

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Parliamentary Procedure

SPEAKER, ABSENCE

The CLERK: I inform the house of the absence of the Speaker. Pursuant to standing order 17, the Deputy Speaker will take the chair.

The Deputy Speaker took the chair at 11:00.

The DEPUTY 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 DEPUTY SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (PUBLIC ACCESS) (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 September 2024.)

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (11:01): I rise in support of this bill and these amendments. Being a trained senior first aider, including with advanced resuscitation training through my duties as a volunteer CFS member, I really understand how important these devices can be in saving lives. Having access to an automated external defibrillator when needed may be the difference between life and death for someone having a heart attack or going into cardiac arrest.

These devices are easy to use. Almost anyone can use them—literally anyone. The device tells you where to put the pads and when to stand clear. It only distributes an electric shock when it is needed so the patient is safe.

I have continued to understand the importance of these devices every time I update my advanced resus first aid certificate and encourage anyone who can to do their first aid training. From this and the advice from the Heart Foundation, I know that timing is everything. Every minute that a casualty lies without the assistance of CPR and the AED to restart the heart reduces their chance of surviving by 10 per cent.

The Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022 is important legislation that will make life-saving automatic external defibrillators mandatory in public buildings including schools, universities, libraries, sporting facilities, local council offices, theatres and swimming pools to help save the lives of South Australians from cardiac arrest.

This historic legislation was the first in Australia. It was brought to this parliament by the Hon. Frank Pangallo from the other place and was supported and carried as legislation. The Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to amend the act for the purpose of removing ambiguity around the applicability, scope and requirements of the act, which will enable consistent interpretation and application.

Some of the key provisions of the bill include refined definition clauses to clarify the applicability of the act by defining key words. Including a definition of 'owner' in the act will ensure a clear distinction is drawn between the obligations imposed by the act on a building owner versus a tenant. Additionally, the proposed definitions clarify what is regarded as a building or facility, which

will see smaller businesses being carved out from the act, allowing them to continue on in this time when things are a bit tough.

There will be a new provision for the exclusion of certain buildings and facilities from the requirements of the act, for reasons including:

- instances where there is a superior response mechanism in place and the people are trained medical staff;
- instances in which the presence of an AED presents safety concerns; and
- instances where the building or facility is entirely inaccessible to the public and therefore the mandated presence of the AEDs would not align with the intent of the act, with the requirement being to install AEDs within the floor area that is publicly accessible.

The bill proposes the removal of the requirement to annually test an AED, in accordance with advice from the department's biomedical experts and advice received from consultation that confirms that AEDs should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Given they have created, tested and trialled the device, this will ensure optimal device performance in the event of an emergency.

A new provision is proposed which enables the making of exemptions on a case-by-case basis according to the requirements of the act. The minister will also be able to appoint a suitable person to be an authorised officer who will have powers to confirm that installation, registration and maintenance of AEDs by building owners meet the requirements of the act, aiming to strengthen compliance. The bill also proposes a delayed commencement date for prescribed vehicles due to the logistical implications of removing fleet to enable the installation of AEDs on public buses, noting that almost all the fleet is in use.

These amendments ensure that the intent of the act is strengthened by requiring the installation of AEDs in buildings and facilities that are publicly accessible, noting the intent of the act is to increase the availability of AEDs in public areas to be used by the community in the event of a cardiac arrest.

To support the rollout of AEDs for community and sporting groups, our government started the South Australian AED Grants Program, providing \$1,000 grants to not-for-profit community, cultural or sporting organisations to assist with the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for their building or facility. The first round of these grants was run earlier this year and provided over 200 grants to over 160 organisations right across South Australia. In my electorate, I was pleased to see Bellevue Heights Tennis Club successful in their application.

The tennis club, located at Manson Oval in Bellevue Heights, provides a great opportunity for both its members and also community members to play and enjoy tennis. The oval itself also hosts cricket and soccer, and I am glad to know that if there is now an emergency on site, the AED will be available. Our government will be providing further grant opportunities to community and sporting groups to ensure more of these organisations can be supported, and I encourage all of my sporting groups and community groups to see if one of these AEDs might be right for them.

I would like to take a minute to extend my thanks to anyone who puts their hand up to help someone who is experiencing a cardiac event. It can be traumatic, as it will not always end with the patient surviving, but with more AEDs around public areas the opportunity to assist increases. I do encourage anyone who is able to, to consider doing the necessary first aid course to familiarise themselves with CPR. These courses also include training on how AEDs work. The more people we have trained to administer CPR, or even just assist, means more lives can be saved.

Our government has begun the installation of AEDs in some of the places mandated under the legislation, including CFS, MFS and SES vehicles, in preparation for the commencement date for government facilities of 1 January 2025. Having these onboard our emergency service vehicles allows our first responders to immediately have the benefit of the AED. The help that this provides to guide them with CPR, and to administer shock if required, allows them to totally focus on what they are doing in a situation where someone is in cardiac arrest. These incidents are very stressful, and it is good to know these units will be available on all resources.

In regard to those who can and do step up in a time of need, I would like to raise awareness of the GoodSAM app. The GoodSAM app is an alert system that uses a phone app to notify registered responders, like off-duty health professionals and first aiders, if someone is experiencing a cardiac arrest near them. These responders can provide CPR while an ambulance is on the way. The GoodSAM app also provides details of nearby AEDs, further improving the chances of surviving a cardiac arrest.

Earlier this year, stories were shared with me that a couple—Brevet Sergeant Jarryd Simister and his wife, Elli Simister, who is an Emergency Medical Dispatch Support Officer with SAAS—who are incredibly valued within my community, and who are registered with the GoodSAM app, have attended multiple requests for assistance through this app. One such example was an elderly lady who was having a cardiac arrest in the middle of the night.

Jarryd hopped out of bed and ran 600 metres down the road to offer his assistance after he had received the alert through the GoodSAM app. On arrival, the patient was unconscious and unresponsive. Jarryd administered CPR until the paramedics arrived. Without the help of Jarryd, it is clear the patient would have unlikely survived. He has since received a letter from the lady's son. I will not read all of it, but it starts with:

I just wanted to take the opportunity to personally thank you for your actions last Wednesday night in saving my mum's life.

It went on to say:

We had no idea about the GoodSAM app that you have on your phone, and from everything that we have been told, your actions are what saved [my mum's] life.

My thoughts cannot be put into words properly to explain just how thankful we are for what you did.

Jarryd and Elli are compassionate community members who choose to help—such an incredible thing to do—and I thank both of them and all who do not hesitate to offer assistance.

There are many stories about how AEDs have helped save lives. Having them as available as possible in public areas increases chances of survival. Having them to help in emergencies can make all the difference. I commend the bill to the house.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:09): I rise to speak in support of this bill and note that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. In reflecting on speeches that have traversed a couple of weeks now in relation to the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill, I note that this bill comes two years after the introduction of the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Bill 2022, as initiated by the Hon. Frank Pangallo in the other place.

I am going to take this opportunity today to reflect on the progress that has been made, and the ongoing reform that is underway, since 2022 when this first came into place. To provide some background on the AED act, it first received royal assent on 8 December 2022, making South Australia the first jurisdiction in the country to mandate the installation of AEDs. I note and will continue to reflect on the opposition's contribution to this act. The act as it stands comes into operation on 1 January 2025 for government agencies and rolls out a year later, that being on 1 January 2026, for other relevant buildings, facilities and vehicles, which are explained further in this amendment bill.

A whole-of-government steering committee was established in September 2023 to oversee the implementation of the act, including the legislative framework. Following advice from that steering committee, it was identified that legislative amendments were required to allow for changes to the act to ensure it can be operationalised to achieve the intent in the most effective manner, and I think our second reading speeches are starting to capture what some of those necessary amendments have been.

The amendment bill resolves ambiguity associated with the act's requirements to ensure consistent application and to enable effective operationalisation through regulations. In addition to that, regulation powers include:

- a maximum limit of AEDs to be prescribed through the regulations;

- the ability to define what does and does not constitute installation of an AED and signage;
- application only to retirement villages with shared amenities;
- prescribed vehicles such as public buses, trams or trains with operation delayed until 1 January 2026; and
- the inclusion of relevant building and relevant facilities to ensure all designated locations or facilities will require at least one AED.

While the government has assured us that the legislation was robust at the time, it certainly has now had time to move a number of amendments to operationalise the legislation. The opposition supports the amendment to section 9 of the act that removes the requirement for mandatory testing of AEDs at least once every 12 months and substitutes it with a clause or stipulation that ensures that the automated external defibrillator is maintained in accordance with any instructions of the manufacturer of the automated external defibrillator.

We understand that this is in accordance with advice from the department's biomedical experts and it is also supported by peak bodies such as the South Australian Business Chamber. I also take this opportunity to echo the concerns of the SA Business Chamber, who have asked the government to ensure that business representatives are included on the across-government AED steering committee.

In a current cost-of-living crisis, we know businesses are doing it tough, with costs continuing to rise and no obvious relief by this government in sight. The penalties for noncompliance are incredibly high—up to \$20,000 in fines—and we need to ensure that in this current climate the government is doing all it can to remove red tape to allow businesses to operate with as little administrative burden as possible.

This bill makes AEDs mandatory in public buildings, such as schools, universities, libraries, sporting facilities, local council offices, theatres and swimming pools. The bill also removes the requirement for the minister to establish a training scheme under the act and provides him with the power to appoint a suitable person to be an authorised officer. I note that some of the key changes to this act are:

- the removal of the need for annual testing and aligned maintenance with the manufacturer's instructions for AEDs;
- the removal of vehicles from the requirement to register with the AED because they could not record non-static locations;
- the alignment of requirements for software applications under section 13 with the current application, which integrates with the SAAS dispatch system;
- the inclusion of multiple powers to make regulations to support the operationalisation of the act;
- the inclusion of an exemption clause that permits a specific building, facility or vehicle to be exempt from the act's operation, or a specific provision or provisions; and
- the inclusion of a delegation power to allow the minister to assign those duties and responsibilities.

So while we support the bill, we are concerned that the government pushed the initial legislation through without due consideration to its operation, while the initial bill was being steamrolled through, with good intent, as signalled by the member in the other place. I recall distinctly much time spent during committee asking very commonsense, practical questions of the government at the time about the introduction of the initial amendment bill, and what we see in this amendment bill now are a lot of those questions that the opposition was flagging, coming through in recognition that there needed to be reform around maximum penalties, how an AED would be used in vehicles, testing protocols, retirement villages, questions about awareness campaigns and definitions.

I am going to take a moment to reflect on some of those questions that were put during committee. I note the member for Flinders asked at the time: who is going to be tasked with the not

insignificant challenge of visiting each of these areas with registered AEDs on all of these different sites, multiple ones, all around the state; is this going to be an ongoing monitoring program, or is it going to be a sporadic one; and what is envisaged by the government when it comes to testing? The minister's response at the time was:

The enforcement will have to be considered over time, and it would be a reasonable, commonsense way in which this would be enforced. The suggestion that you would establish a fleet of people who would check every single AED in the state is not entirely practical.

And here we are, with the opposition's questions around the validity of that testing protocol now being reformed.

When it comes to a review of how an AED might be situated in a retirement village, questions were again asked and criticism was again applied by the government at the time, but the minister's response was:

If there are particular issues, then we will consider them over the course of the three years leading into the implementation and also whether there are particular regulations...

My criticism is that there was an opportunity two years ago during committee to have more attention paid to some of the reasonable questions that the opposition was, indeed, asking. The member for Schubert during committee, and possibly during her second reading speech, made the following comments:

We do urge those opposite to consider the amendments we are putting forward. In saying that, it is hoped that the current government will follow the former government's lead in ensuring some grants are made available to sporting clubs in particular to support them in complying with this legislation. Whilst we acknowledge that the smallest amount or the lowest cost for an AED is currently \$360...

And she continues on with the virtues of a grants program. Fast-forward to this year and the minister, in his second reading explanation on this current bill, made the following reflections:

[The government has] also commenced a new grant program helping the community and sporting organisations purchase AEDs, with the first round of the South Australian AED Grants Program opening in May this year, offering \$1,000 grants to the not-for-profit community, cultural and sporting organisations to assist with the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for their building or facility.

I only raise this not to criticise the current bill before us but to remind the government that when legislation of this type comes through the house the opposition takes very seriously what is being put before us, that our approach to amendment bills and to the committee process is sincere and genuine and that questions being asked two years ago have now come to fruition through the government's amendment bill.

I want to recognise to the minister who is with us in the chamber that, as the member for Frome, I have enjoyed visiting particular facilities and community groups in my electorate that have taken up the opportunity to apply for these grants. It is of enormous relief to community groups that are so busy volunteering they worry about many things, but in particular risk and insurance and what it means if something goes wrong, if there is an emergency or a disaster. Certainly, that is heightened in any community that is vulnerable to natural disasters but in particular fire.

To reflect on the process of the grant application and how important that has been to community groups in my electorate, I note the government's commitment to that and the role that I have played in meeting with community groups that have sought to apply for those grants and have been successful.

There is a downside to the introduction of this bill—the enactment, if you like—and that has been for community groups just to grapple with the details required for being compliant, concerns about noncompliance, concerns about fees and fines and complications where a facility is owned by, let's say, a local council, where the building has been sold and a private investor has come along to purchase it. What I am discovering is confusion at the community level from volunteers who are expected to navigate technical legislation and compliance matters like this, private owner-operators who perhaps are not as savvy as they need to be with their own duties, and the vulnerability that progress associations and community groups find themselves in when they are at the mercy of their landlord.

They might only use that building once a week, once a fortnight, once a month, but there will be requirements made of communities to be compliant with the installation and maintenance of these AEDs. As the lead speaker for the opposition on this bill, we certainly have intended to signal our support for the intent of this amendment bill, noting that two years ago we were on the record asking some very practical questions that have now made their way back to the chamber. With that, I conclude my remarks.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:23): I, too, rise in support of the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024. As we know, access to an automated external defibrillator (AED) can and has saved lives. For every minute you delay defibrillation, a person's chance of surviving cardiac arrest decreases by 10 per cent. In the event of an emergency, time is of the essence, and to help ensure community safety, Labor has once again stepped up to the plate.

On coming to government in 2022, we made passage of the public access bill a priority. In fact, it is legislation that Labor supported in the previous term of government as well, before a then Liberal government allowed the bill to lapse. We have put this legislation back on track and are making sure that we bring the community along with us.

Not only did we get this legislation through parliament and successfully implemented but we have also put forward \$3 million in funding to ensure community groups and sporting clubs are appropriately supported. Round 1 of the state government's AED Grants Program was run earlier this year, with over 200 \$1,000 grants provided to more than 160 organisations across the state. With this funding available through until December 2025, Mr Deputy Speaker, you can rest assured that access to life-saving devices is only going to improve.

I would like to acknowledge, first, the work of the Hon. Frank Pangallo in the other place in developing this legislation, the first of its kind in Australia—which, of course, this Malinauskas Labor government was proud to support. On a local level, there are a few people worthy of mention as well, not just for their advocacy where the installation of community accessible AEDs is concerned but for their wanting to improve outcomes for people experiencing cardiac arrest more generally.

The first amongst those people is Judith Ellis of Aberfoyle Park, who approached me with a suggestion for a defib at the Happy Valley Reservoir back in February 2023. As some members would know—and certainly as many in my community know—you can find me at the Happy Valley Reservoir every Friday morning at 9am for a lap of the Woodland Loop and a coffee afterwards with my community.

The Happy Valley Reservoir is a place to walk, run, fish, kayak, barbecue—you name it. Importantly, it provides drinking water to much of the central metropolitan area as well, and we cannot forget that. It goes without saying that the reservoir reserve is one of my community's most valuable assets and is a place for people of all ages to enjoy. Thanks to Judith, four defibrillators were installed at the reservoir within a few months of her reaching out, and while I sincerely hope they are surplus to requirements, I also hope they provide anyone in my community wanting to picnic in Happy Valley or to join me for a walk around the reservoir on a Friday morning with a new level of comfort.

While we are on the topic of the Happy Valley Reservoir, a new access gate was opened in the western boundary, opposite Serpentine Road, just a few weeks ago. It may not sound much to the people in this room, but this has been a long time coming for my community. So to Lauren, Laura and Russell, and everyone else who has written to me between March 2022 and now, we did it—we have finally unlocked pedestrian reservoir access for families in O'Halloran Hill and Happy Valley's north.

Another lady I would like to make special mention of today is Emiley Quinn of Flagstaff Hill, who contacted me in October 2022 to suggest that South Australia consider joining the GoodSAM program. For anyone who is unfamiliar with GoodSAM, it is a mobile app that notifies registered responders when a person near them experiences a cardiac arrest, triggered by phone call to 000.

In the short time since we launched GoodSAM, it has already saved several lives, including that of a two year old in Kadina last year. A couple of off-duty ambos accepted the GoodSAM alerts following reports a barbecue smoker had fallen on a child and provided emergency assistance until

paramedics arrived shortly after. Another case saw a man in his fifties suffer a cardiac arrest before two more off-duty SA Ambulance Service staff rendered assistance using a community accessible defibrillator, a firsthand example of why this legislation is so important.

In 2021, it was one of Emiley's own family members who suffered a cardiac arrest, but thankfully the proper care they received that day helped save their life. That experience prompted Emiley to contact me, and just a few months later the Minister for Health and Wellbeing was announcing GoodSAM's rollout here in South Australia. These are good examples of how community suggestions can bring about serious statewide change, and it also demonstrates that in this Malinauskas Labor team you have a government that listens.

Today's amendment bill seeks to remove ambiguities within the act to ensure its consistent interpretation and application across multiple settings. The act was always intended to increase the availability of AEDs in public areas for community use, and any change we can make to eliminate confusion and assist that rollout is a change worthy of the chamber's consideration. I commend the bill to the house.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:29): I rise to add my voice to the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the act for the purpose of removing ambiguity around the applicability, scope and requirements of the act. Put simply, it is making it clear. The amendments ensure the intent of the act is strengthened by requiring the installation of AEDs in buildings or facilities that are publicly accessible, noting that the intent of the act is to increase the availability of AEDs in public areas to be used by members of the community in the event of a cardiac episode.

The importance of this legislation cannot be stressed enough. It is without doubt life-saving, making automated external defibrillators mandatory in public buildings, including sporting facilities, universities, schools, libraries, council offices, cinemas, theatres, swimming pools and, as we have just heard from the member, even along the walking trail of a reservoir, to give South Australians experiencing a life-threatening cardiac episode the best chance of recovery. Time is crucial, and every minute impacts not only on the chance of recovery but even the extent of the recovery. The Heart Foundation tells us that every minute without defibrillation to restart the heart reduces the chance of surviving by 10 per cent.

We know South Australians have much to be proud of in leading the way with firsts, and this life-saving legislation before us today is another first. I would like to acknowledge the significant role played by the Hon. Frank Pangallo in the other place and, of course, the health minister, the member for Kaurna, to get us to this point.

The South Australian government has already installed AEDs in some of the places mandated under the legislation, including CFS, MFS and SES vehicles, in preparation for the commencement date for government facilities of 1 January 2025, with the legislation to commence for non-government owned facilities from 1 January 2026.

To support not-for-profit, community, sporting and cultural organisations acquiring AEDs, the Malinauskas government is rolling out the South Australian AED Grants Program, providing \$1,000 towards the purchase of an AED for their facility. The first round delivered over 200 grants to more than 160 organisations across South Australia. In Torrens, we had three successful recipients: the Molinara Cultural and Community Club in Holden Hill, the Salvation Army hall in Oakden and the North Eastern MetroStars Soccer Club in Klemzig. I would like to thank these organisations for being so quick to submit their application to ensure our local communities are well equipped in the case of an emergency.

I would also actively encourage all of these organisations and all organisations installing AEDs to ensure they have as many members as possible attend a session on using an AED. Although they are simple and self-explanatory, I know that Gaza Sports and Community Club were very happy to have a special session, which was attended by a significant number of their members and players. I look forward to the commencement of this legislation that will ensure increased public access to AEDs across our state, an important measure to help save the lives of South Australians who experience a cardiac episode and also assist families who would otherwise endure the heartache of losing a loved one.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:33): I want to thank all the members who have contributed to the debate: the members for Frome and Bragg on the other side and, on our side, the members for Waite, Davenport and Torrens. I thank the opposition for their support of this legislation. This is very important legislation to make sure that this act, which is really world-leading in terms of the availability of defibrillators in our community, saves lives.

These amendments to make sure it is workable are important for businesses and community groups across the state and, I think, go a long way in terms of addressing the concerns and the implementation issues as we have been navigating that since the original legislation was passed. I want to thank the Hon. Frank Pangallo for his instigation of this legislation to begin with and also the various organisations that have supported him in that effort, particularly the Heart Foundation but also Greg Page, the Yellow Wiggle, who I have met with a number of times, who is a passionate advocate for this action.

As has been discussed, we have had an implementation group, a government steering committee across government. It has been ably led by the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department for Health and Wellbeing, Sinead O'Brien, and I want to thank her and everyone on that group. I also want to thank the members of our team who have been working very hard on this legislation: Janelle Lemmy, Charlotte Butchart, Carolina Nebbiai and Lizzie Metcalf from the implementation team, and also Dylan Anesbury from my office, who have brought this legislation here. I thank the parliament for their support and look forward to this legislation being implemented and it making a real difference in terms of the availability of AEDs in our community to ultimately save more people's lives.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:35): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**TOBACCO AND E-CIGARETTE PRODUCTS (E-CIGARETTE AND OTHER REFORMS)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:36): I rise to speak to this bill, noting that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. In rising to contribute to the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (E-Cigarette and Other Reforms) Amendment Bill as the lead opposition speaker in this space, we know on both sides of the house how toxic and malicious these products are. We know that e-cigarettes—vapes for short—make vapour for inhalation and simulate cigarette smoking. They are not safe. We know that parents are extremely concerned about the presence of these items in our community and, of course, that the use of them leads to serious health outcomes.

They are sometimes marketed as cessation tools to help adults quit smoking, and I respect the approach and the research that has gone into many attempts to support those with an addiction to nicotine and smoking to use the materials and resources available to them, but when it comes to young people accessing vapes, we have to keep asking serious questions about the supply within our community.

There is a lot of risk associated with vaping to say the least. Most e-cigarettes in Australia contain nicotine, even when that packaging says that they do not. Nicotine is a highly addictive and toxic drug that can harm brain development and impact attention, learning, memory and mood changes. All e-cigarettes, even those that do not contain nicotine, contain dangerous substances in the liquids and the aerosol.

Research shows a strong association between vaping and future smoking behaviours, with young people who choose to vape or are exposed to vaping three times more likely to take up

cigarettes. As with smoking, being around people who vape means you can also breathe in that second-hand aerosol from the vapes. There is strong evidence within our education system that our students truly are vulnerable to these products.

In August 2024, the government introduced this amendment bill into the house, and that was after public consultation in 2023 hosted via YourSAy. Many submissions were reviewed by Dr Chris Reynolds, a public law expert chosen by the current government, who recommended refinements to the act and regulations.

With this bill, the government seeks to align with legislative and regulatory changes that were passed by the federal government in June 2024, and that was in an attempt to reform national laws and enforcement powers against the supply and sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products. It seeks to further strengthen strong South Australian tobacco and vaping laws and the enforceability of these laws.

This bill introduces its own prohibition on the sale and supply of e-cigarette products as well as the possession of e-cigarette products for the purpose of sale. While this might be similar to bans introduced through the federal Therapeutic Goods Act, the state government claims that having these offences in South Australian legislation will maximise the role of enforcement officers in this state and see funds from the penalties returned to the state Treasury.

The government allocated \$16 million to create a dedicated task force within Consumer and Business Services (CBS), shifting the enforcement duties and responsibilities away from SA Health and from SAPOL. However, despite the member for Enfield's contribution in the house just a couple of weeks ago, which I suggest went close to reflecting on legislation before the house, the opposition would say the jury is out on whether this government has truly achieved its objective to crack down hard on the illegal sale by the transfer of this enforcement duty to CBS. In a media release from May, the government stated:

From July 1, CBS will take on the licensing functions currently undertaken through SA Health, with responsibility for assessing new licence applications, ensuring existing licensees are complying with the law and investigating any reports of illegal sales.

CBS will assume responsibility for licensing of tobacco and vapes, and enforcement relating to their sale and supply, with approximately 20 additional full-time equivalent employees recruited to cover everything from licence applications, to responding to consumers and inspecting premises.

If this is in response to some of the failures we have seen at the federal level to crush this sinister and dangerous black market then perhaps our state is going to need more than \$16 million allocated to it. The federal Coalition has announced and committed \$250 million towards a law enforcement package, including an illegal tobacco and vaping task force, which would be led by the Australian Federal Police, should they win at the next federal election.

This is in contrast to Minister Butler, the federal Minister for Health, who has ruled out our most experienced law enforcement officers by stating recently that Labor 'are not going to use the police'. I raise this because in my own community there are concerns from police officers throughout the region. We all who live in our country towns are very acutely aware of the presence of shops and retail spaces that are trading in these products, with suggestions of breaches against the act.

What has filtered back to me is a frustration from our local police force that certainly the signal from the federal government, and at the state level as well with CBS being involved, is that the enforcement, the circumspection, the observation and the tracking of the sale of these items in our communities is now going to be the business not of SA Health and not of SAPOL but of Consumer and Business Services. We hope CBS demonstrates its ability to not just crack down on city premises but that that \$16 million extends to the regions.

Last year, we debated the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (Tobacco Product Prohibitions) Amendment Bill 2023. The bill mainly amended section 30 to section 33 based on restrictions on the retail sale of tobacco products and e-cigarette products, their packaging and laws around the possession of certain tobacco products. The act now prohibits the supply or sale of tobacco products in South Australia that do not meet the prescribed plain packaging and health warning requirements under commonwealth legislation, which includes the requirements of the commonwealth's Tobacco Plain Packaging Act 2011.

The act also prohibits the sale or supply of tobacco products that are prohibited goods or have not had the required excise duty paid as per the commonwealth Customs Act 1901 and Excise Act 1901. Finally, it prohibits measures to curb smoking and vaping that include banning non-prescription e-cigarette imports, regulating flavours, packaging and nicotine concentrations and promoting public awareness campaigns.

This current amendment bill now aims to refine tobacco control policies by removing references to sleeping or living areas in prisons or detention centres, introducing greater criteria for tobacco merchants and allowing the minister to impose conditions on licences. It also introduces a new offence prohibiting tobacco sales by minors—an important point—and vending machines. The act also includes a smoking ban for covered public transport areas, allowing 'smoking permitted' signs in hospitality venues and establishing powers for authorised officers to comply.

This proposed legislation also includes new smoke-free and vape-free areas within 10 metres of children's education and childcare centres and five metres of non-residential building entrances and public hospitals (where the opposition has evidence of noncompliance already, so I suspect some changes will need to be made in that area). Health facilities will be impacted, as well as outdoor public swimming facilities, major sports or events facilities, playing and viewing areas during organised sporting events for under 18 year olds, on beaches within 50 metres of patrol flags and also under or within five metres of jetties.

The amendment bill has incorporated recommendations from public law expert Dr Chris Reynolds, who I mentioned earlier, and those recommendations include:

- modifications to align with current tobacco control policy directives;
- defining 'residential premises' such that jails and detention facilities are covered under the current smoke-free legislation;
- tighter requirements for licence holders who sell tobacco products;
- modifications to the licence requirements to allow the minister to set requirements in line with the goals of the act;
- the wholesale tobacco licence being reinstated;
- the introduction of a new crime that forbids minors from supplying or selling tobacco products;
- tobacco goods not being allowed in vending machines going forward;
- the smoking restriction in covered public transportation places being amended;
- permitting 'smoking permitted' signs in establishments catering to hospitality;
- the establishment of the authority to issue compliance notices by designated officials;
- changing the confidentiality provision governing information exchanges between SA Health and other organisations;
- extended judicial authority to limit, halt or revoke a tobacco vendor's authority; and
- of great concern, this bill seeking to insert a new section for the establishment of controlled purchase operations, whereby people under the age of 18 will be given some undetermined operational powers, which we intend to explore in detail in committee and through the opposition's amendment.

The minister's second reading speech makes no reference to the amendment to this clause, and I draw particular attention to it. The minister's speech makes no reference, either delivered in person or read directly into *Hansard*, of an amendment which now is clearly set to authorise a person under the age of 18 to be a controlled purchase officer. While we the opposition do not oppose the intentions of this bill to crack down on the illicit trade of tobacco and e-cigarette products, in my portfolio role and in my role as a local MP, tracking very closely parents' concerns about the exposure young

people currently have to these toxic products, I am concerned about the youthful workforce the government imagines might be available to the state.

New section 69B(1) in this bill allows the minister to authorise a person to be a controlled purchase officer, including a person under the age of 18 years, who is able to take any action specified by the minister in the notice of authorisation. New section 69C(2) provides:

A controlled purchase officer who is under the age of 18 years must give to the authorised officer supervising the controlled purchase operation anything obtained by the officer as a result of the operation.

It is important to note, to state the obvious, that it is against the law for anyone to give cigarettes or vapes to people aged under 18. The section I have just mentioned raises ethical concerns, I think, and I call on the government to justify through the committee stage its approach to using children for what can only be described as a sting operation. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing was recently quoted by the ABC as saying:

This is essentially a sting operation where we can send in kids to see if retailers will sell tobacco or vapes to young kids—and then we can prosecute—

he suggests retailers—

if they've broken the law. That's going to be another tool in the armoury for our enforcement officers to be able to take action against people doing the wrong thing.

SA's consumer affairs commissioner calls the practice 'test purchasing' and says it has been around for years, but he would not expand on that method. Is it the case then that the government, being unable to fund more than 24 FTEs in their capacity for crackdowns and enforcement, has found a cheaper option and plans to send children in like some modern-day Artful Dodger? I wonder.

The Premier takes the view that his government would recruit children thoughtfully and in a way that invites consent from appropriate people. I have looked very carefully, but none of those words appear in the bill. There are in fact no details about how this will work. It is just a thought bubble.

The Premier says that the objective of the proposal was to prevent children from becoming addicted to vaping, but I would argue strongly that this legislation is in fact meant to do that. We are the adults. Is the government really suggesting that children under the age of 18 should protect themselves from this toxic addictive industry, or have they run out of options?

This week, and in recent weeks, we have seen the government running away from scrutiny, muzzling the opposition's duty in a previous sitting week to inquire and interrogate legislation. Those bills in the last sitting week were guillotined, and conversations and debate were censored, filtered and cut short. I hope that at the start of a fresh week we will see due process being given to bills of this nature where at the heart—

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): Member for Frome, I do remind you it is disorderly to reflect on a vote of the house.

Ms PRATT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the heart of this bill is intention across both sides of the chamber to deliver outcomes that will contribute to a crackdown on illicit trade and enforcement of fines that will penalise those who are taking advantage of young people.

I take this moment to list questions that may not make it to committee but which I think are very relevant to the sections that I have referenced regarding new sections 69B and 69C, in relation to the minister being able to authorise a person under the age of 18 to become a controlled purchase officer. These questions are legitimate in the fact that the current bill, the amendment bill, is silent on the scheme, the device, the mechanism for how this strategy will actually be implemented or deployed.

I look forward to the government's response to validate and justify its inclusion in the first place. To the minister and the government as a whole: what is the minimum age for recruitment of this young person? The bill says under the age of 18, but it could extend all the way back to nine or 10. I suggest that the government is not considering the employment of a nine year old in a sting operation, but there is a lot of information missing.

Can a child under the age of criminal responsibility in fact, in the Premier's words, be a tool in the armoury of government? I beg your pardon; that might have been the minister's words, but I still suggest that while we are debating elsewhere as a nation the age of criminal responsibility we are looking at a workforce of minors to do the work of adults and government.

How is the government going to recruit? Are ads going to be placed on Seek? Who is going to make that selection? Will there be a regional recruitment process? Will these young people under the age of 18 be paid and how much? Are they going to need a tax file number, or will they be paid in Spotify gift vouchers or in cash? Are they going to get a budget for wearing undercover clothes?

Who is going to give consent for this young person to participate in this role? Can children and young people under the guardianship of the CEO of the Department for Child Protection apply or be considered? What safety and welfare provisions are in place to protect them? Will they qualify for the employment assessment program? Will WorkCover apply?

I pause halfway because in no way do I mean to suggest that these questions I am putting to the chamber are flippant or to be seen as dismissive. I am deeply concerned that there is no information available to the public or this house to understand what the government means by a suggestion that an under-18 year old can be employed or utilised by the bureaucracy in covert sting operations.

Has the government consulted with the Guardian for Children and Young People or the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People? Will these young people under the age of 18—controlled purchase officers—qualify for legal representation by the Crown if anything goes wrong during that covert operation? We have seen some very questionable criminal activity taking place in the city of Adelaide in relation to arson attacks on premises, with the suggestion that these businesses and these premises are tied to the illicit trade of tobacco and vapes. This is not a safe industry for young people to be associating with.

Was the Cancer Council consulted on this amendment? Will children identified as having used vapes be targeted particularly for recruitment, and are they at risk of therefore developing an addiction we are trying to avoid? Is a young person under the age of 18 who has been found guilty of any offence eligible to become a controlled purchase officer? What steps would be taken to determine whether a person under the age of 18 years is actually deemed a fit and proper person as per new section 5A?

In the house in recent weeks the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs reported:

Inspectors are now out enforcing compliance, and CBS has conducted more than 200 inspections, and confiscated more than 230,000 cigarettes, 606 kilograms of pouch tobacco, 138 kilograms of shisha tobacco, and over 3,500 vapes. Since CBS were tasked with these new compliance and enforcement activities, we have had almost \$650,000 worth of illicit tobacco and vaping products taken off our streets.

If this measure has already been taken by this government why does the Premier need kindergarten cops? The amendment itself is dependent on instructions from the minister of the day which appear to be unlimited. The legislation, the current amendment bill, is silent on any provisions that guide the parliament or the courts to administer or interpret this astounding covert tactic. There is no scheme, there is no device and there is no mechanism or instruction as to how a minor will be recruited to this *Beverly Hills Cop* operation.

A briefing from parliamentary counsel confirms that there is no known precedent for any act that would authorise a minor to participate in a similar covert controlled operation. While I have not discovered a legislative precedent where any under-age children would be employed in this way, it has been put to me that there is a hypothetical scenario where in an emergency situation this might be considered for a tactical response, which I understand. However, the principle remains that our laws should not facilitate anyone to commit a worse offence to catch a lesser offence.

This government has failed to outline any scheme by which this legislative device could be considered or accepted. There are too many unknowns relating to consent, safety provisions, awards, risk and welfare. It does not even stipulate a minimum age limit, leaving the possibility for children under the age of criminal responsibility to be recruited.

It is currently against the law for anyone to sell cigarettes or vapes to people under 18, but in a double standard, the government are considering sending children into businesses, unsafe businesses, to check if vapes and illegal tobacco are being sold. The only comments the government have officially made about this amendment are to be found in the media. I conclude my remarks.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:00): I have spoken about my thoughts and attitudes towards smoking and vaping in this place before, knowing firsthand the lifelong impact that these harmful practices can have. Watching my father slowly die from COPD last year and over the preceding five years, I cannot explain in words how strongly I feel about it.

I cannot bear to see young people with a vape in their hand. Having replaced cigarettes, and from what I can see being attractive to a much younger audience than cigarettes, it is frightening. I cannot stand to hear people trying to justify that vapes are not as bad as cigarettes. It is clear that they are and possibly worse. It is disgusting that cigarette companies and others are marketing vapes at kids with bright colours, patterns, and with fruity flavours. It is disgraceful and they should be ashamed of themselves.

When kids are little, we lock up the cupboards and make sure poisons are put away in hard to reach places. Things like medications have a bitter taste to deter kids. Chemicals like disinfectant; weedkiller; batteries; arsenic; bug sprays, which is known to damage DNA; chlorine and pool chemicals: we put them away as we know they are harmful and poisonous.

Those chemicals are formaldehyde, acrolein, mercury, arsenic, benzene and chlorine. This is the cocktail of what the fluid is that is in vapes. It is what our kids, and more broadly adults, are ingesting when they vape. They are the chemicals that cigarette companies and others are marketing to our kids. They are handing them poison.

It is clear that we need to lock those chemicals away. It is clear that as a government we need to lock those chemicals away, and we have. We are now strengthening the padlock and increasing the penalty of opening that cupboard and strengthening the penalties for the criminals who try to hand our kids the keys.

Researchers keep learning more about e-cigarettes every month, but we already know the harms of vaping can include nicotine addiction, breathlessness and symptoms of nicotine poisoning such as vomiting, nausea and diarrhoea. Kids are ending up in hospital, in some cases incredibly sick and even dying from ingesting these poisons. Enough is enough. Our government is committed to taking strong action to halt this serious health problem and to protect the health of South Australian young people and children.

As I mentioned, we have already taken steps to stamp out the use of vapes in young people and to penalise those who target our kids. To date, we have run hard-hitting media advertising campaigns about vaping across radio, outdoor and digital platforms, including Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. We have been supporting schools with an education campaign, resources and staff training aimed at preventing children taking up vaping and helping those who want to quit. Our schools have had to install vape sensors in the bathrooms. The students have to check in when they go to the toilet and teachers are back on toilet duty at lunchtime. It is a very sad situation.

We are not taking this anymore. We have introduced new vape and smoke-free areas that commenced on 1 March 2024, banning vaping and smoking in a variety of public outdoor areas, including our schools, childcare settings and under-18 sporting events and imposing tougher licence conditions on retailers to reduce the illegal sales of tobacco and vapes.

However, there is still more to do and it is good to see that we are not the only jurisdiction taking this on. The federal government is also tackling this issue head on and it is why we need to make these amendments to this bill.

The Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (E-Cigarette and Other Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to amend the act to align South Australian legislation with commonwealth legislation as part of the national vaping legislative reforms passed by the Australian parliament in June 2024. This includes creating an offence for the sale and supply of non-therapeutic vaping products and prohibited nicotine products. The bill also seeks to:

- ban the supply of vapes to any person under 18 years old, even by prescription;
- increase penalties up to \$1.5 million for some breaches;
- introduce a ban on vending machine sales of tobacco products in public areas; and
- establish a new authority to ban novel products that are marketed as an alternative to vapes, including nicotine pouches.

It goes further, creating a smoke-free and vape-free buffer zone for enclosed public transport areas and looking to update licensing and enforcement provisions to allow for greater capacity to enforce breaches of the law.

Vapes are poison and they have no place in our pockets, or indeed in the mouths of our kids. It is not just vapes, though, that we are cracking down on; the increasing prevalence of illicit tobacco being sold across Australia is also a concern. Cost-of-living pressures see smokers looking for cheaper alternatives—alternatives that are not controlled and alternatives for which we have no idea of what is in them. It is why our government has committed a further \$16 million over the next four years to tackle this growing trade in illicit tobacco as well as to take action against anyone who thinks they can still sell e-cigarette products to our children and young people.

From 1 July 2024, Consumer and Business Services assumed responsibility for the licensing and enforcement functions related to illegal sales of e-cigarettes and illicit tobacco. They are now responsible for assessing new licence applications and ensuring existing licensees are complying with the law and investigating and prosecuting offenders. This tougher compliance approach is necessary to tackle the criminal activities that are occurring and is more closely aligned with their current compliance work.

The bill includes enforcement powers and processes that are consistent with those used by Consumer and Business Services for other state laws. It is responsible for, and also introduces, nation-leading penalties for selling, supplying and commercial possession of illicit tobacco products. They are the new cop on the beat.

The time to act against this scourge is now, and I am very pleased that we are going in hard. We need to do more than create harsher penalties, though. We need to work with our communities: work on preventative measures, educate them and develop evidence-based programs and policies to keep them healthy. Can I just add that you can report any business or individual suspected of selling nicotine vaping products. Please go to the SA Health reporting form.

This is important legislation to ensure we protect young South Australians against the supply of illicit tobacco products and vaping products and to crack down on this incredibly important public health issue to ensure the health and wellbeing of our South Australian children and young people.

We know the impact of smoking. I know the impact of smoking. My dad knew the impact that his years of smoking caused: he took his last breath knowing. My mum now knows the impact of knowing. We are learning more about the impact of vaping. Let's not have future fathers and mothers taking their last breath knowing. I commend the bill to the house.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:07): I, too, rise to speak to the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (E-Cigarette and Other Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024. Despite all the evidence, tobacco smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia. Today, less than 9 per cent of South Australians smoke, which is a welcome development when you consider that a majority of Australians smoked not all that long ago and that exposure to second-hand smoke was routine. But, of those 9-odd per cent of people who choose to smoke today, it remains true that about two in three of them will die as a result of that decision, and that is a horrifying prospect.

Through government action and legislation, including world-leading plain packaging laws introduced at a federal level, we have made significant progress. As new products enter the market, though, in particular devices that capture the interest of children and young adults, we have to be so vigilant. Beneath the bright packaging and the bubblegum flavours lie chlorine, which causes lung damage; benzene, which you find in bug spray and which is known to damage DNA; and heavy metals like mercury and others.

Research released in December 2023 confirmed that the percentage of secondary students reporting vaping increased from 4 per cent in 2017 to 16 per cent now. That is an unacceptable increase in the number of young people choosing to ingest those toxins, many of whom will go on to suffer from nicotine addiction and, potentially, symptoms of nicotine poisoning.

We are not in a position to sit on our hands knowing that health outcomes of young South Australians are compromised by the availability of e-cigarettes and vapes, and that is why we have taken such drastic action. Already we have run extensive advertising campaigns exposing the dangers of vaping and supported schools in delivering student education and staff training. We have introduced new vape and smoke-free areas in public settings and imposed tougher conditions on retailers to reduce illegal sales. That is quite the undertaking, but our work is not done yet.

The Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (E-Cigarette and Other Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 seeks to align South Australia's legislation with reforms passed by federal parliament earlier this year. We want to ensure South Australia's approach to harm minimisation is consistent with that of the country, and we do that by prescribing the sale and supply of non-therapeutic vaping products and prohibited nicotine products as an offence.

The bill also increases penalties for breaches, up to \$1.5 million in some instances; places a ban on vending machine sales in public areas; creates smoke and vape-free buffers for enclosed public transport areas; and strengthens enforcement provisions to see that breaches are adequately addressed. Supporting this legislation is \$16 million committed by the Malinauskas Labor government to tackle illicit tobacco trading, a firm warning to anyone who thinks the provision of e-cigarette products to children will not be met by the full force of the law.

From July 2024, Consumer and Business Services also assumed responsibility for licensing and enforcement related to illegal e-cigarette and tobacco sales, meaning CBS is now working to ensure compliance and prosecute offenders. This tougher compliance approach is necessary to tackle criminal activities and stamp out illicit tobacco sales, and it is already working. Since 1 July, nearly \$300,000 worth of illicit tobacco and vapes has been seized in raids, with more than 200 inspections having been carried out in conjunction with the Australian Border Force. That is more than 153,000 cigarettes, 177 kilograms of tobacco by weight, and 135 kilograms of shisha.

These raids are continuing, and I would encourage anyone to report illegal tobacco and vape dealers to CBS via its website. While there is no doubting the importance of thorough enforcement, our want to drive down the prevalence of smoking and vaping requires more than just a heavy hand. That is why we are establishing the independent Preventative Health SA to develop evidence-based programs and policies that keep South Australians healthy, with smoking and vaping a key priority.

This legislation will bolster already significant efforts by government to crack down on the distribution of illicit tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapes, but just as importantly it indicates that we will pull any regulatory lever to support the long-term health and safety of not just children and young people but all South Australians. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (12:12): I rise today to support the Tobacco and E-Cigarette Products (E-Cigarette and Other Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill is a crucial step towards reducing smoking and curbing the rising and very worrying trend of vaping, particularly amongst our young people. Tobacco smoking remains the leading preventable cause of disease and death in Australia. There are about 190,000 current smokers in South Australia, and about two out of three of those people, if they do not quit, will die as a direct result of smoking.

Smoking affects every South Australian, whether you are a smoker or are exposed to smoking. Curbing this habit is everyone's responsibility. We have come a long way from the times when a majority of people smoked or were exposed to second-hand smoke as a normal part of daily life. In today's community, far fewer South Australians are smoking and we expect public places to be smoke free.

In recent years, we have seen an alarming trend with a rise in the use of e-cigarettes or vapes. The use of vapes is a growing trend both in South Australia and nationally, particularly amongst our children and young people. It is particularly concerning to read that around 25 per cent

of secondary school age students have used a vape, with about 15 per cent using one in the past month, up from 2 per cent in only 2017. That is a substantial rise.

This government will not stand by and watch a large proportion of our young people become hooked on dangerous products like vapes and e-cigarettes. The Malinauskas government has been actively involved in the national vaping reforms that started this year. These reforms have led to a ban on the importation, manufacture, sale and supply of non-therapeutic e-cigarette products in Australia.

We have also seen an alarming trend in the increased sale of illegal tobacco and vape products. The sale of illegal tobacco and vape products is becoming increasingly blatant and potentially provides income for serious and organised crime. With this bill, we aim to further strengthen our tobacco and vaping laws and improve the enforceability of these laws in South Australia. The bill introduces its own ban on the sale, supply and possession of e-cigarette products in South Australia.

The Malinauskas government is also cracking down on illegal tobacco and vape products in conjunction with the Albanese federal government. New national legislation came into effect on 1 July 2024 to shut down the non-therapeutic retail industry by making the sale and supply of such vapes by retailers unlawful. I emphasise that South Australia remains committed to a national enforcement approach and will continue to work with law enforcement agencies in other states and nationally to develop and implement a national vaping enforcement framework to eliminate unlawful vaping in our community.

As the minister who is now responsible for the licensing of retailers of tobacco and e-cigarettes, I am pleased that this bill introduces new fines that are the toughest amongst all states in our country with its amendments to the tobacco act. Our government wants to send a clear message that we are serious about cracking down on people selling illegal e-cigarettes or tobacco.

As of 1 July, the Premier has tasked me as minister and my agency with enforcing licensing and enforcement activities for the sale of illegal tobacco and vape products in South Australia. Since I assumed that responsibility, CBS has been ramping up their enforcement, including onboarding 22 additional FTEs to cover everything from licensing applications to consumer inquiries and inspections, with an additional \$16 million of funding.

Inspectors are now out in force with compliance action. CBS has conducted more than 220 inspections and confiscated nearly 300,000 cigarettes, more than half a tonne of pouch tobacco, over 100 kilograms of shisha tobacco and over three and a half thousand vapes. Since CBS was tasked with these new compliance and enforcement activities, over \$700,000 worth of illegal tobacco and vape products has been taken off our streets.

Currently, CBS has the ability to impose on-the-spot expiation fines of up to \$1,200, and for serious and/or repeated breaches penalties range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 depending on the offence, but more work needs to be done to stamp out this insidious crime. We are committed to driving this illicit trade out of South Australia. We need to impose significant penalties to ensure that businesses cannot simply pay fines and continue illegally selling the very next day.

Some of the new penalties for selling tobacco without a merchant licence include a maximum \$750,000 for the first offence and \$1.1 million for a second offence. Selling a tobacco product to a minor can result in a penalty of up to \$1.5 million under these new amendments. These penalties are significantly higher than the current range of between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

The trade of illicit tobacco and vapes is putting the lives of ordinary citizens at risk. In Victoria, there are regular reports of shops selling illicit tobacco being firebombed as organised crime gangs seek to push out their competition. The threat is such that Victoria Police have written to their state's landlords to advise them of the risks of leasing their shopfronts to tobacconists. Thankfully, we have not seen an escalation of violence in South Australia like that which has been experienced in Victoria and is creating a serious risk to the safety of people in the vicinity of these tobacco shops. That is why we are taking these strong measures to stamp out the illicit tobacco trade to ensure we do not see the escalation of violence that has been witnessed over the border—and we are going further.

While CBS has seized significant amounts of illicit tobacco products and intends to take appropriate enforcement action, this action takes time, and during that intervening time a shop can just restock and open up to the public again. One way of addressing this is for CBS to repeatedly conduct inspections at the same premises, seizing tobacco on each occasion. However, this approach is resource intensive and may lead to an increase in aggression that could therefore risk the safety of our authorised officers. Instead, this bill, with a government amendment, will enable stores to be issued with interim closure orders. These closure orders may be issued to a retail or wholesale premises, irrespective of whether they possess a tobacco merchant licence.

This is our message to dodgy operators: selling tobacco without a licence or to our children illegally will result in substantial financial penalties and shop closures. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our children and our young people do not take up smoking or vaping, or the next harmful trend that this relentless industry tries to introduce. By supporting this bill, we are supporting South Australian children and young people, ensuring we eliminate the supply chains for illicit tobacco products and vapes, and any future emerging nicotine products.

The Malinauskas government is committed to being at the coalface of tackling this significant public health threat posed by illicit tobacco and vapes and the criminals who sell them. We are moving to a smoke-free and vape-free future for our young people, and we are taking the fight directly to those dodgy sellers because, as South Australians, we do not welcome these kinds of businesses. With that, I commend this bill to the house.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (12:20): I thank all the members of the parliament who have contributed to this very important piece of legislation, particularly my colleague, the Minister for Small and Family Business and Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, with whom we are working in terms of the enforcement of this legislation through Consumer and Business Services, but also members on both sides.

This is important legislation to address the challenges that we are facing from a public health perspective, both in terms of tobacco and also the emerging threat in terms of vaping or e-cigarettes. These products obviously contain a huge amount of nicotine on the whole, and they are highly attractive to young people. We have seen a near doubling of the number of young people just in the space of one year in South Australia who are vaping, which is extremely concerning. Hence, the state government and the federal government are working together to take world-leading action in terms of stamping out vaping.

Obviously, there are a number of amendments that we have moved and also some amendments that the opposition have moved, which we will get to in the upcoming committee stage. I do want to address briefly the issue on which there was some thunderous opposition from the Liberal Party in the second reading debate in relation to controlled operations.

Controlled operations have taken place in South Australia for many years, they take place in other states of the country and have done for many years, and they have been taking place in other countries for many years, so to suddenly have this epiphany that these are somehow disastrous is staggering to me. Also staggering to me is what the alternative would be, that we should not undertake enforcement of not selling to minors, that we should be allowing that potential for legal action to happen without appropriate enforcement, or what the alternative in relation to that enforcement would be.

The truth is, a lot of this act came about following recommendations that were made in a review of the act from Dr Chris Reynolds, who is one of the foremost public health experts in South Australia. He recommended that we needed to strengthen the legislation in this area, and that is what we are seeking to do. The legislation drafting that we are proposing here is very, very similar to the legislation that has been in place for nearly two decades, I am advised, in Western Australia.

The idea that the opposition is putting the straw man argument around of nine or 10 year olds being part of controlled operations is just ridiculous. Having an eight year old myself, I do not think you would want to employ them as any part of government operations to begin with. Let alone that, clearly what has been in place here in South Australia and what has been in place in other states and around the world are operations where usually 16 or 17 year olds, working with

government agencies, are identifying people who are breaking the law: people who are selling to minors a product that is highly addictive and highly harmful to their health.

I am disappointed that that does not have the support of the opposition. I hope that it has the support of the parliament, and I look forward to properly pursuing that in the committee stage because it does have the support of public health experts like Dr Chris Reynolds, it does have the support of public health experts at SAHMRI and it does have the support of other states and other countries around the world. I think the alternative of not allowing the authorities the ability to conduct those control operations means that we will have less ability, very minuscule ability, to be able to detect people who are selling to people under the age of 18, and I think that that is a significant policy problem.

I would like to thank everybody involved who helped to put this legislation together, particularly the teams in Preventive Health SA, the Department for Health and Wellbeing, and Consumer and Business Services who have all worked together collaboratively in relation to this bill. Specifically, I acknowledge Marina Bowshall, Dr Clinton Cenko, Narelle Pearks, Professor Nicola Spurrier, Dr Chris Lease, Anita Benovic, Naomi Burgess, Ashley Crawford, Emily Sims and Joe Labbozzetta for their work in the preparation of the bill. I acknowledge Dylan Anesbury in my office as well. I also thank public health organisations and associations including the Australian Medical Association, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Cancer Council and others for their support of the legislation.

This is important legislation. We want the parliament to support it to give us important new tools in the armoury in terms of protecting the health of the population and avoiding the dangers of what we can see as a long-term impact that we have had in terms of tobacco and an emerging impact in terms of vaping.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Ms PRATT: I want to thank everyone for their contributions to this point, in the house as well as—as the minister previously mentioned—key stakeholders and the department itself. The opposition has filed an amendment and does not have questions at clause 1. We will be moving our amendments at clause 39.

Clause passed.

Clauses 2 to 38 passed.

Clause 39.

Ms PRATT: I move:

Amendment No 1 [Pratt-1]—

Page 32, lines 19 and 20 [clause 39, inserted section 69B(1)]—Delete 'including a person' and substitute:
not being a person

Amendment No 2 [Pratt-1]—

Page 32, lines 38 to 41 [clause 39, inserted section 69C(2)]—Delete inserted subsection (2)

The opposition, in moving these amendments, has reflected on the intent and approach through second reading speeches. I thank the minister for addressing it in part. I think it will circumvent quite a lot of questions today and allow us to explore, with the minister and advisers, some key details that we consider are missing.

I reflect on some of the comments the minister just made, where he talked about controlled operations taking place over many, many years in this country and overseas. My reflection in listening to that was: have any of those controlled operations included the use of young people under the age of 18? The minister and the government need to accept that the opposition's view, with public

contributions, is that the amendment bill, I would argue, does not go far enough in justifying or explaining exactly why this strategy is required. By the minister's own suggestion, the government is really only talking about young people aged 16 to 17, but that is not at all clear through this clause.

I think all the contributions today have reflected on our deep concern that young people have had access and are now influenced, and have serious health complications, by virtue of their use of e-cigarettes. We are all working together to achieve outcomes with this bill that start to crack down, limit the illicit trade and sales, improve the health opportunities for young people and create relief for parents who are very worried about them, but the interpretation of 69B, 'controlled purchase officer', lends itself to the suggestions that were made in earnest during my second reading speech about who, how many, how they would be recruited, what is the intent and what is the protective mechanism that would support a 16 or 17-year-old person in this way, and for the minister to use the word 'clearly' is as obtuse as this clause, because it is not clear and I think that it should be.

I ask now of the minister, in relation to the clause we are seeking to amend: can the minister explain further the justification of a 16 or 17 year old being employed as a controlled purchase officer and what is the mechanism that sits behind that recruitment?

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown): Minister, I might also point out to you that you do need to formally move your amendments to this clause at some stage. You do not have to do it now, but you need to do it at some stage.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This is their amendment.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown): Yes, but, as I say, you will need to move your own at some stage too.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes, but we only deal with one amendment at a time.

The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Brown): Not necessarily. I am not saying you need to, I am just reminding you. Go ahead.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Between confusion in relation to moving multiple amendments at the same time, and also grappling with being labelled as 'obtuse' by the member for Frome, I am struggling to contain myself.

I reiterate what I said in terms of the second reading speech. I am surprised that this has become such a focal point, because this does not have the same level of controversy in other states or around the world or even here when this happened in South Australia previously. As I said, the originating element of this was the review done by Professor Christopher Reynolds, who recommended that this needed to be updated in the legislation. That then went out for public consultation as part of our consultation we did on the bill. I can refer to what was in our report following the consultation that took place:

3 Controlled Purchase Operations.

This is a long-standing issue, and though controversial (often loosely—and wrongly—described as 'entrapment') it is an important way in which compliance can be measured and s38A can be enforced, since an underage sale rarely prompts a complaint which makes conventional policing difficult. The 2019 Review of the Tobacco Products Regulation Act recommended the introduction of provisions to regulate and allow controlled purchase operations, providing the necessary safeguards that the community would expect were in place. There were few comments on this proposal, though one respondent supported it, and it is consistent with the many responses calling for better enforcement, since controlled purchase operations offer a way of achieving this.

Controlled purchase provisions exist elsewhere in Australia; in ss 94-97 of the Tobacco Products Control Act 2006 (WA) and also in Part 6A (Compliance Testing) of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1927 (ACT). These could provide a model for the drafter to consider when amending the SA Act.

That is exactly what happened. We did use the Western Australian act as assistance in terms of the drafting of what we have proposed in terms of what forms now clause 39 in relation to this legislation.

Not allowing minors to participate in these operations would very significantly impact on the ability to enforce the law relating to the sales to minors. In effect, if retailers are selling tobacco, e-cigarettes or other prohibited products, such as a nicotine pouch to a minor, it would be very difficult to enforce that law without a chain of evidence. The participation of minors in the controlled purchase

operations enables a collection of a chain of evidence that is crucial to a successful prosecution for expiation.

The research tells us that the younger a person starts smoking the more likely they will become a heavier, more dependent smoker. To prevent more young people from taking up smoking, it is vital to have a compliance operation protocol for enforcing the law around selling to minors. These operations are a useful part of the armoury of tools available to enforcement.

These operations have been available to our enforcement teams since the early 2000s and have been safely and effectively utilised by all interstate jurisdictions, with the exception of Queensland. It is an approach utilised in overseas jurisdictions. Both Western Australia and Tasmania have controlled purchase operations embedded into their acts, and the wording of the clause in this bill is very similar to Western Australia.

Consumer and Business Services will be further developing the procedures for these operations in accordance with best practice procedure manuals developed in other states. Any minor involved will be closely supervised and supported by an authorised officer and they will be entering the standard retail shops, such as newsagents, supermarkets, service stations and other retail shops—locations which young people routinely frequent.

Authorised officers would conduct a risk assessment for each store they attend before a minor enters. The minor will appear in every way to be a standard customer and, therefore, there is no reason to believe that the vendor will treat the purchaser different to any other customer who enters the store, including other young people. Minors will also be completely honest with vendors if asked a question about their age.

When a controlled purchase officer conducts their duties in line with a valid notice of authorisation, they are protected from legal repercussions under this act and any other relevant laws. The protection extends not only to the officer themselves but also the authorised officers, the minister and anyone else engaged in the operation, including the participating minors.

No-one involved will be deemed to have committed an offence or held liable for the actions of others during the operation. As I said, controlled purchase operations have been included in this bill according to the recommendations from public health expert Dr Chris Reynolds, who reviewed the legislation. I understand that review was actually under the previous government. He concluded the best approach is to amend the act in order to provide a formal structure for the controlled purchase operations that will both authorise them in legislation and spell out the safeguards.

This is something that has happened in South Australia, but without this safeguard in terms of legislation. It has happened in other states, including a number that have legislation very similar to what we are seeking to do. It is a purchase that would happen in the same way as somebody going into a newsagent or a supermarket or a petrol station.

But if we do not do this, if we say we are not going to allow this sort of enforcement to happen, then it is almost impossible to imagine the circumstance in which we would be able to enforce the legislation around selling to somebody under the age of 18. Who is going to complain about it? The person under the age of 18 buying cigarettes is not going to ring Consumer and Business Services and complain about it, the vendor who has broken the law is not going to complain about it. Unless we have people stationed in every supermarket, in every convenience store and every newsagent 24 hours a day and then checking people's IDs after they have been sold, there is just no way of enforcing that.

This is necessary. It is safe and effective, and it is important for the enforcement of these important public health provisions. Therefore, the government will be opposing these amendments.

The committee divided on the amendments:

Ayes	12
Noes.....	24
Majority	12

AYES

Basham, D.K.B.
Ellis, F.J.
Pederick, A.S.
Teague, J.B.

Batty, J.A.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Pisoni, D.G.
Telfer, S.J.

Cowdrey, M.J.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Pratt, P.K. (teller)
Whetstone, T.J.

NOES

Andrews, S.E.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Szakacs, J.K.

Bettison, Z.L.
Clancy, N.P.
Cregan, D.R.
Hood, L.P.
Michaels, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Thompson, E.L.

Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Fulbrook, J.P.
Hughes, E.J.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.
Wortley, D.J.

PAIRS

Speirs, D.J.
Koutsantonis, A.

Stinson, J.M.
Hurn, A.M.

Tarzia, V.A.
Malinauskas, P.B.

Amendments thus negatived.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I move:

Amendment No 1 [HealthWellbeing-1]—

Page 32, after line 41—Insert:

Part 6AA—Closure orders

69CA—Interpretation

In this Part—

closure order means—

- (a) an interim closure order; or
- (b) a long term closure order;

interim closure order—see section 69CB;

long term closure order—see section 69CC;

mobile premises means premises constituting a vehicle, building or other structure ordinarily moved from place to place;

prescribed product means—

- (a) a prescribed tobacco product within the meaning of section 33(2); or
- (b) a prohibited product.

69CB—Interim closure order

- (1) The Minister may, by notice in writing, order that specified premises be closed (an *interim closure order*) if the Minister reasonably suspects that—
 - (a) prescribed products are being, or are likely to be, sold or supplied at the premises as part of a business being carried on at the premises; or
 - (b) tobacco products or e-cigarette products are being, or are likely to be, unlawfully sold or supplied at the premises as part of a business being carried on at the premises.
- (2) The Minister may, by notice in writing, revoke an interim closure order.
- (3) A notice under this section must be—

- (a) given to the person apparently in charge of the premises (if any); or
- (b) posted in a conspicuous place—
 - (i) in the case of premises other than mobile premises—at the entrance to the premises; or
 - (ii) in the case of mobile premises—
 - (A) on the mobile premises; or
 - (B) at the entrance to premises that are connected to the business carried on from the mobile premises.
- (4) The interim closure order has effect from the time specified in the order until—
 - (a) 72 hours after the time specified in the order; or
 - (b) the order is revoked by the Minister,
 whichever is the earlier.
- (5) No more than 1 interim closure order may be made for the same premises in a period of 7 days.

69CC—Long term closure order

- (1) A Magistrate may, on the application of the Minister, order that specified premises be closed for a specified period of not more than 6 months (a *long term closure order*) if the Magistrate is satisfied that—
 - (a) prescribed products have been, or are likely to be, sold or supplied at the premises as part of a business activity; or
 - (b) tobacco products or e-cigarette products have been, or are likely to be, unlawfully sold or supplied at the premises as part of a business activity.
- (2) An application may be made regardless of whether an interim closure order is, or has been, in effect in relation to the premises under section 69CB.
- (3) An application under subsection (1) must be given to the owner of the premises, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so.
- (4) An order made under this section must be—
 - (a) given to the owner of the premises, unless it is not reasonably practicable to do so; and
 - (b) posted in a conspicuous place—
 - (i) in the case of premises other than mobile premises—at the entrance to the premises; or
 - (ii) in the case of mobile premises—
 - (A) on the mobile premises; or
 - (B) at the entrance to premises that are connected to the business carried on at the mobile premises.

69CD—Tobacco or e-cigarette products not to be sold or supplied at closed premises

A person must not, while a closure order is in effect in relation to premises—

- (a) sell or supply tobacco products, e-cigarette products or prohibited products at the premises; or
- (b) carry on a business of selling tobacco products, e-cigarette products or prohibited products at the premises.

Maximum penalty:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate—
 - (i) for a first offence—\$750,000;
 - (ii) for a second or subsequent offence—\$1,100,000;
- (b) in the case of an individual—

- (i) for a first offence—\$350,000;
- (ii) for a second or subsequent offence—\$700,000.

Expiation fee:

- (a) in the case of a body corporate—\$20,000;
- (b) in the case of an individual—\$5,000.

Amendment No 2 [HealthWellbeing–1]—

Page 36, line 11 [clause 39, inserted section 69(1)]—After 'Part 2' insert ', Part 6AA'

Amendments carried; clause as amended passed.

Clauses 40 and 41 passed.

Clause 42.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I move:

Amendment No 3 [HealthWellbeing–1]—

Page 37, lines 15 and 16 [clause 42, inserted section 73(2)(c)]—Delete paragraph (c)

Amendment carried; clause as amended passed.

Remaining clauses (43 to 53), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported with amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (12:47): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 29 August 2024.)

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (12:48): I take the opportunity today to speak in parliament about the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill and indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. In terms of this bill itself, one of the primary elements of the amendments that are being made to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act relates to renewable energy targets that were put in the act back when it was first introduced and, of course, are now quite out of date.

In terms of the baseline figure, it was working off 1990 figures, which a lot of European countries used at the time and coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall and when Europe came together. There was a significant amount of coal-fired generation emissions in industry, especially in the Eastern Bloc, so for them it was quite a high baseline to then work against. Some have speculated it was to their advantage in terms of being able to make reductions appear bigger than they were.

The other aspects to it were around targets for renewable energy and working toward 2014 dates which, if you think where we are now in 2024, are certainly 10 years out of date. It is welcomed that there have been updates to these targets and updates to the regime as a result. From that point of view, we will make some contributions around that.

I want to make an opening point around the introduction of this bill and the timings of it. It was introduced back in late August, on 29 August. In the same week it was introduced, we also heard about some significant regional South Australian businesses that have been hit by surging power bills. Very high electricity costs are really starting to eat into their ability to trade, their ability to run profitably in the agricultural industry and then, of course, to provide food to not only South Australia

but domestically in Australia as well. It is a fact that those prices then get passed on into the cost of staple produce prices.

One of those businesses, iconic South Australian company Nippy's, talked through the challenges that they have seen on their power bills. In fact, they explained how their electricity bills had doubled from the previous year, specifically their June bill. It was \$51,600 in 2023. Fast-forward to June 2024, and they found their electricity bill had skyrocketed to \$109,580. That is a massive cost there. Ben Knispel, who is in charge at Nippy's, detailed not only the more than doubling of their electricity bill but some of the underlying drivers of that. One of those was \$34,350 of market or network charges. They are big network charges built into that \$109,000 bill.

Of course this bill was at the same time that Nippy's had used almost 6,200 fewer hours of electricity in their consumption. Their consumption was reduced, in terms of their kilowatt hours, but their power bill doubled. At the same time, Mr Knispel also made the point that the company—recognising the ability to use solar panels to help reduce power bills—had installed a million dollars of solar panels as well. Despite that, and the ability for the solar panels to supplement and provide some of the power usage in their production facility, the bill skyrocketed.

I think another really sobering point that was made was that the prices, as they fluctuate throughout the day, on some occasions had forced Nippy's to stop production because it was just simply uneconomic for them to operate during some of those periods where we saw the spot price substantially increase.

That is just one example, and there are others that I will touch on later, around some of the big pressures that businesses are facing, as well as households, in terms of their electricity bills as we go through what is a very challenging energy transition at the scale that is required and for these businesses to be able to compete. The other aspect around their business models is that they based their business models, the ultimate cost that the consumer is going to pay, on some of these energy prices and now there is a totally different regime in place.

As I said, that is not the only business that is screaming about these power prices and it is a direct result of what is going on in terms of the electricity market and the transition that is occurring here in South Australia. In that week of parliament when this amendment bill was introduced we were asking questions of the government around what the government's plan is to address this. Sadly, there was a lot of blame but unfortunately no real answers around what is to be expected from the government, so there are challenges around that.

An additional aspect of that week is that the next day—of course, parliament finishes on a Thursday where the government can be scrutinised—on the Friday late in the afternoon, ESCOSA released their retail market offers report. That is a report that details the average retail costs that households here in South Australia are paying and the average retail costs that small businesses are paying. This report basically reinforced the experience of what was going on at Nippy's. It really laid bare what is going on in the retail electricity market for both households and businesses.

The question has to be asked: why would the government have released a report such as this, which gives scrutiny on what power bills are being paid, late on a Friday after all the media had filed their stories for the day? You could postulate as to some of the answers. One might well be that the government was hoping no-one would notice and no attention would be drawn to what is going on in terms of retail power prices. Another reason would be because it actually lays quite bare and puts it out in the open the pain that is being felt right around South Australia.

The report showed that power bills for the average household family in South Australia rose by \$411 between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024. What that meant is that the average household electricity bill had risen to \$2,621, which is the highest recorded average residential power bill for South Australians that has been reported by ESCOSA while it has been conducting these market offer reports.

At the same time, it also showed what was going on for small businesses. It showed that the power bills for the average small business in South Australia had risen by a staggering \$791 between 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024. In terms of where that landed, it showed that the average small business electricity bill had risen to \$5,364. Again, in terms of small businesses, that is the highest

recorded average electricity bill experienced by South Australian businesses in the history of these reports that ESCOSA has been conducting.

They really laid bare what is going on and that gives some context around what is going on in the real world, the pressures being faced by households and the pressures being faced by small businesses as they are going through this energy transition in South Australia. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE (DESIGNATED LIVE MUSIC VENUES AND PROTECTION OF CROWN AND ANCHOR HOTEL) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

APPROPRIATION BILL 2024

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (IDENTITY THEFT) BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

EVIDENCE (ABORIGINAL TRADITIONAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

FORFEITURE BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

SPENT CONVICTIONS (PART 8A FINDINGS) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

BAIL (TERROR SUSPECTS AND FIREARM PARTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND LITIGATION GUARDIAN) BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (RECRUITING CHILDREN TO COMMIT CRIME) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

LATE PAYMENT OF GOVERNMENT DEBTS (INTEREST) (REVIEW) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

SENTENCING (SERIOUS CHILD SEX OFFENDERS) AMENDMENT BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

EXPLOSIVES BILL*Assent*

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy assented to the bill.

DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL*Message from Governor*

Her Excellency the Governor's Deputy, by message, recommended to the house the appropriation of such amounts of money as might be required for the purposes mentioned in the bill.

*Parliamentary Procedure***PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Judicial Conduct Commissioner—Annual Report 2023-24

By the Premier (Hon. P.B. Malinauskas)—

Government Boards and Committees Information, South Australian—
Annual Report 2023-24

Remuneration Tribunal—

Determination No. 4 of 2024—Minimum and Maximum Chief Executive Officer
Remuneration for the District Council of Coober Pedy

Report No. 4 of 2024—Minimum and Maximum Remuneration for District Council
of Coober Pedy Local Government Chief Executive Officer, 2024 Review of

By the Deputy Premier (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Annual Reports 2023-24—

Civil and Administrative Tribunal, South Australian
Equal Opportunity SA

Coroners Act 1993—

Actions taken by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in relation
to the Coronial inquest into the death of Christopher Lens

Government response to the Coronial inquest into the death of
Ms Ardebby Oh Chua

By the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Regulation made under the following Act—

Heritage Places—Prescribed Rate of Interest

By the Minister for Education, Training and Skills (Hon. B.I. Boyer)—

Regulation made under the following Act—

Education and Care Services National Law—Miscellaneous—2024 (No. 2)

By the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs (Hon. A. Michaels)—

Retail and Commercial Leases Act 1995—Disputes Lodged Annual Report 2023-24

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Architectural Practice Board of SA—Annual Report 2023-24
Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016—Early Commencement of the Festival
Plaza Code Amendment—Report

ANSWERS TABLED

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

Ministerial Statement

DRAFT GREATER ADELAIDE REGIONAL PLAN

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:06): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION: The State Planning Commission has released a draft of the next 30-year land use plan for Greater Adelaide. The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan strives to lay the foundation for a bold and clear vision for the long-term growth of Adelaide's metropolitan region. The plan seeks to plot:

- where houses, employment lands and open space will go;
- how the new homes and population growth will be serviced;
- which parts of the metropolitan area require protection;
- what major infrastructure is required, and where and how it is to be provided; and
- how, as a city, we tackle the impacts of a changing climate.

The draft plan seeks to deliver growth throughout the Greater Adelaide metropolitan boundaries, whilst providing South Australians with a choice of where and how they live. By 2050, the population of Greater Adelaide is anticipated to grow by an additional 670,000 people as the government's economic agenda, outlined in the South Australian Economic Statement, is delivered.

The draft plan represents a fundamental policy shift reflecting the Malinauskas government's commitment to scrap the 85 per cent urban infill target held by former governments. It does this by reducing the requirement for general infill to accommodate the metropolitan area's need for growth, and instead identifies the opportunities for greenfield and strategic infill developments to meet the state's growth projection. This will provide choice of where future generations want to live and the lifestyle options available to them.

The draft plan identifies locations where greenfield and strategic infill development could occur on sites such as Concordia, Roseworthy, Two Wells, Murray Bridge, Victor Harbor, Dry Creek, the former West End Brewery site, Franklin Street Bus Depot, Keswick and Smithfield barracks. It strives to deliver long-term supply over a 30-year period, while providing the state with a continuous five-year supply of development-ready land.

The Malinauskas government will also work closely with the local government sector to identify other opportunities for sustainable urban growth. To accompany the proposed growth, the draft plan seeks to provide usable, well-maintained public open space. A centrepiece of this proposed policy setting is the establishment of the northern Parklands.

The northern Parklands draws inspiration from Colonel William Light's city-defining Parklands and Charles Reade's bold plans for a second ring of Parklands in the outer suburbs. The northern Parklands is identified as a continuous parkland containing over 550 hectares of land running from the hills face suburb of Uleybury to the playing fields of Karbeethan Reserve, before following the route of the Gawler River. The proposed northern Parklands have the potential to

redefine northern areas of Greater Adelaide by creating an active interurban break, featuring many recreation and sporting facilities, and maintaining a major biodiversity corridor.

The vision outlined in the draft plan is made possible due to the comprehensive reform of the state's planning system and the creation of a single statewide online ePlanning portal. The draft plan demonstrates the benefits of an online, real-time, cross-government approach to integrated planning, with data coordination facilitating the strategic use of land with the necessary services and infrastructure over the next 30 years.

To enable the state to meet and tackle the challenges posed by growth head-on, the draft plan was fast-tracked as an initiative of the Premier's Housing Roadmap in conjunction with the 20-Year State Infrastructure Strategy and transport plan. The delivery of the draft plan will be supported by Planning and Land Use Services within the newly established Department for Housing and Urban Development.

The Malinauskas government wants to ensure that South Australia's growth is sustainable, well serviced and delivers liveable communities for future generations. Community consultation is now open and will run for six weeks, closing on Monday 4 November 2024 at 5pm. South Australians are invited and encouraged to provide feedback to help shape the long-term planning vision for urban development across Greater Adelaide.

Question Time

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11): My question is to the Premier. Is the Whyalla Steelworks blast furnace currently operational and, if not, does the Premier know when it will be back online? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It was reported last week that the Whyalla blast furnace is offline again, with no date for its return to steelmaking.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:11): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question, because this is an important matter to this state and it deserves attention and scrutiny. The short answer is that, yes, we understand there have been issues more recently again with the blast furnace, as has been reported. I think the initial report came from the *Adelaide Advertiser* and we have seen other media reports since then as well.

There is no doubt, I think it is fair to say, that there are a number of people within the Whyalla community who are concerned about events that are unfolding within GFG and at the Whyalla Steelworks. The government in turn is making active inquiries and conducting some thorough policy work to contemplate how government may play a role to combat the challenges that are currently being experienced at the steelworks.

It is important for people to remember that the steelworks is a critical piece of industrial infrastructure not for South Australia but for the country. We know that there are a range of products that only the Whyalla Steelworks is capable of producing for the steel sector that the rest of the nation relies upon, not just in a national defence context but also in a civil construction context. Beyond that, of course, it is economically central to not just Whyalla but the Upper Spencer Gulf more broadly.

There have been a number of reports that have been made in the public realm in recent weeks around the steelworks not being able to pay their creditors on time; that is something the government continues to actively monitor. Through the Steel Task Force, which is chaired by Mr Bruce Carter, we have access to a range of pieces of information as a government that get presented to cabinet to keep us abreast of the situation at the steelworks.

We have made plain, both publicly and privately, that we want GFG to succeed. For some time now—in fact, for a very long time now, ever since their big reveal made in the end of 2018 if my memory serves me correctly—GFG have had substantial transformation plans for the steelworks that are critical. In fact, it is this government's assessment that the transformation of the Whyalla

Steelworks is essential to the long-term sustainability of that facility. We want to see GFG succeed to realise those transformation plans.

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I answered your question regarding the furnace. We have received advice that they are also, again, experiencing struggles with the blast furnace. We want to see GFG succeed, I think the whole state wants to see GFG succeed, but the state government, I can say, is planning for a whole range of different circumstances. We have contingencies in place to contemplate what government actions may or may not be necessary into the future in a way that is diligent and responsible considering the importance of this enterprise.

We believe that steelmaking and ironmaking have a long-term future in Whyalla. That is one of the reasons why we have the Hydrogen Jobs Plan. The Hydrogen Jobs Plan is not dependent upon the operations of GFG—quite the opposite—but the best opportunity to succeed in the long term for steel production in this country is to do it in a decarbonised form, and we will collaborate with whoever owns that steelworks to achieve that end.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I go to the next question, I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of the year 6 students from St Mary's College, who are guests of the member for Adelaide. I understand they are also accompanied by City of Prospect Councillor Jason Nelson. I would also like to acknowledge Jamie Bucirde, 2024 Young Achiever of the Year, who is a guest of the Minister for Human Services. Welcome, and hopefully the MPs will behave themselves while you are here today.

Question Time

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): Supplementary, sir: when did the Premier last speak to GFG Alliance about the Whyalla Steelworks operations?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:16): I haven't spoken to Mr Gupta myself personally in the last couple of weeks but the government, through the Steel Task Force, is in almost daily contact. My office has been in touch with Mr Gupta's representatives as recently as Friday.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left!

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are called to order, leader. There are students here—behave yourself!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: So there has been regular engagement through the appropriate channels with representatives of Mr Gupta.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question again is to the Premier. Is the Premier considering providing additional financial assistance from the state government to GFG Alliance and, if so, how much?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): The state government within its budget already has \$50 million on the table that is readily available to GFG to realise the transformation plans. The government doesn't have a policy of handing out cash to any particular enterprise, and GFG is no exception. Cash for operations is a matter for the operation of those businesses, but the Treasurer has in the budget \$50 million that is sitting there that is available to GFG as a grant—not as a loan, as a grant—in order for them to be able to realise their transformation, which is absolutely critical to the long-term future of the business.

Separate to that, of course, the state government is committed to our Hydrogen Jobs Plan. The Hydrogen Jobs Plan is a very substantial investment in the establishment of a world-leading—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned for the first time, and the leader is warned for the first time as well.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: The Hydrogen Jobs Plan represents a comprehensive investment, a capital investment on behalf of the South Australian government to build a brand-new, world-leading hydrogen production facility immediately adjacent to the steelworks, and that is a very deliberate decision on behalf of this government. As the member for Giles will attest to, there is a long-term opportunity ahead of the state of South Australia in producing green iron.

In order to be able to produce green iron you need access to magnetite, and that exists in the Middleback Ranges, you need a steelworks with ironmaking capability—we have that in Whyalla—but you also need a decarbonised fuel source that will replace coking coal or metallurgical coal. We can do that through the form of green hydrogen but also blending with natural gas in due course. That is why we are making these investments.

This government has a major plan for the Upper Spencer Gulf of our state combined with the opportunity for copper, hence the government's pursuit of the Northern Water project. These two items combined represent big investments for big, long-term plans to create economic prosperity for the future of our state so that young South Australians, whether they live in Adelaide or the Upper Spencer Gulf, have the opportunity to realise all the improvements in the standard of living that are available to those economies that plan for the future.

Regardless of who owns the steelworks, those plans are real. Regardless of who operates the rolling mill or the blast furnace or any other facilities, or the mine or the magnetite mine, there is a substantial economic opportunity in the Upper Spencer Gulf which is exactly what this state government is investing in. It is exactly what we are planning for.

Of course, we know that the people of Whyalla—the good, hardworking people of Whyalla, the men and women who have dedicated generations of their blood, sweat and toil towards the operation of the steelworks—understand that if the steelworks is going to survive in the future there has to be a serious plan for transformation, and they know that this government is committed to it. They also know just how stark the policy contrast is between this government that is setting up the Upper Spencer Gulf for a long-term and prosperous future versus other governments that have preceded it. We look forward to standing strong—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Brown interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Florey!

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: When we think about the men and women of Whyalla, we stand ready to act, we stand ready to respond and we remain committed to our long-term policies because that's what we're focused on versus what we know those opposite are focused on, which is everything but the improvement of jobs and standard of living in the Upper Spencer Gulf.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, the member for Morialta is warned for the second and third time, the member for Unley is warned for the first and second time and the member for Hammond is warned for the first and second time.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier sought any advice from GFG Alliance about whether they are paying their contractors and, if so, what was that advice? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: It was reported in *The Australian* last week that:

South Australian MP Eddie Hughes has slammed GFG Alliance boss Sanjeev Gupta for shelling out \$12.5m to buy a harbourside Sydney apartment...while reportedly not paying contractors for the Whyalla steelworks on time.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:22): Yes is the answer to that question. We received that advice through the Steel Task Force, which has the capacity to actively monitor those who are creditors of GFG. GFG has been, in some instances, not making various payments that are due to various creditors on time, but there are plenty of instances where they have been paying them on time as well. We actively monitor that situation.

There have been concerns over a considerable period that seem to come and go, improve and get worse in respect of GFG's on-time performance in terms of their payments, but that is something we actively monitor and, yes, we did receive that advice—in fact, an update on that advice as recently as last week.

I should note that through our Upper Spencer Gulf cabinet committee, a purpose-established cabinet committee to realise the long-term transition that needs to occur in the Upper Spencer Gulf, the Steel Task Force has been appearing and also providing advice on a frequent basis as we actively monitor this situation very closely indeed.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:23): Supplementary: when did the Premier last meet with the Steel Task Force?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:24): Wednesday? Thursday? Middle of last week. I can get the exact time and date for you, if that would be required.

BEACH CAMPING

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:24): My question is to the Minister for Environment. What plans does the government have to deal with the side-effects from the ever-increasing popularity of beach camping? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr ELLIS: Since COVID the popularity of beach camping in my electorate has gone through the roof, and the obvious side-effects that come with it are causing significant harm to our wildlife, including the dunes, and the dumping of rubbish and waste is becoming an increasing problem.

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (14:24): The member highlights a serious challenge. We are an unusual state in the extent to which we allow people to drive on our beaches. It is something that many South Australians treasure and enjoy, but what we have seen is that in some areas the increase in recent years—particularly through COVID—has seen pressure on some beaches that has been hard to sustain.

An example is Wauraltee Beach, in the member's electorate, where the council has for some time been concerned about not being able to manage the impacts. I understand there were some 450 vehicles over the Christmas period. You would have to think that means 1,000 to 2,000 people over that period using that beach, digging fire pits, toileting, going through dunes and so on.

My sense is that there has been a shift in community sentiment where, while locals have long enjoyed being able to get out onto beaches, they are now seeing that people are coming from other places and leaving a fair mess behind and therefore looking to see some tightening up of the way in which they are managed.

A few years ago I was on the Natural Resources Committee, chaired by the Member for Heysen, and we undertook an investigation into the impact of driving on beaches in South Australia and came up with a number of recommendations which my department, and also the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, have been working through. You will have seen that there has been some modification in the speed limits on some beaches, for example, that have been brought in by that department—or possibly by the police. It might be better to refer to that portfolio.

From the perspective of the Department for Environment and Water, what we have been undertaking is initially over last summer—and, again, it will happen over this summer—more compliance on beaches where driving is not permitted already, but there has been some custom and practice, or just perhaps an absence of signs, or those signs have been blocked, where people have been out in national parks, driving on beaches where it is not allowed. So we have increased the information provided, the advice being given to people, and also the signage to help guide people away from the beaches in those times.

We have also identified some other beaches where driving is allowed and camping is allowed, but locals have raised concerns and Wauraltee is an example of that. We are currently working with the council, as well as with user groups, on how we might restrain that impact—whether it is about visiting but not staying overnight—and we expect before too long to be in a position to present a shared view. I think we have given one briefing already to the member and we will be seeking another briefing before long to bring him up to date with the arrangements.

I want to be clear that we are not, as a government, opposed to the idea of people enjoying themselves in a variety of ways, including being able to take a car out on a beach where it is appropriate. What we do need to do is recognise that where the impact has become heavier than previously, that there is a community sentiment that is asking us to have another look at the way in which we regulate that.

There is also increased focus on the protection of the hooded plovers in particular, the beach birds that lay their eggs in shallow—we would not even call them nests; it is just a little bit of a hollow in the ground that they pop some eggs into. They are highly vulnerable to dogs being off a lead and to cars driving. We are trying to find that right balance and we will make sure that local members are kept up to date as we work through that.

AUKUS AGREEMENT

Mrs PEARCE (King) (14:28): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on how South Australians are benefiting from the AUKUS agreement?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:28): I thank the member for King for her question. The member for King has an electorate that is becoming increasingly younger, and as we see families move into electorates such as the member for King's, they will increasingly turn their mind to the roles that young people will perform in our changing economy here in South Australia.

Just last week, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released the labour force statistics, and those labour force statistics again put South Australia as the equal best jurisdiction in the country in terms of the unemployment rate. Only Western Australia has an unemployment rate as low as the one we enjoy here in South Australia.

The challenge isn't creating jobs; the challenge is actually making sure that we are creating jobs that are becoming increasingly productive, increasingly modern by nature, higher skilled and therefore demanding higher wages. The AUKUS opportunity is an unprecedented one in terms of its scale to be able to achieve that objective.

Just this week, in conjunction with Huntington Ingalls, we saw a number of South Australian manufacturers, or participants in the manufacturing industry, being selected to participate in the Supplier Capability Uplift Program, which is being designed by Huntington Ingalls, which is one of the two manufacturers of US nuclear submarines operating out of Newport News in Virginia.

The partnership that the state government has formed with HII is through our memorandum of understanding, which we signed some time ago—I think it was late last year. We had the MOU late last year with HII. That then resulted in the establishment of the Supplier Capability Uplift Program, which I was able to announce in May this year, when I was travelling to Newport News. Yesterday, five South Australian manufacturers were announced as being selected to participate in that program: McKechnie Iron Foundry, Century Engineering, Levett Engineering, H-E Parts International and MacTaggart Scott Australia—good South Australian companies employing South Australians, with a keen eye to produce equipment that won't just be necessary on the SSN-AUKUS program but also actually supply into the Virginia class program.

Herein lies the whole point for South Australia: you cannot think about the AUKUS program as a chance for South Australian businesses only to contribute to the submarines being built at Osborne. You realise, once you go into the detail, that the AUKUS program is an opportunity for South Australian businesses to supply to a global supply chain that builds nuclear submarines with our UK and US partners. The size of that opportunity is very substantial indeed. It is a massive opportunity that we want to help realise and we are wholeheartedly committed to, which is exactly why we are partnering with companies like Electric Boat, Huntington Ingalls, amongst others.

The news yesterday for McKechnie Iron Foundry—I was down at the McKechnie Iron Foundry yesterday. While other people were focusing on other extreme oriented issues, we were focusing on talking to the workers there about their opportunities and the capability for that business to grow very substantially indeed, to provide more work—more well-paid and secure work—to another generation of South Australians. That is what we are focusing on, and we know just how stark the contrast is.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): My question is to the Premier. Is GFG Alliance paying their royalties in full and on time?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:33): GFG is a payer of royalties to the South Australian government. We always like it when we receive our royalties from a range of good miners throughout the state. The mines at the Middleback Ranges—or the mines that are operated by GFG—are profitable. They are productive mines. They have a lot of future in them, particularly with the magnetite resource that we know is available. We are very grateful for the payment of royalties that we receive from GFG. Although they are obligated to do so, we nonetheless are very grateful. We continue to work with GFG to make sure that they facilitate the payments to the state in a way that is timely, and we will continue to work with them.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I rise on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Barking out across the chamber is unparliamentary, and it is an interruption and a contravention of the standing orders.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The leader! I will just remind members that interjecting is unparliamentary, and I have seen enough of it today, thank you.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I was going to raise a point of order that that isn't a point of order, but you have ruled and we will move on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader, quit while you are ahead.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:34): I will move on to my next question. My question again is to the Premier. Will the government's hydrogen power plant in Whyalla lower electricity prices for businesses and households in South Australia and, if so, by how much?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:35): We were very plain in the lead-up to the state election in 2022 that the principal objective of the hydrogen power plant was to establish a facility that would be world-leading to produce hydrogen, with a view to growing—

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, do you wish to leave question time?

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: Not really, sir.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —with a view to establish a new industry. In fact, I remember I spoke at a conference of the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy during the

course of the election campaign that was recorded and then leaked, presumably; I think it was leaked by the Liberal Party at the time. It was recorded and leaked, which is no particular problem.

The Liberal Party were drawing active attention and criticism to the fact that I explicitly made clear during the course of that speech in that particular forum that the objective of the hydrogen power plant was not to make a promise to reduce power prices across the state but rather a promise to actually build an industry to grow the state's economy in a way that was future facing. That is the principal objective of the policy. We believe the policy will only have a positive contribution in terms of the energy markets and what it can do on power prices, but the principal objective is to make sure that we are setting up the Upper Spencer Gulf for the future that we know it has in front of it.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Premier. Does the government stand by its hydrogen election promises? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: The Labor Party's election policy document titled 'Hydrogen Jobs Plan: powering new jobs and industry' says that its hydrogen power plant in Whyalla 'will lower electricity prices for businesses and industry in South Australia'.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my left, you have asked a question. We will hear the answer. The next person who interjects will be doing so from outside the chamber.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:37): Just as I explained to the Leader of the Opposition, the principal objective of the Hydrogen Jobs Plan is to create jobs of the future and a new industry here in our state. We remain committed to that, but it is also true that what our energy sector needs more than anything else is more capacity around generation. While some in this place have been more obsessed with building extension cords, others have been more concerned with actually seeing—

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —more concerned with seeing investments in local generation capacity. We know that what the energy market needs now more than anything else is more capacity in the system. When we see more megawatts being produced domestically in South Australia, that only has a positive impact on the wholesale electricity market.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I go to the next question, I just advise the member for Hammond he is now on three strikes as well.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:38): My question is to the Premier. Has the government undertaken any modelling on how much its hydrogen power plant will lower electricity prices in South Australia as promised and, if not, why not? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: At the Budget and Finance meeting on 16 September, the Office of Hydrogen Power revealed that it had not undertaken any modelling to indicate whether the hydrogen power plant at Whyalla would deliver savings to everyday South Australians and small businesses.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:38): Again, I know that even the Leader of the Opposition appreciates that increasing the supply of power into our electricity market only has a positive impact. The state and the whole country need more generation capacity. That generation investment from the private sector has been undermined by nonstop climate wars, often perpetuated by the alternate side of politics. What we desperately need is more supply into the system and that's what the Hydrogen Jobs Plan will help contribute to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Dunstan will have the next call, and I will just let the member for Flinders know that he has his first strike.

CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Can the minister update the house about aviation access to South Australia?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (14:39): I thank the member for Dunstan for her interest in the visitor economy. Well, what an exciting day it was when the Premier and the Minister for Trade and myself stood by China Southern to announce that they are coming back to South Australia. They have confirmed that they are resuming their direct flights to Adelaide from the end of this year. This is a massive boost to international tourism and fantastic news for trade, tourism and of course international education.

The return of China Southern Airlines returns another international service to South Australia. On coming to government, we were very focused on reinstating those airlines that were not here post COVID. We know they were keen to come back but there were lots of difficulties, so we are very pleased with this announcement.

China Southern Airlines is one of the three largest airlines in China, with more than 900 aircraft in its domestic and international fleet. Returning from 12 December 2024, China Southern Airlines will fly three times per week and return direct from Guangzhou to Adelaide. This reconnects our industry with what was our second largest international tourism market. The service will operate on a Boeing Dreamliner 787-8 series, which will see an extra nearly 800 seats per week.

This relationship between South Australia and China has never been stronger and these direct flights open new opportunities in trade, tourism, international investment and of course our international students. We first welcomed China Southern Airlines to Adelaide in 2016. They were doing three weekly flights at that time, before operations ceased in March 2020 during COVID.

Measuring the success of these flights just using the visitor economic impact is estimated to generate more than \$69 million annually and create in excess of 255 full-time equivalent tourism jobs. This is a significant win for South Australia, our economy and our connection to China. China Southern Airlines flights also connect our state to Asia, the Middle East, Africa, as well as Europe and North America, which are important tourism markets.

I thank the team at the South Australian Tourism Commission who take the lead on the aviation connections piece. This has been an area we have been working on for some time and we were really thrilled to stand next to China Southern to announce this, of course.

We have also recognised that Emirates is coming back to Adelaide on 28 October. This increasing connectivity is welcome for our tourism industry but of course our wider community. I attended many mid-autumn festival events, including hosting a reception here in parliament, and it was the talk of those events. People are so thrilled to have that direct connection back again.

We know we have had a developing relationship again with China. It has been really important in regard to our wine industry, and of course other areas. We still have a little bit of work to do. But this is an opportunity to continue those direct aviation routes, and I welcome their return.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call on the leader, the member for Flinders is on his second warning; and member for Chaffey, I am pleased to advise that you got two warnings.

GFG ALLIANCE

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:43): My question is again to the Premier. Is GFG Alliance in arrears of its royalties to the South Australian government and, if so, by how much?

Members interjecting:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:43): Well, I am responsible for revenue. Is that so unusual? As the Premier has indicated to the house, the Premier, along with other members of the cabinet committee dedicated

towards the Upper Spencer Gulf precinct and successfully making the transition to newer and decarbonised industries, is regularly briefed on progress—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hartley, leader!

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader, you are warned for the second time.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: In fact, Mr Speaker, I take offence to those comments and I would like the leader to withdraw and apologise.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I withdraw the comments that the Treasurer's answer is dodgy and outrageous, and I apologise.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please! The leader is a former Speaker and knows the rules and he knows in his comments then he just broke the rules.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morialta, you will listen. By repeating the offending remarks you have actually done it again, so you will stand up, you will withdraw the comments and apologise unreservedly full stop.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I withdraw and apologise, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. And you, Treasurer?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: I thank the leader for his apology. As I was in the course of explaining, senior ministers, including the Premier, Deputy Premier and I, as well as the Minister for Energy and Mining, are briefed regularly on the situation with GFG and their creditors, and yes, they are behind on their royalties and there are a range of discussions which continue with GFG because while, of course, you would expect the government—

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: I am just trying to help matters. I am just trying to help.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: You are still on probation. You haven't done three months.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: You are still on probation, mate.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Florey! The leader will leave the chamber for 10 minutes.

The honourable member for Hartley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: As I was explaining to the house, this is a matter of importance, I think, to the economic future of the state. The government is behaving reasonably with GFG because while it might be tempting for the leader to thump the table and demand arrears—

Mr BATTY: Point of order: on 98. The minister is debating. The Treasurer was asked how much they are in arrears and he should answer the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, the Treasurer's answer in my opinion was—

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: The Treasurer was talking about the leader's behaviour, sir.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: Are you questioning his ruling? Let him make the ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Premier, I can do this.

The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner: Stop interrupting.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Has everybody finished? Thank you. I don't uphold that point of order. The Treasurer has the floor, uninterrupted.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have risen to give this answer not only to confirm that they are in arrears on their royalties but also to demonstrate how much. If it's okay with those opposite, I might explain the situation while I'm giving that information to the house, much as it seems to vex them.

They are in arrears. It is a serious issue for the state. The government is acting reasonably, because while it might be tempting for those to thump the desk, demand that the government calls in these amounts as and when they fall due, we realise that it would exacerbate the difficult financial position that GFG finds itself in, particularly given that there are other creditors outside of government, in relation to which, as the line of questioning has already demonstrated today, the government is at pains to ensure that we maximise the chance of those South Australian suppliers being paid as and when GFG is able to make those payments.

We are working through the issue. We are doing it constructively and collaboratively and in the best interests of the community of Whyalla, of the steelworks themselves, and those other suppliers that are owed payments.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:48): My question is to the Premier. Has the government expended any public money on advertising its expensive hydrogen plant and, if so, how much and why?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:48): Yes, the government is advertising the State Prosperity Project throughout the state of South Australia. As I am sure the member for Morphett is aware, the State Prosperity Project isn't exclusively about the Hydrogen Jobs Plan. It also covers a number of other pursuits on behalf of the government: the Green Iron opportunity but particularly also Northern Water.

We have publicly released the figures of the advertising campaign around the Hydrogen Jobs Plan. If the shadow minister hasn't been paying attention to his relative portfolio area, he wouldn't be the only one. I am more than happy to furnish the exact number for the member for Morphett, although if he Googles it or reads the paper or whatever, I'm sure he will find it out in his own right.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call on the member for Narungga, I just let the member for Colton know that he has got one strike already.

LIFEBLOOD

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:49): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm that Lifeblood has cancelled its regular visit to Minlaton to collect much needed blood and whether there are any plans to renew it in due course?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:50): Thank you to the member for Narungga for his question. I note his significant advocacy in relation to health services on Yorke Peninsula. Red Cross Lifeblood runs blood donation services across Australia and they do so under a national arrangement with all states and territories and the commonwealth government. They are a very trusted organisation across Australia. They have been doing an excellent job and we are very thankful for all of the Australians who roll up their sleeves and donate blood and plasma on a regular basis.

That enables many patients, people across Australia, to gain access to that blood but also many medicinal products that have been devised, particularly from plasma products across Australia. But, of course, as the member raises, not everybody has a donation centre located near them and particularly country South Australia relies upon mobile clinics going to areas to enable those donations to occur.

I will seek further inquiries in relation to the Minlaton clinic from Red Cross Lifeblood services in relation to whether there has been a cancellation and, if so, why that has occurred, and what else Red Cross Lifeblood will be doing to make sure that they can enable donations to happen across Yorke Peninsula, because I know that certainly in my previous meetings with them they are very committed to making sure that they can be available for regional South Australians to make those important donations.

DEFENCE INDUSTRIES

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Defence and Space Industries. Can the Treasurer update the house on South Australia's participation at the Land Forces 2024 International Land Defence Exposition?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:51): I am grateful for the question from the member because, of course, as the Premier has just outlined, the opportunities in South Australia's defence industries are quite extraordinary at this point in the state's history. This is a defence industry which already employs somewhere in the order of 14,000 people here in our state, approximately half of those in the defence industries themselves aside from people who are employed here by defence forces or their subsidiaries or attached units.

As we have had for more than 20 years here in South Australia, it is a strong view of a state Labor government that we want these industries to grow. So it was a great privilege to represent the state and our defence industries at the biennial Land Forces 2024 conference held in Melbourne. In fact, during the last sitting week—and I thank the house for giving me the time away from sittings to go to the conference. My understanding is that I didn't miss much last sitting week; it was all business as usual over there.

We were able to take more than 60 companies, 67 in fact, South Australian companies to exhibit at Land Forces and demonstrate their wares not only for defence primes but also for those responsible for procurement in our armed services. That is the highest number that we have ever taken over. This is a conference that South Australia has taken a delegation to since 2010, and 14 years ago at that conference there were only 12 exhibitors from South Australian defence industries, so you can see the momentum that South Australia has in terms of taking these companies over to win more business. They showcase their offerings, they connect with defence primes and tier 1 suppliers, reinforcing, of course, our position as the nation's defence state.

But it has also been particularly important, as we have a federal government right now that is focusing so much on investing more and more money on defence procurement and matériel and spending that money in Australia, that we highlight the opportunities and the precincts that we have here in South Australia—Edinburgh Parks, Technology Park, the Tonsley Innovation District and, of course, Lot Fourteen—and our commitment to supporting our defence forces and the businesses that supply them to grow those operations here in South Australia.

I was pleased to meet and directly engage with nearly 30 of these companies while I was over there, including Ultra Maritime; Stärke-AMG; Silentium Defence; Acacia Systems; Aerobond Defence; APC Technology; Southern Launch; Aurizn; Axiom Precision Manufacturing; Daronmont Technologies; Para Bellum Solutions; Codan, of course, a well-established South Australian company; CGI; Dedicated Systems; a company from the most important electorate in the state, Hendon Semiconductors; MTE; Myriota; QuantX Labs; Cold Logic; Micro-X, of course, established at the Tonsley Innovation District; the Defence Teaming Centre, the industry representative; Workspace Commercial Furniture; Lightforce; and Humanihut. These were not even half of the firms that attended Land Forces. You can see the extraordinary capability that our economy provides to our defence forces, and we are very much looking forward to growing our defence industry into the future.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:56): My question is to the Treasurer. When was the Treasurer first notified that GFC Alliance was in arrears on its royalties?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:56): I can come back to the shadow minister with an exact date, but it was several weeks ago. As I indicated in my earlier answer, since that time that the Department for Energy and Mining first became aware that they were not meeting their monthly royalty payment requirements, we have been not only closely engaging with GFG about that obligation but, as the Premier said in his earlier answer, gaining a detailed understanding of the situation that other suppliers find themselves in.

That is why we have had the local member, quite rightly, raise concerns about businesses in Whyalla—suppliers to GFG—that face similar conditions of being in receipt of late payments or payments that are falling due and not being made by the due date. We are working as far as we can as a state government to try to make sure we hold GFG to its obligations to the people of South Australia but don't put them in a position where they are unable to make their obligations to other suppliers or that threaten the future operations of the steelworks.

It is a difficult balance, but one that the government is committed to achieving because we understand what the future should hold for Whyalla and for the steelworks: a productive, thriving, cost-efficient, largely decarbonised operation into the future that will be one of the first places we would like to see making and exporting green steel products around the world, not only building on our reputation of being a global leader in making the transition to renewable energy generation and consumption but using that renewable energy to decarbonise heavy industry. That is guiding how we are approaching this difficult, challenging issue.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:58): My question is to the Treasurer. Has the government made any loans to GFG Alliance and, if so, when do they fall due and payable?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (14:58): I will check for the member, but as far as I am aware the offer that we have made to GFG is an offer that has been on the table since the last time Labor was in government and all through the course of the time of the previous Liberal government, and that is having \$50 million available to it for investment in new technology that will achieve those outcomes I just mentioned in my previous answer: a plant that receives new investment to make it more cost-effective, more reliable, to decarbonise its operations, and to make sure it is more productive for those steel products that our nation relies on.

So that money is on the table; it has not been given to GFG, let alone expended by GFG. As you have heard the Minister for Energy and Mining say to the house before, it is a frustration for the government and also the federal government that some of the commitments that have been made in the past have not yet come to reality, that some of the investments have not yet commenced, and that transition to what we would like to see the steelworks to become has not yet been achieved.

GFG ALLIANCE

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (14:59): Supplementary: will any of that \$50 million grant be paid to GFG Alliance whilst they are in arrears on royalties?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (15:00): No, that is not the intention. In fact, when the \$50 million was first made available by the previous Labor government and, indeed, during the term of the previous Liberal government, there had been quite stringent guidelines in place for GFG to access those funds. It is not a pool of money that is available to fund the normal business operations or expenditures for GFG, in particular while they are going through these challenging global circumstances which are impacting their cash flow; it is instead money that is to be used for future investment to achieve those outcomes that I just highlighted to the house.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS, JOB LOSSES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:01): My question will be to the Treasurer in the absence of the Premier. Have any job losses occurred at the Whyalla Steelworks and, if so, how many? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PATTERSON: It was recently reported in *The Advertiser* that GFG Alliance has laid off 50 white-collar workers and has started the process of shedding about 100 jobs in the mining division.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (15:01): That is consistent with my understanding but, if there is an update as to those figures that have been publicly reported, I will bring it back for the minister. But, yes, my understanding is that positions both in GFG corporate and also operational positions in the steelworks have been made redundant, but I will get those exact figures for the member.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS, JOB LOSSES

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:01): Supplementary: has the Treasurer had any conversations with GFG Alliance about potential future losses at the steelworks?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries) (15:02): I am not sure about future losses but, as the Premier said, we have established a Steel Task Force, which comprises the chief executive of the Department for Energy and Mining as well as independent expert advisers, to ensure that we have a close view of what is going on at the steelworks, what their operating position is, including what it means for the payment of their suppliers and their creditors, including government, and also what impact this might have on the workforce.

We have been conducting that, as the Premier said, with pretty much almost daily interaction with GFG via the Steel Task Force and it is the Premier, Deputy Premier and I, along with the Minister for Energy and Mining, who regularly receive those reports from the task force. So that has been the engagement. I am not aware that they have foreshadowed future job losses, let alone numbers around what that might look like, but I am happy to take that question away and see if there is any further information I can provide to the member.

AGED-CARE FACILITIES

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (15:03): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. How are blockages in aged-care facilities impacting the public health system, and what is the Malinauskas Labor government doing in response?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:03): I thank the member for Elder for her question and her significant interest in terms of improving health care for South Australians. This is a significant issue in terms of—

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you wish to leave again?

The Hon. V.A. Tarzia: I am in your hands, sir.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are in my hands—right. The Minister for Health will be heard uninterrupted.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As I said, this is a significant issue, and it is one that is growing in importance for our healthcare system and also for older South Australians who need appropriate care in aged care.

At the start of 2023 last year, there were about 100 South Australian elderly people who were stuck in hospital, waiting to get out of hospital and into aged care. They were medically ready for discharge but couldn't get a spot in aged care. That was a significant problem then, but since then we have seen that problem grow and grow to the stage where right now we have 233 South Australians stuck in hospital beds who have been ready to go to aged care but we can't get them into aged care. That is more than the equivalent number of beds of the entire Modbury Hospital.

So that is a representation of that blockage in the system and what it therefore means for other patients who need access to those hospital beds and those acute care facilities. It also means that those patients are stuck in hospital beds a lot longer than they need to be and we know that has

a significant impact upon them and their condition as well. There are a multitude of factors going into why we see those blockages occurring.

We have been very clear—both the Premier and I—with, respectively, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, that we need to see further action on this issue, as have other states and territories and other premiers and health ministers around the country as well because this is an emerging problem for all health systems around the country. I think what the federal government have announced recently in terms of their aged-care package—noting with bipartisan support—will help. That is a contributing support in terms of making it more attractive for people to invest in aged-care facilities, but that is not the only element that needs to be there.

There is a whole range of issues in terms of the funding of aged-care facilities, the incentives that are in place, the disincentives and the standards that need to be there in terms of aged-care providers providing care for their community as well as working with us to address that issue of capacity that they have—particularly when it comes to dementia care because, of those 233, 77 in particular are waiting for memory support unit beds. These are people who have severe dementia who need that high level of acuity care but we can't get them access to somewhere.

In response, we are having to address this. We are having to use beds that we have previously moved to The QEH, in the new redevelopment there, and Hampstead, a site that was previously going to be sold off by the previous government. We reversed that sale and we will be using that for many of these patients, so up to 70 of those beds will be used for patients of that cohort who should be in aged-care facilities but will be stuck in our system for a substantial period of time.

The member for Elder was with me, as well as the member for Waite and the member for Davenport, on the weekend at the Repat where we have opened 26 additional beds—an investment from this government to expand the capacity of that service, more than doubling the number of geriatric GEM beds on that site, because we need that extra capacity. Sadly, a lot of those patients will be in that situation where they will be stuck and waiting for those beds elsewhere in the system as well.

We are appreciative that the federal government has made available some funding—we are still waiting for the final details through the National Partnership Agreement process—to enable us to employ additional staff to work with aged-care facilities to give them more comfort in terms of taking some of these high-risk patients out of our hospital system. We are hopeful that that will have some effect, but unless we see a change in the capacity of aged care, this is going to be an escalating problem right around the country. This is one of the key reasons that we have this on the national agenda to raise as part of our health reform negotiations.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:08): My question is to the Acting Minister for Energy and Mining. Has the acting minister met with GFG Alliance or visited the Whyalla Steelworks this week?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (15:08): I have only been acting for a day and a half, but no, I have not.

WHYALLA STEELWORKS

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:08): Supplementary: has the minister met with the Steel Task Force?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:08): I appreciate the line of inquiry from the opposition because this is a really important subject. The Whyalla Steelworks is fundamentally important to the Upper Spencer Gulf, the people of Whyalla and not just the state's economy but the nation's capacity to be able to sovereignly produce steel and other critical products that we require to build things.

The government is treating the whole situation with GFG more seriously than anybody could know. The Steel Task Force is reporting up through the minister and the appropriate cabinet committees on a highly frequent basis. I have the CE of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, along with the Under Treasurer and basically every senior official, including the CE of the Department

for Energy and Mining, working on an almost daily basis to keep abreast of the situation that we see unfolding within the steelworks, while simultaneously and concurrently working assiduously to deliver the Hydrogen Jobs Plan.

The Minister for Energy and Mining, who is obviously currently overseas, has met with Mr Gupta and Mr Gupta's most senior representatives on basically a constant basis, so I don't think that there is any suggestion on behalf of anybody who is observing the government's actions, or who is familiar with the government's actions, who wouldn't know how seriously we are treating the situation.

We have multiple objectives here. First and foremost, we want to give GFG every opportunity to succeed. That is the best possible outcome here. But we also have the objective of making sure that the required transformation of the steelworks enabled through government policy that occurs is implemented regardless of GFG's circumstances, because that is the responsible course of action.

We are not putting all of the Upper Spencer Gulf's eggs in the basket of GFG. We have a plan for the Upper Spencer Gulf that is able to be achieved independently of any particular private company that might be operating within Whyalla. We have a comprehensive plan that is robust, that is resilient and that we are committed to delivering, because what it constitutes is a serious industrial policy that the government has been working on over a sustained period and will continue to work on for as long as we can make a contribution to the people of Whyalla and surrounds having a good job in the long-term that provides a good standard of living for their families.

Grievance Debate

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:11): They say sometimes everything that is old can be new again—in show business, in movies and in politics. I was elected to this house in March 2010, more than 15 years ago. At the time, already here were the member for West Torrens; yourself, sir; the member for Mawson; the member for Frome, as he was then, now Stuart; the member for Unley; and the member for Hammond—eight of them. In the Legislative Council were Michelle Lensink and Russell Wortley. Also elected at that election were the member for Chaffey, the Government Whip, the Hon. Jing Lee and the Hon. Tammy Franks. Everyone else is new, all 56 of them.

Mike Smithson, Matt and Dave, Alan Murrell and the venerable Paul Starick were all serving the people of South Australia as members of the fourth estate. Dan Wills, Adam Todd, Tom Richardson, a number of other people who now work for the Australian Labor Party, were all serving the people of South Australia in their own ways.

Mike Rann was the Premier of South Australia. He was known as 'Media Mike' because there was not a policy issue, a public appointment or a political issue of any scope that could not be reduced to the question of how would it make him look on the telly that night. He enjoyed being on the telly. He was an early adopter of social media to enhance his image. He oversaw enormous spending on government advertising campaigns to promote himself and his government. He had an infatuation with the Kennedys—he loved being in power—and I will tell a story about dogs and cats before this speech is over.

Kevin Foley was the Treasurer of South Australia when I was elected. He was the beneficiary of the most extraordinary surge of unanticipated windfall revenue every year, over and above budget allocations, through the GST. He was focused acutely on the opportunities that those windfalls presented the government, as in the Labor Party, for their re-election, rather than setting South Australia on a secure economic future. He used aggressive, macho posturing in this chamber as a substitute for good decision-making or, indeed, effective economic management. He was full of insults, wind and bluster—a discount Paul Keating.

Pat Conlon was leader of the house. I have a soft spot for Pat Conlon because he never joined in with other members of the Labor front bench at the time with insults to me personally about my voice. You can look up the *Hansard* on John Inman and *Are You Being Served?* and members can draw their own conclusions as to what those Labor frontbenchers meant by those comments.

It is worth noting in relation to former Minister Conlon that he did use aggression as a political tool on a regular basis with others. He was famously cutting when he wanted to be. You could always tell he was certain he was the smartest person in the room; he would often tell you so. John Hill was the softly-spoken health minister who introduced ramping and Transforming Health. His shtick in question time was to talk softly and at length so that everyone would be bored out of having an interest in his portfolio.

It is worth reflecting on the current government. Everything old is new again, and for me, this is a cut-price B-grade re-run of the Rann government when we look at the modern-day contemporaries, focused on political outcomes, political interests and Labor interests rather than the people of South Australia.

There is one member of the front bench who had stepped back when I was elected, and that was Michael Atkinson, who spent time on the backbench to focus on his real interest: running local council campaigns. His political legacy will not be as Speaker so much as Attorney-General. It was in that role where his legacy deserves to be remembered as the author of the Summary Offences (Consumption of Dogs and Cats) Amendment Bill.

The story goes that Mike Rann heard on talkback radio that somebody had barbecued a dog in their backyard. He saw a political opportunity to jump on and said that he would stamp it out. He postured, and in October 2003, the JD Vance of this story, Michael Atkinson, duly wrote and introduced the bill as Attorney-General, with a \$1,250 fine for transgressors. In introducing the bill, Atkinson said:

The practice of eating dog or cat meat is common in several Asian countries, most notably China, Vietnam and Korea.

He went on to admit that the government had no evidence that this had ever happened but introduced the bill anyway, and it sits on our statutes. The bill remains on our statutes. I am not aware of any opportunity for it ever to have been used. I encourage those across the chamber to reflect on the opportunities to enhance debate in this place rather than to opportunistically serve their political ends at all times—as that government did, as this government did. We should all be focused on the people of South Australia instead.

KOLO POLEK

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:17): I rise to give my most sincere *dziękuję* to Kolo Polek, South Australia's Polish Women's Association, who recently celebrated their 70th anniversary. This group of amazing women have a wonderful story that has not only sought to preserve their culture but also reinforced all that is brilliant about being South Australian.

Their proud legacy began in the aftermath of the Second World War with the arrival of around 7,000 Polish migrants to South Australia. The 1950s evoke so many different memories. While a time of displacement, it also heralded the dawn of new opportunities of hope in distant lands like our own. A powerful driving force behind the optimism has been the joy created by the many women who have worked tirelessly to preserve their culture in their adoptive country.

There is a common Polish saying that explains that while the man is the head of the family, the woman is the neck that turns the head, and this could not be truer about Kolo Polek. As with any community starting afresh, the need to stick together comes as second nature. In starting anew, there was a strong desire for the many Poles to hold on to those things that made their culture great: the food, costumes, music, dance and language, just to name a few. But as a driving force, Kolo Polek was and remains much more than this.

While established in 1954, history should reflect that the benevolence of this community predates the association. We cannot overlook how they supported their fellow countrymen to settle and establish themselves here, but again, this is only scratching the surface. What began as a small group of Polish women sending clothing, food and medical parcels to their compatriots who did not meet the strict medical and health criteria for migration to Australia grew to include large families, single mothers and the disabled with limited means and limited prospects in postwar Europe.

Charity may begin at home, but this group never forgot that it goes further and to this day they remain a powerful force in providing charitable aid to causes across Australia and the world,

teaming up with groups like the Good Neighbour Council, Young Women's Christian Association, Catholic Immigration Centre, APEX, St Vincent de Paul, Rotary, Ethnic Communities Council and other charitable organisations.

While the world has changed significantly in 70 years, and the Polish Women's Association evolving with it, it goes without saying that their ethos of support has always been ingrained to help families settle, visit the sick in hospital, or raise much needed funds for key charitable projects.

As South Australians we have a lot to be thankful for, and it is both wonderful and deserving that celebrations for their 70-year legacy have been ongoing. In gratitude, last month ministers Bettison and Hildyard co-hosted a reception in parliament for the association to acknowledge this significant milestone. This was a fitting opportunity to showcase the South Australian government's deep appreciation for their work here in South Australia.

Two weekends ago, I then joined with the Hon. Jing Lee, from the other place, and some wonderful dignitaries at Dom Polski, including Henryk Kurylewski, President of the Polish Community Council of Australia; Janet Giles from the City of Adelaide; Miriam Cocking, President of the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia; Irene Row from the Multicultural Commission; Elizabeth Ho OAM, Chair of the History Trust of South Australia; Edward Dudzinski, President of the Federation of Polish Organisations in South Australia; Len Nowak, President of Dom Polski; and many others for a fantastic lunch.

Throughout Kolo Polek's 70 years, volunteers have been its strength and the efforts made by those for this special event were, indeed, no exception. In saying a heartfelt thanks, I particularly want to express gratitude to the association's president, Gosia Skalban OAM, who has given a lifetime of service and leadership to our state's multicultural community. I understand there may be further motions in parliament to follow and I look forward to hearing other members express their appreciation.

Just before I finish up, I can imagine those terrible floods that are affecting central Europe are not too far from the minds of members and I also take this opportunity to express sympathy to the thousands affected. Knowing they have always quickly responded financially to issues locally, nationally and overseas, their members past and present have left a permanent and proud mark on our community. While they have every right to proudly proclaim their heritage, this kindness and strength of character also underlines why they should also be hailed as exemplary South Australians.

GLENUNGA FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:21): I rise to update the house on what a terrible weekend I have had when it comes to football. Three days of footy matches, three losses, starting on Friday night with Port Power, which was devastating. There was Sunday with the SANFL Grand Final where Norwood went down, and, devastatingly, on Saturday I attended the Adelaide Footy League grand finals where the Glenunga Football Club Div 1 and the reserves played and both went down.

I do want to take a moment to celebrate the success of the Glenunga Rams throughout this season, which celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2024 and have grown into a really important part of our local community and one of the largest grassroots sporting clubs in all of South Australia. It is not only an amazing place for kids to go and learn how to play footy and be with their mates—including about 200 girls in the program, I might add, one of the fastest growing girls' programs in the state—but also a really sociable and social part of our local community where parents, players and supporters alike can enjoy training and game day.

They have experienced a lot of success on the field in 2024, just sadly not on Saturday. Nine out of their 15 junior premierships teams played in finals this year, including six out of their seven girls' teams, which is an amazing achievement and I want to pass on my congratulations to all of those teams, and also to the senior teams, of course, who both in A and B Grades made their respective Division 1 grand finals over this past weekend but unfortunately did not take home the trophy. It was, nonetheless, fantastic to join them, not only on Saturday but right across the season at the Glenunga hub enjoying home matches at Webb Oval. It was a great atmosphere that was there on Saturday, enjoyed by people of all ages. There were the past players who first pulled on that guernsey in the

1950s, right through to some of the youngest fans who are kicking around in Auskick football, a really great family-friendly and fun environment.

I want not only to congratulate them on their successes but thank all the volunteers who have been involved in the club throughout this year. That sort of success is not achieved without hundreds of hours from hundreds of people helping out in our local community, including in particular the juniors' parents who have helped at the club with everything from coaching and coordinating game schedules, maintaining equipment, fulfilling important roles like team manager and age coordinator, washing the uniforms—and of course, very importantly, manning the barbecue, which is growing and getting more variety by the week seemingly.

There are a lot of senior volunteers as well who help out at seniors' matches, and all of the Glenunga supporters, who come along every Saturday to Webb Oval. When home games are on there are people there from 7am setting up and making sure everything is ready. So I want to take this opportunity in this place to acknowledge all their efforts as well.

I acknowledge the whole club, but in particular I want to acknowledge all of the committee, including its executive consisting of the president, Tom Edwards; the chair of the club, Stuart Campbell; the treasurer, Kylie Wisman; the secretary, Michael Edwards; the senior football director, Chris Aston; and the junior football director, Luke Walker.

The final thing I want to acknowledge is—I noted before the growing girls' program, with over 200 girls and I think about seven teams in the juniors program—this year has been another important year for launching a new initiative at Glenunga which is its arrangement with AFLW superstar and Adelaide Crows player Chelsea Randall, who has spearheaded the club's inaugural girls' leadership and mentoring program. I had the honour of being able to go to the launch of that program a few months ago in the season and it is going to be a really important way to inspire and equip junior sports players to be the best version of themselves, both on and off the field. I thank and acknowledge Chelsea for being part of that initiative.

While they did not quite get the trophy on Saturday, I congratulate Glenunga on their success right across the season.

NORTHERN DISTRICTS ATHLETICS CLUB

Mrs PEARCE (King) (15:27): This weekend was one that included a few big birthday celebrations. It started off with a night of soaring excitement and high-flying thrills as we kicked off the Little Athletics season with a very special event, the Northern Districts Athletics Club season launch and their 50th anniversary celebration. It was wonderful to help launch the season with the member for Ramsay, the member for Makin and elected members of the Salisbury council at the Bridgestone Athletics Centre. For those who have not been, I encourage you all to visit this incredible facility. It is one that has been designed to bring community and families and members together in such a wonderful space.

Fifty years of the Little Athletics club is quite the achievement, both on and off track and field as we all know, because a huge factor that supports a club reaching such an incredible milestone is the people behind the scenes getting the job done. Again, I would like to thank all who have served on the committee over the past five decades and all who have volunteered their time and energy to support some of the younger members of our community through athletics.

This club is truly remarkable. It is an inclusive club that is focused on ensuring that they are an active contributor to the greater community in the north as well, which is clearly evident during the events that they host such as the Salisbury.RUN in Carisbrooke Park. It is something I enjoy going to each year. I am quite happy with where I am timing at the moment on 5 ks, although the member for Wright certainly outdoes me quite significantly. He was able to achieve half a marathon, and I again congratulated him on such a big feat. It is an opportunity for the community to come together to run no matter the age, the skill or the level that you are at, and it does a wonderful job of bringing local business, local council and other clubs together to truly make this a special event.

Through their work, this club helps our young people to get the absolute best out of sport, and that is not only in a physical sense. It is also in regard to their mental health and wellbeing, the connections that they form in local communities and also those all-important skills that they are

developing through playing sport that serve them well into their adult years. Learning how to win, how to lose, how to communicate, how to work as a team, how to problem solve, how to form friendships are all just some examples of the important skills that they are developing through their time at Little Athletics.

I would also like to provide a huge shout-out to Jasmine and her mum for also making such an incredible cake to help celebrate the occasion. It was certainly warmly welcomed after such an incredible running warm-up with the little ones once the ribbon was cut to kick off the season.

That was not the only 50th celebration that we celebrated over the weekend. It was also a weekend to celebrate 50 years of the Northeast Zodiac Netball Club. I must say they hosted a most spectacular evening. Huge accolades go to the amazing community members, particularly Narelle, Renee, Darcy, Nicole and Laura for all the efforts they put in tirelessly throughout the year to make the event as special as possible.

They had all the different uniforms on display from each of the generations that have come through. They have collected photos of the years to celebrate all the different players' milestones and events over that time, as well as putting on entertainment that was appropriate for all ages, from the very little juniors all the way through to our seniors, mums and training teams as well. It was really special to be able to attend this event with my daughter, Nylah. I appreciate having the opportunity to share such a special piece of the club's history with her.

I would also like to thank the Tea Tree Gully Golf Club, Entertainment Adelaide and DJ Wes Parker, Justin Smale at Supreme Photo Booths, Ally at Wyldling Small Batch, and Brenton and Francina Brand Sports Designs for helping to make the night absolutely come alive, and of course, also A Class Sports & Trophies for the season's trophies, medals and awards. They did a beautiful job of theming all of these to the legendary black and green that is the Northeast Zodiacs.

It is no surprise that the Zodiacs have a special place in my heart. They are a club that has always made me feel welcome. They are a club focused on each and every player and member within the club and are passionate about supporting our young people to learn, develop and thrive in life through learning the skills they are developing in netball. On behalf of our community, thank you for all that you have done over the past 50 years. I am looking forward to many, many years of success for the club.

PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:32): It delights me to take this opportunity today to give the house an update on all things happening in the electorate of Frome: some mixed emotions, a variety of things going well and things going not so well. I lead off by raising in this chamber my concern for so many primary producers at the moment who are facing challenges back at home when it comes to low rainfall and a harvest that is being compromised by the elements.

Whether it is grapegrowers through the valley or people through the Mid North and broadacre plains of Balaklava and Mallala growing canola and grain crops that sadly are looking thin and not as we would hope, a lush harvest at the moment, my concerns for their efforts must be noted.

In the last few weeks I have been concerned about growers in the horticultural sector of my electorate in Two Wells and Lewiston, those growers who are affected by the tomato brown rugose fruit virus, which has been widely reported and is certainly receiving the attention and advocacy it needs from peak bodies like AUSVEG.

I was really grateful to have met with a number of growers as well as seedling suppliers. I want to extend my thanks to Oriana and Con, Jack, Emmanuel and Antonio for their hospitality and receiving me at their site to fully understand and explore with them exactly how the process of applying the testing protocols is impacting their businesses' viability.

We know external to this chamber that conversations are being played out at the state and federal level, but I represent the growers and I am concerned about their welfare, their prospects, their frustrations, their anxiety. It is important that I take this opportunity to recognise what wonderful families they come from and how over generations they have built up this fabulous, rich horticultural

environment through Gawler River, around Two Wells, Lewiston, Virginia and Angle Vale, and how important it is that they see advocates in us when it comes to a threat to their family farming business.

Biosecurity is to be taken very seriously and the opposition representing so much of rural South Australia does that, but when it comes to the process that these growers are experiencing at the mercy, if you like, of interstate testing labs, I extend my compassion and respect to them while they wait for results to come through.

On a lighter note, there is a lot happening in Frome through the Clare Valley and Balaklava region, and I want to do quick shout-out to a number of organisations that have kept my diary full, kicking off with the Piebald Merino stud sheep expo at the Horizon Christian School Campus in Balaklava, a fantastic campus led by current principal, Mike Clisby—we farewell him at the end of the year and we welcome the new principal, Dominic, coming in—Dr Kathy Adams, the student leaders and a number of educators who welcomed the community in to this fantastic expo.

We heard from Andrew and Rosemary Michael of Leahcim, a fantastic husband and wife duo promoting all the virtues of the natural fibres and products we get from raising sheep. That was an opportunity to try the lamb sausage sizzle, to have a tour around the agriculture department of the school, and to recognise the importance of agriculture education in our system, both private and public.

I was also able to pop in to the Ira Parker aged-care nursing home where CEO of Yorke and Northern LHN, Roger Kirchner, Chair John Voumard, Mayor Rodney Reid, and a number of family members celebrated the opening of the bedrooms, ensuite, sunroom and pergola. I thank everyone for their efforts to bring that to a head.

ELIZABETH ELECTORATE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (15:37): I rise today to speak about a problem and a welcome solution to a problem in my electorate. I am talking about the traffic concerns of the residents who live in that section of Craigmore which is bounded by Adams Road, Yorktown Road, Blair Park Drive and Uley Road. There has always been a problem, and more so as the suburbs have grown to the east of that particular block, of pressure on traffic getting out from Adams Road onto Yorktown Road, particularly in the morning, and those people have very little choice but to use Adams Road.

The only other options really are to use Uley Road which, of course, takes it down past Craigmore High School and that very busy precinct down towards Main North Road, or to use Blair Park Drive and go past Hope Christian College, which, again, is a very busy precinct near the Craigmore shops.

I was really pleased at the last election to be able to convince the state government to commit \$1.5 million to a roundabout at that particular intersection: to plan, design and construct a new roundabout, particularly to help those residents who are turning right onto Yorktown Road from Adams Road, particularly in the morning. It is always backed up, sometimes halfway up towards Uley Road.

The pressure was on. Every time I held a street-corner meeting at Dwight Reserve or at the Craigmore shops, this issue would come up. We resolved several years ago the issue at Blair Park Drive, at the intersection near Hope Christian College, and I am really pleased that we are now working on a solution to the Yorktown Road-Adams Road intersection. I appreciate that it has been a long time coming, and I will get to that in a second.

There will be the construction of a new single-lane roundabout, new and upgraded LED lighting, new kerbs and guttering and a new entry into Dwight Reserve South, better known as Eastern Park Football Club. That is important, because early on legitimate concerns were raised by Eastern Park Football Club and by various councillors that it might affect their entry and egress and exit from their site, but I think this will improve it. I am assured that the works that are about to take place will not impact on their exit and entry, so we will see how that goes.

There will also be upgraded road surfaces to improve traffic flow and safety for all road users, new pedestrian crossing facilities on Adams Road—that is important because it connects Dwight

Reserve North to Dwight Reserve South and the Eastern Park Football Club, and the Eastern Park Football Club has some spillover training on the reserve opposite near the playground—and also some relocation of signage and so on.

I am really pleased about this commitment. It is one of several commitments I made at the last election and, as I said before, I appreciate it has been a long time coming. This is the first major roundabout that I have had any particular interest in being constructed, and I am surprised at the work that goes into it and the length of time it takes.

The decision was made, obviously, at the election when the election commitment took effect, so to speak. There were community consultations. I did my own community consultation effort, but there was communication from the department throughout 2002-03 and there were both community meetings and a doorknocking and letterboxing effort by the department as well. There was a certain amount of feedback, which was overwhelmingly positive, both at my office and at the department, I am advised.

Of course, the access to Eastern Park Football Club was a major concern. There was a desire for a fourth leg as a primary access point for the Eastern Park Football Club. There are issues with that—the size of the intersection does not allow too much growth and there are also significant trees surrounding that area—but the department and Fyfe, who is the contractor, tried their best with the design and I think it has come up really well. There was a significant concern, which I agreed with, about pedestrian access, particularly from Dwight Reserve across to the Eastern Park Football Club.

Construction is beginning now. The design work has been done, the planning has been done and the construction is beginning. Yorktown Road will remain open, I am assured. There will obviously be some traffic delays along Adams Road, but Yorktown Road will remain open to traffic at all times. Most importantly, perhaps, for some of those residents, Eastern Park Football Club will be easier to access.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:42): I am bouncing back with lots to say about the electorate of Frome. This year we shift to Auburn and the Clare Valley. I want to give special recognition to those fabulous hoteliers and chefs in Watervale, Warwick Duthy and Nicola Palmer, who just keep smashing it out of the park: Best Restaurant in a Pub or Club, Best Wine Tourism Service in SA, to the point where their hotel, the Watervale Hotel, was inducted into the Hall of Fame at last night's restaurant and catering awards. They are extraordinary advocates for our region, for wining and dining, for sustainability, and for clean eating. I know that they are much loved for everything they bring to our region.

I want to thank Helen Smith, in particular, and Simon Millcock of the Mintaro Progress Association for the fantastic Festival of the Lamb week that we experienced last week. I got to join them at the Auburn Institute, where our special guest judging fashion on the field for the Festival of the Lamb was Italian Consul Dr Ernesto Pianelli. It was an honour to meet him and to have him come to our region. He understands very much what is special about that and I thank him for his contribution as a judge.

Finally, as we approach the first Tuesday in November—the race that stops a nation—the Lexus Melbourne Cup was on tour to the Clare Valley, where we were delighted with the company of Johnny Letts, 'The Punters Pal' and two-time Melbourne Cup winner. It was a fantastic week of activities in the electorate of Frome.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:44): There are many people who serve the community with distinction. Today, I would like to speak about and honour the work and life of Ms Angela Gerace. Sadly, Angela died on 5 July 2024, aged 45, from acute myeloid leukaemia. Angela started as a trainee at Patrick Conlon's electorate office. She then moved into his ministry as a ministerial adviser working in the public transport policy area, which included the upgrade and extension of the tram network, the electrification of the rail network and other transformational projects.

Angela also worked closely with the office for major projects, which were at the centre of state-changing projects. Angela also acted as a chief of staff for Patrick Conlon for a time, which in those years was the busiest role in town. Eventually, her unique skill set saw her move into the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, where they utilised her knowledge of political and departmental processes. She eventually became deputy director of the office of the chief executive, directly reporting to the chief executive, Jon Whelan. Her attention to detail is why she was always a sought-after public servant.

Angela's transport and infrastructure journey, from electorate office to ministerial adviser to departmental officer, lasted for over two decades. Angela was a highly regarded and respected public servant, who made a huge contribution to transport in this state. While the community has lost a distinguished public servant, I have actually lost a dear friend. Condolences to her mum, Sue, brother Pat, sister Maria and her extended family.

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:46): The government announced just recently that it was going to expand urban boundaries and open up more housing, but the concerning bit about their announcement, of course, was the continual increase of urban infill in the inner suburban suburbs in Adelaide. There is no doubt that the eastern suburbs, and my electorate of Unley in particular, have been hammered with urban consolidation. We are really seeing the effects of that now in the streets of Unley, and we are seeing the effects of that in the changes to street character and the number of homes that have been knocked down for multiple-storey buildings on Fullarton Road and Unley Road. I notice that Unley Road was listed as one of the places where we will see more high-rise happening.

There is no doubt that we all know that we need more choice in housing, but we do need to ensure that it is balanced and that it is delivered in a way that improves amenity, not discounts amenity. Certainly, some of the examples that we have seen on Unley Road in particular have not led to an improvement in lifestyle in the electorate of Unley.

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:47): We had the footy and netball grand finals over the weekend, and congratulations are in order for a number of teams led, of course, by Moonta in the A-grade football. Golly, they have been a powerhouse of a club over the last half decade or so—I think that is four grand finals in a row and a couple of wins. I think the greatest compliment that you could possibly pay them is that success breeds envy, and I know there are a lot of jealous clubs around the region about how much success they have had, so congratulations to Moonta.

In A-grade netball, in a similar story, the Crows beat Paskeville. I think that was their fourth win in a row so they, too, have had a tremendous amount of success lately, and I suspect that will continue growing. So congratulations to those two teams in the headline game. Further down the list, Paskeville beat the Eagles in the B grade, and they actually knocked us out as well, so there is some comfort there that we lost to the eventual premiers. Wallaroo beat the Cougars in the Senior Colts, making it a three in a row for them and an undefeated season, and Moonta won the Junior Colts again, back to back and undefeated as well in that front of the footy.

In the netball, further down the Crows were in all but two grades and managed to win both the B and C grade, but unfortunately for them lost the D grade to Paskeville, and the Southern Eagles won the D2 grade making them back-to-back premiers in that grade and coincidentally scoring 49 goals in each year. So congratulations to all those teams. I know that Brinkworth won for the fifth time in a row in a different league, so congratulations to them. Broughton Muntoora won in their league as well. Congratulations to them. Well done to all who partook in the sporting endeavours across the electorate over the winter, and I look forward to coming back to it next season.

Bills

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS REDUCTION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:49): As a quick summary of where we got up to prior to the break, I was talking about the timing of when this bill was tabled here in the House of Assembly in South Australia. It came at a time when we had newspaper reports around the massive electricity bill and power price increases being experienced by some very well known South Australian companies, including Nippy's. It also came the same week that ESCOSA released their market retail offer report around retail electricity prices which showed that household bills had risen in just 12 months by \$411, up to a total average bill of \$2,621 which is the highest recorded residential power bill for South Australians recorded by ESCOSA.

At the same time, it also detailed what small businesses are going through. It detailed that in the last 12 months they have seen a staggering \$791 increase to their electricity bills, seeing the average small business electricity bill rising to \$5,364. Again, this is the highest recorded retail offer for small businesses recorded by ESCOSA in its history of these reports. At a time when they were screaming out for a response and for government attention to power prices, what we saw was the government putting in their climate change and greenhouse gas emissions changes—worried about emissions, not focusing on the real struggle that people are going through.

That is not to say that emissions should not be taken into account, but it needs to form part of the energy trilemma that is often spoken about. We need to make sure that prices are looked after, that reliability of the grid is looked after so that when businesses and households go to switch on their power in winter the electricity is there and the system provides it on demand—I think that is something that people who are promoting a renewables-only approach do not talk about much: the system and what is involved in producing a system that we have come to rely on as a top 20 industrial country based on our energy systems—and then emissions. These need to work in unison.

Unfortunately, especially with the technologies we have at the moment, if you push too far in one direction and only concentrate on one thing there is an equal and opposite reaction. That is the lived experience here in South Australia in terms of price and reliability. I mention that the former Liberal government understood this. It is a matter of working with those three elements—price, reliability and emissions—together in a sensible manner. That is exactly what occurred, which I will touch on later on in my contribution.

But what is certainly apparent under this government is that they are failing at that. They are concentrating on only one thing, which is emissions. They are aggressively pursuing emissions targets—that is quite clear from this bill that we have before us—but with no concern for what the impact could be for South Australians and for the various industry sectors as well.

As I outlined initially, the bill sets targets. It sets a primary target of net zero by 2050—which, again, this side of the house has also supported—but it looks to set an interim target by December 2030 of a 60 per cent reduction in South Australia's emissions and also a renewable electricity target of net 100 per cent renewable electricity by December 2027. This is, as I said, in the midst of the highest power prices that households and small businesses have had on record here in South Australia.

Because of that, it leaves no option for the opposition to be moving amendments to this bill to make sure that not only is this bill concentrating on setting emissions targets and renewable electricity targets but that it also looks at setting a residential power price guarantee as a target, setting a small business power price guarantee as a target and also setting up a reliability guarantee as a target.

It is quite clear that these are implicit in the policy and should not be ignored in terms of the policies coming forward that this legislation will enact, if it is successful, and also the planning that goes on. While making sure that, yes, the aim is to reduce emissions, it also takes into account the pain that is being felt and makes sure it is an orderly transition. As I said before, it is a trilemma. It is not about having one and not the others; it is being able to work with all of them.

In terms of emissions, certainly we on this side the house acknowledge quite clearly that here in South Australia we need to work in partnership and be part of a global effort to help reduce emissions. Of course, it is in our interests. Climate is something at the forefront of most South Australians' minds, just by virtue of our geography. Here in South Australia we are the driest state in what is the world's driest inhabited continent, and so of course, perennially, since before

European settlement, before the industrial age, climate and rainfall have been an ever-present challenge, but certainly in terms of European settlement and the industry and the built form that that brought with it, that has been an ever-present challenge around the growth of the state, whether that is the economic growth or the social growth of the state.

Of course, it is important. Still to this day a significant amount of our water comes from the River Murray for our drinking water supply. Going through other states, it is dependent on other states, hence why we need to be part of a global effort and a domestic effort, not just trying to think that we are a standalone, segmented part of a country and segmented part of the world. It is also important for agricultural production here in South Australia, so we are ever-mindful of this. Some of the effects of climate change in the Australian context have been reduced rainfall and more frequent and severe heatwaves, which then makes us more susceptible to droughts and bushfires, so certainly they are challenges that are taken seriously as a result.

As I said, because of that, the climate is a global climate. You cannot say, 'South Australia has its own climate that can be cocooned off from the rest of the globe.' In fact, it is very integrated, and there is a lot of cause and effect on South Australia outside of South Australia's influence. The success of global efforts to avoid the worst effects of climate change are certainly in South Australia's interest.

It has been, and is, a priority of the opposition, because we acknowledge that there are risks and challenges that are posed by climate change. As an example—and it lends towards where this bill is going in terms of talking about plans and policies—in December 2020 the former Liberal government released its Climate Change Action Plan. It was developed with the input of renowned climate change expert Professor Ross Garnaut and covered the five-year period from 2021 to 2025. This bill is looking to have plans going forward, so that would move on from that 2025 end point, presumably.

The plan that was released back in 2020, the Climate Change Action Plan, focused on seven areas, with an aim of providing a pathway to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Part of that report talked about where the state was tracking at the time. At the time, in December 2020, we were on track to reach 100 per cent of our renewable electricity demand by 2030. That was at that stage. Also, we were on target to have emissions overall reduced by 50 per cent by 2030. That was the frame at the time.

In terms of data that is provided, there is data helpfully provided and tracked each year to see how the state is progressing. Looking back at that time of the release of the report, the data showed that in 2005—comparing with 2005 levels, which is what this bill continues to do—the state's net greenhouse gas emissions were hovering at approximately 36 megatonnes. By the time it had got to 2019, it was sitting at around 24 megatonnes, about a 33 per cent reduction.

It is interesting how that is divided up. There are multiple contributors to those emissions overall. If I go through them in sequence: waste; land use, clearing and forestry; agriculture; industrial processes; fugitive emissions; other energy; transport; and energy industries. Looking at the progress of the state over those years from 2005 to 2019 and then moving forward to the latest data in 2022, the reduction in emissions for the state has predominantly come from the energy industries, talking to the renewable energy transition going on in the state. That was around five megatonnes of reduction. The other aspect was land use. Land use contributed about six to 6½ megatonnes overall. They were the primary drivers in 2019.

Fast-forwarding to the latest data in 2022, it is seen that overall the state's emissions reduced from 24 megatonnes down to roughly 16 megatonnes, which is around 55 per cent, off the top of my head. Again, most of the driving of that has come from those two segments I spoke of before. The energy industries have reduced a further roughly two megatonnes, so they are contributing three megatonnes to the emissions, then there is land use and land clearing. By having more land put over to forests, crop lands, wetlands, etc., that has seen a really significant reduction in terms of its impact on overall emissions because these are effectively sinks. They are used to offset emissions elsewhere in the economy. That is around 10 megatonnes.

Again, there are big increases there, and that is what is driving it. In fact, if you look at it overall, if you look at the reduction over that time from 36 megatonnes down to 16 megatonnes, more

than 50 per cent of that has come from land use. It will certainly be relied on in the targets going forward that that is maintained, and that is not necessarily a given. When you look at the land use changes over time, they are quite sporadic, which you would expect. If there is clearing, then that would have a detrimental effect. If there are bushfires, then that would potentially have more of an effect. There is certainly an issue there around this.

It would not be without risk, certainly—I think that is a fair thing to say—for the government to rely on that land use staying at 10 megatonnes or more to see it over the line to achieve its 60 per cent reduction. The ancillary question coming out of that is there has been a lot of emphasis in the energy industries on renewable energy, but at some stage as we go forward, whether that is into 2030 or as we go to 2035, attention will be paid to some of those other sectors.

As to the agricultural sector, which the state relies on, there are questions from farmers around what the impact will be and how it is going to affect them, because they produce food here in South Australia at a very affordable price and they need to be assured that they will be able to continue to do that. You would expect that also from all South Australians who consume that high-quality food, and also milk and dairy, etc.

The point of going through that is to elaborate on where things are heading, and it shows that over that time of the former Liberal government emissions did come down and at the same time we were mindful of the other parts of the energy trilemma, price and reliability, which I will touch on a little later.

It is worth looking in the context of where South Australia sits compared to the rest of the world as well, because I think there is a lot of pressure, maybe a lot of misunderstanding around the fact that South Australia's trajectory is the same trajectory in every other place in the world. I think the lived experience is certainly not the case; in fact, as has been pointed out by some well-respected bodies, it is going the other way at an alarming rate.

One of those respected bodies is the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It releases assessment reports on an ongoing basis. The latest one was in 2022. They released their sixth iteration of assessment reports that give scientific and technical knowledge around what is going on in climate change, what the opportunities are, what the challenges are, but also the third of these IPCC assessment reports, Mitigation of Climate Change, demonstrates the growth in greenhouse gases over time.

If we look at starting in 1990, global emissions were 38 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent. That is not just carbon dioxide; that is other gases that are greenhouse gases—methane and the like. By 2005, which is our baseline here in this legislation we are talking about, it was approximately 47 gigatonnes. That is 47,000 megatonnes, because I talked about megatonnes beforehand, so I might keep it in the same units. That was in 2005 global emissions. By 2019, these global emissions had increased to 59,000 megatonnes.

If you look at where a lot of that growth is coming from, that is a massive increase of 12,000 megatonnes in 14 to 15 years. If you look at where a lot of those emissions are coming from, it points to eastern Asia, so you have two massive population centres of a billion-plus in China and India as the bookends, and then between that the growth engine of Asia as well. Eastern Asia made up 27 per cent of those 59,000 megatonnes of emissions. North America actually was 12 per cent, which showed a reduction from 18 per cent. Europe was 8 per cent, going down from 16 per cent.

You can see in broad terms that you have the developed economies reducing their emissions but the developing countries around the world where they have massive populations are overwhelming those reductions. That is on a global scale.

If we look at Australia, I have tried to talk about the context of people saying: is Australia doing enough? Surely, other countries are moving quicker and Australia is lagging behind. When you look at what was said by the IPCC, in fact, you find that Australia's emissions in 2005 were 652 megatonnes and they decreased to 530 megatonnes by 2019. So Australia has reduced its emissions and, as I said before, South Australia's emissions reduced from 36 megatonnes in 2005 to 24 megatonnes in 2019.

To put that in perspective, I had just been watching the grand final at Adelaide Oval on the weekend. Adelaide Oval has a capacity of 50,000, so it is a massive stadium. If we look at the Optus Stadium in Perth, that has a capacity of 60,000, so that equates roughly to the 59,000 megatonnes. So looking at that, if the Adelaide Oval was full and then you crammed in another 10,000 people so that you had 60,000 people sitting there, overall, that represents the global emissions. Looking at South Australia's component of that, there would be 24 people there; 24 people in that whole massive stadium represents South Australia's component of those emissions.

It does help to put that into perspective, because there is, of course, pressure to act and act at different speeds as well. As I said before, we are really very reliant here in South Australia on global efforts and, at this stage, as I have said before, the IPCC indicates what the world is doing, which is of concern and talks to the challenges of trying to mitigate climate change. I think that there is the realisation that some of these effects and temperature rises that come from this, that really have occurred since pre-industrial times, may well become permanent just by the nature of the emissions increases going on worldwide.

They are the 2019 figures. It is interesting to await the next lot of assessment reports, but in between time, while we wait for that from the IPCC, we can certainly get a bit of an inkling of where things are heading. If we break down the hydrocarbon use throughout the world into some of its core components, if we look at maybe gas and acknowledge how important it is as an energy source for Australia, South Australia and the world, we think of it quite often as electricity generation but also in terms of driving industry, helping with fertiliser in terms of agriculture, helping with construction in terms of steelmaking in some instances, and with cement as well.

In terms of the representation of gas in Australia, it is about a quarter of the country's energy mix. When I look through South Australia's emissions, in terms of other energy, it has remained quite constant over the journey as a consideration. When you look at what the international energy agents have to say, they have released their global energy outlook and they envisage through to 2050 gas continuing to play a large role in the international energy mix. They even broke it down into regions. They found that gas demand in Asia is forecast to grow by about 50 per cent between now and 2050. This again speaks to what I spoke about in terms of the emissions profile coming out of the Asia region. You have growth and populations trying to get out of poverty there.

It is worth reflecting that in this report it also assumed that by 2050 about 70 per cent of that global gas demand would be served with abated gas through carbon capture and storage. From a South Australian perspective there are opportunities in Moomba. There are disused gas wells there and the opportunity has been well investigated by Santos. They have gone through studies dating back to before the 2020s, such that they progressed to FID in November 2021 for stage 1 for their CCS project, and the first aspect of that is to capture 1.7 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year, which talks to, to a large extent, the emissions within that Moomba gas production facility. When you are looking at South Australia's emissions, you have about two megatonnes of fugitive emissions, so certainly that would handle a large percentage of the state's fugitive emissions.

There is work being done from that perspective, as I said, begun during the term of the former Liberal government. Going forward, there are certainly opportunities to expand the amount of CO₂ equivalent captured there in those disused wells—a quite significant portion, upwards of 20 million tonnes of CO₂ per year. That, again, talks to a comparison of the state's overall net emissions as well.

Getting back to talking about what is the trajectory for emissions around the world, when you look at the International Energy Agency talking about global coal consumption, coal reached an all-time high in 2022 and the world is heading towards a new record in 2023. Again, it is finding that advanced economies are reducing their dependence on coal, but there is massive growth in developing countries around coal consumption. Again, in the Asia region, China has a massive amount of coal capacity and is continuing to build new coal-fired stations. India is equally doing the same. There are real pressure points from that perspective in terms of coal use globally and where that might head, unfortunately, with global emissions.

Finally, oil as well. The US government's Energy Information Administration said that the world's use of oil was at a record high, higher than the peak before the COVID pandemic, at more

than 100 million barrels a day. This is a sobering foresight of where things are heading. It speaks to the fact that, while we have had globally renewable energy increase in terms of build out of renewable energy throughout the world, unfortunately it has not necessarily replaced some of those hydrocarbons but has effectively been as an adjunct to them. That is because the world does want cheap energy, especially the developing economies, they want to get their populations out of poverty.

It is a challenge. It is really quite complex for the world to handle. What we really do need to realise when considering legislation such as this, and other aspects of it, is that South Australia alone is not going to restore a safe climate by itself, rather it needs to work in conjunction with a global effort. We cannot influence South Australia's climate, let alone Australia's, let alone the world's, just by ourselves. We need to be part of an international rules based order. Of course, we should work with the international community to reduce emissions.

As I said earlier in this discussion, in this debate, it really is misleading for people to think that the climate in South Australia can be totally controlled by what we do here in South Australia or, in fact, what Australia does. We are heavily dependent on the big massive emissions sources throughout the world, which I have discussed before, eastern Asia, North America and Europe to name a few.

I have said this before, and this was addressed as part of that Climate Change Action Plan, it is imperative that in South Australia we put in place adaptation measures to plan for these changes that may well occur because of climate change. There needs to be an emphasis on adaptation because no matter how much we would like to hold this back and think that we could directly influence what is going to happen to the South Australian climate we are going to have to deal with what is going on in the world as well.

That is a pertinent point. It certainly was one at the front of mind of the opposition here. Certainly, the approach of the former Liberal government when in government was to make sure that practical measures were put in place, making sure that we drove action on the ground to make sure that people and their communities can see what is going on.

So of course there was effort around emissions, there was effort around adaptation, which I think is going to become more and more critical as we go forward. But the opposition is still very mindful of the energy trilemma and making sure we are putting in place plans to make sure that energy prices are affordable for South Australians, visitors and households and also that the system that is built out is reliable as well.

In summary, the former Liberal government focused on some key areas, helping households with the Home Battery Scheme and helping industry in the overall system with demand management and grid-scale storage. The other aspect was really trying to push through and get the second interconnector between South Australia and New South Wales in place, being built and worked on, which is the case at this point. We are very much looking forward to when that comes online, because when the state does produce excess renewable energy it can be exported through this second interconnector. It can basically provide 800 megawatts of export into New South Wales.

At the moment, we have the Heywood interconnector to Victoria, and that is the only one, so that really curtails what can be exported. We have seen stories, only last week, around the curtailment that is going on with solar farms. This will be a massive increase to the capacity of electricity that can be brought to market to help bring renewable electricity not only to South Australia but also to Victoria and to New South Wales.

Realistically, that is an overall capacity of about 1.4 gigawatts of renewable electricity that can be exported when conditions are right. That allows overall for there to be an achievement of 100 per cent net renewable energy without interconnectors. There is still the requirement, certainly in 2027, to run gas-fired generation and occasionally diesel generation and to import electricity at times from Victoria. Without these, we would not be able to reach this 2027 target. So, certainly, it is a key fundamental advantage to the South Australian electricity system that will help reliability.

Of course, we have had those issues when South Australia gets islanded, when the Heywood interconnector goes down, but also going forward it allows the state to reach this target. I think it certainly should be acknowledged that without it there would be no way that this December 2027

target that has been put in place by the government would be able to be reached. Having said that, those plans might have helped in terms of emissions, but what they certainly did do is help in terms of prices that households were having to pay.

What we found from these ESCOSA reports, which I talked about previously, is that under the former Liberal government we saw prices fall. From June 2018 through to December 2021, we saw the average household power bill reduce by \$421. An average household electricity bill of \$2,244 on 30 June 2018 went down to \$1,823 by December 2021. That is where I mention the decrease of \$421, so overall a reduction there.

At the same time, we also saw a similar reduction for small business, where they had their bills reduced by about 17 per cent. On 30 June 2018, small businesses' average bills were \$4,446, and by December 2021, they fell down to \$3,679, so a fall of \$767. So we saw this energy trilemma working in unison where prices were coming down and reliability was also very satisfactory. There were zero customer hours lost to unscheduled outages over that period, compared with the former Labor government where there were seven million hours lost and, of course, the statewide blackout, so there are reliability issues as well.

Another proof point around what was going on is the Australian Energy Regulator. Their default market offer is another indicator of household electricity bills. Between July 2019 and July 2021 we saw the default market offer for households reduce by as much as \$343, so prices were coming down.

The government, faced with this reduction in prices, just thought, 'We won't have to put much focus on that; that will just keep going along as is and we will just concentrate on emissions and really push hard into that area.' What we see as a result, though, is massive increases in energy bills. Again, I spoke at the outset around what has been going on.

In their latest report, released the same week as this amendment bill came into the house, ESCOSA showed that between June 2023 and June 2024 household bills went up by \$411. The average household electricity bill has now risen to \$2,621, the highest recorded by ESCOSA. This is a record. The government is good at records; they also have record ramping. For the things that touch people day to day, this government is creating records—but the wrong type of records.

This is the third report that has been released by ESCOSA during this government's term, and each of those reports has shown power bills increasing from the previous report. The latest report from December 2021 of \$1,823, under the former Liberal government, had increased by June 2022 to \$2,041. This trend continued. By June 2023 the household bill had increased to \$2,210, and now with the latest report it is, as I said, at \$2,621. All that work of bringing prices down for households has been undone in 2½ short years.

I have read a lot of figures there. We have seen *The Advertiser* reporting around the effect on businesses, but there is also the effect on households and pensioners as well. *The Advertiser* reported on pensioner Rick Wahlheim, explaining that his power bill has been getting tougher and tougher, rising from \$900 to \$1,400. We have seen massive jumps in household power bills. As I said, the average bill for households jumped by \$798, a 44 per cent increase—massive increases there.

We have seen a similar trend with the default market offer of the Australian Energy Regulator, as I spoke about. Between July 2021 and July 2024 the default market offer for households skyrocketed by as much as \$669, which is a 32 per cent increase—mind you, there was a slight reduction of as little as 1½ per cent in the latest one because prices have skyrocketed even more.

It is hard for South Australians. The default market offer shows that household electricity bills are more in South Australia than in Sydney, more than in Melbourne and more than in Brisbane. But, as I said at the outset, it is not surprising because the government's focus has been elsewhere. They did not bring a plan to the 2022 election to make sure electricity is affordable and reliable, and now households are paying a massive price for this.

Reading through this ESCOSA report, small businesses are also facing massive increases. They have seen their bills rise between June 2023 and June 2024 by a staggering \$791, such that the average small business electricity bill has now risen to \$5,364. That is the highest recorded small

business bill in ESCOSA's reporting history, so a massive jump overall. We have seen power bills for small businesses jump by \$1,685, an increase of 45 per cent. So these are big jumps—44 per cent for households and 45 per cent for businesses—and it is having an effect; it is impacting the cost of doing business here in South Australia. We have prices going through the roof.

At the same time, AEMO—another energy market body; they release reports also—have released their latest Electricity Statement of Opportunities. It shows that South Australia is at risk of a potential lack of electricity generation this summer. Again, there is the threat of blackouts hanging over the heads of South Australians. The way this will be resolved, though, is that AEMO will 'go out, seek and procure', in their words, extra electricity from generators in the market who can then pass this cost on to consumers through their power bills.

This is another kick in the guts for South Australians who are already struggling with high power bills and are now seeing the impact of unreliability flow through to their electricity bills to the point where they are paying some of the highest electricity prices in the nation—having some of the highest electricity price rises—and then having an unreliable grid to go with that. That is again looking at reports but then breaking them down into actual tangible businesses, so we need to put this into focus as well.

I talked about the onset around Nippy's, that family favourite, and how they had their electricity bills double and the impact of that. There is a huge concern around that. We have had other South Australian businesses as well come out publicly talking through the massive challenge they have. Recently, we had South Australian icon Vilis: they employ 350 people and have a 56-year heritage of making pies, pasties and sausage rolls that we all love. They are the latest company to see their power bills increase by 18 per cent compared to last year. The result is they have said reluctantly they have no alternative but to increase their prices.

We were talking through the agricultural sector previously, and the dairy farmers had similar increases. We had the Dairyfarmers' Association president, former upper house MP Robert Brokenshire, saying the dairy industry is suffering big electricity price rises of about 38 per cent on average. He said his bill had increased from \$70,000 last year to almost \$100,000 in 2024, so again more pain being felt there. It is not just dairies, it is orchardists as well. Century Orchards said that their power bills have surged by up to 60 per cent in the past three years. They are in an industry where they cannot pass on these costs, so they have no option but to absorb it. That has impacts on the running of the business, employment opportunities and reinvesting in properties as well.

Another favourite, Golden North, have said that they have seen their electricity bills increase by a massive 48.6 per cent. In 2023, the average monthly bill was \$34,000 and this year it comes in at around \$50,000 a month. They have not passed on prices yet in their ice-cream products but, if it does continue, the unfortunate reality as stated by their managing director is that they will not be able to absorb it; they will have to have price increases.

Another manufacturer, Seeley International, which produces air conditioning and gas heaters, saw an almost 60 per cent increase in their power bills. Again, the company had to increase their prices to make up for growing power costs. They are a company that are internationally successful, having to compete internationally. So those pressures will be keenly felt in terms of the exports.

We talked through winemakers as well, another important agricultural industry. Angove Family Winemakers have seen their bills increase by about 45 per cent. The point being made by their managing director, Richard Angove, was that energy prices were an economy-wide problem leading to inflationary pressures for business across the board. I mention them because when I talk through the different sectors in terms of what makes up the state's emissions, each of those businesses touches one of those sectors, whether it is agriculture, industrial processing or energy industries, so there are real pressures there.

Another one which really hits home for everyday South Australians, because they have interactions with supermarkets every day, is Drakes Supermarkets. They employ 6,000 people. They have seen their energy costs rocket from \$10 million in 2023 to an estimated \$14.5 million this year—again, a massive increase of, I think, 45 per cent. Drakes needs to maintain competition against

competitors, and Mr Drake has listed supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths, of course, as the ones that spring to mind.

It makes it really difficult in terms of the competitive environment, increasing the cost of goods, but you can be assured that Coles and Woolworths are suffering similar experiences and the pressure on them at some stage would cause costs to flow through to what is on the supermarket shelf. It is a huge concern, not only for these businesses but for agriculture and food producers. Supermarkets are where we buy our food so, ultimately, it comes through into our everyday life. Mr Drake has stated he believes:

...part of the reason for spiralling bills is Australia's rush to shift to renewables. I think this is the reason we are paying so much more for electricity, because we are trying to go all to renewables...

This talks to the energy trilemma and the word 'rush'. Things need to be done in a sensible manner, making sure that emissions reductions are also very mindful and actually look to have focus and attention on all aspects of it, including price and reliability.

Hence you will see that I am introducing some amendments to this bill to help improve it and to really put a focus and help policymakers with planning for not only the minister's department but the entire public sector, because this bill touches on the public sector. It touches on all sectors as well because it talks about sector plans and making sure that when industry talks to government, it can say, 'This is going to be the effect on our business if you increase our costs because, certainly, we don't want to see those costs.'

I will go through the amendments and round them out. One of the amendments is to put in place additional targets. When we look at the targets that are trying to be introduced in this bill, in clause 2 in the objects of the act it states:

- (ii) by setting the following related targets:
 - (A) the 2030 target;
 - (B) the renewable electricity target; and

These amendments propose to also insert some additional targets, the first of which is the residential power price guarantee target. This looks to legislate a target of reducing power prices for the average household by 31 December 2027 to line up with the renewable electricity target.

What is that target? It has been nearly three years since the ESCOSA report in December 2021. By the time this bill goes through the houses we will have three years on the other side before we reach December 2027, so it gives sufficient time but also puts a focus and sets a target for the residential power price guarantee to be the average household bill as specified in the ESCOSA retail prices report as at December 2021. That figure, as I enunciated before, was \$1,823 for the average bill. At the moment, it is \$2,621 under Labor. That is a \$798 increase.

The government, if it is true to its ambition around reducing emissions, should also be true to its ambition with a target of reducing electricity prices for South Australians who are suffering. Everyone is going to say, 'Can we have a lesser target?' but that at least provides some sense and looks to restore the situation that had arrived for South Australian households under the former Liberal government. It gives it three years, so roughly the same amount of time as it has taken Labor to put prices up by \$798, for them to come down by \$798.

Also, the amendments propose putting in a small business power prices guarantee target. Similar to the households target, it is looking to legislate a target to reducing power prices for the average small business by 31 December 2027, the target being the average small business bill as specified in the ESCOSA retail prices report as at December 2021. That figure itself is \$3,679. Presently, for small businesses the average bill is \$5,364 under this Labor government, a \$1,685 increase, so the government would have three years to reach this target to go in line with its target for renewable electricity generation.

I spoke previously also of the impact of grid unreliability and how that can play into the power bills of households and small businesses, so we are also looking at introducing a grid reliability guarantee target. That will be seeking to legislate a reliability standard to keep the lights on. It is based on AEMO's reliability standard of unserved energy in South Australia being no more than

0.0006 per cent of the energy demand in that financial year. That is a target that AEMO has that this government should assiduously look to work towards as well. So we are mindful, when making plans, when making policies around reducing emissions, that reliability is also front of mind to make sure that the electricity system on which we have developed our South Australian economy will be fit for purpose and will allow industry and small business to thrive as well.

The other amendment that is worth mentioning is in section 4—Interpretation, to give a bit of recognition and, I think, certainty for the agricultural sector. As I said, at present the agricultural sector contributes about six megatonnes of the state's overall net emissions of around 16 megatonnes. So a significant portion of the state's remaining emissions that are looking to be reduced sits at the feet of the agricultural sector, which we know is vitally important to feeding South Australians economically affordably and also to availability but also, from an export point of view, providing jobs and growing the state's economy.

The state's economy saw massive increases in gross state product thriving off the big grain harvests of the last three years. It is important that those farming practices, whether it is the fertiliser or the tractors, are able to continue in a competitive manner, because they are competing with the world on soils that are probably not as fertile as in most parts of the world. It is great science; we have fantastic scientific bodies that have helped in terms of increasing production volumes. It really is a credit to science here in Australia that we have very productive outputs from our grains, when you compare it to Ukraine and the grain basket of Europe, for want of an example.

Our amendment notes that 'recognition should be given to the importance of the agricultural industry to South Australia and it should be acknowledged that there is a fluctuation of greenhouse gas emissions in relation to the agricultural industry'. Of course, growing conditions vary. You would hate to see in a bumper year, when rain is favourable and conditions are favourable, that the agricultural sector is impinged because they are working under the yoke of an emission reduction that is being put on from up high in Victoria Square, when they are realistically doing fantastic work, putting more carbon into the soil with great landcare practices as well.

My colleagues from the regions will no doubt have things to say about that. Certainly, that is a concern. I think by putting this in as an amendment, again, the policy and planning should take that into account. Ultimately, as is happening in other parts of the world—as I have said, in the developing world—they are really concerned about how they can get cheap energy so that they can feed their population and so that they can have an industrial base to allow that but also to grow their economy.

I think there are some real positive additions proposed in these amendments. They really will help. Overall, in terms of going through and wrapping up my contribution here, the opposition acknowledge, and I think it should be acknowledged by many others, that action by South Australia cannot by itself restore a safe climate: it needs to be in conjunction with a global effort. But we can, in the process, commit to these targets to be part of the international efforts, the international rules-based order.

I think that serves us well as an encouragement mechanism but also to make sure we are doing our bit. The targets have been set here. By having these changes, we really need to focus. The opposition's focus is on the price of this transition and how it impacts households, how it impacts business, because the lived experience of having a massive push to renewables is that electricity prices have increased. The agricultural sector, if there were similar increases there, would be challenged, and the industrial sector as well.

What we do not want to see is industry leaving the state, because once it has left it does not come back, and effectively emissions just relocate overseas to other jurisdictions that are not as mindful of this energy trilemma; they are worried about other aspects as well. So we need to make sure that price and reliability are foremost and front of mind, which they are here on this side of the house. We need to make sure the policy and plans put in place are done in a sensible fashion, that we are not pursuing emissions targets with no concern about the impact on South Australians.

We do not want to see massive cost increases in the energy industry, and then, as I said, increases start occurring in the agricultural sector and the transport sector, in industrial processes and construction. If we are going to have targets to reduce emissions, then there also need to be

targets to reduce power prices and targets to consider reliability, certainly from 2030 but then going forward as well for those other targets in 2035, 2040 and 2045.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs Pearce.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENT—EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CLERKS) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 June 2024.)

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (16:48): I rise to indicate I am the lead speaker for the opposition and I indicate the opposition's support for the bill. It is something that has had some gestation in terms of work that has been done between the houses over now several months. As I understand it, it was to be sponsored by the Presiding Officers and it has become a government bill with the addition of a couple of clauses of consequence that amend a draft that was circulated some months ago, the first of which is to make clear that the executive officer is to be regarded a member of the Public Service; that is clause 8. Clause 9 provides for the determination of the remuneration of the Clerks by the Remuneration Tribunal under the Remuneration Act. It is a sensible change to the practical day-to-day running of the Joint Parliamentary Service, and I commend it to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (16:50): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

OFFICE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 28 August 2024.)

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

A quorum having been formed:

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:54): I rise today in support of the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. Ahead of the election of our Malinauskas Labor government, nearly a quarter of all five year olds in South Australia were starting school behind their developmental milestones—nearly the highest proportion of all other jurisdictions. Clearly, something needed to be done to better support South Australian families so that their children are ready for future success. We all want our children to have the absolute best possible chance in life. To know so many children in our state are not having the best start is really concerning and why we are working so hard to do something about it.

In recent years, research on early childhood has shown just how crucial the years before school are to the rest of a child's life. We now understand that as much as 90 per cent of adult brain development and growth occurs within the first five years of life. So the South Australian Labor team promised that, should we form government, we would establish a royal commission into early childhood education and care.

In October 2022, within eight months of our election, we began the work required to deliver on that promise, as the Hon. Julia Gillard AC was appointed as Royal Commissioner into Early Childhood Education and Care. Over the coming year the commission would listen to the expert advice of a variety of stakeholders, parents and members of the public before publishing its final report in August 2023. The commission's final report made 43 recommendations for reform aimed at improving child learning and development. These recommendations set out a plan to give every child

the start to life they deserve. We join the commission, and the broader South Australian community, in working towards a future in which every child in this state is provided with the support they need to learn and thrive.

The Malinauskas Labor government has committed to action on all of the commission's recommendations as we set the ambitious goal of making South Australia a national leader in early childhood development. We have a large task ahead of us, as nearly a quarter of South Australian children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains when they commence school. We need a holistic approach to early childhood development to improve the outcomes of all South Australian children.

The first recommendation of the royal commission sought a long-term ambition to help South Australian children thrive. The commission has asked us to set out a 20-year goal to reduce the rate of South Australian children entering school developmentally vulnerable—as measured by the Australian Early Development Census—from the current rate of 23.8 per cent down to 15 per cent.

The second recommendation seeks a steward of our early childhood development system, whose mandate will be to help us reach our goal in the commission's first recommendation—an office for early childhood development.

As the title of this bill may have spoiled, today we act upon the second recommendation of the royal commission, with a bill to establish the Office for Early Childhood Development. This bill provides a legislative mandate for the Office for Early Childhood Development to provide statewide, strategic oversight and direction of the early childhood system. The office will also be required to collaborate and engage with the many organisations and people who play a role in the early years of a child's life.

This will include working with communities, Aboriginal leaders, local government, as well as public and private providers in health, human services, child protection and early childhood education and care. The office will work collaboratively to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to deliver universal three-year-old preschool.

This bill also includes functions for the Office for Early Childhood Development to support research in the early childhood development space and to support and facilitate the sharing of data across the system. We all want to work together.

This bill also includes functions to promote the participation of children with disability and children in care, in the early childhood development system. This integrated approach, with coordinated referral pathways, will support children to access the services they need to achieve their best outcomes possible.

Furthermore, the bill includes specific functions for the Office for Early Childhood Development to support Aboriginal children through shared decision-making and co-designed with Aboriginal leadership and community. This is a particularly important focus for the office as we know that around half of all Aboriginal children enrolled in their first year of school are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains.

Last week we saw the release of the Productivity Commission's inquiry into early childhood education and care. The report made a number of recommendations regarding universal access to early childhood education and care including: affordability and quality, increasing and providing additional support to the early childhood education workforce, needs-based inclusion and support, and the need for coordinated stewardship across the early childhood system. The release of this report was just under a week ago and is timely as we debate the bill before us today. While we are still digesting the findings of the report, the recommendations of it do appear to align with the recommendations of our Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.

In addition to this bill, our most recent state budget committed an additional investment of \$1.9 billion in early childhood services and support over the years leading up to 2032-33. This once-in-a-generation investment is a huge step forward towards our commitments and accomplishing the goals established by the recommendations of the royal commission.

Three-year-old preschool will be rolled out progressively from 2026 with an initial focus on regional and remote communities, where access to preschool and wraparound out-of-hours care can best support workforce participation and improve economic outcomes in addition to supporting children's development. Long day-care centres across South Australia can also begin delivering three-year-old preschool from 2026, so long as they meet the quality requirements.

We will also be providing additional support for particularly vulnerable children with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to the children who need it most. Early childhood education and care workers are crucial to the success of this reform. That is why we are investing \$96.9 million in this workforce, specifically to support attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality.

In closing, I would really like to thank everyone whose work, contributions and experiences helped to shape the bill we have before us. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation on this bill and the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care. Thank you also to our Minister for Education, Training and Skills and his team for your work in bringing this bill to us and your guidance and expertise as we work towards our ambitious goals.

As the South Australian Premier has declared time and time again in this place and beyond, we are not just interested in legislating for the next four years. We are working for the next generation, for the future.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (17:01): I rise to indicate my support for the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024. This bill establishes the Office for Early Childhood Development as a steward of South Australia's early childhood development system.

Universal three-year-old preschool was recommended by the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, chaired by commissioner the Hon. Julia Gillard AC in recognition that in South Australia nearly one in four children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains when they commence school.

Improving outcomes for South Australian children requires a holistic approach across the entire early childhood development system. This bill provides the legislative mandate for the office to provide statewide strategic oversight and direction of the early childhood system and to collaborate and engage with the many organisations and people who intersect in the early years of a child's life.

The royal commission's final report details an ambitious vision for the future and contains three key unifying themes of the report on the new system. The first is that every child will benefit from greater access to quality services, including an extra year of preschool. However, because, of course, children are different, the system will be universal but not uniform, which means additional help will get to the children and families who need it most. This is important as we want the highest quality education for every child and we know that a one-size-fits-all approach does not deliver the best outcomes for all our children.

The second key theme is irrespective of a family's postcode the quality of service is to be improved. The commission recommends that every service, whether provided by government, the private sector or a not-for-profit, should link together and form a coherent system that is easier for families to use. Once again, this is critical as we know that having fewer opportunities due to where you live can impact a person's life and we should not be impacting the future of three year olds based on where they attend early child care and their parents' circumstances.

Thirdly, South Australia can be a nation leader on early childhood development by driving towards an ambitious goal to reduce the number of children starting school with developmental challenges, offering up to 30 hours of preschool per week for three and four year olds who need the most development support, constantly translating new scientific knowledge into action and leading the national policy conversation on the early years.

I am proud to be a part of another significant reform being implemented by our Malinauskas Labor government once again leading the nation, and once again, improving the future for South Australians. The Office for Early Childhood Development will work with communities; Aboriginal leaders; local government, non-government and government providers in health, human

services and child protection; and government and non-government early childhood education care providers to support children to thrive.

The office will work collaboratively to mobilise long day care, early learning centres and government services in every community to deliver a new offer of universal three-year-old preschool. The South Australian budget 2024-25 committed an additional \$1.9 billion in early childhood services and support over the period to 2032-33. This investment represents a once-in-a-generation commitment to reducing the rate of South Australian children entering school developmentally vulnerable. Our nation-leading three-year-old preschool will be rolled out progressively from 2026, with an initial focus on regional and remote communities.

Access to preschool and wraparound out-of-hours care in these communities will not only support children's development but also support workforce participation and improved economic outcomes in the region. Long day-care centres across the state that meet quality requirements can also begin delivering three-year-old preschool in 2026. Additional supports will be provided for particularly vulnerable children, with integrated hubs and additional preschool hours being made available to children who need them most. An integrated early childhood education and care system will bring together education, health and human services to support the best outcomes for children.

Coordinated referral pathways will be created to support children to access the services they need to thrive. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the early education and care workforce, a role that has been undervalued for too long as people dismiss these staff as other, as less than other educators, but we all know the critical difference that early childhood education and care staff make in our young people's lives. Our state government acknowledges this by committing an investment of \$96.6 million in early childhood education and care workforce initiatives that will support attraction, qualification pathways, retention and quality.

The Australian Early Development Census shows that around half of Aboriginal children enrolled in their first year of school are vulnerable in one or more areas. This bill includes specific additional functions for the office in respect of Aboriginal children. Shared decision-making and co-design with Aboriginal leadership and community will better support Aboriginal children and their families and unlock the full benefit of preschool programs for these children.

Just last week, the Productivity Commission's inquiry into early childhood education and care report recommended universal access to early childhood education and care, affordability and quality, the need to support and increase the workforce, needs-based inclusion support and the need for coordinated stewardship across the early childhood system. This report is timely and will be examined by the government but does seem to have good alignment with the recommendations of South Australia's Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, and the reforms being rolled out by the Office for Early Childhood Development. I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (17:08): I am absolutely rising in support of this bill and offer my support for future generations of South Australians in doing so. Our Premier has consistently spoken about the need to make policy for the long term, for a future when everyone in this place will either be retired or long gone, but when our actions will still have a lasting impact. This kind of approach is happening across government from energy to the environment to housing to education to health and early childhood development. It is most definitely also happening across all of the work we are doing in the Department of Human Services.

There is an old saying that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. In the absence of a time machine, the next best time to help the next generation is now, and to start with the youngest children—we can absolutely do that. At the last election we promised a royal commission into early childhood education and care, and I want to especially express my thanks to Julia Gillard for her outstanding work in helping us to deliver this promise.

Without going into every detail of the bill, as many members and the minister have already done, I welcome the proposed establishment of the Office for Early Childhood Development that will complement and build on other important work across government. This includes world-leading research being undertaken now by the BetterStart group at the University of Adelaide and important programs delivered by the Department of Human Services. These are programs that help young

mums. They provide targeted early intervention services to help at-risk families and build better links in local communities. At a national level, we are also working to develop foundational supports to operate alongside the NDIS and provide a broader range of services, particularly for children with developmental delays.

The background to this bill and the royal commission both highlighted that children who are behind early have big challenges in catching up. We do not just need to do better, we need to make a once-in-a-generation change to our approach to early childhood. This legislation will be an important part of that.

The seeds that we plant in the minds of our children—and I will throw in grandchildren, given that my husband and I have just welcomed our first grandchild, little Flynn; Flynn might like to see his name in the *Hansard* one day as he learns to read in the coming years, maybe much earlier than some children are today—will grow into attitudes, skills, inventions and relationships of the future. Without going too far on the seed and plant analogy, we reap what we sow.

When people make snide or derogatory comments about the youth of today, there may be some simple generational divide issues but there is also an implied failure on the part of the generation making those comments. We are literally the grown-ups in the room when it comes to making decisions about, and investments in, the youngest members of our community and their futures. The new office will help us to make the best decisions and the best investments. It will have an important role in providing collaboration and leadership across areas as diverse as health, human services, disability and child protection.

The Productivity Commission and the royal commission have given us huge amounts of data and research about why we need to do better and what we can do better. I genuinely hope that in decades to come researchers can give governments of the future much better data and much better research about childhood development as a result of what we are debating right here today. But the absolute proof for me will be that little Flynn and his peers in decades to come will be doing much better. I will know we have succeeded when I see them achieving things that they never thought they could do.

I will be even prouder of my community than I am today when I see kids entering primary school on a more level playing field and not being forced to play catch-up right from the start of the race. I will think back on how we vote on this bill, and when I see them working with each other and supporting each other like good community members I will know we have done the right thing.

I will rest easier in my retirement when I see them confidently become teachers, managers, builders, social workers, doctors, artists, musicians, volunteers, and the mums and dads of a future South Australia. The bill before us today is just one part of that future, but a critical one that I commend to the house.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (17:13): I am pleased to speak on the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill and indicate that I am the lead speaker for the opposition. There are a range of matters I will bring to the house's attention. If the requirement is that I have to break from transmission at 5.31pm if the house were to rise, I will seek leave and continue tomorrow. I foreshadow that I do not anticipate it being a hugely lengthy contribution, but as we are just 15 minutes from the end of today's session, potentially, I will endeavour this afternoon to put some matters on the record that will be complemented separately by matters that I will bring to attention tomorrow.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Brown): Member for Morialta, you have unlimited time, and when you seek to seek leave it is your business and no-one else's.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER: Thank you, sir. We are dealing with the Office for Early Childhood Development Bill. This bill seeks to establish in legislation an office, a department if you will, and there is a question then about whether or not the functions and goals of this department are best set into effect through legislation or whether they would be capable of being achieved through the normal procedure which is, as is already the case—given that this office already exists—through the Public Sector Act: the fact that the Premier is able to create a department, to create an agency, to create an office without requiring its own bill, so we will go into that.

Secondly, there are the merits of the bill, which is established to create the Office for Early Childhood Development, which is going to be a system steward as is described for the early childhood development sector, which does not just comprise government services but also non-government services, whether they be out-of-school-hours care, whether they be long daycare services—child care as it is more commonly referred to—and, indeed, a whole wide range of other providers and stakeholders. The legislation is created not just in terms of providing policy leadership in this space, but also to have the powers to compel the provision of information from other government departments and agencies and also from non-government providers.

It is particularly in relation to this last point that I will spend a little bit of time this afternoon, and hopefully I will have some further time to expand on the other topics tomorrow. Because this office already exists, I start by expressing my gratitude to the minister's office and to the public servants involved: so to Jamie and Joanna from the Department for Education who are very well known to this chamber—and we may get to meet them again in the committee stage of this debate—for their extensive work in supporting various items of education legislation through the parliament, to Kim Little, the newish chief executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development and to Amy Ralfs, the minister's adviser.

When it became apparent that this bill would be brought on this week at relatively short notice—we had anticipated originally a little bit more time to do some more consultation—that group of people came together at short notice to be able to brief me and, indeed, we had a good half-hour session talking about it. There were other matters that came up that meant that we could not get through everything.

One of the key things that came out of that meeting was, indeed, my first question: given that this office already exists, we have a chief executive and we have staff doing the work, why does it need an act of parliament? Even the Department for Education is not created by the Education and Children Services Act, it is created as a function of the Public Sector Act. The SA Health Act talks about a range of things, but the department for health is created through the Public Sector Act.

Most departments that report to the ministers who sit on the front bench are created by the Public Sector Act, not by their own acts of parliament. Acts of parliament tend to be reserved for commissions, for advocacy and oversight bodies, for groups like the Ombudsman—people who have certain powers or duties that are separate from government. A lot of our arts institutions are created by acts of parliament so that they have independence to a certain extent or a particular role in the public sphere, which is independent of the government of the day.

The universities are established by their own acts of parliament and have their own functions set out in that way. So why does this department—with a chief executive appointed by and responsible to the Premier, as are all the other chief executives, with day-to-day functioning, reporting to a minister in a fairly standard Public Service mechanism—need its own act of parliament rather than just operating as it already does under the Public Sector Act? The answer from the briefing, if I can fairly try and summarise it, comes down to two things, but really one thing: it is about the powers and, to a certain extent, it is about the lasting nature of something that is legislated as opposed to being responsive to the preferences of the government of the day. But even then it comes down to powers because the powers to compel the provision of information that are in this act are a result of the functions of the act.

The powers—for those following along at home—are detailed in clauses 10, 11 and 12, particularly in relation to clause 11, of the bill. Clause 10 of the bill provides the chief executive to require other state authorities to provide reports into basically any matter that is set out as reasonable according to the functions of the office. The fact is that that can already happen, but this bill sets out a mechanism.

For example, if the Office for Early Childhood Development is seeking to compel the Minister for Tourism's department to provide information to it, at the moment it can ask. This bill will empower the chief executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development to compel the Minister for Tourism's public servants to provide them with whatever information they ask for, so long as it is consistent with the functions under the act.

But if the Minister for Tourism's officers decide not to, the methodology then is that the OECD department provides a report to their minister of the refusal or failure of that department to do so. That gets reported in the annual report and the minister can try to resolve it: the Minister for Education goes to the Minister for Tourism and says, 'Can you please get your public servants to do this?' That is the mechanism described. There is no punishment or consequence for failure to do so, but at the end of the day that is what is set out in clause 10 of the bill.

The minister then may decide to, 'by notice in writing, exempt a State authority from the operation of this section'. So, ultimately, when the Minister for Tourism explains why her public servants did not necessarily want to provide information, the Minister for Education can say, 'Okay, that's fine.' But there is potentially—and this is why the opposition is keen, ultimately, before we decide on whether or not we are going to offer any amendments or opposition to the bill—an impact on non-government agencies which is more profound than that which might be suffered by the Minister for Tourism and her officers in such a situation. Clause 11 provides that:

- (1) The Chief Executive may, by notice in writing, require a specified entity (whether or not the entity is a State authority, or an officer or employee of a State authority) to provide to the Chief Executive such information, or such documents, as may be specified in the notice (being information or documents in the possession of the entity that the Chief Executive reasonably requires for the performance of functions under this Act).

I will go through the functions later but, to be clear, they go up to (n), so there is a fair number of those functions.

If the chief executive, in fulfilling any of those functions, identifies that there is information that one of these non-government agencies might be required to produce, then they are empowered to demand that, with a penalty of \$5,000 for the entity that fails to comply with such a notice or refuses to comply with such a notice. Clause 11, subclause (3) of the bill describes that:

- (3) An entity of whom a requirement is made under subsection (1) must give the specified information or documents to the Chief Executive within the period specified in the notice.

Now, this may be fine. This is a heavily regulated part of public policy. It is also a very heavily publicly funded part of public policy, particularly through commonwealth subsidies to parents who then pay childcare centres, in effect.

We are talking about a large number of bodies, though. For example, in the development of this policy it is an understanding that there is not so much an early childhood system as an early childhood sector; that is, there are government early childhood providers, particularly preschools. There are about 400 government preschools in South Australia—not quite 400, but there are nearly 400. There are about 47 early childhood centres. Some of those are preschools, some of them are long day-care centres, some of them are allied health providers and some of them are playgroups, and most of them will have multiple functions within that setting. So the government is a major service provider.

Then there is a significant community sector in this area. There are about 100 community childcare centres in South Australia that are also captured by this legislation, mostly offering long day-care services and some of them offering other services as well. Then there are a large number of children who get long day care in private childcare settings, whether they are mum-and-dad operations with potentially one, two or three centres, or large national companies, potentially even international companies, with dozens of centres, whether they are South Australian-based or auspiced interstate or overseas.

In addition to that, there are non-government schools, of which there are 200 in South Australia, many of which offer early childhood settings as well. There are providers of out-of-school-hours care in government settings and non-government settings, some of which are indeed related to those schools and some of which are companies established for the purposes of providing out-of-school-hours care. Then there are councils which run long day care centres, and then there are family day care providers as well, who, although they are all coordinated through the Department for Education, are not employees of the Department for Education. In effect, they are family day care settings. They are the ultimate mum-and-dad small business. There are people

working from home, performing work under contract through the Department for Education, who regulate them.

There is also a range of other providers and stakeholders who are relevant to the bill. People offering playgroup services, for example, can be anything from a private business to a community group established for the purposes of providing a playgroup, to any other number of organisations. These are the people who are captured—and I say thousands of people and thousands of entities, potentially—by this information gathering power.

I do not want to act as if this is the end of the world. In many cases, this is going to be a very logical and sensible information gathering exercise in which we can better inform public policy so that the government of the day can help South Australia's children, in their first thousand days of life in particular, be the best they can be. It is to ensure that government policy can be implemented in a way that is useful in helping children develop and be less developmentally vulnerable by the time they get to school and all of the worthy things that are identified in the royal commission and in government members' speeches.

Many of these information gathering powers will potentially assist in the government to do that best, but every time the government creates a new power for a public servant—in this case, somebody who is appointed chief executive of the Office for Early Childhood Development; the failure to comply with that power by a private individual having a \$5,000 penalty, which is no insignificant amount for an individual, a family day care provider operating from home or a small business operating a long day care services, for example, or a community childcare centre with very minimal margins that are designed to be reinvested in the service provision—it deserves consideration and scrutiny.

The question I asked in the briefing was effectively: why do we need this power to be created in legislation? This is something that can already be sought by a government. Inasmuch as the government is providing funding to many of these services to operate—and we were talking about in the case of the model for three-year-old preschool, or what the government is describing as three-old-preschool—with regard to the provision of new funding, surely the provision back of information as being one of the requirements for getting that new funding can be dealt with without creating this new offence, without creating this new power, this new penalty of \$5,000 on a person.

My simple proposition is that I want to ask people in the sector whether they have a view. Those emails and letters are going out this week. I am not proposing to seek a delay or argue for a delay in this house—it is not necessary—but I am proposing that between houses the opposition may well identify amendments, particularly to this section, if it is necessary to respond to some of the feedback that I may get from the sector.

I understand that clause 12 of the bill relates to the sharing of information between certain entities, those entities being the office, the department, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, the Guardian for Children and Young People, the Child Development Council, a state authority, government and non-government schools, childcare services and OSHC services, the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia, Catholic Education, the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network—those entities all being in legislation—and other entities or entities of a class prescribed by regulations.

This clause sets out that information can be provided between those organisations for the purposes of fulfilling the act. There are penalties in relation to misuse of those information-sharing provisions, those penalties being up to \$10,000. I am not anticipating these entities having any complaints about this clause; in fact, I have been reassured to some extent that some of these organisations listed specifically requested being included in the legislation because that will enable them to more freely share information, particularly if there are concerns about privacy provisions, but we will be checking up on that as well as we go through our consideration and our consultation on the matter.

I think that there is a lot of goodwill in the sector towards what is being sought not just by this government but by successive governments when it comes to seeking to reduce vulnerability of young children before they go into school. It was a significant body of work undertaken under the

former Marshall Liberal government through my department, the Department for Education at the time, with the specific support and assistance of the member for Colton and the Hon. Nicola Centofanti, whom I brought in effectively to be part of a working group along with some departmental officers in terms of how we address some of these particular challenges about the vulnerabilities of children in their early childhood development.

It is a concern for young people in South Australia and for our community in South Australia that the data relating to the vulnerabilities of children entering preschool or school with at least one level of vulnerability on the Early Development Census has been growing in South Australia when in other states it has been diminishing. I should make the point that most of this data is from pre-2018. There was one census conducted I think in 2021, in the midst of COVID, which was largely consistent with the 2018 results.

Ultimately, that data informed recommendation 1 of the Gillard royal commission, which is to seek a reduction in early childhood vulnerability down to 15 per cent. I think it is just north of 22 per cent at the moment. The work that was done in 2020-21 in developing the 2021 early childhood budget bid was particularly focused in terms of the investment in increased levels of early childhood development checks and increased spread of those early childhood development checks. It was \$16 million a year ongoing in that investment. That was directly towards addressing this challenge, this opportunity for us to get better outcomes for those young people.

That early childhood budget announcement also included investments in things that support parents in the work they do. The early childhood app, which I imagine most parents now have having been launched over a year ago, was a key recommendation of that body of work funded in the 2020-21 budget, as was the foundation that Kate Ellis chaired in relation to bringing together stakeholders on what has become the Words Grow Minds campaign, which is also, I think, a boon to parents. There is a particular amount of work going into playgroups and grants for councils to make more child-friendly spaces. All of these bodies of work that are now performing part of the new government strategy were developed under the former Liberal government.

When we come back to the bill, I will talk more about the work that the government is seeking to do in three-year-old preschool in particular, but I make the point: a large volume of what this bill seeks to achieve is happening without the bill. This bill that people have been talking about this afternoon and that we are debating is specifically about creating a legislated office rather than having an office just doing the work without legislation.

The difference between us passing this bill or not passing this bill, as far as I can tell, comes strictly down to whether or not the person appointed by the Premier as chief executive should have these powers and, secondly, whether the parliament believes that there is a long-term policy implication associated with each of these functions set out in legislation that would require the parliament to change those functions in the future, rather than a government presented with new information setting its own agenda in the future instead. We will talk more about that next time, but for the moment I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

At 17:35 the house adjourned until Wednesday 25 September 2024 at 10:30.

*Estimates Replies***EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS**

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

Since 1 July 2023, the following executive appointments were made.

Role Title	Classification
Director	SAES1

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

Since 1 July 2023, no executive positions have been abolished.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

The total value of the termination payments was \$0.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants and contractors in 2024-25 is \$3.3 million.

Cost of external consultants engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000 is estimated at \$153,000.

Cost of external contractors engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000 is estimated at \$1,878,000.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

The 2024-25 Agency Statements provide the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing's budget for supplies and services for 2024-25.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget
Communications	FTE	2.0
	\$m	\$0.21
TOTAL	FTE	2.0
	\$m	\$0.21

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

As an open and transparent government, details of marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure over the cost of \$50,000 are proactively disclosed.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

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

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25 financial year.

Grant program/fund name	2024-25 Estimate \$000
State Sport and Recreation Development Program	2,771
Active State Collaboration Program	3,150
Active Club Program	1,316
Performance Pathways Program	735
Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program	5,664
The Power of Her Infrastructure and Participation Program	7,550
SASI Individual Athlete Program	145
Regional Support	538
Racing Industry Fund	11,957
Sports Vouchers Subsidies	23,931

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing:

ORSR has a service level agreement with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to provide ICT services that includes digital tools, cybersecurity and support services.

There is no additional budget for remote work infrastructure.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

Since 1 July 2023 and to the period ending 30 June 2024, the following executive appointments were made.

Role Title	Classification
Chief Operating Officer	SAES 2
Deputy Chief Executive	SAES 2
Directors x 4	SAES 1
Regional Directors x 2	SAES 1

Please note that the majority were appointments made to existing vacancies.

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

Since 1 July 2023, and to the period ending 30 June 2024, there were no executive positions abolished.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

Since 1 July 2023, and to the period ending 30 June 2024, the total value of executive termination payments was \$406,311.26, which excludes the value of accrued leave entitlements.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

As required by Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements, information relating to 2023-24 expenditure on consultants and contractors with a cost above \$10,000, including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual report published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

The estimated cost for engagement of consultants is \$350,000 with the total costs for contract for the same period estimated \$1,307,133.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

The 2024-25 Agency Statements provide the Department for Child Protection's budget for supplies and services for 2024-25.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25.

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget
Communications and Engagement Unit	FTE	6
	\$	888,462
TOTAL	FTE	6
	\$	888,462

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Office for Women within the Department of Human Services:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds for the 2024-25 financial year:

Grant program/fund name	2024-25 Estimate \$000
Child and Family Welfare Association of SA	145
Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)	15
Healthy Development Adelaide (University of Adelaide)	5.6
Raising Literacy Australia	198
Wakwakurna Kanyini—for South Australian Aboriginal Children and Families *	946

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that for the Department for Child Protection:

The budgeted expenditure for remote work infrastructure for the financial year 2024-25, and 2022-23 is approximately half of 1 per cent.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

Since 1 July 2023, no executive appointments were made in the Office for Women.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

Since 1 July 2023, there were no executive positions abolished.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

The total value of the termination payments was \$0.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2022-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

As at 19 July 2024, a total of \$157,486 (GST exclusive) has been committed for expenditure on contractors in 2024-25. No expenditure has been committed for consultants in 2024-25.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

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

advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

The Agency Statements provide the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services budget for supplies and services for 2024-25.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that, as the Office for Women is a division of the Department of Human Services (DHS), any communication and promotion activities are provided by the broader department.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details of \$50,000 or more are proactively disclosed.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

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

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25 financial year.

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000
Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention	Programs supports the full and equal participation of women in the social and economic life of the state. Priorities include implementing strategies to prevent family, domestic and sexual violence; striving for equality for women in every aspect of life; and increasing women's economic participation and leadership.	39,614

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned previously.

Beneficiary	Total Contract Value (GST ex) \$
Alexandrina Council	330,564
Australian Refugee Association Inc	489,685
Australian Refugee Association Inc	571,295
Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc	372,236
Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc	540,300
Catholic Family Services	326,359
Catholic Family Services	326,359
Catholic Family Services	326,359
Catholic Family Services	326,359
Catholic Family Services (Centacare)	533,533
Catholic Family Services (Centacare)	326,402
Catholic Family Services (Centacare)	326,402
Centacare Catholic Country SA Limited	389,617
Centacare Catholic Country SA Limited	88,923
Centacare Catholic Country SA Limited	242,283
Centacare Catholic Country SA Limited	300,254

Beneficiary	Total Contract Value (GST ex) \$
Community Justice Services SA Ltd	751,299
Community Transitions	54,398
Community Transitions	745,354
Community Transitions	445,260
Community Transitions	594,000
Council On The Ageing SA Inc	150,000
Gawler Community House	304,372
Junction Australia Ltd	321,969
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	161,000
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	852,684
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	1,084,437
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	327,839
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	445,488
Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation	1,039,180
Mount Barker Family House Inc	330,528
Multicultural Youth South Australia Incorporated	172,424
Murray Bridge Community Centre Incorporated	305,254
Neami Limited	6,528,084
Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)	174,968
Nunga Mi:Minar Inc	923,862
Nunga Mi:Minar Inc	511,381
Power Community Ltd	414,072
Relationships Australia South Australia Limited	3,283,660
Sexual Health Information Networking & Education SA Inc (Shine SA)	287,000
The Trustee For The Salvation Army (SA) Property Trust	325,885
Uniting Country SA Ltd	321,273
Uniting Country SA Ltd	328,790
Uniting Country SA Ltd	315,064
Uniting Country SA Ltd	315,064
Women's Emergency Services Coalition Of South Australia Incorporated	518,441
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	815,437
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	1,398,686
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	698,080
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	1,097,282
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	115,996
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	1,118,066
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	5,887,733
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	560,222
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	2,086,705
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	5,210,135
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	326,392
Women's Safety Services (South Australia) Ltd	100,734,800
Working Women's Centre SA Incorporated	4,707,139
Yarredi Services Incorporated	133,384
Yarredi Services Incorporated	318,224
Yarredi Services Incorporated	311,214
Zahra Foundation Australia Pty Ltd	394,000
Zahra Foundation Australia Pty Ltd	306,500

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (21 June 2024). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing): I have been advised that in relation to the Women, Equality and Domestic Violence Prevention Program within the Department of Human Services:

There is no specific budget allocated for the management of remote work infrastructure.

TEACHER PERMANENCY

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

From 2017 to 2022 there was an average 199 teacher permanency conversions annually, with this number increasing to 512 in 2023 and 683 in 2024, providing job security in particular for our target cohorts of younger teachers, preschool teachers and teachers who have been on contracts for longer periods.

Further, I'm advised that over a third of the employees who have been converted to permanency have been on temporary contracts with the department for over five years, creating greater employment stability for teachers.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Department for Education employees whose performance was identified as 'improved' as a result of performance support involvement between July 2019 and June 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Teachers	Employees	Total
FY2020*	6	3	9
FY2021*	8	5	13
FY2022*	15	11	26
FY2023	26	18	44
FY2024	20	31	51
TOTAL	75	68	143

*Minimal data was recorded in these Financial Years.

Department for Education employees who were required to participate in a formal performance management process between July 2019 and June 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Teachers	Employees	Total
FY2020	15	5	20
FY2021	11	6	17
FY2022	24	12	36
FY2023	12	4	16
FY2024	17	13	30
TOTAL*	79	40	119

Above data has been manually captured and as such are an approximation.

DfE employees who resigned as a result of performance support involvement between July 2019 and June 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Teachers	Employees	Total
FY2020	26	10	36
FY2021	24	22	46
FY2022	35	20	55
FY2023	31	28	59
FY2024	27	29	56
TOTAL	143	109	252

Department for Education employees that did not have their contract renewed following performance support involvement between July 2019 and June 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Teachers	Employees	Total
FY2020*	1	1	2
FY2021*	0	4	4
FY2022*	2	3	5
FY2023	3	2	5
FY2024	6	4	10
TOTAL	12	14	26

*Minimal data was recorded in these Financial Years

Department for Education employees that had their employment terminated as a result of performance support involvement between July 2019 and June 2024 is as follows:

Financial Year	Teachers	Employees	Total
FY2020	4	0	4
FY2021	6	4	10
FY2022	3	7	10
FY2023	8	2	10
FY2024*	1	7	8
TOTAL	22	20	42
*Focus on early support resulting in fewer terminations			

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

The table below provides a breakdown of the Department for Education's investing expenditure across the forward estimates. This table excludes annual programs and leases.

Project	Total (\$'000)
Bellevue Heights Primary School	7,600
Brahma Lodge Kindergarten	5,700
Ceduna Special Education Unit	2,193
Early Childhood Education & Care, 3-year-old preschool	9,494
Elsie Ey Children's Centre	2,200
Five new technical colleges	107,650
Flexible Industries Program	500
Fregon Anangu School	17,305
Hackham West Children's Centre	4,700
Le Fevre High School	4,000
Local school infrastructure upgrades	27,462
Meningie Area School	9,400
Minor Works	16,951
Modular Buildings	16,000
Mount Barker High School	4,000
Mount Barker new preschool and primary school	61,100
Mount Gambier High School	6,000
Nailsworth Primary School	3,338
New Projects	33,229
Northern suburbs new secondary school	154,200
Pimpala Primary School	12,557
Plympton International College	13,500
Relocation of Kingston Early Learning Centre	3,000
Roma Mitchell Secondary College – Additional Accommodation	18,027
Seaview Downs Primary School	15,709
Site Funded Works	6,628
Surrey Downs Primary School	16,500
Thebarton Aquatic Centre	2,810
Two Wells Community Children's Centre	2,100
Upper Sturt Primary School	6,700
Virginia Primary School and Preschool	14,700
Yahl Primary School	2,500
GRAND TOTAL	607,753

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE BARGAINING

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

The Department for Education is funded in accordance with Gonski principles for school education and receives indexation based on a composite of wholesale price index and consumer price index, weighted towards wages costs recognising that this is a significant driver of school costs.

The total cost of the enterprise bargaining (EB) agreement for school education has been accommodated within the department's existing budget provisions without any reduction in current programs.

The total cost of the EB agreement for preschool education (non-Gonski component) has been funded from state government appropriation as per standard practice.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Through the process of developing the Department for Education's purpose and strategy for public education in South Australia, we identified a range of key aspirations and created the four areas of impact that describe what we will prioritise and resource to deliver on our purpose.

Instead of developing an implementation strategy for adopting the Australian Curriculum V9, we reassigned our staff to adapt it. We created a framework that delivers the Australian Curriculum content while also supporting teachers to design learning, teaching, and assessment that is in line with our purpose and helps teachers to understand what they might prioritise and apply across the curriculum, including to real-world contexts.

The budget previously allocated to prepare curriculum resources and units of work has been repurposed to adapting the Australian Curriculum V9. In total, this has equated to spending of \$17.7m in the 2023-24 financial year.

A total of \$13.7m has been budgeted for the 2024-25 financial year, and \$12.8m in 2025-26 as work on adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 enters the refinement and implementation phase of the South Australian Curriculum for public education.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Staff within Curriculum and Learning have been reassigned to adapt the Australian Curriculum V9, instead of undertaking the work that would have been required to adopt and implement it.

Preparation of the curriculum has involved 38.3 FTE, comprised of 42 staff from the Department for Education's Curriculum and Learning division. Of these, 24 staff are seconded teachers and 39 were already employed to prepare curriculum resources and units of work. Three new seconded teachers were employed to lead delivery of the government's mathematics improvement priority.

Supporting this work was over 1400 South Australian public education teachers and leaders who shared their views through consultation activities including focus groups and feedback sessions supported by temporary relief teacher funding. Additionally, the department has collaborated with Educators SA and a range of leader and learning area associations, including the two leading SA principal associations, South Australian Primary Principals Association and South Australian Secondary Principals' Association.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

One further contract was completed at a total cost of \$33,000 (inc. GST) to support the development of the plan.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Wherever possible the Department for Education engages and utilises its own ICT workforce to ensure the delivery of projects and services.

Due to the specialised nature of many ICT roles and a highly competitive labour market, at times there may be a need to utilise external contractors to ensure uninterrupted provision of critical support functions to corporate office, schools and preschools.

Contractors listed in the annual report are engaged to undertake a combination of long-term and short-term priorities for the department.'

MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT COSTS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The following transition costs were incurred in addition to the cost of engaging PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide project management support to machinery of government changes between the then Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Department for Education:

- Shared Services SA transition costs to set up systems and transfer functions of \$106,851 (inc GST), including changes related to:
 - employee transfers and coordination
 - payroll services
 - financial accounting
 - banking and taxation
 - balance sheet transfers
 - procurement contracts; and
 - vendor maintenance and accounts payable and receivable function transfers.
- Contractor costs to coordinate and implement the machinery of government changes of \$61,362 (inc GST), including the financial systems integration of Skills SA into the Department for Education.'

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The 45 FTE form part of the 100 FTE commitment. The target of 45 FTE has been slightly exceeded to include an additional 1.3 FTE. All these positions have been recruited since government was formed.

The following categories have been recruited to:

Social work duty line

An expanded social work duty line provides a statewide service to sites. This comprises three additional FTE for the social work duty line.

Aboriginal support and inclusion leads

Aboriginal support and inclusion leads are focused on helping ensure specialist supports for schools and students are culturally responsive to the needs of Aboriginal students, parents and staff. This comprises two FTE.

Specialist educators

Specialist educators are in metropolitan and regional education offices providing services and support to sites. In addition, specialist educators for Positive Behaviour for Learning have been employed to support schools to reduce exclusionary discipline. This comprises 15.5 FTE in total.

Partnership with Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY)

The department is working with KWY, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, and the Department of Human Services to pilot a new type of intensive service for Aboriginal families with children who are not attending school. This comprises three FTE within KWY.

Specialist supervision of the allied health school buy-in service

Schools and preschools can engage allied health providers to deliver additional support services tailored to their needs. A dedicated team of discipline leads has been established to work with schools to design their school buy-in service and support recruitment and retention of allied health professionals within their school. This comprises 4.9 FTE.

Specialist support to autism inclusion teachers

The autism inclusion multidisciplinary team provide direct support to teachers who take on the autism inclusion teacher role, through the autism networks. This comprises 4.9 FTE and is in addition to autism inclusion teachers in schools.

Flexible service response team

The flexible service response team has been established to increase access for students to specialist services where this can be challenging due to for example geographic location. This can be through providing access to telepractice together with fly-in, fly-out approaches. This comprises 12 FTE.

Principal Occupational Therapist

In Student Support Services, discipline leads provide discipline-specific leadership and support to practitioners in their field. The Principal Occupational Therapist ensures the workforce of occupational therapists is appropriately supported to deliver high quality and safe services to children and sites. This comprises one FTE.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT STAFF

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The three FTE positions are within Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY).

FINDON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

At the end of term 2, 2024: Findon Technical College currently has 236 students engaged (combination of full-time/part-time) across the year 10 and 11 levels.

UNIVERSAL THREE-YEAR-OLD PRESCHOOL

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Archival documentation found by the Department for Education indicates that Aboriginal children were eligible to attend preschool from three years of age in 1995. However, anecdotal information indicates that this provision may have been in place as early as the late 1970s.

Children in care have been eligible to attend preschool from three years of age since 2006.

Of the average 19,000 three year olds in any given year, approximately 750 are entitled to a three-year-old preschool program.

PRESCHOOL STAFFING

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The Department for Education has achieved a retention rate of over 85 per cent for its preschool workforce. This figure is based on a specific snapshot date, checking if employees were with the department 12 months earlier, regardless of their site or classification.

In the past 12 months the attrition rate for preschool employees is less than 5 per cent, with 44 of the separations being due to retirement.

A snapshot of data shows approximately 85 preschool related positions were advertised externally and filled in the past 12 months. Other appointments also occur through internal processes, including graduate arrangements and contract renewals.

Measuring staff movements between schools and preschools is challenging due to numerous variables. Accordingly, this data is not currently available.

PRESCHOOL STAFFING

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The Department for Education is working closely with the Office of Early Childhood Development on designing and implementing the initiatives of the South Australia Early Childhood Workforce Strategy.

To staff government preschools, the department employs:

- teachers who hold an ACECQA approved early childhood teaching qualification, which includes the b-5 three-year teaching degree and current B-8 Bachelor of Early Childhood Degrees; and
- educators who hold or are working towards a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care and/or Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.

The department has a dedicated team responsible for connecting young people to undertake VET courses at technical colleges and we continue to promote career opportunities in our schools and preschools to young people undertaking a VET course.

We are currently working on developing initiatives with universities to develop targeted pathways for school support officers and early childhood workers to upskill to a teaching qualification.

The department supports people, including our existing educators, in obtaining teaching scholarships under multiple initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Amy Levai Aboriginal Teaching Scholarships
- National Teacher Workforce Action Plan scholarships; and
- Enabling Educator Excellence.

We will continue to model our workforce requirements based on contemporaneous data relating to planning, attraction, recruitment, retention and professional learning. The goal is to support our current workforce and secure supply of a strong early years educators with the right capabilities.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The increase between the 2023-24 original budget of \$5.614million and the 2023-24 revised budget of \$5.793million for employee benefit payments is due to an increase in funding allocated to the advocacy bodies during 2023-24 for:

- \$75,000 for the Commissioner for Children and Young People for the Children in the North initiative.
- \$42,000 for the Child Development Council to employ an engagement co-ordinator.
- \$25,000 provided to the advocacy bodies associated with an increase to the superannuation guarantee rate from 1 July 2023.
- \$24,000 of funding transferred from supplies and services to employee benefits by the Commissioner for Children and Young People to fund staffing.
- \$14,000 associated with increase to executive salaries.¹

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

Oversight and advocacy bodies are legislated by the Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016 and are funded as administered items by the Department for Treasury and Finance.

The Department for Education provides services to support the organisations in the areas of people and culture, ICT, communications, procurement services and budget and finance support.

Details of the expense lines requested for the past year are provided below:

PROJECT CODE	PROJECT	OBJ DESC	2024
946	COMMISSIONER FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	37,170.48
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	12,240.61
		ADVERTISING	0.00
Total			49,411.09
948	CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	138.21
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	7,980.10
		ADVERTISING	0.00
Total			8,118.31
972	COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	6,890.30
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	395.37
		ADVERTISING	270.64
Total			7,556.31
973	TRAINING CENTRE VISITOR	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	5,892.26
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	16.36
		ADVERTISING	527.30
Total			6,435.92
995	CHILD DEATH & SERIOUS INJURY REVIEW COMMITTEE	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	2,216.15
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	2,454.60
		ADVERTISING	0.00
Total			4,670.75
996	GUARDIAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	8,365.14
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	930.89
		ADVERTISING	0.00
Total			9,296.03
997	COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	TRAVEL AND ASSOCIATED COSTS	6,625.59
		FOOD AND HOSPITALITY	1,700.00
		ADVERTISING	1,065.00
Total			9,390.59
Grand Total			94,879.00

It should be noted that the travel related expenses for the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People include travel to undertake extensive consultation informing the preparation of the 'Holding on to our Future' report.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

The sales of goods and services line includes the following fees and charges:

- Student services fees
- Northern Territory (NT) contract
- Visa fees
- SACE International student fees
- SACE International school fees
- Replacement certificates and results

SACE International and the NT contract are the largest contributors to the fees and charges at the SACE Board and there is no expectation that this revenue will reduce.

In addition, there were cashflow adjustments made to 2022-23 of \$0.957million. Overall, revenue from fees and charges increases from \$5.051million in 2022-23 to \$5.434million within the estimated result for 2023-24, which does reflect cashflow adjustments.

The variation in budget relates to realignment of SACE Board budget reflecting movements within these fees and charges to align with the current strategies of the SACE Board.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

There is no specific decrease in program budgets or expectations. The movements relate to the realignment of SACE Board budget, reflecting movements within fees and charges to align with the current strategies of the SACE Board, including pricing model updates.

SACE INTERNATIONAL

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

Yes, for the 2023-24 year, SACE International achieved a profit margin of 30 per cent equating to \$0.700million.

TRAINING AND SKILLS FUNDING

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

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

To access funding under the National Skills Agreement, South Australia needs to meet certain requirements including allocating at least 70 per cent of commonwealth government funding for vocational education and training (VET) delivery and capital to TAFE and public training providers.

I can report that South Australia is meeting this requirement under the agreement. As a new agreement, comparable TAFE SA figures for the last four years is not available.

TRAINING AND SKILLS FUNDING

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024).
(Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): Further to the information provided on the cost of training delivery per hour at TAFE SA, I have been advised of the following:

The 2022-23 average subsidy per hour paid to non-government training providers was \$10.05. The 2023-24 estimate is \$10.00. These rates are not comparable to TAFE SA as TAFE SA is funded on a cost-of-service basis.

TAFE SA

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

There is one current matter before SAET. Three other matters with SAET have occurred which have since been dismissed by orders. During this time there has been one SACAT matter, which has been dismissed by orders.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Since 1 July 2023, eight executive appointments have been made. Seven were existing positions and one was a new SAES 1 position.

The total annual employment cost for these appointments is \$2,024,393 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Since 1 July 2023, there were two executive positions abolished.

The total annual employment cost for these abolished positions is \$575,495 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The total cost of executive positions terminated since 1 July 2023 is \$210,866.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2022-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

TAFE SA will outline all names of contracting firms and the work undertaken above \$10,000 that were engaged in 2024-25, as part of the department's 2024-25 annual report once it is finalised and audited.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	73 037	71 068	67 073	59 320

This is estimated expenditure and subject to change.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
Marketing	FTE	16.40	16.40	16.40	16.40
	\$m	\$2.00	\$2.03	\$2.06	\$2.09
Corporate Communications	FTE	4	4	4	4
	\$m	\$0.67	\$0.67	\$0.68	\$0.69
TOTAL	FTE	20.4	20.4	20.4	20.4
	\$m	\$2.67	\$2.70	\$2.74	\$2.78

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

As an open and transparent government, marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website: <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years—controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
TAFE SA					
Study Adelaide	Study Adelaide	To promote Adelaide as an International study destination and in partnership with institutions, grow South Australia's International student numbers.	75	75	75

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

TAFE SA supports flexible working arrangements. Specific technologies for managing secure virtual private network access for staff make up around 0.03 per cent of TAFE SA's total expense budget. This is consistent with previous years.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)				
Adult Community Education (ACE)	ACE targets community-based education providers including Community Centres South Australia peak body to deliver foundation skills projects, and ACE Upfront Assessment of Needs (UAN) mentoring services. ACE supports community-based education for people to build and improve their foundation skills and transition to vocational education and training and/or employment.	\$ 4,484	\$ 4,984	\$ 4,501
Building Innovative and Capability Projects	Projects target non-government registered training organisations, with a Funded Activities Agreement (FAA), education providers or other organisations with training as a key focus of their business, organisations seeking to develop and/or pilot the delivery of a micro-credential. Building innovation and capability projects support training providers to innovate and build their capability to achieve higher quality outcomes for students and respond to industry and community skills need.	\$ 200	Nil	Nil
Equipment and Capital Grants (ECG)	ECG investment supports state-of-the-art training facilities, contemporary infrastructure and technology and industry-relevant equipment aligned with areas of skill demand and economic priorities in South Australia. Project funding also supports vocational education and training (VET) educator scholarships and course development activities.	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	Nil
Fee Free Training: Non-TAFE First Nations	Targets First Nations students through Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) Training Providers (non-government RTOs, both private and Not for Profit) in South Australia, prioritising sectors with key skill shortages for Aboriginal learners. Fee Free TAFE is a joint initiative of the Australian and South Australian Governments providing free training places to students wanting to train, retrain or upskill.	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 572
Group Training Organisation (GTO) Boost	Funding to enable Group Training Organisations (GTOs) to offer host employers a reduced charge-out rate at the rate of \$100/week for 12 months, for apprentices or trainees aged 21 and over at commencement.	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,373	\$ 1,373
Group Training Organisation (GTO) Support (Payroll Tax Assistance) Program	Funding to assist Group Training Organisations (GTOs) to employ and mentor apprentices/trainees, by reimbursing actual payroll tax paid.	\$ 2,277	\$ 2,294	\$ 2,307

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)				
Skill Shortage Solutions (SSS)	SSS grants target registered training organisations including TAFESA, industry or sector peak bodies, and non-government organisations. SSS supports partnerships that collaboratively address skill shortages at an industry, sector, regional or workforce level through projects that develop and pilot industry informed, customised, or localised skill shortage solutions. Grants aim to increase and improve: take up of VET to support supply of qualified people to address trade skills shortages skilled career pathways in trades, so they are flexible and address barriers sector-wide approaches and strong partnerships between industry and training providers to develop sustainable solutions to trade shortages.	\$ 2,208	\$ 2,238	\$ 2,275
South Australian Group Training Program (SAGTP)	Funding for Group Training Organisations (GTOs) to maintain or increase the completion rates of group training sector apprentices and trainees, by providing support for pastoral care and host employer placement. Funding supports the South Australian Government's Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Report and Action Plan which recommended the establishment of the Defence Industry Pathways Program (DIPP), a joint initiative between with the Commonwealth Government.	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,052	\$ 2,061
Tauondi Aboriginal College	Funding for Tauondi Aboriginal College (registered training organisation) for activities aligned to Tauondi's strategic and business planning which support sustainable business operations and growth.	\$ 1,745	\$ 1,396	\$ 1,150
Travel and Accommodation Allowance	Funding to reduce costs incurred by employers when apprentices and trainees are required to travel long distances to attend off-the-job training.	\$ 1,293	\$ 1,543	\$ 1,793

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer.

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)			
Adult Community Education (ACE)	Community-based education providers	ACE targets community-based education providers including Community Centres South Australia peak body to deliver foundation skills projects, and ACE Upfront Assessment of Needs (UAN) mentoring services. ACE supports community-based education for people to build and improve their foundation skills and transition to vocational education and training and/or employment.	2024-25: \$1.865M
Building and Innovative Capability Projects	Organisations delivering training as a key focus of their business	Projects target non-government registered training organisations, with a Funded Activities Agreement (FAA), education providers or other organisations with training as a key focus of their business, organisations seeking to develop and/or pilot the delivery of a micro-credential. Building innovation and capability projects support training providers to innovate and build their capability to achieve higher quality outcomes for students and respond to industry and community skills need.	2024-25: \$0.01M

Grant program/fund name	Beneficiary/Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)			
Defence Strategies – Defence Industry Leadership Program	Defence industry	Program supports the South Australian Government's Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Report and Action Plan which recommended an expansion of the Defence Industry Leadership Program (DILP) to 50 participants annually and adding the Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management to the program's offering.	2024-25: \$0.2M 2025-26: \$0.22M 2026-27: \$0.22M
Equipment and Capital Grants (ECG)	Not-for-profit training providers and TAFE SA	ECG investment supports state-of-the-art training facilities, contemporary infrastructure and technology and industry-relevant equipment aligned with areas of skill demand and economic priorities in South Australia. Project funding also supports vocational education and training (VET) educator scholarships and course development activities.	2024-25: \$0.18M
Fee Free Training: Non-TAFE First Nations	Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) Registered Training Organisations Non-government Registered Training Organisations	Targets First Nations students through Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) Training Providers (non-government RTOs, both private and Not for Profit) in South Australia, prioritising sectors with key skill shortages for Aboriginal learners. Fee Free TAFE is a joint initiative of the Australian and South Australian Governments providing free training places to students wanting to train, retrain or upskill.	2024-25: \$0.737M
Skill Shortage Solutions (SSS)	Not-for-profit organisations in partnerships	SSS grants target registered training organisations including TAFESA, industry or sector peak bodies, and non-government organisations. SSS supports partnerships that collaboratively address skill shortages at an industry, sector, regional or workforce level through projects that develop and pilot industry informed, customised, or localised skill shortage solutions. Grants aim to increase and improve: take up of VET to support supply of qualified people to address trade skills shortages skilled career pathways in trades, so they are flexible and address barriers sector-wide approaches and strong partnerships between industry and training providers to develop sustainable solutions to trade shortages.	2024-25: \$1.73M
Tauondi Aboriginal College	Tauondi Aboriginal College	Funding for Tauondi Aboriginal College (registered training organisation) for activities aligned to Tauondi's strategic and business planning which support sustainable business operations and growth.	2024-25: \$1.5M grant + \$0.145M repairs and maintenance 2025-26: \$1.25M 2026-27: \$1.0M
Defence Strategies – Defence Industry Leadership Program	Defence Teaming Centre	Program supports the South Australian Government's Defence Industry Workforce and Skills Report and Action Plan which recommended an expansion of the Defence Industry Leadership Program (DILP) to 50 participants annually and adding the Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management to the program's offering.	\$0.84M over 2023-24- 2026-27

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—administered:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-24 Estimate \$000	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)				
Nil				

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer.

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Portfolio: Education, Training and Skills (Skills SA)			
Nil			

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

Since 1 July 2023, nine executive appointments have been made.

The total annual employment cost for these appointments is \$2,644,133 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

Since 1 July 2023, there were nil executive positions abolished.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

The total value of the termination payments was nil \$0.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2023-24 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development has a consultancy budget of \$300,000 included within the office's 2024-25 original budget. Decisions about consultants are however made on a case by case basis. Costs associated with any consultancy engagements will be managed from within the overall goods and services budget.

For contractors, decisions are taken by the office to engage the services of contractors in order for it to deliver on its objectives.

The Office for Early Childhood Development will outline all names of contracting firms and the work undertaken above \$10,000 that were engaged in 2024-25, as part of the department's 2024-25 annual report once it is finalised and audited.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	7,975	8,362	8,753	8,618

This is estimated expenditure and subject to change.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for 2024-25 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2024-25 Budget	2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget
Change and Engagement	FTE	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8
	\$m	0.438	0.443	0.449	0.457

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that the Office for Early Childhood Development will be incurring costs in 2024–25 for the Early Childhood Workforce Attraction Campaign. This campaign is designed to attract, upskill and retain early childhood teachers and educators, in preparation for the roll-out of universal three-year-old preschool from 2026.

Marketing communications activity reports and annual media expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$50,000 and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website: <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>.

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years—controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Office for Early Childhood Development				
Preschool Infrastructure Grants	Grant program to incentivise non-government providers to create additional preschool places	2,240	9,640	14,300

The Office for Early Childhood Development has been funded to deliver three and four-year-old preschool across government and non-government settings. Delivery of the non-government setting may entail grants to non-government providers. These programs are currently being designed in consultation with the sector.

In addition, the Early Childhood Workforce Fund has a range of programs to support workforce attraction, training and retention, aligned to the workforce strategy. Some of these may be delivered through grants following further design and development of specific initiatives.

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr BASHAM (Finniss)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills): I have been advised that for the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) :

The Office for Early Childhood Development supports flexible working arrangements. Any infrastructure costs to enable these arrangements are covered through the service level agreement with the Department for Education.

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Since 1 July 2023, 26 executive appointments were made.

The total annual employment cost for these appointments is \$6,025,260 (excluding on-costs).

Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

Since 1 July 2023, there were eight executive positions abolished.

At the time these positions were abolished there were no incumbents and therefore no salary or employment costs.

Individual executive total remuneration package values as detailed in schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be an unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

There have been no executive position terminations for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The estimated total cost for the engagement of consultants in 2024-25 is \$2million as outlined in the 2024-25 Agency Statements Volume 1 page 187. Decisions about the engagement of consultants are made on a case by case basis.

The following new contracts (excluding contracts that may have variations) have been executed by the department since 1 July 2024 per information recorded in the department's central procurement system.

Contractor Name	Method of Appointment	Reason for the engagement	Total estimated cost
ASI SOLUTIONS	Limited, request for quote	Procurement of a portal to enable the purchase of devices to support the Digital Strategy.	There is no commitment to purchase devices.

Contractor Name	Method of Appointment	Reason for the engagement	Total estimated cost
KERRY BURKE	Limited, request for quote	Engagement of Psychology Providers	\$70K for 24-25 year only
GEMMA HEPBURN	Limited, request for quote	Engagement of Psychology Providers	\$65K for 24-25 year only
THE TRUSTEE FOR TEK CO TRUST	Limited, request for quote	Onsite weekly servicing and maintenance support arrangement of Orbis' audio visual environment.	\$357K over 3 years commencing July 24

The department's central procurement system does not maintain contract information where the total contract value is less than \$55,000, so details on any contractors below \$55,000 are not included in this response.

The department will outline all names of the contracting firms and the work undertaken above \$10,000 that were engaged in 2024-25 as part of the department's 2024-25 annual report once it is finalised and audited.

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2024-25 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows, which includes estimated expenditure for the department and schools and subject to change:

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Total goods and services	1,036,462	1,054,392	1,098,024	1,116,029

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2024-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years—*administered*:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2024-25 Estimate \$000	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000
Arts entities	Grants provided to Carclew, Patch Theatre and Windmill Theatre Production Company as part of the Arts entities budget to support the operation of these organisations in delivering youth arts activities and grant programs.	4,036	4,127	4,223
Multicultural Grants	Grants are provided in support of ethnic and community language schools to deliver language and cultural programs as well as SACE subjects to South Australian school-aged students.	2,313	2,372	2,432
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Grants to provide funding to assist organisations where the activities and objectives of those organisations are consistent with the responsibilities of the Minister's portfolio.	3,107	3,185	3,265

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, or any commitments already made to be funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer. The values represent the total commitment for the beneficiary/recipient over the period of the three financial years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27. For the minister's discretionary fund, not all budgeted funding has been approved at this stage.

In terms of the multicultural grants program, two payments are made each year for this program based on census data collected in February and August. For the purpose of this response, we haven't listed the individual commitment below as the amounts are not determined at this point in time.

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
Arts entities			
Arts entities	Carclew Incorporated	Operating funding	7,830
Arts entities	Patch Theatre Incorporated	Operating funding	840
Arts entities	Windmill Production Company Limited	Operating funding	3,716
Minister's Discretionary Fund			
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Adelaide Festival Centre Trust	CentrED Program—Operational Costs	100
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Adelaide Holocaust Museum & Andrew Steiner Education Centre	Seed funding to support ongoing development of the Centre	156
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Adelaide United Football Club	Funding to support the 'United in Schools program'.	545
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Association of Independent Schools of SA	Supporting the Allied Health Specialist Support Services Program	344
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Association of Independent Schools of SA	Parent Initiatives in Education program	85
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Australia Day Council of South Australia Incorporated	Award for leadership in languages and culture	31
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Australia Day Council of South Australia Incorporated	Australian of the Year – Inspiring Student Engagement Summit for two financial years	98
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Australian Migrant Resource Centre	SA Refugee Week and Youth Poster Awards and Exhibition	9
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Children's Week Association of SA	To contribute towards the cost of the annual Children's Week program.	58
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Department for Education	Parents in Education funding in public schools	83
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Department of Human Services—MoAA for Second Chances SA	To support the Prisoner's Kids Family Care program	58
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Encounter Youth Incorporated	Alcohol and other Drug Education Program	610
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Gifted and Talented Children's Association of SA	Gifted Program Workshops	21
Minister's Discretionary Fund	History Trust of SA	Operation Hino	100
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Ice Factor Foundation Incorporated	To contribute to the costs of trained coaching staff to deliver the Ice Factor Program	187
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Innovation First International (AU) Pty Ltd	Sponsorship of the March VEX Robotics Australian Championships.	15
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Isolated Children's Parent's Association of SA	Operational funding	31
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Mathematical Association of South Australia	Remote and Rural Schools Mathematics Program	241
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Oakbank School	Agricultural Support Program	20
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Patch Theatre Incorporated	Discounted Ticketing Program	62
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Power Community Ltd	Power to End Violence Against Women Program which targets young men in Year 10 across South Australia to address the prevalence of domestic violence within our community.	384
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Raising Literacy Australia	Preschool Books	415
Minister's Discretionary Fund	The Science Collective (Missing Link Consultancy Services Pty Ltd)	Science Alive Regional Science Fares	35

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$000
Minister's Discretionary Fund	South Australian Association of School Parent Communities	Supporting families in School and Preschool	128
Minister's Discretionary Fund	South Australian Association of State School Organisations	Operational Grant	100
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Specific Learning Difficulties Association of SA	To support operational expenses associated with providing assistance to children and young people with specific learning difficulties	479
Minister's Discretionary Fund	State Theatre Company SA	Development of an Education Program	132
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Tea Tree Gully Toy Library	Support the operations of the Toy Library	31
Minister's Discretionary Fund	The Ethnic Schools Association of South Australia	Student Art/Writing Competition	10
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Tjindu Foundation Limited	Operational funding	450
Minister's Discretionary Fund	United Way South Australia	Imagination Library 2024-26	120
Minister's Discretionary Fund	University of Adelaide	Children's University Program	413
Minister's Discretionary Fund	University of Adelaide	Research Project – Autism SA	40
Minister's Discretionary Fund	Virtual War Memorial Limited	Virtual War Memorial Australian Learning Portal and Education Program	168

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **the Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (26 June 2024). (Estimates Committee A)

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

- The department facilitates flexible work arrangements through various IT tools and infrastructure.
- Many of these tools are part of the standard toolkit used by all staff, not just for remote working.
- Citrix Workspace and Citrix VPN infrastructure was established to support remote work during COVID. The ongoing maintenance and support incur minimal additional costs for the department.
- The capability to work from any location is integrated into the organisation's core technology infrastructure. It is not possible to separate specific items or costs related solely to remote work infrastructure. This trend is increasing with much of the infrastructure being natively cloud-based.
- That said, the budgeted expenditure for remote work infrastructure for the financial year 2024-25, and for previous years 2022-23 and 2023-24 is as follows:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Expenditure on remote work infrastructure	\$541	\$561	\$617