as well. We were welcomed there by Michelle, the Director of the Fairview Park Kindergarten and a parent of a child there, Sarah, as well.

For those not familiar with this kindergarten, it is hard to imagine a more picturesque site. It is beautiful. It is very popular with the community. It was wonderful in such lovely weather to be there making a really positive announcement with the four year olds who were there enjoying their fantastic centre. It was very opportune today, given that we were joined by the Treasurer and given the amazing announcement about the 3.2 per cent unemployment rate today, and the two things are not dissimilar in many ways and are tied together.

This is delivering on a recommendation from the royal commission delivered and handed down by Julia Gillard to conduct a trial into what we are calling Kindy Care. Kindy Care is essentially out-of-school-hours care but for pre-schools, which we know has been a big gap in the system. We know that we have been slow right across Australia, and South Australia has not been immune from this, but slow to adapt and change the structure of our school day to make sure that it is actually fit for purpose for the 21st century where we have 100 per cent of parents in the household working, whether it's a two-parent or one-parent household, parents who are much more time poor than they have been in the past, who find it very difficult to be dropping off kids to school or pre-school at 9 o'clock in the morning when the bell goes and picking them up at 3 o'clock in the afternoon when the bell rings for the last time.

This trial will start in July across 20 sites, and I am pleased to inform some of the members opposite that there will be a number of trial sites in their seats as well. In fact, I was just doing a little

bit of a list myself before. We have a very even balance, I think, in terms of the 20 trial sites that we have conducted across the state. In terms of held seats, there will be trials in nine Labor seats, nine Liberal seats and two Independent seats as well, which I think is important. Of course, we are making sure—three in the seat of Chaffey. In fact, I think the seat that has the greatest representation here first is Chaffey with three, Morialta with two and Black getting one as well, and I support that. I think that is a very important thing.

As someone who grew up in a regional area, too, and knows a little bit about sometimes the battle to get these kinds of services and childcare arrangements in these areas, I am pleased that we are prioritising a number of regional sites as well. As I said, the trial will start in July. It will run for a year. We will then have a look at it and evaluate it to see how it works because as Michelle, the director at the Fairview Park kindy said today, they are surveying their parents, they will be talking to their parents, to see what works best for them in terms of the time of the morning that kindy care might start and what time it might end.

We had a very positive development in the last 24 hours to do with this announcement. We had the federal government and the federal education minister Jason Clare come onboard to make sure that the childcare subsidy, which was not previously able to be claimed by parents for this, will now be able to be claimed by parents. That will make sure that it is not only accessible, that it is not only convenient for parents in terms of getting that care before the school day or preschool day starts and after, but it's going to make it really affordable too, which we know is important in the context of the cost of living.

I must say that with my skills and training hat on, we know that the workforce challenges ahead of us in terms of some of the great projects that we have before us as a state are going to necessitate that we have all hands on deck, and making sure that those who are seeking longer hours or getting back into the workforce can get the childcare arrangements that they need.

STRZELECKI TRACK

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:02): My question is to the Minister for Regional Roads. Is the minister taking action to deliver the Strzelecki Track upgrade and sealing project as quickly as possible? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PEDERICK: DIT have claimed that there have been 94 days lost due to weather events over the duration of the project. However, that leaves more than a thousand days where work could have been done since the project commenced.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart—Minister for Local Government, Minister for Regional Roads, Minister for Veterans Affairs) (15:02): I could give you the short answer—yes.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! No, no, no. Minister, be seated. Member for Hammond, no. Persistent interjections: you are out under 137A.

Mr PEDERICK: I'm out.

The SPEAKER: You are—three minutes.

The honourable member for Hammond having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: Minister.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I have got the shovel and I will help with the member for Hammond. As we are all aware, there has been probably 41 per cent of road already sealed on the Strzelecki Track. However, there is no doubt of where ex-tropical cyclone Kirrily has dumped significant rainfall across the Cooper Basin on 4 and 5 February this year. Members only have to look at the media and all the water that's coming down. There has been lots—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister, you do have the call but there are persistent interjections. We are in the dusk of question time. The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I can certainly control certain things but not the rain. Whilst the rain is going to be very good for the pastoralists up there, it has done a lot of damage to the unsealed road sections. So members are aware, there has been nearly 100 millimetres of rain falling at Moomba and 150 millimetres at Innamincka Station. Therefore, it has impacted—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, we are so close. Minister, you have the call.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: Can I give the member for Hammond a little bit of education. The amount of rain coming down saturates into the ground, and then when there is another 150 millimetres of rain on top of that it has nowhere to go. Members here only have to see the amount of rain that has happened up in those areas coming down, and it has impacted the works there.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Flinders, order! Member for West Torrens, order! Member for Chaffey, order! Minister, you have the call.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: I am certainly not Keith Martyn from the TV station. Everybody is helping trying to get the Strzelecki Track repaired where it has been damaged by the rain, as with other outback roads. We are doing a lot of work up there, in conjunction with the federal government and also with state government contributions, to repair certain damaged roads. I can give a guarantee to this house that people up there are very understanding. While it is frustrating, they understand that all this rain is having an impact.

The member for Hammond must realise that if there is any moisture under the ground you cannot do any sealing whatsoever. We will get that repaired as soon as we can. I will certainly give the undertaking to the member for Hammond, as I always have, that if he has any questions or any issues, I am always available to give a briefing to anyone on the other side—

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Chaffey!

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: —about anything they want to have a look at. I will pray tonight for sun up there to dry the area quicker.

Grievance Debate

HARTLEY ELECTORATE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley) (15:07): I rise today to talk about two issues in my electorate in Paradise. The first issue, of course, was from last Saturday, where residents were unfortunately awoken by a very severe burst water main in their street at Hamilton Terrace at Paradise. It was absolutely awful stuff. Unfortunately, they have suffered dearly from this burst. Several residents have actually had to move out of their homes. What is devastating in fact is that this is probably the fourth burst, one resident was telling me, that has occurred in some 15 years. Residents have had to move out. There is water damage right throughout the houses. It is absolutely devastating stuff. People have been literally forced to move out, which is very sad for them.

I have since written to the Minister for Water. What I am encouraging the government to sincerely investigate, and I am hoping they do take this on board, is to actually replace the burst water main infrastructure. People are over the bandaid solutions that have occurred along that street. What we now need is a proper, permanent, long-term solution—that is, to continue to significantly upgrade, replace in totality the burst water main and associated parts along that street. People of Hamilton Terrace have just suffered for way too long.

It was devastating to go out in the heat and just smell that stench—that stench that you cannot forget. These people unfortunately now have been inconvenienced. They are out of pocket. We know that insurance covers a little bit, but it never covers the whole lot. As members of parliament, we are sent into this place to do a job, and I am sincerely advocating for my residents along Hamilton Terrace, and I am hoping that the Minister for Water and her team take that on board and do manage to get that infrastructure replaced.

Secondly, I want to talk about another part of Paradise, which is Gorge Road, Paradise. We know that Gorge Road is a road that traverses many electorates in this place. Recently, what we saw, as reported by *The Advertiser*, was a severe incident at Gorge Road only last week. We saw that several trees were in fact collected. But before that, only last year in fact, we know that Gorge Road was subject to several serious crashes. In one particular case we saw a car go over to the wrong side of Gorge Road in Paradise and actually collect several houses. I have several residents who continue to live with fear, who continue to live with trauma and are quite traumatised by that incident.

After that series of incidents, we arranged a meeting with representatives of DIT on site. We met with the residents about what solutions could be worked through. I have written to the government, suggesting things like safety bollards, permanent barriers, crash barriers. They have come to the table with some what I would call temporary measures like yellow strips in the middle of the road. Council is coming to the party and replacing some of the trees with some mature trees. While that is a good start, we are still seeing these serious crashes continue to occur.

What we actually need is a more permanent solution. We need road safety barriers, we need crash barriers, we need more education along that stretch. Personally, I think we should also investigate the plausibility of speed monitoring there—do we need a speed camera more often or, in fact, do we need a fixed camera? Should the council and the government also look at speed reduction in parts of this road?

This is a very wide road; it is a road that has quite a decline, especially if you are coming from the Athelstone part of the world down to Paradise. Residents should not continue to be traumatised, to live in fear with the possibility that a car could end up in their front yard. It is just not good enough. That is why I am imploring the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and also the Minister for Police, to work together and ensure that there is a more permanent solution to this part of Gorge Road at Paradise.

We do not want to see someone killed on this stretch and, as I have said, we have seen far too many incidents on this road already. It cannot continue the way it is going, and that is why the government needs to come to the party. If the minister has not received the correspondence already, he will be receiving it very shortly. I encourage the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and the Minister for Police to come to the party and deliver a more permanent safety solution at Gorge Road in Paradise.

I note that local resident Kosta and some of his friends are working hard to petition the state government for a solution. I believe the petition has already garnered over 150 signatures in the space of a week, and I will continue to keep the house abreast of any updates.

WRAY, MR D.

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (15:12): I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to former Naracoorte resident, founder of MiniJumbuk, visionary and devoted advocate for Limestone Coast, Mr Don Wray. Don passed away at 72 on 25 October 2023. I also acknowledge Don's wife, Denise; Darren Turner, the Managing Director of MiniJumbuk; Brett Woods, the CEO; and John Finnis, board member, who are all here in the chamber today.

Don was remembered at a memorial service in the Naracoorte Town Hall late last year. Hundreds attended to celebrate the life of not only a father, devoted husband, friend to many and hard worker but a generous visionary and true entrepreneur. Don established MiniJumbuk, a manufacturing and retail business that is committed to regional South Australia and enjoys national and international success.

Born on 27 October 1950, Don left school at 16 to become a shearer. As well as being a gun shearer, he earned a reputation for being a great bloke with a keen sense of humour and a cheeky smile. The early mornings and long days in various sheds enabled him to develop a passion for wool and its quality as a fibre, but in the 1970s, and while aged only in his 20s, Don suffered a severe back injury at work and spent a month in hospital. The news from his doctors was serious: he would end up in a wheelchair before turning 40 if he did not make a career change.

At the time, Naracoorte's Isobel Miles had established MiniJumbuk. She would use wool to make mini sheep for tourists. These were to be sold at the town's visitor information centre, as it had no locally made products. Later, they were to become prized purchases available at royal shows. Don took up her offer to buy a share in the company and soon after bought the entire business for \$35,000.

Don surrounded himself with a team that developed ideas into reality, and many of that team still work with MiniJumbuk today. He applied his understanding of the cooling and warming properties of wool to experiment, and subsequently design, the world's first commercially sold woollen quilt. This was initially under licence for Onkaparinga wool and later under the MiniJumbuk brand.

This little company that had been making and selling woollen mini sheep and underblankets was on its way to a meteoric rise. With a lot of hard work, passion and many sleepless nights, year by year the company grew into today's international success story. Some innovative marketing, including training five rams to walk a modelling catwalk, and taking sheep into shopping centres, brought a little bit of country to the city.

By the 1980s, a national sales network was well established. In the early 1990s, the company managed to work through some turbulent times and potential insolvency. Despite these tough times, it continued to grow and move forward. In 2019, an online partnership was established with Myer, resulting in MiniJumbuk packing and shipping over 20,000 orders per year. During COVID, when others were struggling to secure products from overseas, MiniJumbuk was able to capitalise, reaffirming the importance and value of locally manufacturing using local materials.

MiniJumbuk now has around 50 staff and is celebrating 40 years of business. It is still the same management team and board it started with in 1976. The company has purchased two new quilting machines and makes around 3,000 quilted products per week, plus pillows. This manufacturing is still occurring in Naracoorte, a testament to Don's commitment to regional South Australia. The MiniJumbuk group of companies is now the biggest single user of Australian wool, and has a turnover of around \$30 million. This is a true success story.

Don was renowned for his kindness and support, and was forever advocating for the South-East. He sponsored and donated goods to many groups, clubs and committees within our community. One of Don's most generous legacies was MiniJumbuk's participation in the Dollars 4 Doonas campaign. This was born out of the tragedy of Victoria's 2009 Black Saturday fires, where countless families lost homes and livelihoods.

MiniJumbuk, through the Dollars 4 Doonas project, helped raise in excess of \$30,000 and was able to donate over 600 quilts and a thousand pillows to fire-ravaged communities. When South Australia suffered losses in fires that burnt through the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and closer to home, here in Keilara, MiniJumbuk again answered the call. The company donated up to a thousand quilts and 2,000 pillows to support victims of these fires, providing quality wool bedding packages to individuals and families who had lost their homes. That was Don's way. He never hesitated to help where he could.

Don enjoyed horseracing and was recently honoured for his outstanding contribution to the industry. At this year's Naracoorte Cup, the Naracoorte Racing Club named its committee room after him. As a long-term friend, Darren Turner said:

Don was loyal and generous, he was also a mate, visionary, and pillar of strength for colleagues, customers, and suppliers.

Don is survived by his wife Denise, stepdaughter Amber and children Andrew and Emily. His unmatched kindness has left an enduring impression on all who encountered him. Don will be sadly missed, but his legacy lives on. Vale Don Wray.

MORPHETT ELECTORATE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:17): I take this opportunity in parliament to speak about the beautiful stretch of beach along Glenelg North, the nearby Patawalonga, and in particular the wonderful Glenelg North community. Both the beach and the lake play a significant role in many people's active lifestyles, either walking, running, or jogging, as well as just taking time to enjoy the scenic views along the Patawalonga.

The Patawalonga Lake is at the end of the Sturt Creek, which starts off in the Hills and eventually makes its way through to Glenelg. The water is litter free where the Sturt Creek starts, but as you start going through housing, all along the way to Glenelg, more and more litter and waste appears in the creek that has been washed into it by stormwater drains.

Where the Sturt Creek ends at the northern end of the Pat, there is a floating barrier which tries to capture as much of this waste, and a lot of that is plastic. The Leader of the Opposition, when he was the environment minister in the former Liberal government, was part of the first government in Australia to ban single-use plastics, to stop plastic entering the waste streams in the first place.

However, when there are big rains, unfortunately some of the waste does find its way into the Pat and then eventually into the ocean where it can wash up on the beaches in Glenelg, Glenelg South and also Glenelg North. Of course, my family and I also live near the beach in Glenelg South and we volunteer at the Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club, so we understand the importance of protecting our pristine coastline and keeping our beaches beautiful.

Since being elected in 2018, I have held annual Clean Up Australia Day events at the beach in Somerton Park, Glenelg South and also Glenelg. This year, on a beautiful, sunny day on Sunday 3 March, I held a Clean Up Australia Day event at Glenelg North. Thank you to my team of Simone, Hugh and Rubie, who helped me set up a marquee at Tarniwarra Reserve on the foreshore at Glenelg North where community members could come along and collect a rubbish bag and some gloves and then go off and clean up any litter they could find.

Most of the volunteers who came along with locals knew about the clean-up event, but with the coast park going past the marquee it was fantastic to find a number of people from outside Glenelg North going for a walk and being inspired to take a bag with them and clean up. Additionally, it was fantastic to have such a large number of Young Liberals come out, and being so energetic they were able to cover so much of the local area.

The clean-up volunteers went off in all directions. Some went along the beach all the way up to the walkway to West Beach, combing both the shoreline and also the rock wall, where a lot of the litter gets washed into. Others took the higher ground and went along the coast park that runs along the esplanade. A number walked across to the banks of the Pat and cleaned up on the banks and also in the grass areas that line the Pat.

I spread my effort first at Tarniwarra Reserve, then along a stretch of the beach before heading along King Street to meet up with the volunteers cleaning up at the Pat. While at first glance these areas looked clean, it was surprising how many small pieces of litter were lying around. Some of it was a bit more obvious. Along King Street I picked up someone's leftovers from a Maccas run the night before that unbelievably had just been dropped on the ground—the paper bag, serviettes, and even the receipt.

Along the Pat there was a distinct line in the grass of predominantly small plastics that had been deposited at the high water line of a past storm. Overall, we were able to pick up about 10 bags of rubbish, leaving both the Glenelg North beach and the Patawalonga cleaner than when we started. The volunteers included Susan and Peter Ali, Marianne and Robert Harding, Graeme and Tania Poole, Janet Hillgrove, Laura and Richard Stranger and Irina Glass. I give a special mention to

Brooke Birkby and her fantastic children Olive, Darcy and Mabel—and of course all the Young Liberals who came out in force.

Thank you to everyone who came along to clean up Glenelg North on Clean Up Australia Day and for making a difference locally by taking practical action for our community.

WAITE ELECTORATE

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:22): It has been two years since I was given the honour of becoming the member for Waite. It has been an incredible experience engaging with our local community, meeting so many wonderful people who do so much. With the most diverse and incredibly active community groups, sporting groups and individuals who work hard to create opportunities for so many, I have enjoyed working with them and for them.

I can say that all of my election commitments have been pretty much delivered. We were very happy to support the Blackwood Recreation Centre in establishing a master plan for future expansion. Our rec centre supports so many in our community. Thousands use it every single day, or every week I should say—it would be huge otherwise—for gymnastics, trampolining, group fitness, basketball, netball, taekwondo and everything in between. I was really happy to be able to help them with this.

The Bellevue Heights Oval has undergone partial regeneration and development, including new car parking and landscaping, and we await council's commitment to fix the drainage so that the oval can go from being a bog in winter as well as a dried, cracked paddock to a decent oval for our sports teams to play on.

I was very happy to support the local Upper Sturt CFS. Before the election, I wrote to the then Minister for Transport to ask for some flashing emergency lights for when cars come flying around the corner and our trucks are trying to exit. Sadly, I never received a response to that but I, too, was able to commit to being able to do it if I was elected and, sure enough, I was and we installed the lights within the very first year. They work so effectively that the cars slow down and they keep our volunteers and our motorists safe.

In terms of other things we have been doing since then within the community, we have our beautiful Anzac fence line at Glenalta train station, which is over 80 metres long and, through the artwork of Adam Poole-Mottishaw, it depicts the Anzac story which is so important to my community. It was home to a lot of returned servicemen after the war.

Across the road at the train station, we have just finished painting the train station's shelter, and I thank Nicky Create for her work of native birds and flowers. It looks incredible. You can see it from the street. Everybody drives past and it is just stunning.

At the Belair train station, late last year, we unveiled a mural that absolutely paid respect to and acknowledged the work of the Friends of Belair Train Station. It is a beautiful mural of all the volunteers, and it is so sweet to see them continuously turning up every single Friday morning, from 6am, to do the work around the station. For a really long time, they have been asking for the heritage shelter to be refurbished. It is an incredible shelter, built back in the late 1800s when the Belair train line was first opened, and it has been sitting there withering away. I was really pleased to be able to work with Keolis Downer to deliver restoration. That work has started, and I cannot wait to see it when it is finished.

The residents of Parham Road have for years asked for easy access onto Shepherds Hill Road, and we were really pleased to easily paint 'Keep Clear' there. They are so happy with the outcome: they can get in and out safely. I cannot quite understand why that had not happened already, but I am glad to have been able to help them.

Our poor friends at Blackwood Forest started work to fix up the manager's cottage. They had replaced all the floorboards and the architraves, and sadly a team of termites moved in and undermined their work. It was really lovely to work with the Deputy Premier to be able to help them get that floor replaced and fixed so that they could finish that refurbishment. It is looking wonderful.

Early last year, at Hawthorndene Primary School, Mr Mac's year 5 and year 6 class contacted me. They wanted to bring in some bus shelters near the school. We worked together, and they

created the artwork. Then, with the help of Adam Poole-Mottishaw, a local street artist, we delivered them two bus shelters that have their own artwork, with a plaque that says that they delivered that for their community. It was lovely to be able to help them and teach them a little bit about advocating for something that they want.

Main Road in Coromandel has been resurfaced, and it is so much more of a pleasure to drive on. We have also started work on the Main Road section between Black Road and Cherry Gardens, which is windy and very narrow. It is great to finally get some work done there. The school crossing in Coromandel Valley has been upgraded and more work will be happening there soon. Belair Primary School's major refurbishment was nearing completion, but they did not quite have enough money, and I was glad that the education minister assisted when he did. Further work is set to start on Monalta Drive soon, which will see a safer crossing.

We have helped the Jean Bonython and Coromandel Valley kindergartens with earthworks they required. We established parkrun, which has had 2,083 finishes, and the community absolutely loves it. We established the Mitcham wellness education sessions, and so many of our community members come to that. I work hard to bring our community together every single day, and I cannot wait for the next two years.

AMY GILLETT BIKEWAY

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:27): I rise to speak about some really exciting news for my local community. It is some fantastic news that is going to benefit people right across the Adelaide Hills—including in your own electorate, sir—and indeed people right across South Australia. It is that the funding for stage 4 of the Amy Gillett Bikeway has finally been given the tick of approval. It is something that the local community has been working on together for many years. It is fantastic to see that all spheres of government have now come together in what I think is a really positive project, as I said, not just for local people but for cycling enthusiasts and for people who love the great outdoors. It is a fantastic result.

I have spoken about this bike path on a number of occasions in the house, and I would like to reflect on Amy Gillett. As we know, Amy Gillett was a member of the Australian women's cycling team until she tragically died when she was hit by a car while she was training with the cycling team in Germany in 2005. On the back of this tragedy, her family and those who were closest to her advocated very strongly to be able to have this bike path built in her name. I think it has been a really great project. It is something that her parents, Mary and Denis Safe, have been working really hard on behind the scenes.

The bike path runs 17 kilometres through the Adelaide Hills. It runs from north to south from Oakbank to Mount Torrens, and that is where it currently stops. But, as a result of the funding that has now been secured through the three spheres of government, it will now be extended to Birdwood, which is also in my electorate. Since becoming the local member and, frankly, even before that, I had been doing a lot of doorknocking, hosting community forums, meeting with the council, and raising it with the previous minister and the current minister. Something that I certainly had very clearly from the local community is that they just wanted everyone to be able to work together in a positive way to get this done, and that is something that has now been given the big tick of approval.

I was perplexed last year because this project very nearly did not go ahead, I would say, because I remember one day opening up *The Courier* newspaper and I saw that there was a new cost estimate to get it from Mount Torrens to Birdwood—six kilometres—and it was costed at \$11.7 million dollars. What an absolute joke. Thankfully, the department and the minister did a bit of a re-scope. They had a look at what else could be done, and that cost has come down significantly. I had a bit of a joke with one of the Adelaide Hills councillors, councillor Malcolm Herman. I said to him, 'Malcolm, maybe you and I could get out there and roll the bitumen ourselves'—and we would do it for free.

Of course, it did not come to that, and now we have all of the funding needed. The funding is now locked in to deliver this for the local community. The next stage, and I do not want to get too far ahead of ourselves given that the bitumen has not yet been rolled for stage 4, but the ultimate goal is to be able to get this project to Mount Pleasant, also in my electorate. Again, I think that would

impact and benefit not just those people in my own local community but people from right across the Adelaide Hills and also across South Australia.

I am fortunate in being able to hold a community stall at the Mount Torrens market, and I would like to thank everyone who came up and signed our petition just to keep informed about what was happening with this project, and I am very delighted to be able to share the news with them that this has now been delivered.

In the short time I have left I want to acknowledge the three country shows that have been held in my electorate. We have had the Angaston Show, the Tanunda Show, and we have also had the Mount Pleasant Show. I would like to give a huge shout out to all the volunteers who work so hard over an extended period of time to be able to bring these shows together. There is so much hard work but they really do speak to the essence of what makes country communities great, and I am very much looking forward to the shows that are coming up next year, and I encourage everyone else to get involved, too.

ADELAIDE FESTIVAL SEASON

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:32): After a very busy month we emerge from a cloud of glitter, sunshine and sequins after what has been an absolutely stellar festival season in Adelaide. I want to start with the Adelaide Festival. It has absolutely smashed attendance records, with a total audience of 478,890. That includes both Writers' Week and WOMAD. There were more than 63,700 tickets sold, with interstate visitors making up about 30 per cent of those ticket sales. It was just incredible. It is why we are so proud to have committed an extra \$2.3 million to the Adelaide Festival, and it is certainly paying dividends.

There were a couple of events I was able to attend, one being Stravinsky's *The Nightingale and Other Fables* opera directed by Robert Lepage at the Adelaide Festival Centre. It was absolutely spellbinding. I have never actually seen an orchestra pit turned into a swimming pool, but that is exactly what happened with this magical opera, with puppeteers and the most incredible singers and also shadow puppeteers, which was absolutely beautiful. Congratulations to Robert and his team.

I was also able to attend the world premiere of *Baleen Moondjan* from the creative visionary of Stephen Page. It was set on the foreshore at Glenelg and was just simply incredible, so very moving and powerful. It was an absolute testament to the artistic director, Ruth, for bringing such an incredible production to Adelaide, and a big thanks and congratulations to Stephen Page for his world premiere of that story.

I would like to congratulate our arts minister, the Hon. Andrea Michaels; as I mentioned before, the Festival's Artistic Director, Ruth Mackenzie CBE; the Chief Executive of the Adelaide Festival, Kath Mainland CBE; and the Chair, Tracey Whiting: four incredible women who have delivered an absolutely magnificent Adelaide Festival. It does Adelaide so incredibly proud and really puts us on the map.

This leads me to our wonderful Fringe Festival and its Director and CEO, Heather Croall AM, also led by its Chair, Kate Costello, and the board. They have once again made the incredible achievement of surpassing one million ticket sales. We made that feat last year and we have repeated it, and it is no surprise. We all enjoy heading out to the Fringe, not just in the East End and at the Garden of Unearthly Delights but at Gluttony, in the West End and all across our state. My two children, Audrey and Ned, were able to enjoy Fringe activities in my home town of Naracoorte in the Naracoorte Town Square. The Fringe is really about bringing the arts to everybody in our community, from our regions to our metropolitan areas.

One example of the Fringe effect was that in the first three weekends of the Fringe, we had more than four million visits to the CBD, with data from the Adelaide Economic Development Agency seeing a 30 per cent increase in foot traffic compared to the same time last year. On the second weekend, we saw a 47 per cent increase in foot traffic in the West End and the Hindley Street precinct compared to the same weekend in the previous year, and a 31 per cent increase in foot traffic in the East End on that second weekend compared to the same time last year. It is bringing so many visitors to our city, which is absolutely incredible.

'But wait, there's more!' It does not end there. We are now finishing up Mad March but we then head into Awesome April, when we have the Gather Round. Being a country girl, I absolutely love my footy and I cannot wait to see the Crows and the Demons go head-to-head on the Thursday night. My best friend is coming up from Lucindale. She is a mad keen Demons supporter and I am a Crows supporter; hopefully we are still best friends by the end of the match. After the Gather Round, we have the Adelaide Equestrian Festival heading to town, which is going to be an incredible precursor to the Paris Olympics. We also have LIV Golf.

It does not end there. We then head into Magical May. I hope everybody has some energy left for Tasting Australia and also the Matildas, which is already sold out. So there are some very exciting events happening in my community and I cannot wait for them.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing) (15:37): I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 11am.

Motion carried.

Bills

DISABILITY INCLUSION (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:37): I rise to speak to the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023. I want to provide some insight into how this bill came to this house. The Disability Inclusion Act is intended to promote the recognition of essential human rights in South Australia, in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and interacts with national strategies such as Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 and other schemes such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme, which we all know as the NDIS, managed by the federal government. This requires the creation of the State Disability Inclusion Plan, known as Inclusive SA.

The minister introduced the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2023 after there was an independent review undertaken by Mr Richard Dennis in mid 2022. The report was tabled in September 2022. The bill seeks to make changes to the Disability Inclusion Act 2018. As I said, the bill has been introduced after the review.

In regard to the review, there was an independent review done under section 32 of the 2018 act that determines a review be undertaken before the fourth anniversary of the act's commencement. It involved significant public consultation. The review made 51 recommendations for the act, such as adding new paragraphs to expressly state that people with disability, regardless of age, have a right to be safe and to feel safe through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services and support.

These include a definition of 'barrier' in the context of access and inclusion for people living with disability, clarifying the principles of the act as they relate to people with significant intellectual disability or high levels of vulnerability due to disability, enacting provisions currently appearing in the regulations as provisions in the act, and adjusting reporting requirements and time frames for Inclusive SA and state authority disability access and inclusion plans.

Specifically, the bill proposes to enact provisions currently appearing in the Disability Inclusion Regulations 2019 as provisions in the act and include a definition of a barrier in the act, given the significance of the concept of barriers in the definition of disability and within the wider issue of achieving greater inclusion.

It will include new paragraphs within the act to provide expressly that people with disability, regardless of age, have a right to be safe and to feel safe through the provision of appropriate safeguards, information, services and support. It will also amend sections within the act to enhance clarity and/or definitions of the principles as they relate to people with significant intellectual disability or who have high levels of vulnerability due to their disability.

It will also amend sections within the act relating to the reporting requirements and time frames for the state plan and the state authority disability access and inclusion plan, as well as dealing with the specific functions of the chief executive of the Department of Human Services. It will certainly require consultation with people with lived experience and authorise the formation of groups to facilitate consultation.

Minister Cook stated that 30 recommendations are not legislative and thus outside the scope of this bill. This bill deals with some 14 of the 20 legislative recommendations. The minister has indicated that she may return with another bill to address those not covered in this bill and also to address recommendations from the major NDIS federal review that is expected later this year.

In regard to consultation, Purple Orange has provided a list of seven amendments that they recommend. I note that other parties are looking at moving other amendments. As a group, on this side of the house, we will continue to consult with relevant parties and relevant groups to see what other improvements may be sought along the way.

Working with people with disability or, as some people prefer to say, levels of ability can be challenging, and I just want to take my hat off to some of the groups that operate in the Murraylands and through the Strathalbyn area through my electorate. We have Novita, Genuine Support Services, Equality Life Disability Support Service, Next Steps Murraylands and Community Living Australia. CLASS was an organisation I first met up with operating out of Strathalbyn—Community Living and Support Services—and they were based out of Strathalbyn. I certainly got to interact with that group in my first period of election from 2006 to 2010.

Things have come a long way since then. Certainly, as a member of parliament, as I am sure every member in this place would know, we have plenty of inquiries regarding disability and what services people can obtain, and we make sure that the best can be done for the constituent who requires those services. The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme—and this is worth a lot of money across the federal sphere—certainly assisted in a lot of ways to get that assistance on the ground where it is needed.

I thought with the introduction of this scheme we would have fewer inquiries coming to our office; and we work with the federal member for Barker, Tony Pasin, on these issues as well. Rightly so, people come to us to see if they can meet the criteria around national disability support, and that's fair enough. The issue you have as a local member is that people might only just fall outside of the criteria on whatever level that is to access support. I get it that you have to have boundaries in place, but sometimes it can be quite heartbreaking for people who, for whatever reason, do not match the criteria.

Apart from those excellent groups that I read into the *Hansard* a minute ago—some of the major groups who work with disability in my electorate and in other areas—there are a lot of single operators or small companies. I certainly know of one young man who was working in the pool industry here in Adelaide. He had a real idea and I commented he is the type of guy—a caring young bloke—to work in this sector. He like a lot of others has set up his own Australian Business Number, so they can do what they can to assist people.

Apart from some of the basic needs of looking after people—making sure that they can eat properly, live properly and dress appropriately—there are other things that people get to do under this scheme: that is, they get to travel to places. They would not otherwise have that opportunity. If people who are not under the scheme can do it and it matches the criteria, why not? Some have been able to go on various trips around the state. I know people who had an interest in having a look at a field day, they wanted to look at tractors—and good on them. That was facilitated under the scheme. I suppose what I am saying is that it expands beyond the basic needs of humanity, and that is what people need so that they can open up and express themselves. I think it also offers a great

opportunity for the carers to interact with people who are eligible for this funding, and I think it is a lot of learning for both parties in the mix.

It also comes with challenges at times. As a local member—and you cannot blame people for having issues that impact on people—I remember, a few years ago now, there was a share house in my electorate. I think there were four people in it most times. Evidently, one person—and they could not help it; it was just the state of their disability—was causing upset to the neighbours and that sort of thing.

We were in opposition at the time, as we seemingly too many times are. To the credit of the minister at the time, I worked with the minister of the day, and we managed to find a more appropriate outcome for that person to live in another property which suited them better, and it certainly helped everyone else as well. You have to make sure that the person who is suffering has support. They do not understand necessarily what is going on around them, and that is not their fault. They are suffering and they need support, and I commend everyone in the mix who can give these supports, because it is vitally needed. Everyone has the right to have that level of humanity, to live their lives and to get the support that is required.

I can remember when CLASS was in place in Strathalbyn, going to their sports day events and things like that and watching people do those extra things, which they may not have been able to do if they were not in that supervised environment. It enhances what they can contribute to society as well. I think we have come a long way over the decades, as we should have, in how we manage disability. A long time ago, people would say, 'Just send them away and put these people in a sheltered workshop and walk away.' Thankfully, we have moved a long, long way forward from that, and we put more supports in place so that people can have a decent life and get on with it.

We will always work with people in our community and point them in the right direction for the supports they need. If there are any challenges around that, if we have to act for someone or someone's caregiver to try to them a better deal if they think that is appropriate—and we have certainly done this—we will ask those questions and hopefully get a positive result so that those people can get the support that they need.

As I said, there are many, many hundreds of people who work in the sector, probably thousands. I take my hat off to them. It can range from a whole lot of different styles of care. It could be looking after people during the day, just making sure that those basic needs are catered for so that they are fed and clothed appropriately, but also that they do get that opportunity to do the excursions and do things that not many years ago would never have been provided under any sort of scheme that was operating at the time.

It is a credit to the people who get involved. Certainly, as I said, there is a whole range of different levels of care, from daytime care to where you have places like the share houses where a carer will stay overnight and sleep in the same property as the people who look after them. That gives people independence as well, and obviously there is a carer needed on site to make sure everything moves along appropriately. In most cases that seems to work pretty well.

That is not to say it is not a challenging sector, but I must say that over time, especially with things like the National Disability Insurance Scheme and other schemes across the ages, we have become a lot better at doing what we can for our fellow man and woman in society, and I think that is just appropriate.

Supports have been given in education facilities to make sure that kids coming through school can get the appropriate mentoring—that could be through a student services officer or education support officer, depending on whether you are in a private or a public school. Yes, it does cost money—and in either the private sector or in the public sector it costs taxpayers money—but it does help these people to get the best value out of their lives and to be able to make a contribution through life as they go along.

I think this bill is certainly a step in the right direction, and I think over time we will see more supports going into place. As I said, it does cost a lot of money—it will be many, many millions of dollars across not just the state but the country—but, as I said, you have to have that empathy for your fellow man and woman and give them those opportunities. I do take my hat off to people involved

in the sector, who are caring for these people with the appropriate care to make sure that they can live their lives to the fullest. I commend the bill.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services) (15:56): I am really pleased that we have been able to have such a respectful and constructive debate on this important bill, and I look forward to this continuing in committee and in the other place. I am also really pleased that we have had a good mix of people from different parts of South Australia contributing to the important debate. However, despite this place having an increased level of diversity, we are still debating a bill about disability with a very limited amount of lived experience in the room. I hope that in years to come we will see more people with disability elected in South Australia.

In saying that, I deeply appreciate the contributions from all speakers, including the members for Reynell, Newland, Wright, Flinders, Davenport, Adelaide, Waite, Playford, Ramsay, Torrens, Morialta, Heysen, Unley and Hammond. I would like to particularly thank the member for Colton for his insightful contribution, obviously having lived experience. Listening to that, I found it really informative and helpful when we think about how we as able-bodied people portray and speak about, and what language we use, when discussing people with disability and the lives of people in this community.

I particularly value contributions from members with experiences in their community and those who live with disability or who support family and friends with disability. It is so important, because the bill is not just about people with disability, it is about how our government agencies and local councils respond to the needs of people who they serve, to make our community a fairer and more inclusive space.

Since the bill was introduced, we have had reports handed down by our own Social Development Committee, the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, and also the 10-year review of the NDIS. As a number of speakers have highlighted, the original Richard Dennis review included 20 legislative recommendations, 14 of which are included in this bill.

The other legislative and non-legislative recommendations from Mr Dennis are being considered in the context of the royal commission and the NDIS review. Of course, when we tabled this particular bill it was before the winter break last year, so there has been significant progress being made in that space. I completely acknowledge that this bill was not the end of the reform process but the beginning of a long journey that I hope receives broad support across the parliament and our wider community.

I note this government has been making significant investments and reforms around disability, completely independently of this legislation also, with reports from this parliament or major works undertaken at the national level. Without going into too much detail, this does include appointing an Assistant Minister for Autism, as famously she says and we say: it is not just the first one in South Australia, it is the first one in the entire galaxy. So we are very proud of that.

We have established the Office for Autism; appointed an autistic director for the Office for Autism; established autism lead teachers in public primary schools, with an investment of \$28.8 million; committed \$50 million for 100 wellbeing workers in schools; and boosted funding for the Community Visitor Scheme. On top of this, we are committing \$11.6 million to fund disability supports for people who do not meet NDIS residence requirements.

I will very briefly respond to a number of queries raised by the opposition during the second reading debate, but I certainly welcome more detailed questions in the committee if the opposition requires any further clarification. The member for Flinders queried the time frame between the act being reviewed and its introduction to parliament. In very simple terms, there were multiple rounds of consultation to ensure that people did have a chance to be heard. Particularly with consultation around disability issues, they tended to take a little bit longer, at both ends. Before we start the consultations, most documents are also converted into easy-read formats. The time this takes is compounded when we do multiple rounds of consultations, so that is quite a protracted process.

The consultation periods themselves are often longer to ensure that everyone has a genuine opportunity to understand any proposed changes and provide their feedback. The bill proposes to

highlight the particular circumstances of those with intellectual disability and our approach to consultation actually reflected that, so that we practise what we preach with our work.

The member for Flinders also queried the proposed definition of the term 'barrier' in the bill. I am more than happy to discuss that in detail in committee, but it is fair to say that within the disability community, and even within my disability ministerial advisory committee, there are very different views on the topic. The short response to this query is that the proposed definition of 'barrier' focuses on a social model of disability rather than a medical model.

As the former president of the Local Government Association, the member for Flinders raised some concerns also about the potential impact on local government. In response to this, I can advise that none of the 14 legislative recommendations being enacted in this bill require significant investment by the state or local government. A number of the non-legislative recommendations in the Dennis review may have resource impacts, but these are considered and supported or accepted on a case-by-case basis by each agency, subject to the act.

I would like to thank the LGA for establishing a disability inclusion advisory group in 2021. That operated into 2022 to provide advice on a range of matters, from emergency management to libraries and elections. The member for Flinders also queried whether some of the language in the bill was vague. The opposition is, of course, welcome to move amendments if they have better forms of words, but I note that there has been a very deliberate approach to use phrases like 'take reasonable steps'. This helps one piece of legislation to be both meaningful and proportionate for different organisations, like small councils compared to large state government departments, which are much better resourced.

The member for Flinders also sought information about when we might see further recommendations from the act review enacted. As noted earlier in my summing up, the remaining six legislative recommendations from the Dennis review are being considered in the context of our own Social Development Committee report, the 222 royal commission recommendations and the 139 actions in the NDIS review. It is quite the piece of work along with other ad hoc feedback that we have received from the community and continue to do so every week. Governments in Australia are expecting to respond to the royal commission in the second half of 2024 and we will consider our next legislative steps after that.

The member for Morialta mentioned the number of people who have come to South Australia after experiencing trauma and suffering in other parts of the world. I am grateful for that compassionate contribution to the debate and the questioning of that. I agree, they are fortunate to have found a new home with us. In recent years, we have implemented targeted support packages for refugees arriving here from Ukraine and also the Middle East to make them safer and more welcome.

Importantly, with regard to disability, the 2022-23 Mid-Year Budget Review included an \$11.6 million package to support people who need disability supports but do not meet the NDIS requirements around residency and citizenship. This critical funding means that people who have significant disability needs and face even higher barriers due to adjusting to a new home on the other side of the world are included and supported in our community

As I said earlier, I appreciate the member for Colton reflecting on our shared commitment to Special Olympics. It is an event that encapsulates so much of what this bill is about. Sport, employment and the arts are just three areas where a more inclusive community is more inspiring, more productive and simply more fun. Inclusion is not about tokenism: it is about being a better version of ourselves at the community level. Once again, I thank all members for their contributions and I look forward to the bill progressing.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr TELFER: Thank you, minister, for the opportunity to be able to unpack a little bit in this committee stage of the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill. In your words just then summarising the debate, I reflect that my contribution to the debate was some six months ago. Even the words that I said I needed to dust off in my own mind, what the focus has been.

It has certainly been a process and I thank the minister, her staff and department for working with me and the shadow disability minister, the Hon. Heidi Girolamo in the other place. I have carriage here in the lower house but I note that there will be the opportunity in the upper house for amendment consideration, and already in my contribution six months ago did moot that the opposition were considering some amendments.

At that time we thought the bill was moving through the lower house so we thought it would be best to deliver those amendments in the upper house retrospectively. We could have just about had that as part of this process but so be it, that is the parliamentary process.

Minister, I note that within all the recommendations that have been made, this process, as you mentioned, started in 2022. It is now two years since that first started and the landscape continues to change in this space. This bill was drafted with the intention of getting this first tranche out of the way more expediently. Like I said, they have been interesting time frames. So, for the record, for the committee, can I get an insight into what groups you consulted with through this process, and the feedback and learnings that you gathered from those groups that you sought feedback from?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Thanks very much for the question. I would like to introduce Ksharmra Brandon, who is the Director of Strategic Policy and Reform in the Department of Human Services. What she does not know about this is not worth knowing, let me tell you. She has a really excellent mind in this space, so I feel very lucky to be supported by Ksharmra.

We have had significant and substantial formal consultation. I will add to that that we have had a bucketload of other consultation, ad hoc conversations during events and a range of conversations that we have all the time in the course of our work. I am very pleased to put on record a list for you of people we have spoken to and of people who were included in the consultation of Mr Dennis' review.

The list includes: Autism SA; Professor Richard Bruggeman; the Commissioner for Children and Young People; Community Centres SA; John Cranwell, who is the CEO of Active Inclusion; Dr Betty-Jean Dee-Price; key senior staff in the Department of Human Services; members of the Disability Engagement Group that sits within or alongside the Department of Human Services; Disability Rights Advocacy Service; the executive director for Support and Inclusion in the Department for Education; Ms Yvette Eglinton from the Department for Environment and Water; Associate Professor Caroline Ellison; Ms Susanne Hendy; JFA Purple Orange; Lifetime Support Authority; Local Government Access and Inclusion Network; Local Government Association of South Australia; Local Government Disability Inclusion Advisory Group; South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability; the Disability Advocate at the time; the Public Advocate; Uniting Communities Law Centre; and Natalie Wade, who is the founder and principal of Equality Lawyers. That is probably it.

Mr TELFER: Are you willing to table those submissions as part of this process?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We will commit to reaching out to every one of those people and checking that it is okay for us to table those submissions. If they have no problem with that, I have no problem at all with doing that.

Mr TELFER: As I alluded to earlier in my first question, there has been a lot of work that has been done and a lot of briefing that has been happening. I do appreciate the work that the department has done in the original briefing that was provided, and also the subsequent refresher that we all needed when we were considering getting closer to this bill again. Minister, in your second reading speech, you spoke about the number of recommendations that have already been actioned and completed—and I appreciate the dialogue that we have had on that. For the benefit of the chamber,

can you give an insight into the number of recommendations that have already been actioned and completed?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think first-up I might talk about trying to put into place some of the things that are being done, both within the legislation and outside of that. You may recall that, going into the previous election, we made a commitment to ensure that we did put the voice of community at the heart of decision-making and policy framework for the community. We included three groups of people at the heart of that, namely, people with disability, LGBTQIA+ people and young people. These are three of the cohorts in our community who are disproportionately marginalised due to various reasons. Also, there are most definitely people with lived experience who cross over all three of those sections together or who have ageing or psychosocial challenges—a whole range of generational trauma, etc.—and lived experience in any one or multiples of those areas.

Going into the election in 2022, we made that commitment to have a funded series of ministerial advisory committees or councils, and we put those in place in our first year after coming into government. The really great thing about them is not just the fact that I can go and sit at the table with these groups regularly—they meet around four times a year, each of them; I think I have missed a couple of meetings out of all of those. They get to ask me questions and I get to ask them questions, and they also have their expenses covered. It is not a large fee—it is a small sitting fee—but for groups of people who often have challenges regarding employment and other access issues in the community, transport, etc., I think it is a really useful, beneficial piece of work to fund those.

That was probably the first one that we put in place out of here that happened before even the review, so the review has consequently recommended a range of those sorts of avenues. I am really proud of that because it was an anticipated need and we have managed to put that in place. On top of that, we have also established the State Autism Strategy Advisory Committee and the Disability Engagement Group, and we are already getting reports regularly from the chief executive to myself regarding accessibility and inclusion issues. It forms part of our regular meeting agendas. That also happens informally and formally through the state annual reports in the State Disability Inclusion Plan.

There is a review of the disability access inclusion plans (DAIPs) already happening. We had the See Me For Me campaign that was launched in July 2022. I am not sure if you remember it. There was a young man who liked racing cars. I cannot remember which one it was, but there was also someone who wore Crocs. It was lived-experience disability, but it was this other quirk of their personality that we were focusing on. It was just very clever and so well received and awarded, highly celebrated. These campaigns are rolled out to improve community understanding, attitudes and awareness.

The department is coordinating a community of practice which shares learnings across all state authorities, so that is a really important piece of work that is already in place. I could read the recommendation for you as well, but I would be happy to table this if you wish. It is a more fulsome report. There is also a somewhat standard practice in regard to providing easy read documents online for much of the information and consultation that we do as a department, and some others do. We know that there is improvement to be made, but we are already well on top of that.

We have committed actions under the Australia's Disability Strategy targeted action plan, the section under employment. It is in a priority under the State Disability Inclusion Plan and under the State Autism Strategy, so all of those things are connecting. Recommendation 39 is about state and local councils creating opportunities for people to realise the importance of disability inclusion and how that advice and information gets out. We launched the Pavely smartphone app at the beginning of 2023. It was somewhere around the beginning of 2023. I would have to check that, but it was in that first year or so of government.

That has gradually started to be populated with information around access and inclusion opportunities, to show where accessible bathrooms are and a whole range of other things that are needed for information so that people with disability can attend events and venues. That is promoting businesses as well, I think, to become more inclusive by responding to feedback received via the app. I think that is where we are at the moment. Like I said, we are very happy to table that and provide a more fulsome report on the actions that have already been undertaken.

Mr TELFER: A couple of things on that: you talked about the—

The ACTING CHAIR (Ms Clancy): You have one last question on clause 1.

Mr TELFER: Sure. I will ask the same question in clause 2 later on then. You referenced the Autism Strategy. I know that one of the targets of your department for last year's budget was to finalise a State Autism Strategy that aligns with the State Disability Inclusion Plan. How well does the Autism Strategy work in conjunction with this bill? Will more work be needed for the strategy and the disability legislation to align?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The consultation on the final draft of the State Autism Strategy closes at the end of this month and consultation on the state plan has been completed. Essentially, our job now will be to connect those pieces up and provide a report with recommendations out of that as well. We feel it is going to connect really tightly and provide some really good outcomes.

Mr TELFER: Will you allow one more, Chair?

The ACTING CHAIR (Ms Clancy): No, because, technically, you have already had four. I already gave you an extra.

The Hon. N.F. Cook: We are very generous; this is the last one, yes? Okay, good.

The ACTING CHAIR (Ms Clancy): The power of the chair just gets taken from me. Member for Flinders.

Mr TELFER: Thank you, Chair. As a supplementary to what was being asked of the minister before, you talked about what had been put in place regarding recommendations. You also mooted, in the discussion and in our discussion, the potential for an additional bill to be able to address legislative steps—a 'tranche 2', for want of a better term. Now that we are obviously a number of months away from when this bill was first put in, what sort of time frames do you expect for a potential 'tranche 2' bill?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I really do hesitate to give an exact time frame, only because of the huge piece of work that is happening to bring together royal commission and NDIS review recommendations with this also. We have just recently, as part of the Disability Reform Ministerial Council nationally, pushed out the reporting time frame for the Disability Royal Commission because of the comprehensive piece of work that needs to happen. Given we are also a little bit guided by that time frame, that piece of work is going to start happening.

I am not going to deviate, but I am going to use an example of how we respond as a department. We would never knowingly hold back an action that is going to benefit a member of the community and improve their access and quality of life, just for the sake of some bureaucratic process.

Recently, for example—and the chair of this committee knows very well the importance of youth mental health—we consulted on our Youth Action Plan. Young people responded to that survey—more than 80 per cent of the survey respondents were young people; I think it was somewhere near 800 respondents or thereabouts—and their priority was mental health and wellbeing.

Almost immediately we pivoted a grant round to provide the opportunity for community organisations to deliver grassroots programs. I am really passionate about this, as you know, so I could go on for a long time, but I will not. I will simply say that we responded immediately because we know lives depend on that kind of response. In the Department of Human Services, as a team, we take very seriously (a) the needs of people and (b) the power we have to respond to people and provide positive outcomes through service agility.

I would hazard a guess, not looking at the recommendations written, that there would be things that we are acting on already that are part of that. I hesitate to provide you with an accurate estimate because it does depend on the response for those really huge pieces of work that are happening at a federal level as well. You can guarantee that, if there is something we think can be done early, we will be doing it, as we have with some of the other recommendations.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps to carry on from where the member for Flinders left off, and I appreciate what the minister has had to say already about the context in which Inclusive SA and the department are operating, we have in the broader context the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 that has been the subject of its first review and we have all praised Richard Dennis for his work and here we are making amendments essentially to the objects and the principles and then in turn to the consideration of state disability inclusion plans and there will be a whole number of particular aspects of that to go to as we progress.

Even before the objects of the act and the principles are articulated in sections 8 and 9 of the act respectively, the bill is going to introduce, in my view, an important addition by way of a new section 7A, that is the subject of clause 4, that will require the minister to seek the views of people with disability and to that end to form a committee and then the committee will be populated by those with—and I hope this has not become too much of a hackneyed term—lived experience of disability.

That might rather go to the minister's welcome observations in closing the second reading debate about the range of experience of people who are in the chamber for the time being that might not include such a range of lived experience. I just notice that that committee and the obligation of the minister now to engage in that formal way might go some way to serving that purpose.

We will get to it at clause 4. There we are amending the overriding precursor to the objects and principles, the subject of part 2, which until now has otherwise stated that what the act is there clearly all about is to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Section 7 of the act sets it out clearly:

It is the intention of the Parliament of South Australia that, to such an extent as may be reasonably practicable, the operation, administration and enforcement of this Act is to support and further the principles and purposes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as any other relevant international human rights instruments affecting people with disability, as in force from time to time.

That is a lofty object indeed. In the circumstances of that overriding objective, and at a time when we come to make this first round of amendment, I note that we can now make observations about Inclusive SA and the work that has been done in the context of what is now a relatively mature Australia-wide disability strategy: Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.

In a way, I perhaps just note for the record, because it might fall down to a fairly simple proposition, Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031 is the national disability policy framework. It is driving action at all levels of government to improve the lives of people with disability. We see that the Australian government describes the vision of the strategy to be for 'an inclusive Australian society that ensures people with disability can fulfil their potential, as equal members of the community'. The strategy sets out practical changes that will assist people with disability. That is in line with Australia's commitments in terms of the UN convention. And then, as we have heard, that goes on to spell out a whole high-level strategy and vision for that 10-year period.

At the outset, I just ask to what extent there is consideration in bringing to the parliament in this bill that restatement in section 7 of the act to highlight something directly about the national approach? One is a convention; it has a different status. Another one is an Australian government strategy. We are not taking the opportunity in this amending bill to say something that is more explicitly about lining up, according with the overall Australian strategy. There might be good reason for letting the two run in parallel and it might be that it is simply the view of the government that that is a matter to inform policy—and we can hear about it from time to time in terms of the work of Inclusive SA and the way that government agencies interact, and so on—but there is a question really at the outset in the broad: what particular role does the strategy have vis-a-vis this moment? It might more particularly be a question at clause 4, but why do we not therefore see it articulated in terms of the two being in lockstep?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I seek a point of clarification. I am not going to ask you to repeat the question, I promise, although that would be really funny. I just want to make sure I give you the right response. What I take from what you are saying is that we specifically relate and seek to align our legislation with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Why do we not then align our legislation with the Australian Disability Strategy?

Mr TEAGUE: Well, in some way it is highlighted as a light on the hill, if you like, in the same way as we do—

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Yes. The simple response to that question, which is in fact quite simple in the end, is that we seek to align it through our plan.

Mr TEAGUE: With that in mind—and it is perhaps helpful on the occasion of a committee process for a bill such as this to have the opportunity to have these things on the record—there is no indication from the government of anything other than a positive engagement with the strategy. If there is, then I would certainly welcome reflection on that 2021-2031 strategy, but I hear the minister in terms of where that fits in the government's overall approach.

I suppose, just at this early stage in terms of context, I will take one agency, for example, because here we are, we have the Dennis review with 50 or 51 recommendations, and this bill is implementing about 14 of them. There is the balance of recommendations, some of which might find their way into discrete legislation where that is appropriate, and I think I have given some examples of my appreciation of how that might work in the course of the second reading. We are not seeing all of the review recommendations finding voice in this bill, and we are not seeing any more explicit connection being made to the National Disability Strategy. I suppose the point in mind is how different legislation might take on board the Dennis recommendations, indeed how different agencies will apply these recommendations.

We see the Department for Education, for example, when it is stepping through its consideration of disability access for inclusion in the education system, setting out the importance of Australia's Disability Strategy, alongside Inclusive SA, the state government, and then from there the department disability access and inclusion plan. I guess the question might be put in one or two different ways. Is it best to understand what we are likely to see in terms of state disability inclusion plans, as amended by the bill, in terms of being an Inclusive SA-led assistance to individual agencies in the development of their departmental disability access and inclusion plans? Are we going to see some agencies more than others needing to legislate in response to the Dennis recommendations? How are we likely to see further legislation brought to the parliament in response to the Dennis recommendations?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: It is an insightful question. There are six remaining legislative recommendations, and some of those pertain to items that require specific guidance through those other reviews that I have discussed—the royal commission and the NDIS review—and will require a deep piece of work pertaining directly to policy and the evolution of that out of DHS. But the non-legislative recommendations can cut across a range of responsibilities, through DHS and other departments, to be enacted in their own plans and via our state plan. DHS will provide guidance and direction as needed to other entities who are required to have a plan. We, as an agency, are available to offer that support. Does that help a little bit?

Mr TEAGUE: Thanks, and I appreciate the minister's answer. To further take the Department for Education as an example, then, we see in terms of the current education department disability plan—I stand to be corrected if they have gotten on with the job in 2024 already, but otherwise a plan for 2020-2023—that was the responsibility of Rick Persse as chief executive, we see there neatly encapsulated a statement that:

The department's Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) 2020-2023 builds on the Inclusive SA: State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023. Our DAIP has been developed within the context of the Commonwealth and state legislation, state government priorities and objectives, and departmental policy to ensure that it complies with the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Disability Standards for Education 2005, Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA) and Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA).

It goes on to say:

Our workforce is one of the biggest in South Australia. As a department it is our responsibility to lead by example to improve access and inclusion for children, young people and employees living with disability.

So it is clear: there is an agency that is dealing with lots of people, lots of interaction, and we see that—I've just about lost my train of thought.

Members interjecting:

Mr TEAGUE: The member wanders in and their phone goes off.

The Hon. N.F. Cook interjecting:

Mr TEAGUE: Well, I've only got this one. So, we know, just to take the Department for Education as an example, that the Department for Education is stating that it has drawn on this wide range of inputs—starting with Inclusive SA, as I outlined earlier, but it is explicitly referring to those various commonwealth and state inputs. I appreciate the answer to my first question about the proper role of the Australian plan. It does not find voice directly in the legislation, but plays an important role.

As I understand the second question, Inclusive SA will lead the way, and then there are these six remaining legislative recommendations that will apply outside of this act directly but stem from the review. Are we to take it that, as a result of these changes, we will still have a situation where individual agencies, as well as building on what Inclusive SA has to provide in terms of support, will be developing their individual plans informed by that range of relevant state and commonwealth legislation? Is that the model the government anticipates into the foreseeable future, and is there a perceived virtue, therefore, of each department navigating its own way to whatever extent may be necessary to tailor its response to the particular functions of the relevant agency?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: It is like I had a meal in between the start and the finish and then there was a call and we were all a bit distracted, but if I bring it back to this: this piece of legislation has in all its forms had a directive to form a plan. It prescribes what agencies need to form plans and how they are reported. This makes some amendments based on the review. In the case of some agencies, they work quite deeply and in a very connected way with national plans of various iterations, and if they choose to use some of the directives out of those strategies, such as education—you referenced the Australia Disability Strategy, within their work—as long as they meet the requirements of the act and report according to that, in fact other departments, including our own, may learn from that.

We have the community of practice, which we talked about before, which is a formal way for other departments, all departments, to get together and to, if I keep it brief, compare notes and learn from each other. We have not given a directive for other agencies to go forth and use other exemplars within their own plan, but if they do and it improves the outcomes for people with disability, that is what should happen.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

Mr TELFER: Just quickly—obviously it is not a very extensive clause—when does the minister envision the proclamation? I guess it's going to be immediately after the bill passing.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Provided we get out of committee before we rot, I think as quick as possible is the answer. It will go up to the other place. There is a set of principles in regard to it sitting on the table and we will have debate in the other place and then it would be some weeks after that.

Clause passed.

Clause 3.

Mr TELFER: Minister, we talked a little bit earlier about the commentary around the barrier definition. Obviously it is part of this aspect here in clause 3, the amendment of section 3, which talks about the interpretation and definition of. I can see that you have lifted the recommendations from the reviewer and inserted barriers into this bill. Was there any contemplation of having any other definitions included in the bill?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think, and I said it in my summary, there are many options and there were options discussed. The norm and the accepted practice is to use social models of definition and description within policy affecting people with disability and legislation as well. So this is most definitely an accepted form of definition that we have chosen. You could survey a hundred people and come up with a hundred different variations of definitions, but this is one that is accepted through the social model rather than the medical model; that is why we have gone for it.

Mr TELFER: I appreciate that as well. You are right; in itself it is quite broad and barriers would vary depending on individual circumstances. I do appreciate that the definition that is included within this amendment is naturally broad to reflect that. That is why I was asking whether there were any other definitions after the fact. We are a fair way down the track now reflecting, but I appreciate the answer. What is the government doing broadly that would improve public perception for people living with disability?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: There is a whole range of easy ones that come to mind that I have spoken about in previous answers. I talk about awareness campaign See Me For Me. I think you can look no further than the brilliant work of the member in the other place, the Hon. Emily Bourke, and her leadership around working with the Premier to ensure that South Australians are filled with knowledge around autism and the autistic communities. That has certainly been worked on very deeply in terms of the Autism Strategy. We will see the South Australian government practising what it preaches in terms of an inclusive workplace, with DHS and the Department for Education being the first sites to roll out the autism charter, which we have seen being tabled this week and discussed.

The Office for Autism being led by an autistic person, the discussion and focus on employment as a priority within a range of strategies, and the plans that we put out will connect directly to recommendations that come out of the Disability Royal Commission which ensure that people with disability have the opportunity to participate in work and earn and learn as much as anyone else in our community has a right to participate in. The more that happens and the more knowledge and education that is built up in our community around that acceptance, the better off people will be.

I think we have a long way to go in language—and I am not going to single people out. People from this place make speeches and go to public events, and we use language which, with good intention, is meant to show our acceptance and our understanding but it is ableist and patronising. I think there is a lot more work to be done in that space. I have lent my mind to that at times and wondered how we could actually do that better. With autism being the largest single primary diagnosis within the NDIS, for example, I think we make head road into that as a knowledge base and a cohort for driving change in our community. There will be knock-on positive effects with other diagnostic groups. That is certainly at front of mind for me.

In terms of the disability access and inclusion plans themselves and working in that coordinated way through DHS, local government cohorts and other departments that are smaller and not so well resourced, all of those people will have contact and effect within the community. I think that summarises that as a general piece, but of course we have had Social Development Committee reviews and we are looking at housing.

We all nearly did a hammy getting to the national committees to get the construction code changed so that we have silver building standards and accessibility so that—not so much now but in generations to come—those houses that are getting built now will be more adaptable and ready for people with disability whose life circumstances might change or for people who experience some kind of medical or physical event that, as a consequence, leads to mobility or sensory challenge. We would then have a house that lends itself to upgrading and modification quicker, easier and cheaper than what we have now, when we have houses that are so difficult to modify for accessibility that we have people who are almost, for want of a better word, landlocked or housebound because they simply are unable to use equipment that they require to get in and out.

I think the change to having the silver standard as much as we possibly can—and of course there are some exemptions—has sent out a big signal to the market that South Australia is absolutely open for business when it comes to inclusion and that we are thirsty for opportunities.

We have funded Changing Places within our budgets. I think more people are getting to know about it, and I would encourage people to go to some of the playgrounds and to the airport, for example, to look at the Changing Places facilities. I worked in disability services a few years ago. To take somebody out who had continence challenges was simply a matter of wrapping them up a bit more so that they did not embarrass themselves when they were out, because there was no way you could find anywhere that provided a facility to change an adult. But now you can get on Pavely and other sites and look for Changing Places, and you can go somewhere dignified and maintain comfort.

I think the more we do that, the more conversations we have with all of you—and I know the member for Narungga is in the chamber now. I have had fantastic conversations with people in Wallaroo to talk about accessible tourism. Accessible tourism is incredible. That is really important, and the more we do in that regard the better.

The ACTING CHAIR (Ms Clancy): I will remind the minister not to refer to whether someone is present in the chamber or not. Thank you.

Mr TEAGUE: In looking at the overview of the act and then at this amending bill, we are focused, I guess for reasons that are perhaps obvious, to a large extent on bureaucratic public sector responses, local government and those with responsibility for applying rules that affect matters like planning and day-to-day oversight and so on in terms of provision of access.

Clause 3 and the introduction of the definition of 'barrier' leads to a consideration of the objects of the act. We are going to see those augmented in terms of the changes in the bill to objects and principles. We have already got objects in the act that include:

...acknowledging that people with disability have the same human rights as other members of the community and that the State and the community have a responsibility to facilitate the exercise of those rights;

It goes on to say:

The objects of this Act include—

...promoting the independence and social and economic inclusion—

I emphasise 'economic inclusion'—

of people with disability; and

...providing safeguards in relation to the delivery of all supports and services...

...a framework to support a whole of Government approach...; and

...articulating and facilitating the roles of the State during and following the transition to the [NDIS].

We are going to add to that in a minute with a particular reference to emphasising 'regardless of age'—so all ages and stages. We will get to that in clause 5, and we are going to add a new paragraph (f) that makes specific reference to the new defined term of 'barriers'. It is then linking us directly back to the UN convention and saying, 'Right, we need to make sure that we are actually removing barriers.'

It is perhaps with that in mind that I shift then to the individual community entrepreneurial and innovative side of all of this to say, 'Alright, what are we doing then? To what extent does this all imply an obligation to facilitate those measures which will enable the innovative development of the means by which those who want to be fully economically productive can do so?'

To take an example, my constituent Tom Carr, at Ashbourne, is an adult living with his family on a couple of hundred acres in the Hills. He has had a terrible accident and is wheelchair-bound. He is a mechanical engineer and is a highly innovative individual. He has gone ahead and invented a vehicle by which much more smoothly and easily—almost to full capacity compared with what might be provided in terms of ordinary access—he can more or less continue doing what he was able to do before. I might come back to it a bit further, but for practical reasons, he is appreciating the debate in relation to virtual fencing and how that might, in his new circumstances, be something that would facilitate his capacity to continue running his farming property.

It is the circumstances of a disability that are leading to, in his case, his own entrepreneurial response, his own appreciation of how technology might permit him to be able to run a farm and to get around. So, in the legislative sense, I have recited the objects of long standing, and we are now going to apply this new definition to an additional object. To what extent is that actually changing the dynamic in terms of the obligation on the government to facilitate those areas of innovation that can be demonstrated to accord with the objects of this act for those people like Tom Carr who are living with a disability?

Hold that thought; we will put it in a practical context. We are having a debate in South Australia at the moment. We have a longstanding commercialisation of virtual fencing for a livestock

project in South Australia that is being overseen at present by another one of the government of South Australia's agencies, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, and SARDI is involved as well. The CSIRO is involved, and we have a national picture in which some states have acted and moved along in terms of virtual fencing.

For the record, and for those who might not be familiar with it, in terms of describing the project, the government of South Australia describes virtual fencing as: '...an animal-friendly system using wireless technologies and sensors to manage livestock and control their location. The commercialisation of virtual fencing for a livestock project will demonstrate the commercial applications of virtual fencing in South Australia and quantify any animal wellbeing impacts'—and then we go on to hear more about the project, which is of long standing.

Someone in Tom Carr's position, and in fact Tom Carr himself, finds himself saying, 'The permission for the rollout of this particular technology, subject to government oversight and consideration, would make my life considerably more resembling of a fulfilment of those objects.'

Leaving aside for a minute the relative merits, the pros and cons, of that implementation, to what extent, by legislating this new definition that speaks to the new object, are we shifting the dial in terms of the state's obligation to take that into account when considering matters? I take, just as an example, PIRSA's consideration of how and in what circumstances to legislate permission for virtual fencing; the circumstances that would, in Tom Carr's view, benefit him in his circumstances.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think what we are grappling with is how this would stifle that innovation. I think it would shift the dial.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Well, I think that is what this is designed to do. It is designed to encourage people to think in a way that promotes innovation to remove barriers, and it is quite the irony that we are talking about a fence, because that is a barrier. I think this, in its purest form, is trying to actually encourage departments to think about ways that they can legislate and do their work so that those, not always physical, barriers are removed. I think that is a positive thing. So I think it is designed to drive that. It uses 'barrier' in the way of a social model definition, not so much a medical model.

I do have some further information in an email about the definition of 'barrier'. We talk about the barrier being something that is:

- (a) physical, architectural, technological or attitudinal; or
- (b) based on information or communications; or
- (c) the result of a policy or a practice.

So it encapsulates all those things. The Dennis review states:

Given the significance of the concept of 'barriers' in the definition of 'disability' and within the wider issue of achieving greater inclusion, defining the nature and scope of the barriers pertinent under the remit of the act will enhance clarity and recognition of barriers that make life undoubtedly harder for people living with disability.

We asked people who were being consulted whether they agreed with the proposed definition. Approximately two-thirds of people agreed with it—I think this goes to the question from the member for Flinders before, as well—one quarter disagreed and the remainder were undecided. So it was overwhelmingly positive in terms of the feedback for it, given that there are hundreds of definitions.

Through the YourSAy survey, overall, people indicated that the proposed definition was consistent with a social model, as we have said, and the regular barriers people with disability continue to encounter. Other feedback included:

They agreed the proposed definition is an accurate interpretation and supports its use throughout the act, specifically where the act aims to address barriers in improving overall access and inclusion outcomes for people with disability.

In one submission, feedback also indicated that the definition adopts the societal model of disability, but does not consider the medical model of disability, which offers insights into what a person with disability needs from health services in order to improve their physical and mental wellbeing so that they can achieve better social connection.

Another point was that, although the medical model of disability is an important consideration, it may be more appropriate for barriers relating to medical or health service provision to be considered by DHW or other agencies through their agency-specific DAIPs. This approach was supported in a written submission that said it should be included in subordinate legislation, related regulations or other guidelines for detailed and technical operation, administration and enforcement of legislation.

Members of the council that we discussed the act with had different views on the detail but a common view was that a definition would be useful. They also noted value in seeking to adopt a consistent approach to defining barriers in different state and federal legislation. I think everyone was encouraged by the discussion and the use of the term and the definition that we used. I think, hopefully, this is going to seek to drive exactly what you are saying. Yes, it was an interesting piece of input.

Mr TEAGUE: I think that answer will indeed be welcomed by Tom. We do appreciate that if one compares objectives (a) and (b) at the moment—particularly (a) and (b)—(a) acknowledges people with disability have the same human rights as other members of the community. That is an acknowledgment. And (b) is about promoting independence and, as I did before, emphasising the economic inclusion of people with a disability. Those are the two existing objects.

By themselves, they are nowhere near as proactive as what we are going to see in the subject of clause 5, which is going to adopt this new definition, because by adopting this new definition of 'barrier'—and great, good to know how we went about landing on what that includes: clearly physical, architectural and technological barriers—the kicker is that this new object is going to be requiring the removal of such barriers. It is not just about acknowledging things and promoting things, it is now about saying that an objective of this act is the removal of the barrier.

If one takes something that we are all well and truly used to: if you went to the footy club 50 years ago, you would climb the stairs and you might get into the stand. These days we have ramps and lifts and all sorts of things, but particularly ramps. That is how you do it.

If we were to translate the environment of 50 years ago to now and the application of this provision, you might argue that this provision could be relied upon to say, 'Righto, you have to go and remove that barrier and you have to go and make this place universally accessible.' I appreciate that it is not quite so straightforward as to say, 'Right, PIRSA, this now comes along and overrides whatever else you were thinking about in your project.'

I say Tom Carr will welcome the minister's response, and I agree with it, that it ought well provide the means by which, if PIRSA were looking around for the things that it ought to be taking on board, it will now have a much more particular reason to think about barriers, in Tom's case partly day-to-day movement, but more particularly the removal of a barrier to him more fully economically functioning in terms of operating a farm and running cattle on it.

If it is a matter of the level of priority that a project of reform on virtual fencing might have or a factor in the balance, if one were to consider the pros and cons of the introduction, it might be that it is more than just a view about what might be likely but a statutory imperative now that could be referred to if Tom is saying, 'I very much enjoyed my life on the farm and my capacity to earn a living on the land. I am now submitting that that ought to be much more central to your consideration in terms of the provision of permission for applying technologies.'

If there is then a slightly more focused extension of that case study, is there any possible conception from the government's point of view that the enactment of the definition, the subject of this clause, and its application in the new provisions of the act might allow or even mandate the provision of permission for these sorts of technologies tailored for the circumstances of those who we already know in (a) and (b) have a right to have the same human rights as other members and to be promoted in terms of their independence but now they also have a right to the removal of barriers. Therefore, is there the capacity for a tailored approach and for there to be any legislative underpinning, even in circumstances where such a thing was not or not yet otherwise regulated, for permission for the sector or the community more broadly?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Again, I might just seek to clarify. The term 'barrier' has been in there all the way through. The feedback was that it had no clarification around that terminology, and what

we are doing is seeking to clarify and make it more clear to people in the community and those creating a plan for what a barrier actually is. If I am reading you right, the nub of it is that you are asking whether this creates any issues in terms of compulsion to remove barriers.

Mr TEAGUE: It is more of a clause 5 question, but it arises.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am sorry, there is a bit of free-flying exchange because there are a lot of words, and I am just trying to get to the nub of it. I would be keen for you to point out in the act itself where you feel there might be that challenge of compulsion and any problems that we might be facing because of that, but that has not changed in the course of the amendments, and my advice is that this just actually provides better clarity around that. The points you raise are valid and interesting. I would be very happy to get further advice on that particular line of questioning if you so wish and provide that between the houses.

Mr TEAGUE: I will not ask any more questions but to the extent that I am asked a question by the minister in that exchange I just say, no, there is no sense in which I have somehow built up to a gotcha moment or something—and I am the one who is slow off the mark to any extent. The nub of it really is found in clause 5, and the addition of—

The ACTING CHAIR (Ms Clancy): Maybe you can bring this up at clause 5. You have had your three questions.

Mr TEAGUE: I am grateful to the Chair in that regard.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think it appears twice in clause 5.

Clause passed.

Clause 4.

Mr ELLIS: I will ask a hopefully succinct question to try to improve upon the glacial pace at which this committee currently progresses. In any case, I suspect I have only one question on clause 4. I would like to commend the government and those who have worked on building this bill for codifying this initiative. I suspect that more assiduous ministers who have held this portfolio over the journey have been consulting with stakeholders already, but to see it codified is a wonderful thing. It is always advisable to consult with the people to whom the bill is related.

I did wonder, though, whether there was consideration given to codifying that the minister should seek views of the carers of people with a disability as well—the people who are already enabling them to lead as fulfilled a life as possible. They might also have some views about barriers that could be withdrawn or removed to improve that quality of life as well. I wonder whether they were given consideration for inclusion in this clause. If they were and decided not to be included, what was the basis for that?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think that is an excellent question. The simple explanation currently at this point is that I read out the list of people who were consulted. You may not have been in the chamber at the time. Some of those people are most definitely carers; they are most definitely in here. Some of the people on our committees—the ministerial advisory committee, the disability engagement group, and the autism strategy committee—are also carers. We are currently in the middle of a process of engagement for the review of the carers act as well. There is most definitely direct engagement with carers.

I think the point you are making is potentially that carers are not specifically written into the legislation. We make sure that carers are part of the check of who is on our committees. I have consulted with and have had many long conversations with a number of people who are listed within our consultation group. I look specifically at Dr BJ Dee-Price, who is a carer and an academic of some regard. She was part of the consultation process.

Mr TELFER: On clause 4, obviously we are talking about the insertion of section 7A. The minister referred earlier on to the minister's council and that process. The minister talked about meeting quarterly. Is that happening? What is the process for feedback through that minister's council?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: In summary, we sought expressions for our advisory committee, including the disability one, in late 2022. The formal meetings commenced last year. I think they have had five meetings now, potentially. The minutes are online, so people can peruse the minutes. I am sure that is one of the highest-hit websites in the whole of government. It was sending a clear message to the rest of government, I felt, across portfolios that people living with disability needed to be involved in the decision-making, and they are.

It is critically important that we make sure, and we do, that we have brought the committee up to speed from a learning point of view to understand the processes of government—legislation and such. We invite various key stakeholders to present at the meetings. I have been to different advisory groups. We have had the equal opportunity commissioner and a range of people. We have ensured now, as well, that the committee is member-chaired so there is somebody with lived experience actually guiding and steering those groups.

The draft bill provided lengthy, detailed and prescriptive arrangements for the council. It was drafted before I formed the current group but, as such, the bill before the house requires me to consult with people with disability and allows me to form groups like the Disability Minister's Advisory Council. We removed highly detailed provisions, so it will allow for change and the committees to be updated and the performance of the committee to be reviewed from within as well, to guide us how best people with lived experience want to run those committees.

Before placing such a high level of detail, I wanted to see how the council operated and seek feedback and guidance from those groups. I think we are practising what we preach in terms of getting that at the heart of the consultation, but also meeting the requirements of the review in regard to that.

Mr TELFER: Thank you for that answer. It is a good starting point for discussion of this clause. You talked about the membership of the council, with many members with lived experience. What about those in the community who wish to raise issues or have their views heard on particular issues? How can they inform the committee? Is there a process for that?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: People are welcome to make representation to the committee, but the process has in general been more that representation is made to us and then we refer it into the committee for discussion and for their perusal. Certainly, on the DHS website there is a means to contact, and if people are interested in providing a representation they can do that. As I said before, we have invited a variety of people—we have had the Hon. Emily Bourke there to discuss the Autism Strategy and charter as well and provide that information.

As we move forward, with the NDIS review and looking at foundational supports and other changes, I feel that we would get someone in to provide better education in regard to that process as well and seek the views of the committee. That is generally the process. There is the contact for DHS on the website, and people can make representation if they wish.

Mr TELFER: Just to clarify: the process, as far as engagement with the committee goes, is more that interested community members would go directly to the department, and the department could then refer to the committee for their perspective on what that process might look like. There is no regular outreach or public forums or anything that the minister's council itself runs? That is left to the remit of the department and then fed back through?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I think it is fair to say that there are a range of processes evolving with the council, but the council have raised issues on behalf of constituents that they have been in contact with. These people are highly engaged in the community and in their own networks as well. I am trying to think of an example.

We know that there is an issue with transport, for example, for people in the disability community. The Minister for Transport has been undertaking reviews in regard to taxis and what have you. There have been issues regarding rideshare that have been raised publicly that we are trying to create awareness about. For example, one of the members was certainly approached regarding that and brought that to the committee as well. So it can work in a number of ways and I guess for that reason we have tried not to be overly prescriptive within the legislation, but we have

not refused any commentary. We welcome suggestions as to topics for conversation, and I hope that is the way we can continue at this point.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

**PASTORAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION (USE OF PASTORAL LAND)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND LITIGATION GUARDIAN) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:32 the house adjourned until Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 11:00.