

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### Thursday, 17 October 2024

**The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)** took the chair at 11:01.

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

#### *Parliamentary Committees*

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: TUCKER STREET APARTMENT PROJECT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:02):** I move:

That the 95<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Tucker Street Apartment Project, be noted.

In response to the housing crisis, the state government has made a \$177.5 million election commitment to improve public housing through the Public Housing Improvement Program. As part of this investment, the government has committed to building an apartment building at Lot 2 Tucker Street, Adelaide.

The South Australian Housing Trust will head the project and proposes to build a 20½-metre high structure that contains 50 studio apartments, which aligns with both the plan for A Better Housing Future and the Public Housing Improvement Program. The building will provide onsite services, office spaces, meeting rooms and common areas, and the site's convenient CBD location will offer residents ready access to existing amenities and services.

Two concept options were considered to deliver the project. Option 1 identified a city location, which benefits from convenience and accessibility to amenities and existing services, the ability to incorporate support services, appropriate zoning provisions, alignment to customer demand and proximity to employment opportunities. Option 2 proposed delivery in the suburbs, which would provide greater opportunity for private outdoor space and the ability to deliver multiple dwelling typologies. It would, however, be limited by service accessibility, lack of public transport access, misalignment with customer demands and have a greater impact on the community. Option 1 of a city location was selected because it best reflected the project drivers.

Development application for the project was lodged in February this year and planning consent was granted in June. The agency has secured a licence agreement on the adjoining site to support construction, which will aid contractors and optimise construction time efficiency. Due to the site's previous commercial use, a preliminary site investigation was undertaken and found no Environment Protection Authority referral triggers.

The proposed built form is responsive to its surrounds and consistent in scale to neighbouring high-density development, and the ground-level interface is designed to be sympathetic to the nearby single-storey heritage buildings. The project requires the relocation of an electrical transformer and the work will be completed by SA Power Networks. SA Water has advised that a water supply upgrade is required on Tucker Street as well as the potential for a future supply upgrade on Hutt Street. Construction is expected to begin in early 2025, with completion anticipated for June 2026.

The project has been allocated \$19.2 million. The estimated total cost of the project is \$20.2 million, indicating a potential budget shortfall of \$1 million. SA Housing Trust has stated they are confident this deficit can be funded from the redirection of funds within their approved budget. Budget provision of \$3.1 million over the forward estimates post construction has been made for the provision of support services to the residents. Other associated costs with ongoing management and maintenance of the project will be drawn from existing budgets.

Given the urgency to ease the housing crisis, the project has explored all opportunities to accelerate the project schedule, including:

- overlapping design and town planning approval processes;
- adopting a design and procurement model to allow tender to occur on a staged design process that overlaps with construction activities;
- performing critical lead-in works ahead of the building contract; and
- designing the building to make use of streamlined construction technologies.

The project will be delivered following best practice principles for project procurement and management as advocated by the state government and construction industry authorities.

The project management process includes evaluation and review of solutions against the brief, preparation of a project program, establishment of a cost plan, appointment of a lead professional services contractor and cost manager, and development of formal communication channels between end users, stakeholders and the SA Housing Trust. Additionally, construction procurement will be undertaken via a competitive tender process in line with state government requirements.

A risk assessment has been undertaken in accordance with SA Housing Trust's risk management framework, and the project has been identified in the medium range of risk. Risks identified include:

- the project representing a new and uncommon operational model by co-locating dwellings and services;
- the scale of the project being significant for the SA Housing Trust; and
- the project progressing with an accelerated schedule, which may be impacted by delays from activities outside the agency's control.

To overcome potential issues, an independent adviser has been engaged to oversee the building procurement and the project team of external consultants is highly experienced in the design and delivery of high-density apartment developments.

The project aims to deliver resilient public housing that is prepared for a changing environment, with housing that increases energy efficiency and reduces energy demands for customers. To reach these goals, the built form incorporates a range of design features, including:

- natural ventilation and materials of thermal mass that support passive temperature control, supplemented by individual air conditioning units, allowing more responsive temperature control to each dwelling;
- selective finishes that improve internal environments, with the choice of appliances, fixtures and utilities aiming to reduce operational costs and the use of water and electricity;
- the decision to not use natural gas at all;
- the management of waste streams to support recycling and organic waste; and
- landscaping that will benefit biodiversity and the tree canopy.

The South Australian Heritage Places Database has identified several local heritage places adjacent to but not within the project area, and the proposed development is not anticipated to impact the heritage values of these places. Nearby Pirie Street and Hutt Street are part of the national heritage place The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout, and the development is not anticipated to impact this place as the structure does not have a frontage to Hutt Street or Pirie Street. The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects has not identified any sites within 200 metres of the development.

The project will be overseen by a project steering committee which is responsible for strategic direction, reviewing progress, key decision-making and ensuring project alignment with the state

government's election commitment. Public notification is not required for the project's development application, and consequently no public consultation has occurred for the project. However, SA Housing Trust representatives attended an information briefing session with local residents facilitated by the member for Adelaide. A media and communications team from SA Housing Trust will manage formal inquiries relating to the project as they arise.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Tucker Street Apartment Project. The witness who appeared before the committee was Mr Tom Currie, Director, Major Projects and Housing Initiatives, South Australian Housing Trust. I thank the witness for his time.

Based upon evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: PORT PIRIE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT REDEVELOPMENT**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:10):** I move:

That the 98<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Port Pirie Regional Health Service Emergency Department Redevelopment, be noted.

Port Pirie hospital is one of SA Health's key regional facilities, providing a comprehensive range of health services to patients throughout the Southern Flinders and Mid North. These important health services include 24-hour accident and emergency care, patient surgical and medical, obstetrics and gynaecology, chemotherapy, renal dialysis, diagnostic imaging services, respite and residential aged care, allied health and community-based services. Onsite providers also include pharmacy and pathology.

The hospital is vital to providing ongoing care to consumers in the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network, and the current standard and condition of the emergency department (ED) is creating operational, infection, safety and security risks. Additionally, SA Health expects the service demand to significantly grow in the coming years, along with an increase in the age and clinical complexity of consumers. This \$15½ million ED redevelopment will not only restore the facility's services to current standards but also expand the hospital's service delivery capabilities.

The redevelopment is part of a wider plan to develop health infrastructure in the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network catchment. In 2020, the local health network commissioned an architect consultant to undertake a hospital site development plan to consider infrastructure development at the Port Pirie, Wallaroo and Clare hospitals. Part of the key recommendations for the Port Pirie hospital was the construction of a new ED, medical imaging facility, and a mental health short stay unit and support services. To meet budget, the ED component has been prioritised as the first stage of the development plan, with the remaining components postponed and forming stage 2 of the planned works.

The concept design considered several options, shaped by constraints that the redevelopment will both replace the still operational existing ED as well as the need to cater for the stage 2 development at a later date. The preferred option was approved because it minimises interruptions to clinical services delivery during construction and will allow more room to optimise functional areas. The design also addresses a requirement that the ED be raised by half a metre, ensuring that the hospital can still operate as a post-disaster health provider in the event of an extreme coastal high tide event.

The redevelopment project will construct a new 700 square metre extension to the northern side of the existing hospital and will be built on the site of an existing car park that will require relocation. The new ED will, in line with current Australian Health Facility Guidelines, include:

- one emergency resuscitation bay and one hybrid emergency and procedure resuscitation bay;
- seven adult patient treatment bays, including one negative pressure treatment bay;

- two rapid assessment treatment bays;
- a stimulus room, a patient consult room and a triage examination room;
- an external covered ambulance area;
- a patient waiting and arrivals area;
- a triage zone and ambulant arrival bay;
- dedicated clinical support utility rooms;
- a central staff station; and
- back-of-house staff facilities.

The project has integrated several pandemic management measures throughout the facilities design, including dynamic waiting areas, independent toilet and shower rooms, sanitary stations and the previously mentioned negative pressure isolation treatment bay.

SA Health states the delivery of the project will follow best practice principles for project procurement and management. These principles include extensive consultation to ensure incorporation of new and emerging health strategies, evaluation and review of solutions against the brief, development of formal communications with community and stakeholders, preparation of a program that reflects the project scope, establishing and managing a cost plan, appointment of professional service contractors, and scheduling reviews of design documentation and construction.

Development approval from the State Commission Assessment Panel was received in December 2023. Site mobilisation is anticipated to occur this month, with the project anticipated for completion in November 2025.

The project team is managing risks, and the selection process for the professional service contractors has a strong focus on quality, specialist knowledge and the appropriate management of risk. The project team has identified:

- challenges managing the scope of the project within the approved budget, for which the team aims to allow appropriate design and construction contingency allowances;
- distinct geotechnical conditions due to highly soft estuarine clay within the site, for which the building will require stiffened raft footing design;
- the presence of lead dust in the area, which will require the contractor to follow Environmental Protection Agency standards for soil remediation, dust management and monitoring;
- managing construction in proximity to an operational clinical environment and existing helipad, for which the project team will remain in ongoing communication with site management and consumers at the hospital; and
- replacing the parking capacity due to the removal of the existing car park, for which the project team are negotiating with the local council for an expansion of car parking infrastructure along an adjacent road. SA Health is also looking into acquiring or leasing adjacent land for dedicated onsite parking.

The project team has established formal processes to ensure ecologically sustainable development (ESD) principles are incorporated into the design, construction and operation of the ED. This includes the engagement of an independent ESD advocate. The building will be adaptable, with flexibility for changing uses and technologies as well as mechanical systems prepared for higher temperatures and infrastructure designed to support installation of solar power technology.

The design has also considered the sustainability and efficiency of air conditioning, building materials, lighting and appliances as well as water usage, rainwater and wastewater. A suite of sustainability rating tools will be in place to ensure the delivery of ESD initiatives and to measure ongoing performance.

There are no Local Heritage Places or items located on the site, and SA Health confirms there are no significant trees within the development zones. The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects determined there is no record of Aboriginal sites in the proposed works location.

SA Health will remain in ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the community throughout the design and construction process. This includes user group consultation with clinical and non-clinical emergency staff, as well as specialist and representative medical agencies that have firsthand experience. Further insight about the new facility has been sought from general practice and representative organisations, the Director of Aboriginal Health and the local health network's governing board.

SA Health is also working with the Port Pirie Regional Council to investigate parking solutions as well as coordinating soil stockpiles. The local health network will manage required communications regarding site planning and logistics through newsletters, project information boards and website updates.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Port Pirie Regional Health Service emergency department redevelopment. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Melissa Nozza, Director, Capital Projects, Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Coenraad Roberts, Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Yorke and Northern Local Health Network; Victor Oecker, Project Manager, Department for Infrastructure and Transport; and Jeremy Kelly, Director and Lead Designer, Silver Thomas Hanley Architects. I thank the witnesses for their time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Stuart for the written statement he provided supporting this project in his electorate.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (11:19):** I would also like to speak and thank the Public Works Committee for passing this project through the corporate regional health service. I also want to acknowledge the hard work that has been done regarding this project since the election in 2022.

During that election it was an election commitment by both sides of politics to actually do the improvements to the Port Pirie Regional Health Service. This facility has been in its location for many years, and it has served an ever-growing population and tourism opportunities—not only in Port Pirie but also for visitors from the Copper Coast and Clare Valley, and people travelling through the north.

As the member has indicated, these improvements will provide greater services and facilities for various locations within the hospital. The challenges going forward include communication with the board and professional staff because, as the member has indicated, the facility has to be built to accommodate the 3.4 AHD, which is the issue of being able to raise any buildings going forward above the potential of any flooding from tidal inflows and from the river itself, and also from climate change.

This has been a long, drawn-out process, and I know there have been many discussions between SA Health, the Port Pirie Regional Health Board, the minister's department and the Minister for Health. This project, as I indicated, is well and truly overdue. As the member indicated, this is stage 1 of the project. I am looking forward to stages 2, 3, 4 and 5, which hopefully is in the long-term project.

I want to pay tribute to the staff who have been operating in this facility for many years, not only the ED staff but also the hospital staff, because they do a tremendous job. The facility, as indicated, has been well and truly looking for some vast improvements to modernise it, and also provide the extra facilities for the other services, as the member has indicated, and also to attract more professional services into our regional health service. As I indicated, it not only serves Port Pirie—it is not a general hospital, but it is the major hospital in the region—but also it accommodates people from the Copper Coast and also from Clare Valley and northern areas, and people coming in from other areas, as well as an ever-increasing number of tourists.

As with other locations in South Australia, our community in the last 12 to 18 months has experienced vast improvements in opportunities for people to relocate from the Eastern States, and that is challenging our health services.

The health precinct in Port Pirie is a fairly large complex. It is bound by Florence Street, The Terrace and other streets. Just recently, the Port Pirie Regional Health Service has indicated they have tried to get more money for the helipad, and the member has also indicated that has been approved. I think it is about \$2.1 million because of the new contract for the rescue helicopters, which could not utilise the existing pads in Port Pirie and other locations.

I will look very closely at this. I really do appreciate the degree to which the minister has communicated with the staff there. It is very important that we communicate not only with the public themselves about what they want but also with the health sector themselves, the people who actually work in these locations. We have to make it as easy as we can for them. Due to some of my issues—not recently—I and others in my family have had to go to the hospital and some of the areas there are inadequate. This extra \$15.6 million—I think that is the project's total cost—will make it a lot more attractive, and it will make it a lot easier to get people through the ED system.

As I have made public before, I believe we need a long-term master plan for Port Pirie and the great opportunities it presents not only for Port Pirie but also for the Upper Spencer Gulf. We need as a state, as a government—on both sides—to look at the long-term potential opportunities for growth in the regional sector through the resource sector, the renewable energy sector and things like that. We need to look at the long term. I understand and I hope that the future direction, facilities and usage of the existing Port Pirie Regional Health Service building, which has been there for many years, is taken into account.

In the long term, we will be pushing as much as we can for a new hospital, as soon as we can. I know that everybody is looking for new hospitals. Certainly, in this one here I am very appreciative of the government. I am very appreciative of the Public Works Committee for allowing this to go through, and I understand that it was bipartisan. There were no arguments regarding the opportunities there.

Again, I want to thank the Minister for Health for his consideration of this. I am looking forward to construction starting on that facility. I know from experience that there are going to be some challenges with car parking, because it is a very small car park. I want to reinforce my real and great appreciation of not only the doctors who go there but also the very dedicated medical staff—nursing, surgery and things like that—and the visiting specialists for what they do there. I take my hat off to them. I am very appreciative of this and am looking forward to the construction and the completion of both this and the helipad.

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (11:25):** I rise to also contribute on this report, and in so doing from the outset congratulate the government on spending money on regional health. It is such an important part of our health system as a whole. Every time we see a story in Adelaide about ramping and whatnot, I think to myself that the easiest way we could fix that would be to improve regional health services and reduce the number of people who are having to be flown to Adelaide, or transported to Adelaide, and increase the number who can be treated locally.

Congratulations to the government on spending money in regional health and further congratulations on spending money in our health network. Our local health network, as the member for Stuart would know, has an incredibly difficult task. It is a big network, with a lot of hospitals and a significant population to serve. They have an unenviable task of prioritising works, and it is pleasing to see the contribution made to the Port Pirie hospital in this setting.

I do not mean to denigrate that effort—this is a complementary effort—but I do want to stress the point that while it is wonderful to see Port Pirie receive some investment we would love to see further investment in our health network, particularly on Yorke Peninsula. Again, I emphasise that it is a difficult job for the health network. There are a lot of hospitals and it is hard to prioritise them, but if I could start at Wallaroo, that is a comically small hospital. We have the Copper Coast region which has probably exceeded 15,000 people now—living there, not travelling there—and we have a 21-bed hospital. It is woefully insufficient in size to service the area that it is tasked with serving.

It is pleasing to hear the member for Florey explain that there have been architectural drawings done in 2020 to investigate what a new facility, or a bigger facility, might look like. I have asked in estimates previous whether there were drawings submitted to Infrastructure SA. The answer, I think, if memory serves, came back no. It would be wonderful to know where those drawings have got to, but it is good to hear that there has been work done on examining what a future Wallaroo Hospital would look like.

I do not mean to, again, contradict the words of the member for Stuart, but on the Copper Coast, on Yorke Peninsula, when we are asking for improved health services and investment, we are often pointed towards investment at Port Pirie as a sign of benefit for our community. I am sure there are some who are transferred to the Port Pirie hospital from Wallaroo or from other hospitals on Yorke Peninsula, but I have to say that the absolute vast majority would choose to go to Adelaide.

If they are at the Wallaroo Hospital, for example, and are told that their ailment is such that it needs to be treated at a higher level and that they should either be referred elsewhere or choose to travel elsewhere, I can tell you that the vast majority would choose to travel to Adelaide for access to the services that are on offer in metropolitan Adelaide.

There would be a small minority, I think, who would choose to go to Pirie because it is closer. It is closer; it would be roughly an hour, slightly less than an hour, from Wallaroo. Adelaide would be two hours, or slightly less than two, so it is closer, but I think the vast majority would go to Adelaide. That is where I live. If you live further south than that—in Maitland, Minlaton, Yorketown or any of those communities around there—I think the odds of you choosing to go to Adelaide or being flown to Adelaide increase dramatically.

When we are pointed to investment in Pirie—this is not necessarily to denigrate that investment; it is welcome and should be congratulated—as a sign that our health needs and our local community are being invested in, I think that is slightly hard for my community to swallow. It is a difficult proposition. We would like to see more localised health spending in the Copper Coast on Yorke Peninsula.

I look forward to trying to chase up the architectural drawings. I would like to see what they look like and what they have come to, and use them to continue to advocate. As members would be aware, and I have talked about it on a number of occasions, at the end of last year we tabled a petition in this place of near on 11,000 people calling for action for our local health services. A key part of that was investment in the Wallaroo Hospital, and it was a re-examination of the boundaries of our local health networks.

They have matured now for a while and perhaps it is worth looking at how we can ensure that each health network has a comparable task ahead of it, each health network is servicing a similar number of hospitals and a similar number of patrons—as we do as members of parliament in this place—so that we can ensure that it is not such a difficult task for some and a slightly easier task for others. That might well then ensure that the Wallaroo Hospital receives the priority that I believe it deserves and that my community believes it deserves, and that it can become the focal point of our health network.

We also heard in the speech argument that the growth in the Port Pirie community and the propensity for tourists to visit there is evidence supporting the fact that that hospital needs investment. This is not to say that it does not but I would argue that both of those factors lend themselves far better to investment at the Wallaroo Hospital than they do at Port Pirie. I imagine, without having the statistics in front of me, that annual visitors to the Copper Coast community might well exceed those who visit Port Pirie, and if they do not then I would be advocating strongly that more people visit our community and enjoy the wonderful beaches, and certainly the growth.

The Copper Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in our state. That is a fact. If you do not believe the stats, you only have to drive between Moonta Bay and Port Hughes to see the number of new houses that are being built and the sheer volume of slabs that are being laid around the community to see that it is a growing community. There are people moving there en masse and it was projected in 2019, in a health services study that I participated in, that Wallaroo would grow by another thousand permanent residents before 2036 to around 5,100 people, an increase of

60 per cent since 2011. That was in a health study that I participated in a few years ago: 60 per cent growth.

That growth is there to justify the services. We currently have only a 21-bed hospital. It is comically small. It is in desperate need of investment. I congratulate the investment in Port Pirie. It will be a wonderful thing—gosh knows that building needs it. It is in a poor state is my understanding, and I am sure it will be money well spent but, hopefully, the next step in our health network will be Wallaroo or on Yorke Peninsula.

I look forward to trying to get hold of those architectural drawings and investigate what they look like. I look forward to advocating as strongly as I can in this place, both through the upcoming inquiry into the petition that I tabled, and in other opportunities, to ensure that we get our fair share of the regional health spend in this state.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:32):** I rise to speak to the report being tabled by the Public Works Committee in recognition of the Port Pirie Regional Health Service emergency department redevelopment. As with my neighbour, the member for Narungga, and my neighbour, the member for Stuart, we welcome investment by the government in regional health services, and the Port Pirie hospital is no less worthy than any other country hospital around our state.

A significant amount of money, \$15½ million, is being allocated to this emergency department upgrade, and every dollar is needed—for those of us who have walked through and visited, supported and understood the ageing infrastructure that is there. To be fair to feedback I have been given about the Port Pirie hospital, certainly comments have been made in the recent past that, in fact, a greenfield site would have been welcomed as well.

I do not stand to advocate for that today but to welcome the investment that we—country people—are going to see in a country hospital. The current state of that ED poses operational infection and control risks, as well as safety and security risks, and the \$15 million is going to go a long way toward starting to improve the working environment for our hardworking doctors, nurses and allied health professionals, and certainly to lift the standard for patients who, as the member for Stuart noted, come from not just the Port Pirie township but, of course, the Far North, Mid North and Yorke Peninsula.

Yes, people from my region of the Clare Valley are using the services at the hospital, and I will make my own reflection on Clare Hospital shortly. I note that this report suggests that service demand is expected to increase at the Port Pirie hospital, and I do not doubt that at all. Upgrades to any country hospital are going to attract the locals to have more faith in the system and the standard of care that they are going to receive.

I also draw the government's attention to the Auditor-General's Report that was tabled in the house this week, with a very curious table that the member for Narungga might be interested in as he departs. We have seen a 22 per cent increase in presentations at country hospitals, at country EDs, since 2021 mostly on this government's watch—an increase in country patients presenting to their country hospital. On the face of it, we would say that is reflecting country patients' faith in the hospital that they have access to, but I think that if we scratch the surface we will find something else is going on.

We well know in this chamber the delay that everyone is experiencing in accessing an appointment with a GP. There are long wait times, cancellations and no consistency of care. When immediate and urgent treatment is required, patients in the city and the country are rocking up at the local hospital ED for treatment.

There is also a cost factor, and that grows by the day as we reflect on the cost of living. Bills are going up, households are tightening up and regional South Australia is now facing a drought and frost crisis with impact on harvest and income for the next 18 months. That discretionary money just is not there. We should not be talking about health as a discretionary spend but, where there is a country hospital and an ED available to support someone in the middle of the night when their options are limited, they are going to present to the country hospital.

So I say for the third time that we welcome the investment in the Port Pirie hospital, but we welcome it in every country hospital that exists and operates in South Australia. In my own electorate



there are many. Clare Hospital is the biggest in the electorate of Frome and it is also due for an upgrade. While plans are well underway, the budget that the government allocated for the LHN was \$4½ million, but the cost of the project is \$6 million. So there is already a \$1½ million shortfall. There is a collection of volunteers dutiful in their service to their country hospital network, and it has been left to the HAC to find \$1½ million and to approve through the LHN the release of those funds that were set aside from an aged-care budget.

The HAC is very comfortable with the decision it has made. I sit on that HAC and we are desperate to see the upgrade to the Clare Hospital proceed. But the idea that \$15 million is being spent on Port Pirie hospital, and that service demand is expected to increase, just validates my argument that we want to see continued investment in not just the bigger hospitals in regional South Australia but the smaller ones that are providing life-saving services, whether that is in Burra, Eudunda, Jamestown, Balaklava or Kapunda—and that is just my electorate.

An amount of \$15 million for Port Pirie hospital is welcome but the opposition is tracking very closely how the government is spending its health budget. An amount of \$1.9 million has just been spent on advertising to voters: the government's agenda on how it is investing in health.

The Auditor-General has outlined a \$956 million—let us round it up and call it an even \$1 billion—budget blowout in health. I am checking in with health stakeholders and saying to them, 'For that extra billion dollars, can you feel it, can you sense it in the health services you have access to? Is it a faster experience, has the infrastructure improved, is the feedback or the servicing you are experiencing an improved experience?', and the answer is no, it is a resounding no.

The member for Narungga spoke about sustainment works, the Yorke and Northern LHN that we—the three members in the chamber representing regional South Australia, the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Spencer Gulf—belong to. There is a frustration of the public servants within the LHN that they have a finite budget, a diminishing pool of money—as I understand it, about \$800,000 of sustainment works available to them for the entire LHN—which is why the government is scrounging around trying to find other sources, including looking very closely at money that HACs are holding.

The government's report to the chamber today made mention of the helipad upgrade that will take place at Port Pirie. The member for Stuart and I are in concert, we agree: we welcome that at Port Pirie. That enormous concrete behemoth that sits out in the car park is a critical life-saving piece of infrastructure for the Spencer Gulf and surrounds, as it is at every other country hospital around the state where a helipad exists.

I note, with no dissemblance, that the government have genuinely invested in upgrading helipads around the state, and they have gone further than what must be noted in this chamber was a Liberal commitment to country regions: where a helipad was at a hospital, that those upgrades were critical and they were tied to compliance through CASA, the civil aviation authority, that stipulated, with changes coming to helicopters and a weight loading compliance issue, that those upgrades were required.

The minister laughed at me two years ago when it was first put to the government whether they would honour that commitment, yet here we are, a quiet backflip. We welcome it, but I am calling out what was an investment that had to happen that was not the brainchild of this government.

The member for Stuart concluded his remarks by sincerely thanking the workforce who are dedicated to the Port Pirie hospital, and I echo his sentiments but I send that right around the state to every other region in South Australia. Our doctors, nurses and allied health professionals work very hard and they deliver an excellent standard of care.

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:43):** I take this opportunity to thank members who have contributed to the debate. It is always pleasing to hear from the member for Stuart; he is a passionate advocate for his area, as is the member for Narungga. I also take this opportunity to thank the member for Frome for her contribution.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: CONSTRUCTION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE METROPOLITAN GROWTH**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:43):** I move:

That the 99<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Construction of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure to Enable Metropolitan Growth—Tranche 1, be noted.

This project from SA Water is a vital component of the government's Housing Roadmap, ensuring water supply for the anticipated significant growth in the metro north water supply system catchment. Growth in this zone is presently greater than the rest of South Australia and is also where most of the city's greenfield growth is expected, with four areas being investigated for suburban development. This tranche 1 project will undertake works that enable future augmentation to the system, ensuring service capacity for the expected increase in population. The works include new water mains, pump stations and additional storage capacity.

As with the water supply network, SA Water will see an increased demand in the northern suburbs wastewater system. The proposed works will prepare for the significant growth in future connections, as well as for the potential increase of water-intensive uses, recycled water schemes, extreme weather events and increased commercial and industrial activity.

The tranche 1 project requires capital expenditure of approximately \$419 million, and the project is estimated to have an operational cost of \$7.9 million over the current regulatory period. With the first subprojects commencing this year, the whole project is aimed for completion in early 2027. As the targeted benefits are attributed to a continuing water and sewerage service where the primary driver is not for economic benefit to the state, an economic benefit-cost ratio is not required for the project.

Master planning for the project was undertaken at both a system and investment planning level. After identifying the existing water supply system is insufficient to accommodate the expected growth, planning investigated two intervening options. The preferred option will focus works on upgrading and augmenting the existing water network rather than the alternative option, which would require building a new desalination water treatment plant.

System planning also identified that the existing wastewater system services are insufficient for growth, and, after investigating two intervening solutions, centralising treatment at the Bolivar wastewater catchment was the preferred option rather than constructing a new treatment plant in proximity to the new developments.

The tranche 1 project proposes works across Riverlea, Roseworthy, Angle Vale, Munno Para, Sandy Creek, Craigmore and Elizabeth East. The subprojects will upgrade infrastructure including mains, pumps, electronics, valves, connections and storage tanks. The works will be undertaken predominantly in road reserves managed by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and the local council. However, the project will require the purchase and acquisition of several land parcels, and any acquisitions will be undertaken in accordance with the Land Acquisition Act.

SA Water plans to use established procurement arrangements with industry, including frameworks and panels with partners already experienced in delivering the augmentation, replacement and upgrading of water and wastewater infrastructure. The agency will establish new arrangements where necessary and when opportunities arise. These arrangements deliver significant efficiency benefits through collaboration, innovation, consistency, planning and programming.

Award of the design and construct packages will be in accordance with SA Water's delegation of financial and procurement authority and applicable Treasury and government policies. The project will be managed in accordance with SA Water's corporate methodology by a project manager who is responsible for the development and delivery of the overall project, including seeking necessary approvals and management of the selected contractor.

SA Water identifies and manages project risks through a business risk management policy and framework. The agency has identified potential risks including:

- industry-wide cost escalation, for which the agency will work with major framework partners to minimise impacts of construction market constraints and supplier cost pressures;
- misalignment between estimated growth requirements and developer forecasts, for which SA Water will hold early discussions for network configuration;
- extended duration of interim tankering, for which prioritised scheduling and resourcing aims to minimise volume and duration of tankering;
- lack of capacity of major framework partners, for which early engagement will identify if additional suppliers are required;
- limited land availability, for which detailed planning and design aims to identify optimal outcomes for both the project and the public;
- difficulties encountered during construction through built-up areas, for which detailed planning, design, and construction methodologies will balance the requirements of stakeholder, community and project needs;
- underground services or other construction challenges, for which the agency will engage services and surveys to investigate conditions; and
- damage of important environmental assets, for which the agency will engage cultural heritage, regulatory bodies and relevant cultural groups.

SA Water's corporate-wide policies are committed to operating sustainably, and the selected contractor for this tranche 1 project will be encouraged to develop and comply with processes with due regard for short and long-term local and global environmental, social and economic considerations. This includes considering conservation and efficient use of resources and materials, reduced carbon emissions, flexible products and processes, recycling and waste management and the use of local subcontractors, resources and materials where possible. SA Water will prepare environmental control plans to ensure subprojects are delivered in compliance with relevant environmental regulations. Where subprojects are delivered under partnership frameworks, contractors will be required to establish construction and environmental management plans and to develop site environmental plans to address site-specific environmental management.

Subprojects will be assessed individually to determine the likelihood of impacting Aboriginal heritage, and the agency assures identified risks will be managed appropriately. Measures may include commissioning heritage surveys; seeking permissions in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act; developing a cultural heritage management plan and engaging cultural monitors; applying SA Water's standard operating procedure for the discovery of Aboriginal heritage; and instituting cultural awareness inductions for all onsite staff.

If any Aboriginal sites, objects or remains are found, the agency states that works should cease immediately and an Aboriginal engagement and heritage adviser contacted. The tranche 1 project lies within the Kurna Peoples and Ngadjuri Nation #2 native title determination areas, and SA Water states that further native title assessment will be undertaken as the design for the areas is deployed. A future environmental and heritage risk assessment will investigate any impact on local heritage sites.

There is significant public awareness of the unprecedented growth in residential developments in Adelaide's northern metropolitan area, and SA Water has prepared a communication and engagement plan that covers all tranche 1 project activity. The agency will work with construction contractors to develop detailed communication and engagement action plans for each district to keep affected stakeholders informed. The acquisition of land and easements for the project is ongoing and SA Water will remain in consultation with landowners throughout the project. Further consultation with adjacent landowners will aim to minimise any construction impacts.

There are over 140 developers working within the tranche 1 project area, and the agency is communicating with key developers to best coordinate works. The project area spans several council areas and SA Water will work closely with the affected councils regarding the use of road reserves,

acquiring development approvals, appropriate traffic management, hours of work and potential service disruptions.

The committee examined written and oral evidence in relation to the Construction of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure to Enable Metropolitan Growth—Tranche 1 project. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were Peter Seltsikas, Senior Manager, Capital Delivery, SA Water, and Andrew Evenden, Project Director, Program Delivery, SA Water. I thank the witnesses for their time.

Based upon the evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: REBUILT GAWLER AMBULANCE STATION**

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Brown:

That the 86<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Rebuilt Gawler Ambulance Station, be noted.

(Continued from 29 August 2024.)

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (11:53):** As I was saying before I was rudely interrupted by the bell last time, a range of detailed initiatives are in place to maximise sustainability outcomes throughout this project's life span, considering indoor environmental quality, energy efficiency, monitoring, transport, water use, materials and emissions. An independent advocate consultant will be engaged to assist in the successful delivery of these aspirations for the project.

There are no local heritage places or items located on the site, and SA Health confirms that any significant trees within the development zone will be protected in accordance with legislative requirements. The Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects determined there is no record of Aboriginal sites in the proposed works location.

SA Health will engage in ongoing consultation with stakeholders and the community throughout the construction process and into service readiness. Throughout the implementation of the project, SAAS and the SA Health media and communications unit will manage required external communications, media inquiries and press releases. The community will be further informed via targeted letter drops and a dedicated information session. The project teams have also undertaken expert reviews with various units and agencies within SA Health and SAAS, including work health and safety, infection control, hygiene advisers and industrial bodies.

The committee has examined written and oral evidence in relation to the rebuilt Gawler Ambulance Station. Witnesses who appeared before the committee were: Melissa Nozza, Director, Capital Projects, Infrastructure, Department for Health and Wellbeing; Francesca Hughes, Senior Project Manager, Across Government Services, Department for Infrastructure and Transport; Rob Elliott, Chief Executive Officer, South Australian Ambulance Service; Rob Tolson, Executive Director, South Australian Ambulance Service; and Peter Tynan, Director, Greenway Architects. I thank the witnesses for their time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Light, who provided a statement to the committee regarding his support for this project in his electorate.

Based upon evidence considered, and pursuant to section 12C of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Public Works Committee reports to parliament that it recommends the proposed public work.

Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: WHYALLA HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT UPGRADE**

Adjourned debate on motion of Mr Brown:

That the 80<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Whyalla Hospital and Health Service Emergency Department Upgrade, be noted.

(Continued from 27 June 2024.)

**The SPEAKER:** Does anyone else want to speak on this? No.

Motion carried.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: FUNDING FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS PETITION**

Adjourned debate on motion of Ms Wortley:

That the 47<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled 'Petition No. 96 of 2021: Funding for children and students with additional learning needs in public schools and preschools', be noted.

(Continued from 6 June 2024.)

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:56):** The committee heard this is also the case for vulnerable children and students and, for a variety of reasons, include those who are on temporary visas, live in rural areas or are of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. To address these additional challenges, the committee has recommended the department engage across government agencies to identify the additional learning needs of children before preschool and again before primary school and to ensure family support is provided.

The department advised it has rolled out several schoolwide initiatives, including the One-In-Four reform, the student engagement reform, and the Positive Behaviour for Learning framework, which is an evidence-based framework to promote improved behaviour and learning outcomes for students. The committee commends the department for these projects.

The recommendations of submissions and witnesses to the inquiry reflect some of the findings of several previous inquiries into the state's education system, including the 2023 Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care; the 2022 University of South Australia study, Teachers at breaking point; and the 2020 Graham Inquiry into Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Processes in South Australian Government Schools.

I note that yesterday in this place, the Minister for Education announced a major reform to public high schools right around the state, which will support students with a range of complex challenges to continue their studies. The minister advised this parliament that the announcement came off the back of the Inquiry into Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Processes in South Australian Government Schools conducted in 2020 by Professor Linda Graham and tabled in this place in March 2021.

The \$48 million investment in what will be known as tailored learning provision (TLP) will start next year and will support secondary students up to the age of 21 who have disengaged from school. It follows, we are advised by the minister, a successful trial in 12 public high schools this year, which provided additional in-school support to help students overcome these changes and to get back to school. These are just some of the issues and recommendations from this inquiry and I commend the committee's report to the house.

Motion carried.

*Bills*

**CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (PUBLIC REGISTER) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

**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) (12:00):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I am pleased to introduce to this house the Child Sex Offenders Registration (Public Register) Amendment Bill 2024, fulfilling the commitment made by the government prior to the 2022 election, as part of the justice for victims comprehensive suite of commitments—commitments that we rightly made to the South Australian community to take firm action in relation to those awful predators who perpetrate child sex abuse.

I am absolutely sure that everyone in this house would wholeheartedly agree that this is a bill that we wish our community did not need, but sadly it absolutely does. This particular commitment, now expressed through this bill, creates a three-tiered scheme for public access to information on the child sex offenders register. This scheme is based on the Western Australian disclosure model. That model operates as a limited public disclosure scheme and has three tiers:

- Tier 1 relates to a website providing photographs and personal details of reportable offenders, who have either failed to comply with their reporting obligations or provided false or misleading information to police and whose location or whereabouts is not known to police.
- Tier 2 means that upon application, photographs of dangerous and high-risk offenders in the applicant's locality may be published.
- Tier 3 focuses on a community protection disclosure scheme, allowing a parent or guardian of a child to inquire about a specific person who has regular contact with their child or children.

The South Australian disclosure scheme follows the Western Australian model and is established via amendments to the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006.

In relation to tier 1 of the model, the publication of the photographs and information on registrable offenders, who have not fulfilled their reporting requirements and whose location is unknown, is already available under the Child Sex Offenders Registration Act.

Part 5B of the existing act provides that the commissioner may publish on a website, which is maintained by the commissioner, any or all personal details of a registrable offender—other than a registrable offender who is a child—if the commissioner is satisfied that the registrable offender has failed to comply with his or her reporting obligations or has provided false or misleading information and the registrable offender's whereabouts are unknown.

The purpose of the publication of the information is rightly to find the wanted registrable offender and to keep our community informed. As these existing conditions effectively replicate tier 1 of the Western Australian model, it was determined that no further legislative amendments were required to our existing act to implement tier 1.

The amendments implementing tier 2 will rightly allow SAPOL, subject to an approved application, to provide those photographs of dangerous and high-risk offenders in an applicant's suburb or surrounding area. Again, this is consistent with the operation of tier 2 of the Western Australian disclosure model and it is focused on improving public awareness and community safety. Locality is also defined the same as it is in the Western Australian legislation, meaning the general locality—for instance, the town or suburb or region—in which the person resides is described.

Applications are restricted to offenders in the locality of the applicant's residential premises, meaning an applicant cannot request broader searches about places beyond. The ability to request information on registrable offenders in tier 2 will be restricted to certain categories of offender. Information may be released where the registrable offender, other than an offender who is a child:

- (a) after becoming a registrable offender the registrable offender commits and is found guilty of a further—
  - (i) class 1 or 2 offence;
  - or
  - (iii) other sexual offence committed against a child; or
- (b) the registrable offender—
  - (i) has committed and been found guilty of a prescribed offence; and
  - (ii) is subject to an extended supervision order under the Criminal Law (High Risk Offenders) Act 2015, noting that this does not apply to a registrable offender if a court has ordered that the registrable offender's image is not to be distributed; or

- (c) the commissioner is satisfied that the offender poses a risk to the lives or sexual safety of one or more persons.

Tier 3 will establish a parental disclosure scheme whereby the commissioner may provide a parent or a guardian with information about a specific person who has regular unsupervised contact with their child or children. This aims rightly to enable the parent or guardian to take appropriate steps to safeguard their children as necessary. I know that all of us in this house and so many in our community share deep worries about the safety of our children, and I deeply hope that this particular provision coming into existence through the passage of this important legislation, fulfilling a crucial commitment, provides some level of comfort to those parents and guardians in our state.

In relation to a tier 3 disclosure, a person may apply to the commissioner to be informed about whether or not a person specified in the application, other than a person who is a child, is a registrable offender. If satisfied that the specified person has regular unsupervised contact with their child, the commissioner may inform the applicant about whether or not the person is a registrable offender.

The parent or guardian making the application will need to provide their and their child's full details, the identity of the person of interest and the level of contact that person has with the child in order for the commissioner to be satisfied that the specified person does indeed have regular unsupervised contact with their child or children. This is intended to operate in addition to existing provisions of the act that require registrable offenders to notify parents, guardians or other responsible adults of their registrable offender status. Serious penalties rightly apply for any breach of these provisions.

There are offences included in this bill that prohibit persons from publishing or distributing information obtained through a tier 2 or tier 3 application for information. That is a really important part of this bill that is aimed at discouraging vigilantism or the targeting of registrable offenders. People who have concerns about the safety of a child or children should always contact police rather than ever taking the law into their own hands.

Our police are extraordinary. I am so incredibly grateful to every single one of them. I reflect particularly today on those officers who work in JACET and in other roles across SAPOL where they have to confront on a daily basis the horror of child sex abuse. These officers are so dedicated and they are so knowledgeable about how to deal with this terrible scourge. It is always the best and the right thing that we leave this crucial work to them.

Of note is an express provision clarifying that the commissioner is not required to provide any information if it would identify either directly or indirectly a child who is in care. The commissioner must, however, when assessing applications consider whether providing information would identify a victim of the offence. Offender photographs and locality information will also not be provided for a registrable offender who is a child or where a court order stipulates that the registrable offender's details are not to be published. These provisions have been drafted to be consistent with the existing provisions of the act where the commissioner currently exercises their discretion in determining whether information should be provided with consideration of the safety of a child who has been subject to the offence.

As well as establishing this three-tiered scheme, the bill also makes other really important changes to the act to further protect children from predators. Existing section 66M of the act contains a power for police to search the premises and electronic devices located at the premises of serious registrable offenders to ensure that the offenders are complying with their obligations under the act.

It should be noted that police do not currently have the ability to search the electronic devices of offenders away from their residence, nor the ability to use search powers in relation to registrable offenders who do not fall within the definition of 'serious registrable offender'. Again, I am sure everybody would agree that this is a troubling and significant gap in being able to ensure registrable offenders are complying with the act.

Again, we want our outstanding SAPOL officers to have every tool available to them to search devices as they need to and, again, to tackle this horrific scourge. We will rightly amend the law to close this gap to better protect children through ensuring that SAPOL can search an offender's

electronic devices wherever they may have those devices and extend the existing search powers to all registrable offenders.

Another amendment contained in the bill is focused on clarifying how reporting requirements apply to registrable offenders from other places. Where the offence they have committed is the equivalent to a class 1 or 2 offence in our jurisdiction, the offender is a registrable offender under the act, and South Australian reporting periods apply. It is common across all other jurisdictions to apply the home jurisdiction's reporting period to offenders. Through this bill, the act will be amended to ensure that is the case here in South Australia.

This bill is really, really important. It is another clear demonstration of our government's rightly tough approach on child sex offenders and will help to ensure the safety and the wellbeing of our precious children. This bill sits alongside our range of legislative responses to child sex offenders. That range of legislative responses includes cracking down on child sex offenders by closing loopholes that allow offenders who possess child pornography or child-like sex dolls to access bigger sentence discounts or bail. I note the work of the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place, who has also contributed alongside the Attorney-General to that important piece of legislation.

Other legislative responses to child sex offenders which sit alongside this bill include changing the heading of offences related to 'commercial sexual services' to 'commercial sexual acts' to better reflect the exploitative nature of using children in commercial sexual acts. Other legislative responses that this bill sits amongst include passing reform to ensure that offenders convicted of a second serious child sex offence will be indefinitely jailed and only eligible for release once they satisfy the court that they are willing and able to control their sexual instincts.

It sits alongside legislative measures to increase a range of penalties in relation to child sex offences. Amended section 139A of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935, or Carly's Law, to ensure that the offence can apply where the unlawful communication is made to a fictitious child—i.e., a police officer posing as a child—can still rightly constitute an offence.

It sits amongst legislation to create a default rule that accused and convicted child sex offenders may not work in businesses that employ children if their employment would involve contact with child employees—a bill that we rightly had a fulsome debate about in this place in recent months. It also sits amongst the provisions in the bill just introduced yesterday, which I certainly will not go into in any detail, to toughen penalties for those who deliberately target children and young people in care.

As a further demonstration of our commitment to deal with these vile predators, last year our parliament passed legislation to change the language around offences in relation to child sexual abuse via the Criminal Law Consolidation (Child Sexual Abuse) Amendment Act. In speaking about that particular piece of legislation, I wholeheartedly again place on record my thanks to the brilliant, extraordinary Grace Tame for her sustained, enduring advocacy for this change, and I thank the Attorney-General for his work toward this important reform.

I know that so many of us in this place and in the other place have been deeply grateful to Grace Tame, Australian of the Year 2021, for her strength, her courage, her voice, her decisive action, her capacity to campaign in that enduring way to drive lasting, important change. I can also say that I know so many of us are all so very grateful to her for her presence in this place as we discussed and moved this legislation. As I said to her on that day, I was absolutely thrilled to meet her. As I said to her, having her here in the chamber as we discussed those laws, I think her strength gave all of us such strength as we talked about why these laws were so important to progress for so many people.

Of course, our comprehensive program of legislative change in relation to child sex abuse, in relation to being much tougher on vile child sex abusers, also sits more broadly amongst our efforts across general sexual assault-related charges. As a government we have rightly made really important reforms to how sexual assault cases are dealt with in court when consent is in issue through expanding the types of jury directions allowed, such as no normal response to sexual assault.

In that vein, we have also conducted a broader review of sexual consent and abuse laws. This review is being undertaken by the South Australian and federal governments. This is something



that I moved for in a motion when in opposition and that now is progressing. As is happening all over the world, here in South Australia we are rightly, deeply looking at issues around consent and making sure that we have the best possible understanding and laws in place, laws in place that also help us to build awareness in our community more broadly about consent, what constitutes consent and what absolutely does not.

Our parliament has passed legislation to explicitly criminalise stealthing. Again, I acknowledge the work of the Attorney-General and also the work of the Hon. Connie Bonaros in the other place on this particular piece of legislation. This piece of legislation, the change that we made through this legislation, put beyond doubt that stealthing, whereby a person deliberately and without consent does not use, damages or removes a condom before or during sexual activity, is absolutely unlawful conduct. This legislation has made it very clear to our community that stealthing is not acceptable. It is not something that our community accepts in any circumstances under any conditions whatsoever.

It is really important to clarify where our community's values are on this issue and really important that we illustrate that consent is conditional. It is really important that on the issue of consent our parliament leads the way in terms of promoting those discussions to raise awareness and that our parliament leads the way in terms of ensuring that our legislation is right, it is robust and sends that message to our community about what the expectation is, what is consent and, again, what absolutely is not consent. Again, I thank those who worked hard towards this law. I was very pleased to be able to play my part in this place.

I have outlined all of this work to tackle vile child sex abuse and the terrible predators who commit it. There is work that sits alongside that to more broadly tackle the issue of sexual assault and to help our community build an understanding that whilst sexual assault still happens in the way that I think many people in our community imagine it in their mind—where something happens late at night, in the dark, when a woman is alone; that still happens and that is horrific—what also happens now is a range of other types of sexual assault.

We know that there is a terrible rise of technology-facilitated abuse and that sexual predators use technological means to target particular people and particularly vulnerable people, including children, to sexually abuse them. Our government's work in this place on legislation is crucial in building that understanding of what constitutes consent, what constitutes sexual assault and what does not, and also in sending a message that as community leaders and as a community it is utterly unacceptable and we will take the harshest, strongest possible steps to stamp it out and to keep raising that awareness about what our community does not accept.

All of this work also sits amongst our comprehensive program of transformative reform of the child protection and family support system, reform that is happening because we are determined to help improve the lives of children and young people in every way. It sits alongside our determined, comprehensive legislative policy and investment action to tackle all of the insidious forms of domestic, family and sexual violence.

As I mentioned earlier, we have introduced legislation into the parliament and I will not speak about that in terms of the content. In regard to legislation, we will repeal the existing Children and Young People (Safety) Act and institute a new Children And Young People (Safety And Support) Act. Just yesterday I had the opportunity to speak at length about that particular piece of legislation.

What that legislation sits amongst in terms of that transformative work toward fundamental reform that strives to improve the lives of children and young people is a range of proactive measures that we are undertaking as part of that transformation to help prevent the sexual exploitation of children and young people in care.

These include, for the most vulnerable group of young people in care, having interagency plans in place to ensure that we have a rapid and holistic way of responding to the specific needs of a young person dealing with the horror of this sort of abuse. It also includes ensuring that if a child or young person is at imminent risk of danger, our staff proactively respond to prevent the risk of danger to the child or young person.

Amongst that practice that I have just spoken about, we are also working diligently to embed Australia's well-known, well-recognised best practice model, the MacKillop Institute Power to Kids program, into our residential care homes to help improve children and young people's awareness of what constitutes a respectful relationship, what grooming is, and to talk about healthy sexual development. This program, and the content of this program, is absolutely critical to building protective factors against the horror of sexual exploitation.

Residential care staff are extraordinary. They are critical to supporting and also empowering young people to be informed and to know when something is not right, and to feel safe and confident to reach out for the help, the support, that they need.

As I mentioned, we are investigating opportunities to strengthen penalties for sexual offenders who target children in care through the legislation that we have just introduced. We have also partnered with the outstanding UniSA's Australian Centre for Child Protection to better understand the causes, the effects, the prevention and treatment around harmful sexual behaviours.

Through a program co-funded by both the South Australian and Western Australian governments, this harmful sexual behaviour collaborative project is identifying practices that we can work with to support children who exhibit these damaging behaviours, to explore what the impact is of intergenerational trauma, the experience potentially from a young age of child sexual abuse, and what that means in terms of harmful sexual behaviours going forward.

This is difficult, challenging work. It is heartbreaking work. It is terrible that we even have to undertake that work, but it is absolutely necessary, and we are a government that tackles those hard challenges, that speaks up about the issues that children and young people confront, and that makes sure we are doing what we can to help improve their safety and their wellbeing.

Also, for the interest of the house, we are currently working with various parties to convene a round table to much more deeply understand the sexual exploitation of young people in care. Again, this is really important; it is not something that I think has been explored in great depth in the past. It is a really difficult, awful issue, but we will tackle it, and we will tackle it alongside those who have deep practice knowledge, who have research history in this particular space, so I look forward to keeping the house informed about that particular round table and the outcomes.

It will be a high-level discussion to much better understand the prevalence of this terrible exploitation of children and young people in care, and to support an improved system response to that sexual exploitation, that deliberate targeting of children and young people in care by awful predators.

The department takes its responsibility incredibly seriously, as do I as minister, for the safety and wellbeing of these precious young people. In circumstances where there is a serious concern for a young person, the department immediately engages the expertise of services offered through SA Health and others to provide specialist support to that young person.

I know that today through this bill we focus on how we deal with those predators who commit terrible child sex abuse—and rightly so. I am proud of our decisive action in this space. What we know, though, is that keeping children and young people safe and free from child sex abuse and other forms of abuse is also about broader preventive action that enables the safety, the wellbeing, the health and the capacity to embrace equality of opportunity for children and young people to participate in every aspect of community life.

I am really proud of our \$450 million investment into the child protection and family support system to make sure that we are instituting the programs and measures that sit in that broad suite of initiatives that we must focus on to make sure that we are doing what we can to enable children and young people to be strong and safe and supported while living their best lives, being empowered to thrive and being safe from abuse.

We are doing what we can in that broader sense of policy and program settings to help this be the case. As I said, we need both of these avenues. We need legislation to hold terrible perpetrators to account. We also need to support our young people to have the best chance of living their lives safely and well and with all of the protective factors that can come through particular programs.

As I said, our \$450 million investment is enabling us to undertake a significant suite of programs. One of those is our \$13.4 million additional investment into family group conferencing. We know that when we can mobilise the love and care across an extended family around a child who may be engaged with the child protection and family support system, when we can mobilise that collective family effort, when everybody is brought together through that unifying thing that is love and care for their particular child or children, we have the best chance of having a range of people to help keep them safe, well and thriving.

I had the opportunity just a couple of weeks ago to visit with the Relationships Australia South Australia practitioners who conduct family group conferences. It was an extraordinary visit. We spoke at length about how they approach those family group conferences and how they work in every second of those conferences, and in the establishment of the conference—the bringing people together before they even get there—to make sure that the uniting thing continues to be love and care for that child and the desire to make sure that they are doing the best they can to help them to be safe and well and enabled to thrive.

I thank those practitioners at Relationships Australia South Australia and also the practitioners at Aboriginal Family Support Services, who are the other provider, the ACO provider. They also do an absolutely extraordinary job. This is an area that we know works. There is a more than 90 per cent success rate after the family group conference. We see after more than 90 per cent of those conferences that families safely stay together in looking after their child.

We know it works. That is why we have invested more. That is why we are looking at how to intensify and increase the number of conferences that are offered, because, again, we know it works. We know that these measures have to sit alongside the legislative measures, including the measure that we have introduced, or commenced debate about, in this house in relation to this particular legislation.

One of the other programs that we have heavily invested in, alongside family group conferencing—again, that sits alongside the legislation—is our approximately \$9 million into post-care supports for children and young people. I spoke a little bit earlier about intergenerational trauma and the impact that being sexually abused as a child may have on the capacity of a young person to live safe and well into the future, and how that terrible experience of child sex abuse can impact them into their adulthood and into their relationships in adulthood. We know that terrible interconnection between abuse experienced as a child and the impact it can have on a person as an adult.

That is the case for all people in our community who have experienced terrible child sex abuse as they enter adulthood. We know that an experience of child sex abuse stays with a person for the course of their entire life. We know that what helps get people through that is the support that is around them. Some people have that support because they have lived with people who can provide that support throughout their lives, and that they have that support at the point of transition to adulthood. Young people who have spent many years of their life in particular sorts of care cannot necessarily automatically rely on that support in terms of family being around them as they transition into adulthood.

I know many of us in this house or those of us who have teenagers and children in their young 20s, it is a very natural thing that we just keep providing them with that support as a transition into adulthood. For young people who have lived in particular sorts of care, that is not necessarily—sometimes it is—what happens for them, so at that point of transition we have invested \$9 million to make sure that they have the best possible support around them to make that transition.

We do that because that is the right thing in terms of supporting those young people to thrive into adulthood with an experience of good employment, access to education and access to housing. We do that because that is the right thing for them. We also do it because the right thing for them is to support them to break the cycle of that intergenerational trauma that I spoke about. We want them to be the young people who break that cycle of intergenerational trauma. That is why we provide them with that support so that they in turn can go on to have the best chance of growing their own family in a way that is safe and well, where they have all of the tools that they need to provide a really positive environment for their child or children. Those post-care supports are so important.

I would just briefly reflect that I was so pleased recently to stand with the CEO of Junction Australia, Maria Palumbo, when we announced 10 tiny homes being established to make sure that, at that point of transition, rather than a young person leaving care and going straight to their own home or private rental or to a SA Housing Trust property without broad supports around them, they have an opportunity to transition by living in one of these tiny homes.

There are 10 tiny homes with young people of a particular age and there is also a person who is there with them around the clock. They make sure that when they have those moments that are challenging—when those really difficult feelings and thoughts come up about the trauma that they may have experienced; sadly, sometimes including child sex abuse—they have that period of time where they continue to have the support they had during their time in care as they transition from care. It is incredibly important in terms of breaking the cycle, and so incredibly important for those young people.

I feel so incredibly lucky, blessed and honoured that I get the opportunity to talk with young people who are living in care. I have said this a few times in this house and it is worth repeating: so often those young people are described as vulnerable—and in many ways they have vulnerabilities—but I say again that those young people are the strongest, the wisest, the cleverest and most resilient young people I have ever met. They are incredible and they have deep insight into both what they need going forward and what they have experienced and how that impacts them.

One thing they have consistently said to me when I have met with them is that that transition period from being in care to adulthood, when they live their lives in our community doing what so many young people are able to take for granted—looking for a job, looking for a home, looking for a pathway to particular education—is that that period of support is so incredibly important. It is about those big things like housing, employment and education, but it is also about those things that many of us take for granted, things they want to know: how to go shopping, how to cook dinner, how to budget, how to make sure that they are looking at their finances so that they have enough money for the next week to buy another round of food. They need that support around them. They have lived in a particular way where that is crucial to them—again, being able to break through that trauma and forge their pathway.

I am really proud of our \$9 million investment. I am proud of the work that we are doing to create new opportunities for housing, including the tiny home project. As I said, I was with Maria Palumbo to announce that. It is brilliant. Of course, there will soon be young people living in those houses, so we will not be able to show people, but I really hope that when we are building those houses in the future before they are occupied we can show people in our community the difference that they can make both in terms of housing and just that journey of transition. I really hope that that is the case.

I think in my comments so far, particularly about post-care support, I have obviously spoken about children and young people who have had an experience of living in residential care. Another really important thing in terms of our efforts is that it must sit alongside the strongest possible legislation, and the legislation that we speak to today speaks to that. We must have the strongest possible legislation to deal with child sex abusers and absolutely to hold them to account for their heinous behaviour, which is what this legislation does. To be successful in helping to keep children and young people safe, we also have to do a range of other things. There has to be that duality of effort, and that is what is happening through our transformative reform of the child protection and family support system.

One of the things that we know is really important to invest in is to make sure we are absolutely investing in supports for those incredible foster and kinship carers who so generously open their homes, their hearts, their entire lives to children and young people who are facing the most difficult circumstances. I speak to many foster carers and they all tell me just how incredibly rewarding it is to provide love and care to a child or young person who most needs them. What they also tell me is that it can be really hard, it is difficult.

Children and young people in care have gone through some very tough times and that comes, as I have spoken about, with trauma, trauma-related behaviours, complex sets of issues that children and young people are grappling with. There are often emotional, mental, physical, health

and wellbeing challenges for this particular group of children and young people. For those kinship and foster carers who take on those children, again we want to have the programs, the support in place that helps them succeed as they go on their carer journey.

That is why, as part of our \$450 million investment into the child protection and family support system, in a previous budget we included provision for a \$50 per fortnight increase to carers with children 16 and under, and we also included a 4.8 per cent increase to carer payments. In the following budget we ensured there was a 2.5 per cent further increase to carer payments.

I know, from the many conversations with foster and kinship carers, that none of them do it for any sort of financial gain, but they absolutely do need recompense for the costs of what they so generously do. Through that increase in payments we are trying to help. We know that it does not cover everything, but it absolutely does help. That has been a really important step for us in caring for carers.

There are a couple of other really important steps we have taken between those two increases. One of the things carers speak with us about a lot is that they need respite. Respite can come in different forms. It can come in the form of those other incredibly generous people who put up their hand to be a respite carer and look after a child, young person or group of children or young people once a fortnight, once a month, over school holidays, or help with care in particular ways. That is one way our incredible carers receive respite.

What carers have said to us, though, is that sometimes, because of the complex needs of the child or young person for whom they care, just simply having someone come to their house, or a new person take over care for a particular period of time, does not always quite work. They need to experience respite in other ways. That is why the department sat down with carers for some time to think through how that sense of respite can be provided in other ways.

So what we did at the beginning of this year was to institute, on top of those increases, a new \$800 per year or \$200 per quarter respite payment to carers so that they can access flexible respite options, respite options that work for them. For some people that may mean that they get a hand with cleaning. It might mean that there is a hand to take the child or young person in their care away for a night. It might mean there is help with gardening or other household chores.

What was really important to carers is that there is that respite and that it is flexible—there is an opportunity to access that respite-like effect in a way that works for them. I am really proud that we have listened to them and that we have instituted that brand-new payment on top of existing carer payments. It is not a payment that existed before; it is a brand-new payment that started from 1 January this year.

Also, again, we are thinking about what we need to do to make sure that alongside this crucial legislation that we are speaking about today we are always looking at those programs that help to keep children safe and well. As I have said, I have spoken about family group conferencing, I have spoken about post-care support and I am speaking about the support that we have to give to family-based carers so that they can take on those roles and know that they are valued as they should be.

Also, as I said before, giving your time, your home, your energy, your love to a child or young person in care is an extraordinarily generous thing to do. It is rewarding, but it also comes with deep challenges, and what that means is that it is crucial that we listen to foster and kinship carers about what they need, what will make a difference in their caring journey.

One of the ways that we are listening to them, as well as the comprehensive program of forums and meetings that we have with carers, is through the establishment of the inaugural Carer Council. We now have a Carer Council in this state that is supported by Fiona Endicott and the incredible staff—the incredible team and the board—at Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA. That team absolutely supports the Carer Council. The Carer Council is made up of 12 remarkable carers from both regional and metropolitan South Australia. The purpose of the Carer Council is for that group to give advice to me about what else we can do to make things as good as they can possibly be for carers.

That group has already provided advice about things like the flexible respite options that I have spoken about. They have given advice about a range of things, and I am grateful to every single one of them, because as well as giving of their time, their energy, their home, their love and care so incredibly generously to a child or young person, they have also made the decision to advocate for other carers and to spend their time speaking up through the Carer Council, deeply discussing the range of challenges that carers can face and making sure that they are working to absolutely provide frank advice about what needs to change. Again, I am really grateful to every single one of them.

As well as tough legislation that makes a difference on child sex abuse, we need to make sure we have those programs and those people in place that help to keep—

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Odenwalder):** Minister, I might suggest you seek leave to continue your remarks at this point.

**The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD:** I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

*Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

**PAPERS**

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Annual Reports 2023-24—

Attorney-General's Department

Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board

Legal Practitioners Education and Admission Council

Privacy Committee of South Australia

Professional Standards Councils

Public Advocate

Public Trustee

Summary Offences Act 1953—Access to data held electronically report pursuant to Part 16A

By the Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science (Hon. S.E. Close)—

Industry, Innovation and Science, Department for—Annual Report 2023-24

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

Annual Reports 2023-24—

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Board of the

Co-Management Board—Dhilba Guuranda-Innes National Park

Dog and Cat Management Board

By the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services (Hon. D.R. Cregan)—

Annual Reports 2023-24—

Community Road Safety Fund

Police, South Australia

*Parliamentary Committees*

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:03):** I bring up the 100<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Morphet Vale Odour Management Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the 101<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled New Mount Barker Hospital Project—Enabling and Early Works Package.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the 102<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Naracoorte Health Service Upgrade.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the 103<sup>rd</sup> report of the committee, entitled Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program—Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands On-Ground Works Project.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the 104<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled SANFL West Lakes Talent and Community Facility.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Mr BROWN:** I bring up the 105<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Mount Barker and Verdun Interchange Upgrades.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**The SPEAKER:** Congratulations to the committee on bringing up the ton—raise the bat, yes, perfect. It is a fine century of really interesting reports.

#### *Parliamentary Procedure*

### **VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome everyone in the gallery today who is here to watch parliament at work and in particular question time, which we are about to take part in. I would particularly like to welcome students from Urrbrae Agricultural High School, who are here today as guests of the member for Unley. It is great to have you in here. If you look at the carpet, it has wheat and it has grapes. The mace also has wheat and grapes on it. The future is in agriculture. We rely on it so much here in South Australia, so good luck with all your studies, and we look forward to the role that you play in the future in the agriculture sector.

#### *Question Time*

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:05):** My question is to the Premier. What action, if any, is the Premier taking to keep South Australians safe? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** At the moment, South Australians are waking up nearly daily to news of violent home invasions by gangs of youths, random assaults in the CBD and Molotov cocktails flying around our streets and suburbs.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:06):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. Obviously, the state government has continued to increase its investment in policing resources more broadly in a number of respects. I will speak to two. The first is in terms of police numbers themselves. We currently have a situation, because of the strength of the labour market in the state, that police are not able to recruit to their fully funded level. It has proven to be particularly problematic. The number, I think from memory, is 4,713, is the fully funded number, or something to that effect, of South Australia Police.

What we have sought to do to aid South Australia Police to be able to get up to the fully funded number of police is to dramatically accelerate recruitment efforts, to invest in recruitment efforts, which the government has done rather aggressively, particularly in the most recent two state

budgets. If we are able to get police numbers up to their fully funded number, that means more police on the beat and that would be obviously a resoundingly good thing.

The second element is to increase the number of police, the proportion of police, that are actually out on the frontline doing the work day in, day out. One of the policies the government has pursued and enacted and invested in, at considerable expense to the budget, is to get more PSOs out on the ground that relieve police to be able to do other frontline work that is particularly committed to keeping people safe. We are recruiting in excess—I think from memory again it's over 150 extra PSOs to go out there and do that work. That is a policy the government has pursued in conjunction with the police commissioner.

More recently, beyond the budgets themselves, I have been very grateful, as people would expect, to have a good working relationship with the Commissioner of Police. He has continued to keep me abreast of the challenges that exist within SAPOL around not just recruitment and retention but also the challenge that SAPOL are confronting, particularly as the nature of police work has changed so quickly. One example would be particularly around domestic violence. The volume of call-outs that police are now attending to in respect of domestic violence disputes has escalated dramatically. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not that is any function of just more domestic violence or whether or not there is a heartening sign that people are having the courage to report domestic violence in the first instance so that it can be responded to.

Regardless, the burden on police is substantial, particularly as means and methods available to South Australia Police to professionally deal with domestic violence have become more sophisticated but then also more burdensome and complex in terms of the work or the pressures they place on SAPOL themselves. These are things that we want to work with police to alleviate where we can. To go down that path, of course, the domestic violence royal commission hopefully will only aid that effort.

We are working closely with South Australia Police. I think South Australia Police have shown an increasing degree of agility, to their great credit, to respond to areas of concern as they emerge. We saw that in Rundle Mall, we have seen that in Hindley Street and there are other examples as well. With more time, I could talk to you about the news that came out overnight of the initiative being led by the Attorney-General in conjunction with the police minister in respect to the declaration of a precinct in and around the CBD, which gives the police more powers to be able to keep the community safe.

### ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:10):** My question is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. Will the minister win the war on illegal tobacco and, if so, by what date? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** The police commissioner confirmed yesterday that three organised crime syndicates are involved in the black market tobacco trade, which has descended into a state of chaos. He said:

Absolutely there is a risk of these type of activities escalating to acts which are more likely to cause harm to individuals and we're very concerned about that.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:11):** I thank the leader for this important question. As the leader is aware, the government is cracking down on the increased use of tobacco and vape products in collaboration with the commonwealth government. It must be said that the government has introduced the toughest penalties in Australia in relation to illegal tobacco. It is important that we send a signal that we won't tolerate the sale of illegal tobacco. As we have seen in our community, there are—

*Members interjecting:*



**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Are you going to continue the types of cliches and slogans that you have contributed to this debate so far? Is that all you're going to do here? Because so far that is the limit of your inadequate contribution.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left! Minister, resume your seat. It's not the minister's place to be lecturing those opposite or responding to interjections. And I remind those on my left that it's against the standing orders to interject. You are all on your final warnings. If anyone interjects from here on in, you will spend the rest of the time in the tuckshop.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I appreciate your guidance as always in relation to these matters. As I have indicated, the government has introduced and we hope, of course, to see through legislation which will increase penalties up to \$1.5 million for some breaches of tobacco licensing and regulation measures in our state.

Of course, there's going to be a ban on vending machine sales of tobacco products in public areas. As you know, the fines proposed for the sale of illegal tobacco will be increasing from \$10,000 to \$750,000 for the first offence and \$1.1 million for a subsequent offence. This sends a very important signal to those, perhaps, small gift shops that have been selling legal tobacco and gifts, but illegal tobacco under the counter, that if you face a second offence, \$1.1 million is a very, very substantial fine that you might face.

As well, of course, as the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs has indicated, there will be a power to shut down an illegal tobacco shop for up to six months with the supervision of the Magistrates Court and—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** If it's such a serious issue, you might listen to the answer.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I remind you of something I said less than two minutes ago: you won't respond to interjections. To those on my left, stop making the interjections.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As always, I appreciate your protection and your direction with respect to the standing orders. Operation Eclipse in South Australia is a very significant operation that South Australia Police are directing at what is a very significant concern in our community.

This is a matter that has the whole focus of Operation Eclipse. Those of you who have followed developments in Victoria will know that there has been an ongoing operation in Victoria, Operation Luna. South Australia Police are grateful to Victoria Police for the significant amount of intelligence that has been shared in relation to the crime series that developed in Victoria and the way in which these patterns of criminal activity can roll out over time.

Just yesterday, the police commissioner announced the outcomes of Operation Eclipse to date. A very, very significant crime figure was arrested. There was refusal of police bail in view of the significance of the alleged offending, and that brought arrests under that operation up to six; of course, tobacco had been seized, large amounts of money and a number of vehicles. I have been reassured by the commissioner just yesterday that very, very substantial police resources are being invested in this operation. Of course, we are not going to reflect on police intelligence or operational matters but the parliament and South Australians can be reassured that this is a very serious matter and being taken seriously.

#### ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:15):** My question again is to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services. When did the minister first speak to his Victorian counterpart about Victoria's illegal tobacco trade?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:16):** The conversations on operational matters, of course, are taken at an officer level from South Australia Police to Victoria Police, but as the leader is aware as a former police minister, one responsible for regrettably the under-resourcing of South Australia Police which has led to insufficient officers—

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order: the question was respectful and straightforward—standing order 98, the minister is well out of line.

**The SPEAKER:** I think the minister was giving some historical context to resourcing. I will allow—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Sit down please, deputy leader. The leader, I think you have been evicted from this place for about six sitting days in a row, and you asked for leniency yesterday because you are the leader. I am not giving you any leniency whatsoever. Everyone who is in here is expected to behave themselves and not to yell out. We have students in here from high school who always behave a lot better than some people in here. I am not going to tolerate any more of this. No phony points of order, no yelling out, no interjections, or people are just going to be asked to leave the chamber for the rest of question time. Deputy leader?

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Respectfully, standing orders 96 and 97 go to questions. The question was in relation to when the minister spoke to his Victorian counterpart. Standing order 98 suggests that the minister's answer must be germane to that question not the previous ones. I ask you to reconsider your earlier ruling.

**The SPEAKER:** I have already given you my answer. It is germane. He is talking about the resourcing of SAPOL, which is an important part of fighting against crime.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The answer—and we are not even 35 seconds into the answer. I think the minister is framing his answer around some perspective of historic significance.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I appreciate your additional direction. It is very important for us to reflect on the historical context, and if the leader wishes to raise concerns in relation to the resourcing of South Australia Police then it is entirely germane to the debate that no doubt we will have today about why it is that we have reached a position that additional resources need to be introduced to ensure that we have sufficient officers in South Australia Police.

Notwithstanding the very strong labour market to which the Premier has referred, the hard facts are these: in the life of the previous government there was not, in view of the challenges that we were facing in recruitment and which were known to the leader and to those opposite, sufficient investment in view of that trend to ensure that we would not arrive at the position that this government found itself in when it came to power. Through a review process internally, a decision was reached to ensure that there would be more than \$12 million invested in—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Are you just going to continue this interjection?

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Are you just going to continue this interjection for the remainder of the answer or will I be heard?

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I have asked you twice not to respond to the interjections. Continue with your answer.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Very well. As I say, more than \$12 million was invested with respect to sworn officers and an additional investment was made in relation to PSOs. As the leader is well aware, there is a police ministers' conference. In the course of that conference, which is held reasonably regularly, all of the police ministers around Australia have an opportunity to ensure that information relevant to the types of investments necessary in South Australia Police, in Victoria Police, in Western Australian police, in Queensland police, in Tasmania Police, in ACT Policing and, indeed, in federal policing—

**Mr Telfer:** What about New South Wales?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** And in New South Wales.

**Mr Telfer:** Northern Territory?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Indeed, in the Northern Territory as well and, in fact, in New Zealand as well. We do receive information in relation to New Zealand. There can be an exchange of information about what it is the state or the territory or the commonwealth can do at their respective levels of government to support their police forces. But there seems to be some confusion on the opposition side about what exactly it is that the government does with respect to policing and what exactly it is that an independent police force might do.

Let me just remind you and perhaps some of your former colleagues that South Australia Police is an independent agency. It values its independence. We value the advice of South Australia Police to government; we obviously act on that advice when it is provided. But our responsibility, and we take it very seriously, is to ensure that South Australia Police is adequately resourced to direct their policing and enforcement efforts to the concerns that we see in our community and to those policy initiatives that the government might wish to develop.

With respect to Operation Eclipse and a radio forum yesterday, the police commissioner indicated that there were 'tonnes of resources' available for Operation Eclipse.

#### ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:21):** My question is to the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs. Are there any illegal tobacco stores operating in my electorate? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** I wrote to the minister nearly a year ago on 9 November 2023, again on 5 March 2024, again on 21 June 2024 and again on 16 July 2024 to raise concerns about a new tobacco store in Stonyfell. On the weekend that store was firebombed.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (14:22):** I want to thank the member for Bragg for his question. I am aware that the health minister, who was responsible up until 30 June this year, responded to those letters that were sent by the member for Bragg and I responded to the one for which I was responsible. But what we have done since 1 July—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS:** The member did receive responses from the responsible minister at the relevant times. What this government has done is be ahead of the curve in the investment it has put into CBS to stand up a new task force for tackling illegal vapes and tobacco. A number of investigations and inspections have been undertaken across the state. As you are aware, about \$2 million worth of product has been taken off the streets and prosecution briefs are being prepared. That work has been happening in the last 3½ months under Consumer and Business Services.

We are working very closely with SAPOL on a number of those matters; I think the comments from the police commissioner and the Minister for Police indicate that. Obviously, where there are concerns, police are involved, including one particular store that I understand is in the member for Bragg's electorate. We are very concerned and are throwing everything we can at this because we know it is a serious issue. It is not a joke. It is not clichés. It is not taglines. It is a serious thing that we are tackling.

We are tackling it from Consumer and Business Services from a regulatory point of view, from SAPOL from a police enforcement point of view, Border Force as well. There is a strong collaboration within our government and with federal government and other interstate agencies as well.

### SOUTH-EAST COASTAL LAKES REVIEW

**Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:24):** My question is to the Minister for Environment. Can the minister give an update to the house on the South-East Coastal Lakes Project? Mr Speaker, with your leave, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr McBRIDE:** The South-East Coastal Lakes Project, to look at the management of lakes in my electorate including Lake Bonney, Lake George and Lake Hawdon, was put out to public consultation in May 2023 and closed in July 2023. It has been 15 months and we still don't have a decision from the minister on how and if the use of the lakes will change.

**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) (14:25):** Thank you for the opportunity to update the house on this. As I think I have said in parliament previously, and I wish to make it absolutely clear on this occasion, there will be no more activity on those changes that were consulted on a year or two ago, until the native title has been settled on that area.

So the First Nations of the South-East have indicated that they are interested in settling native title there. There has not been any native title extinguished over the Crown land in the area and there is no point, in my view, in persisting in a project—although it went out to consultation after I became minister; it was initiated under the previous government—until that has been resolved, in the meantime recognising there are a lot of people who love those lakes and are interested in various activities associated with those lakes.

I visited Lake George recently with the member and I caught up with some people who made me promise to go back and do some fishing with them on Lake George. What we have decided to do is establish a community working group to enable stakeholders to continue to participate in talking about management decisions and so on with those lakes. We are expecting to draw that together towards the end of the year from recollection and starting to have meetings from next year. Recognising how long native title processes can take, I don't imagine that we are going to hear any more about any of those other suggestions that were made, which included changing the status of protection and restricting some activities. We will not hear about any more of that for some time to come—years.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIVATISATION

**S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (14:26):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the government's commitment to reversing the privatisation of our trains and trams, as well as any measures being taken to improve safety and security along the Seaford line?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:27):** Let me thank the member for Gibson for her question. The member for Gibson cares deeply about not just her constituency but about public transport more broadly. This government has an awful amount of work to do on public transport given the fact that this government is undoing the decision of a broken promise of a former government to privatise our rail network, both train and tram services. We made a very clear commitment all the way back in 2019 that, on this side of the house, our view was so ardent around privatisation actually diminishing the quality of service for commuters and the value for taxpayers that we would indeed reverse that privatisation should we get the opportunity to do so from the Treasury benches.

Now having that privileged position, I am very pleased to report that progress to reverse the former government's train and tram privatisation now is in full swing and we expect that largely to be completed, with the trams first coming into control of the state government and then the trains throughout the course of next year. Now what does this mean? Well, it's not just about the money and the better value for taxpayers, it is also about the control. The big thing that the former government gave up when it privatised the network is control of the network and what we are interested in is assuming the responsibility for delivering what is a critical public service to people when they need it most. When you relinquish control what you start to see being compromised is the amenity of the service, including the security of the service.

What we became aware of, as we sought to undo the privatisation, was the fact that in the savings task that was being pursued, in the profiteering that was being pursued on behalf of the private operator, was a curtailment in the number of security officers and staff out on our train network, out on the stations, night in and night out. The people who pay the price for that are commuters, not just for their own personal safety but, of course, we also see instances of fare evasion go up.

What this government is committed to doing is not just reversing the train and tram privatisation but making sure that the requisite services that we are able to choose to prioritise are delivered, including the security of patrons on the Seaford line. More recently, we have also become aware of issues that residents in the southern suburbs have, and the concerns they have around the safety at their stations.

Of course, prior to the reversal of the privatisation, the people responsible for the servicing of the stations were the private operator. They had that responsibility as a result of the control being handed over by the former government—for what end, I don't know: an ideological one I can only assume. But what we will do once we get control of those stations back is look to invest in security arrangements where we can. We have already started to deliver some of that, including in my electorate of Croydon where, at West Croydon, the train station and the security arrangements are currently being upgraded as we speak. That was an election commitment that we honour.

We look to other opportunities in the southern suburbs. The member for Gibson, along with a resident in the seat of Black—we have a candidate who lives in the seat of Black and who understands what that means. They understand where Hallett Cove is. They do not need to get out the street directory.

**The SPEAKER:** Time has expired, Premier.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I was just getting—

**The SPEAKER:** You were just warming up, too, but we do have to obey the clock.

#### PREMIER'S TASKFORCE

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:31):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Will the minister release the findings and recommendations of the Premier's Taskforce into South Australia Police recruitment and retention issues and, if so, when?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Minister for Special Minister of State) (14:31):** I appreciate the question from the shadow minister. As the shadow minister is aware, the government made a commitment to review the circumstances South Australia Police found itself in on coming to government. That process has ensured that there is ongoing investment in South Australia Police.

The first and most significant investment that I want to highlight to the house is that which the Premier has touched on. It became very clear, as a consequence of the task force process and other submissions made to government, that there had been insufficient and inadequate investment in police recruitment. As you will appreciate, that investment needed to be made to stop a decline in the number of police graduates at a much earlier time in order to avoid the circumstances that necessitated that investment.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** In fact, despite the interjection suggesting that the rot had set in at an earlier time, the hard truth is that the investment needed to be made around about halfway through the life of the Marshall government. It would have been plain on its face to any police minister—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** —and any other member of cabinet serving—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Chaffey will leave the chamber until the end of question time. I remind the minister that he needs to stop engaging with those opposite and their interjections. This is the final warning because you can't continue to defy the Chair.

*The honourable member for Chaffey having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Thank you. Mr Speaker; some additional context is important, I would submit to you, in relation to this question because it goes to the purpose, the nature of the review and the reason for it, and I am touching entirely on those matters. The response that the opposition has to my commentary, of course, is wholly within their control. The concern that I have reviewing the information now available to government is that a very substantial investment in recruitment needed to be made midway through the Marshall government, and it would have been plain as day—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Flinders can also leave the chamber until the end of question time. He might want to get onto Qantas and get an earlier flight back to Lincoln.

*The honourable member for Flinders having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** It was plain as day that that investment was required. It would have been obvious to the police minister, it would have been obvious to his cabinet colleagues and it would, I am sure, have been advice coming to government. That investment wasn't made and the result of that, of course, has been that an urgent and important injection of funds has been made by this government in consequence of the review process to ensure that we can see additional recruits joining South Australia Police, but not just recruits—graduates. One of the sleights of hand engaged in by those opposite was a release or suggestion to the media that there had been a gap between the graduates—

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

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will resume his seat.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Standing order 98: that sort of phrasing clearly makes it clear that the minister is debating.

**The SPEAKER:** I think he is giving context in his answer, and his answers do go for four minutes.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** Will he release the report was the question.

**The SPEAKER:** He still has 50 seconds.

**The Hon. J.A.W. Gardner:** He's building up to the yes or no.

**The SPEAKER:** Yes, well, it's keeping everyone in suspense.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** As I say, the outcome of those investments have been very, very important not only to South Australia Police but to the South Australian community. The result, despite a contrary view peddled by those opposite, is that at the end of the last financial year the number of graduates from South Australia Police was 262 and the number of separations was 239. We are now increasing the number of sworn police officers we have in South Australia Police in consequence of the review to which you refer, and in consequence of these very substantial investments not only in recruitment but also in recruiting police security officers to support our force overall. Cabinet continues to rely, in my view, on that report and on that reporting process, and will continue to do so, and it is an important process which, as I say, has informed ongoing decisions.

#### **PREMIER'S TASKFORCE**

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:36):** A supplementary.

**The SPEAKER:** We'll see if it's a supplementary.

**Mr BATTY:** In reference to the task force report that the minister is refusing to release, can the minister advise whether he has convened a meeting of the task force since his appointment?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order, sir: standing order 97. I would ask the opposition's Manager of Opposition Business to rephrase that question to take out the word 'refusal' because it adds debate into the question.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Bragg, would you comply?

**Mr BATTY:** Has the minister convened a meeting of the Premier's Taskforce?

**The SPEAKER:** I think it's a separate question, not a supplementary. The minister.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:37):** Thank you, Mr Speaker—and I am very, very glad to take it. I have done something much better than that—much, much better than that. I have met with the union—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** The standard was so, so low, deputy leader, that anybody here could have exceeded it—anybody here. Anybody there could have exceeded it. Maybe some other people here or to come could have exceeded it. That's how low the standard was, deputy leader, let me tell you.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister! You are that close to leaving the chamber until the end of question time. I have asked you four times now to stop engaging with the opposition. They ask you questions, please answer the questions and don't engage with them or you will be joining a couple of those from my left in the tuckshop.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I always appreciate your protection and encouragement with respect to the standing orders. As I say, we have done much, much better than that.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** Are you ready?

**Mr Pederick:** Seriously?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** 'Seriously'? We have done much better. We have taken, obviously, every matter that has subsequently been put to the government very, very seriously but, more importantly, we have acted. We have made the investments that are necessary to turn around the recruitment crisis which ministers faced on coming to government.

#### PREMIER'S TASKFORCE

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:39):** Has the government accepted all the recommendations of the Premier's Taskforce?

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:39):** As I say, and I think it does bear repeating, this is a government that has not sat idle in relation to the crisis that had existed in South Australia Police right up until the moment two very substantial investment streams were made: the first, of course, to accelerate, support and enhance the recruitment of police constables, and the second to ensure that there was adequate investment to see through a program of recruitment for police security officers. Taken together, this is a substantial, necessary, important, vital investment.

As I have earlier said but I think bears repeating—and the shadow minister invites me to repeat by pursuing these matters—it would have been obvious to the former government approximately halfway through the term. It is of deep concern to me that ministers at that time sat idle and did not address the crisis that at that time would have been plain on its face: that we were going to face a situation where the most elementary obligation of government was not being met, and that is to ensure that sufficient resources are available to recruit and train the best men and women in South Australia who will serve us in uniform in South Australia Police.

Any minister who faced the information coming to government must have realised that there was not sufficient investment. So, much more than relying on mere papers, relying on mere

procedural processes, actual decisions were taken. The two most essential decisions that were taken were first \$12 million for additional police recruitment and of course, as you know, more than \$80 million in relation to police security officers. It is one thing to be concerned about the type of pursuit—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** It is one thing, as I say—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, I am really running out of patience. I am controlling the chamber: your job is to answer the questions.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** I am endeavouring to do that, Mr Speaker. As I say, the very substantial investments that have been made are more important than mere reflection.

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Stuart, I would like to welcome guests in the gallery today who are part of the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program. They are guests of the Minister for Sport. Welcome to parliament.

*Question Time*

### PORT AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SAFETY

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:42):** My question is to the Minister for Human Services. Can the minister please update the community of Port Augusta regarding the progress of the funding for the new community partnership for a safer, stronger Port Augusta that was announced on 17 July with a partnership between the South Australian government and the federal government of \$12 million? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain a bit further.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G.G. BROCK:** This program, which our community at Port Augusta greatly appreciate, was to form a leadership group with community involvement, finalise the Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and get the community really involved with improving the safety issues currently being experienced across Port Augusta. Minister, it has been nearly 13 weeks since that was announced. Has the community leadership group been established, who may be on it and when can we get some communication out to the community of Port Augusta?

**The SPEAKER:** I think there were a few questions in that question and a statement as well.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (14:43):** Thank you very much to the member for the question. I will endeavour to get to as much of that as I can but also commit to having further conversation as well. Thank you so much to the member for the decades of commitment to the Upper Spencer Gulf. We have been focusing for more than 2½ years now on Port Augusta and its young people particularly as well as Aboriginal people who move between remote, regional and metropolitan areas.

The former Liberal government let the Port Augusta City Safe program disappear in 2020, but at the 2022 election we committed \$1.2 million for community safety in Port Augusta. We delivered this in our 2022 budget and established the Port Augusta Community Outreach program that got multiple agencies out on the street delivering help where it is needed. This has since been expanded, delivering standalone youth outreach services, and in early 2023 the Port Augusta council also secured \$1 million of funding for youth programs through The Benevolent Society under Mayor Linley Shine's leadership. We are very pleased to work with them on some of these pieces of important work.

Our 2023 budget included \$1.6 million to support people from remote communities, including more help to return to community from Port Augusta, Adelaide, Coober Pedy and Ceduna. In 2023 we established a safer place to gather in the CBD, which also has those flow-on effects; that was in



partnership with the City of Adelaide. In our 2024 budget we have included \$11 million for health and community supports focused on people travelling between remote, regional and metropolitan areas, and we went out and announced the \$12 million partnership with the commonwealth focused on Port Augusta.

Together, these tripartite arrangements total around \$27 million over several years, with more than half of this specifically for Port Augusta and the majority of it targeting youth and the pathways. It is a huge turnaround from that time in 2020 when there was a cut to the safety program, let alone making any new investments. All this work is happening alongside other major investments like the technical college with the Department for Education, the investment which is going to be across the road from the youth centre, supporting young people in the Upper Spencer Gulf and their future.

This \$12 million partnership with the commonwealth is fundamentally linked to doing things in a new way with community leadership at its heart. It is funding projects that address entrenched disadvantage and ensure that those activities are wanted and led by the community. Since the announcement, our dedicated team has engaged in more than 50 consultations with individuals, elected representatives, local councils, businesses, Aboriginal organisations, and community groups on the approach that will roll out over the following three years.

We have now finalised a draft of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. Currently, for the leadership group that you referred to, the membership is being finalised, so that leadership group will play a role in completing the safety and wellbeing plan. It would be inappropriate to complete it without the tick-off and the final consultation with that leadership group. We will also make sure new initiatives are community-led, monitored and evaluated. The first formal meeting is due in the next couple of weeks. I look forward to having more to say after that happens.

We can't fix entrenched disadvantage overnight; this will take some time, but with the community owning and leading the path forward, and with sufficient investment—financial and human—in the program, I feel that we can definitely make some progress.

### SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (14:48):** My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. How is the Malinauskas government supporting vital infrastructure upgrades in our public schools?

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (14:48):** I thank the member for Davenport for her question and her ongoing advocacy for her schools. This morning, I was very pleased to attend Seacliff Primary School to announce a targeted maintenance program for a whole range of public schools right across South Australia. In terms of the member for Davenport's seat, I am pleased to say that a number of her schools will receive a total amount of \$3.6 million in vital infrastructure upgrades.

I know that it's not just the member for Davenport, but many members, if not all, in this place on both sides of the house, I am sure, will be thrilled by this announcement. The money that we are putting in here, almost \$43 million, will go to things like fixing roofs, resealing bitumen courts—I think it is something like \$5 million that we are spending on resealing bitumen—building and repairing fences and upgrading ageing infrastructure right across the public education system.

That includes schools like Seaview High School, who will benefit from the replacement of their heating, ventilation and cooling system, and the Australian Science and Mathematics School, who will receive upgrades covering things like stormwater management, ceiling repair, rubber soft fall replacement, balcony works, floor repairs and acoustic treatments as well. The member for Stuart, I am sure, would be pleased to learn that Port Augusta Secondary School will receive security system upgrades, and 10 sites across his electorate will share in about \$5 million in really important lead abatement works as well.

These important works will happen in schools right around the state, from the four schools in the member for Frome's electorate, who will share in \$1.7 million in funding, to the four schools in the member for Heyesen's electorate, who will share in \$2.2 million in funding. I know the member for Flinders will be pleased to learn that Cleve Area School will receive funding for disability upgrades

to promote inclusivity to meet student needs. Miltaburra Area School will benefit from fencing works to ensure safety and protection of students, as will East Torrens Primary School in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate.

The 91 projects that we are funding across 82 different sites are a key way that we are endeavouring to deliver on the 20-year infrastructure plan that we announced earlier this year and also our strategy to make every school a great school. We have probably made the mistake in years gone past of focusing too much on schools that are always pushing at full enrolment and not doing enough to support some of those schools that have available enrolment capacity in doing the kinds of things that you need to do to make them more attractive for local families.

We know that, despite the fact that the staff in our schools will always be the biggest asset that we have, parents are always going to make an assessment about where they send their kids to school based on how a school looks. It's really important that we do that work not just in metropolitan schools, of course, but also in rural, regional and remote schools, which often miss out on some of that financial support because they have lower enrolment numbers. I am sure that what we have announced today, this \$43 million across 82 sites and 91 projects, will go a long way to giving South Australian families the confidence they need to actually send their children to the local public school, and that's another issue I think we have had here.

A by-product of focusing too much on schools that are always full is we have incentivised South Australian families for a long time to drive to the other side of town to find a school that they are comfortable sending their kids to. There are a lot of great examples—I won't go into them today, though—of public schools, where we have supported them with capital infrastructure, great leadership from the school and specialisation, and they have been really able to boost their enrolment numbers, which is great for the local school, but particularly fantastic, though, for those families who live nearby.

### COMMUNITY SAFETY

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:52):** My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister advise whether on some weekend nights only two police officers are patrolling Hindley Street and, if so, whether that has any impact on officer or community safety? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** It has been reported that a dire shortfall of officers has meant that those left patrolling Hindley Street are forced to turn a blind eye to some incidents they would ordinarily take action against. Yesterday *The Advertiser* described our city as a 'war zone'.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:52):** I appreciate this important question from the shadow minister. Antisocial behaviour or other criminal activity in our CBD is not something that the government or South Australia Police is prepared to tolerate. Policing operations have been developed to address issues that are specific to the CBD, including, as the shadow minister may be aware, Operation City Safe and Operation Paragon. In terms of Operation City Safe, it provides additional SAPOL staff in the CBD on the weekends. It is an important and valuable contribution to ensuring that there is not just a visible police presence but also sufficient officers to respond if other circumstances develop that might be necessary for additional policing operations.

There is also a focus on West End entertainment precincts and, as an extension of operations, on the East End during times of increased activity, most usually over the festival period. Whilst the shadow minister is particularly focused on Hindley Street, policing operations extend right across the city, depending particularly on the types of events that might be occurring. The other important matter that I want to emphasise to the shadow minister is that the Operation City Safe model is supported by the State Operations Support Branch, the Licensing Enforcement Branch, the Mounted Operations Unit, and if circumstances require from an operational perspective—keeping in mind the important distinction between operational matters, those matters or those policy issues which require additional investment or focus from government—the STAR Group, which of course can be called upon if necessary.

I think it's also important by way of additional information that might assist the shadow minister for me to remark that police have partnerships with and meet with, of course, the City of Adelaide; Consumer and Business Services on a frequent basis, not only in the course of Operation Eclipse but also to ensure that police are able to meet their multiagency response and support obligations; government and non-government homelessness services and their providers; the East End Coordination Group; Riverbank Precinct security forum; Rundle Mall Management; and Chinatown traders groups. I hope these remarks emphasise that there are a number of different police operations that are available to support policing, not just in Hindley Street but right across our CBD.

I think that it's right for me to also emphasise that in March 2021, a timeframe familiar to those opposite, the then Senior Management Council (SMC) agreed to establish a high-level cross-government working group to develop short, medium and long-term strategies in planning to reduce antisocial behaviours associated sometimes with visitors to the CBD from remote Aboriginal communities.

South Australia Police, of course, is very sensitive to the different policing challenges that arise from the movement of different groups across our state at different times of the year. I think it is absolutely right to emphasise that police resources are also available to assist with those matters.

I think it's right for me as well to touch on Operation Paragon, which commenced, of course, originally in 2014, which provides support as well to precincts in and around—

Time expired.

#### **SAPOL PEOPLE MATTER EMPLOYEE SURVEY**

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (14:56):** My question is again to the Minister for Police. Has the minister read the SAPOL People Matter Employee Survey and, if so, is he taking any action in response to the survey results? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** The survey revealed that just 63 per cent of South Australia Police employees intend to stay working with the agency for at least the next three years. It also showed less than half of SAPOL employees believe their career goals could be met at the agency, while only 26 per cent of the employees feel energised at work.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (14:57):** I appreciate the question from the shadow minister. The 2024 People Matter Employee Survey, formerly known as the I Work for SA—Your Voice Survey, was undertaken by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, as the shadow minister is well aware. That survey is undertaken across all public sector agencies in South Australia. It's a voluntary and anonymous survey. It was open to all South Australian public sector employees over a period of four weeks, from 28 February to 27 March 2024.

I am informed that South Australia Police achieved a response rate of 57 per cent and, of course, we do take all of the matters that are raised in People Matter surveys responses very seriously. The survey measured employee engagement, employee experience, the intent to stay, inclusion and wellbeing, and each of these matters was informed by drivers such as psychological safety, performance, trust, values, customer focus and strategic alignment.

I think it is right to say that SAPOL's 2024 People Matter Employee Survey results reveal that there were a number of measures that indeed surpassed the sector average and, of course, in terms of one category that the shadow minister emphasised and that was the intent to stay. That indicates to me that despite the many challenges that South Australia Police face in an increasingly complex policing environment—of course, some of those matters were referred to by the Premier—I think it's right for me to say that our community's expectations of policing continue to increase and expand and the expectations that governments have of police forces continue to increase.

But there were, of course, a number of important strengths including a strong culture and alignment around maintaining ethical standards, with 79 per cent of respondents clear on what is expected of them at work. SAPOL's intent to stay was 63 per cent, 6 per cent higher than the sector

average score, suggesting employees are intrinsically motivated, connected to South Australia Police and willing to commit to making a difference.

In terms of the overall employee survey and results, these are matters that I say we examine very closely. It is important for me to indicate that this is a matter that I have given considerable thought and reflection over. The context that we find ourselves in as a state, in terms of policing, and that other states and territories find themselves in is important, so while not intending to discount for even a moment the challenges that we have explored in this place and elsewhere, it is right for me to observe that South Australia Police has one of the lowest attrition rates in our country.

In fact, it is often one of the best of all of the states and sometimes second only to the Australian Federal Police which, of course, have a very different policing profile and presence in our national life when compared to state policing operations. The other matter which I think is particularly important for me to emphasise in closing is that we have the highest number of police officers by head of population of any of the states. Whilst, as I say in closing, we do not discount for even a moment the challenges that our police officers face and the complications and difficulties police face, we respect their service.

### CRIME STATISTICS

**Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:01):** My question is to the Minister for Police. What does the minister say to Tegan Foster, the co-owner of Cloth and Bale country boutique in Gawler Street, Mount Barker? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BATTY:** It was reported in *The Southern Argus* last week that 'Crime was up more than 50 per cent in the Kavel electorate' with one local saying it has a huge impact on their small business.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel—Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services, Special Minister of State) (15:02):** I certainly appreciate the question from the shadow minister. The facts are these: beyond the splicing and dicing of data that the shadow minister has engaged in—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Colton can leave until the end of question time.

*The honourable member for Colton having withdrawn from the chamber:*

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** It is important for me to emphasise in this place, and indeed elsewhere when required, that the crime series statistics, for example, in Mount Barker, which the shadow minister emphasised, excluding the COVID years, show in fact a modest decrease in overall crime notwithstanding the enormous population growth that we have seen in our community, and that tells me—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Point of order: standing order 142 is pretty clear that when a member is on his feet members should be silent. The opposition has engaged in non-stop berating of the minister for the entire amount of question time and it is becoming almost impossible to hear the minister give an answer.

**The SPEAKER:** Okay, I think people in the gallery are saying, 'Are we there yet?' We have three more minutes. Let's everyone just calm your farms and let's listen to the minister as he brings it home.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** It is important for me to emphasise that despite, as I said, the enormous population growth that we have seen in Mount Barker, the community that the shadow minister has emphasised, there has been in fact a modest decline, excluding the COVID years, in terms of crime in Mount Barker. Mount Barker is a safe, inclusive and happy community. I don't know about Burnside; I couldn't speak for Burnside. I couldn't speak for the main street of Burnside, but let me tell the shadow minister a little bit about Mount Barker.

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my left!

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN:** As I say, it is a community where we don't tolerate crime, where any experience of crime is taken very seriously, where local police officers are respected, where our community believes that there should be a safe environment safe from crime. So whilst any individual experience of crime is not something that any of us are prepared to tolerate, the type of splicing and dicing, the type of introducing of selective figures by the shadow minister, goes to, I think, a flaw in the shadow minister's make-up, and that is a desire—

*Members interjecting:*

**The SPEAKER:** The minister will resume his seat. Member for Narungga, do you have a question?

### REGIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:05):** Yes, I certainly do, absolutely. My question is to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. Who signs off on works conducted on state roads to ensure that they are suitably delivered to the satisfaction of those who ordered them? With your leave, sir, and that the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr ELLIS:** Recently a constituent of mine contacted me to report to me that the works being conducted on the shoulder of the road between Warooka and the Corny Point turnoff had been done and graded on the shoulders. Workers returned within 10 days to put 80 km/h signs out there, presumably because the works hadn't been done to a satisfactory standard to provide for a safe road surface.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:06):** This is becoming quite an issue, with a lot of regional communities seeing the department doing work on regional roads and seeing the speed limit dropped. My understanding is that what the department is attempting to do is basically bed in the new works being done by lowering the speed limit. I don't think it is necessarily a sign of a lack of confidence in the work that has been completed by the contractors.

Ultimately, it is the Commissioner of Highways who will delegate or personally oversee the quality of roads that are being done. I have personally driven with the Commissioner of Highways when we go to regional community cabinets. We specifically choose routes that members write to me on. I remember you wrote to me about a section of road, and we drove on it simply to have a firsthand look at what it is you were talking about. I have met regional members in regional communities and driven on sections of road where they have said to me that the road needs to be upgraded. My understanding is that there is a very robust process.

The biggest complaint I get from regional communities is the speed limits aren't lifted after the work has been completed. In fact, Mr Speaker, I have had it in your community with the duplication of Main South Road, where we kept speed limits lower while the alliance was wanting to bed in the works that had been done with the bitumen and the seals on the roads. I know it is frustrating; I know that works have been completed.

But I also do point out to our regional members that the road bases that we are putting seal on are very old. We have some of the oldest road bases in the country. We are absolutely standing on the shoulders of people who came before us and put in all that hard work to build out that road base.

Right now, we are working against time. Unfortunately for us, like the Treasurer has said many times, we are a state with land mass the size of two large European nations, France and Germany. We have about 6 per cent of the country's population, about 5 per cent of the federal funding and nearly 10 per cent of the country's roads, so for us to be able to manage and deal with this is very difficult.

Where we can, we do try to manage our road network in a way that allows us to spread our dollar further—as the old ad says, make our dollar go further. That is exactly what we are trying to

do. If lowering the speed limit after works have been completed helps to try to keep that bitumen and that seal in place longer while it beds in in Australian conditions, I support it. I know it is frustrating.

I ask the member to get back to me after question time and give me the exact section of road that he thinks may have been done at a substandard level. Sometimes we do go in and do temporary repairs while waiting for actual repairs, given we are concerned about the condition of the road. This could be a case where we have gone out, done some remedial works, lowered the speed limit and are preparing to do proper remedial works at a later stage when weather permits or budgets permit to try to make sure we can do it properly. But I will undertake for the member to get back to his community very quickly about that section of road.

*Grievance Debate*

**MALINAUSKAS LABOR GOVERNMENT**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:09):** On 16 November the people of Black have a very important decision to make. Either they send a message to a government that is obsessed with bread and circuses, or they can choose to hold them to account for their broken promises. Nothing quite demonstrates their broken promises like the \$956 million health budget blowout revealed by the Auditor-General only this week.

What did the government tell South Australians in March 2022? They said to vote Labor like their lives depended on it. Now they have gone on to deliver more ramping hours in the 2½ years under this government than the entire Liberal government did in its entire four-year term. But wait, there's more.

Instead of investing in more doctors and nurses to fix the ramping crisis, we now learn that they have spent \$1.9 million of taxpayer money on an advertising campaign to tell, amongst other things, South Australians how good supposedly the health system is. This is from the Labor Party who in recent times did things like Transforming Health and shut the Repat. They do not say that anymore, but what they do say is they are building a bigger health system with their campaign, Labor's latest taxpayer funded propaganda. Let me emphasise that they claim that they are building a bigger but not a better health system. It may be that they have learnt their lesson after saying they would fix the ramping crisis, for example.

This week the opposition asked the government what they are doing to support our primary producers and rural communities experiencing what are some of the worst drought conditions in memory. Recently I went to Jamestown where people were telling me that this is the driest season that they have ever seen; that is how bad it is at the moment. We found out that the government is still trying to sort out the flood recovery, let alone turn their minds to the drought.

The truth is that this government is not interested in the regions. We know this because at a time when the government's mishandling of the tomato virus resulted in the loss of around 500 jobs in just a single day, the Premier was more concerned and too busy rubbing shoulders with celebrities like Katy Perry than to even give the owner of Perfection Fresh a phone call. Labor says, 'Let them eat cake.' This is the Premier's answer to the cost-of-living crisis gripping households and businesses, record ramping levels and our drought-ridden regions.

Morning after morning we have also seen in recent days that South Australians are waking up to the news of yet another illegal tobacco firebombing, whether it is Cowandilla or Stonyfell. This is happening right across metropolitan Adelaide. It is just simply not good enough. We asked many questions today but we did not really get a lot of answers. Barely any—if any—prosecutions have been made in this regard. The government has absolutely lost control on law and order and there is no pocket in Adelaide at the moment that is safe from these firebombings.

Residents and business owners live in fear. We have organised crime gangs that have taken over parts of our streets, we have Molotov cocktails flying loose and fast, as I said, from Stonyfell to Cowandilla. They are saying that there are around 200 illegal tobacco stores that are operating in South Australia. The government has been warned about this for a long time now and they have absolutely lost the plot. When it comes to crime, this government spends more time doing press conferences than actually pursuing busts and prosecutions.

Only recently I visited the town of Whyalla with the very hardworking shadow minister for energy, following concerns around the Whyalla Steelworks, the viability of this government's around \$600 million experimental hydrogen plant. Let me tell you, pockets of that town are doing it tough. We have seen a number of job losses in that town recently. We know that small businesses are doing it tough. But when asked, only this week, what support the government was planning to announce when it takes the entire cabinet to Whyalla on Monday, let me say we did not get many answers. We asked is GFG still in arrears? We did not get any answers really there at all. We asked about relief for small businesses and did not get many answers at all. It is clearly just another smoke and mirrors exercise on the taxpayer dollar.

So far in this term the Premier and his team have spent over \$100 million in taxpayer money on government advertising, using South Australians' hard-earned money to tell them what a good job he is doing. But the truth is that this is a government who, by its own metrics, has failed the people of South Australia. They have failed on their promise to fix ramping, they have failed on their promise to lower electricity prices, and they have failed on their promise to not introduce any more taxes as well. When they run out of their own money they come after yours.

### HURTL VALE ELECTORATE

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (15:14):** I rise today as the local member for Hurtle Vale, and I am very pleased to have the opportunity to talk about some of the projects that are being delivered in partnerships with our electorate.

There are a few things happening such as the Hackham West Children's Centre. The new \$5 million centre is in the design stage. That is in partnership with the education department and, when complete, it will mean that there will be growth on the site of the primary school where it will be co-located.

I am really proud to say that we are very, very close to opening the dog park in Woodcroft. That has been a much-wanted and long-awaited \$500,000 investment, with the bonus toilet being delivered as well in the John Potter Reserve. That will be opened on 23 November. With the skate park and playground already in place, this reserve will most certainly become a hub for families in the area.

The Byards Road Wetlands toilet has been a bone of contention but I am really pleased that now we have that underway well and truly, and I hope to see that opened ready for the summer season. That is a \$250,000 investment which will mean that not just the visitors to the wetlands, including the Friends of the Byards Road Wetland, but the parkrun will be able to participate with an amenity close by.

The Wilfred Taylor Reserve playground has a great history of co-investment between state governments and the City of Onkaparinga. Over \$2 million was invested not long ago after we managed to secure that in 2018 to develop an adventure playground for young people right across the southern area. Now, thanks go to local service groups, the Lions from Morphett Vale, Noarlunga Rotary Club from Morphett Vale, and the Kiwanis Club of Reynella, that have all contributed extra funds to the \$100,000 state Labor government commitment to improve some accessibility features. Also, thanks to Fit N Well and See Differently, we have also managed to secure for the playground a communication board for young people who are communication-impaired in some way.

The Noarlunga United Soccer Club has had a \$1 million upgrade, and the refurbishments look amazing, including lighting, new access road and car park, unisex change rooms. The Doggies' new home will be officially reopening nearer Christmas, with club Chair Monika Cadman to be commended for her efforts.

I was really pleased to work with the Hon. Katrine Hildyard, the member for Reynell, to secure investments at the Reynella Sports and Social Club which is just across the road from my electorate, but I have also been the member for that area before and go there regularly with my kids and my family. There is a \$570,000 state government investment happening there with upgrades to change rooms, the site master plan is underway, new cricket nets are going in as we speak ready for summer,

as well as new light towers. The children and the players of cricket will be much safer when the ball is coming towards them, I am sure.

I will just quickly mention that the Reynella Wineflies had terrific footy season, winning the A-grade, the under 14 girls as undefeated premiers, and the boys under 17½ premiers as well this winter. It is also great to note that Sam Whitbread took away the A-grade best and fairest for the league, Miller Thomson took away the under 14 girls for the league, and Hudson Voigt took away the under 17½ trophy for the league. Many others were in the top 10.

At the presentation night the other night for the best and fairest, in A-grade we saw Sam Whitbread take away the best and fairest, with Brad Potter and Bailey Marchman close behind. Daniel Whitaker won best team player; Talon Copley, most consistent; Jacob McDonald, the coaches' award; and Tyler Davies, who had a really impressive grand final, took away the trademark player of the year. B-grade winners were Jack Stiles, with Will Thompson as runner-up; Kai Chester was best team player; Ky Vayro was most consistent; and Jayden Hollinshead won the coaches' award.

There were really pleasing awards as well in the C grade, with Frank Caiapich winning best and fairest; Luke Lea, runner-up; Harry Lawley, coaches' award; Shaun Halliday, best team player; and Sam Madigan, most valuable. There were some great club awards, too, taken away by a variety of winners, including Oliver Voigt, Noah Besley, Alex Lawley, Callan Semple and Paul Chester. Go the 'Wineys'.

### FROME ELECTORATE

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (15:19):** I rise to deliver a griever today in reflection of farming activities that are happening in my electorate and I want to start by referencing a Facebook group that I follow, called Ladies on the Land. A lovely lady from my electorate, Deb Heinjus, was sharing in two community groups that we all belong to messages of support, but also in recognition of what is happening in the farming districts.

This message, which has had thousands of likes and hundreds of comments, speaks to some of the anxiety and concern that we are feeling in our country communities. It gives ourselves permission to stop trying to find the positives when we are actually allowed to recognise the negatives at the moment, to stop reflecting on the 'at leasts' that we hear a lot, that we say to ourselves: 'At least you've got sheep to sell. At least you've got a crop to harvest. At least you've got assets away from the farm. At least you've got some water in your tank. At least your bank hasn't done such and such.'

The message that I took from that was that it is creating some sense of false positive where we must give ourselves permission to recognise the damage that both drought and frost have delivered on my communities. That is not to say there are not positives, that is not to say that we cannot look for silver linings and where a rising tide lifts all boats that we support each other, but I think it is appropriate for farming communities to reflect on the impact that drought and frost has been having on not just farming families but on the local economies.

We know that it is being reported as the worst drought in a hundred years, and the numbers do not lie. There is no end of farmers who collect their own data now to point across five, six and seven generations that this lack of rainfall was unexpected and unprecedented. My mum talks to me about 1967. She remembers that as the worst year in her memory, and many farmers have concurred. My grandpa had been breeding up his own DNA genetic breeding lines in his sheep and, with no feed, the only humane option was to sell them for slaughter. We are seeing that again on another scale.

In my own lifetime, we experienced drought, and my dad went off to New South Wales to bring back triticale wheat, looking for drought-resistant grains that were going to flourish in a South Australian climate. We have come so far in farming innovation and agronomy these days that the greatest sadness now is that farmers, of course, have not done anything wrong this year. They understand their property, they understand their soil, they work so hard to retain moisture in the soil to work to those conditions. We know that they were busy dry seeding this year and Mother Nature did not deliver.



There are concerns that have been raised about the false hope that was coming from weather projections that suggested late spring rains would come and they just never did. I think that has hit some farmers the hardest. Our duty now, not just as the local member but as a parliament, is to tune in to the industry that still delivers the greatest contribution to the Treasury coffers and make sure as a government that we are staying ahead of the problems that we are foreseeing.

I have been driving around my community to make sure that I am not only asking questions but seeing for myself what it is that we are facing. The electorate of Frome, as I have explained before, extends from the Gawler River at Two Wells to Terowie, and I cannot point to a primary producer at the moment who is not suffering. Tomato growers in Two Wells, Lewiston and Virginia have been impacted by the rugose virus, and we saw 500 people laid off. The grapegrowers in Clare Valley have been impacted yet again by frosts. There is no feed and no seed. Our farmers do not have crops to reap. Canola crops that did flower are being reaped for hay. Merino sheep are being sold for mutton—can you believe it?

Whether it is in Spalding, Jamestown, Balaklava, Burra districts, the broadacre farming districts of Balaklava, Mallala and the Adelaide Plains, farmers are really doing it tough. I call on the government to get ahead of the impact that we are going to see to small business, where there will not be any discretionary spending for the next 18 months.

#### WAITE ELECTORATE

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:24):** What an exciting and busy time it has been in my community in Waite. We have had an amazing couple of weeks of lots of really great things, and I want to touch on a couple of those. To start with, on 22 September, the Lions Bargain Centre opened their newly extended shed. This has been a long time coming. They now have a 40 per cent increase in floor space. If you have ever been to the Lions Bargain Centre, you will know that they have lots of stuff.

The bargain centre came about after a pretty horrid time in Tasmania when they had had bushfires, flooding and a lot of disaster. Our community in Blackwood brought together a whole lot of donations for them, but there was a lot left over, so the Lions got together and started finding a way to sell some of these extra donations. From that, the bargain centre was born. It has been such an important part of our community. I have been going there since I was very little with my dad, so I was very pleased to be able to attend this opening of the extended shed.

The work that was done absolutely doubled the funding that they received from the council and also from our federal member, Louise Miller-Frost. Through the work that they did through labour, through project management costs and other savings from suppliers, the Lions were happy to help, and the suppliers were happy to give donations either at cost or below cost to help the Lions get where they needed. It is our community's largest charity. Each Saturday morning, the shed sees items being picked up from Upper Sturt, where I am, all the way down to Glenelg, from Urrbrae to Reynella.

It takes 40 people to run the shed every Saturday morning, with over 300 sales and some 1,000 customers, and less than half of these 40 workers are actually Lions: they are also 400 members of the public from 30 community groups that volunteer throughout the year. Brenton Ragless joined us as MC, opening the shed. He is such a fabulous local person. He grew up in Eden Hills, spending much of his time at the fire station and even as a CFS volunteer. He is one of our local legends. So a huge congratulations to the Lions Club, the bargain centre and all of its volunteers. It is an institution in our community.

On 6 October, we celebrated the refurbishment of the Belair Railway Station heritage shelter. It has been such a long time in coming, and I was so glad that we were finally able to celebrate. The shelter itself was built way back in 1883, which makes it 141 years old. That is 141 years of standing on the platform, bearing the brunt of the weather. It had most definitely seen better days, with cladding eaten away by rot. I was really pleased to advocate for the shelter to be restored after many discussions with the fabulous Friends of Belair Station, who work so hard to maintain the area, to do all of the gardens and make sure it just looks fabulous.

I was really pleased when the minister let me know that we were going to be able to get the restoration done. Thanks to Keolis Downer also for chipping in. The shelter was assessed by heritage architects, and after months of planning and preparing, the restoration came to life thanks to G-Force constructions, who also helped us at the Waite gatehouse as well. They did a fabulous job. It looks wonderful. We had a huge celebration with cake really generously donated from Banana Boogie. Our Lions Club came and did the barbecue.

We had the Blackwood Ukulele Group there. Bracegirdle's brought their little kombivan with their coffee. The Blackwood Bike Shed was there to help some of the mountain bike kids who came along with their bikes. Young Daphne Lim, who I have worked with to create T-shirts to celebrate our trails, was also there. It was a fabulous day. We also made souvenir posters that are now collector's items. I think it is absolutely wonderful, and I encourage anybody who has not had a chance to hop on the train and go up to Belair and have a look.

We also opened the Blackwood Library of Things on the weekend. The Blackwood Library of Things is a new place where you can go to borrow equipment, borrow cooking equipment, borrow tools, and then you give it back so you do not have to buy it yourself and put it on the shelf. Ian and Robyn have done such a fabulous job of bringing this together from a little conversation in my office to now being able to open it. It was absolutely fantastic.

On Sunday we had the St John's Grammar Community Spring Fair. What a huge effort it was. There were thousands of people there. Thanks to St John's Grammar and Kimberlee and Kate from the Parents and Friends Association who did an absolutely stellar job of bringing it together. You could not believe it. With my staff, Daniel, Caprice and Peter, we cooked over 10 kilos of popcorn and made 100 badges. It was absolutely huge.

Finally, during that time, I popped over to the Blackwood Forest Recreation Park to celebrate the Friends of Blackwood Forest volunteer avenue. It is a beautiful avenue of Manchurian pear trees that was set up to celebrate Debbie Reynolds, who was such an important person in our community. All of these things in the space of a couple of weeks—my community is constantly amazing at how we bring each other together and celebrate.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Waite referred to Brenton Ragless; I would also like to give him a shout-out. Back in the early 2000s when I was chief of staff to the emergency services minister, Brenton Ragless was also known as 'firefighter Raggy' when he worked in the CFS media department. He used to entertain people right around the state and did a great job, as well as giving the media all the information they needed.

### **NARUNGA ELECTORATE ROAD UPGRADES**

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (15:30):** I find myself rising to speak about a discrete number of issues quite frequently. To that end, today I am talking again about roads, which I have done repeatedly in this place, but it is obviously one of the most important things to the constituents in my electorate.

To that end, we have made tremendous progress over the past six years. I think we have managed to achieve a great deal of funding that we might not otherwise have done, and there have been a significant number of road kilometres that have since been paved that have made for far better driving conditions in our electorate. I think most notably the road right down the middle, all the way from Arthurton to Minlaton, has been sealed in the past six years and that has given me a great deal of delight. I remember doorknocking in the lead-up to the 2018 election and promising that that was, rightly, at the top of my list of priorities. To see that now delivered is a tremendously heartwarming thing.

There have been other roads right across the electorate. A couple of notable ones are Bay Road at Moonta which, although a council road, has been the beneficiary of significant government funding and that has resulted in a tremendous finished product. It was a truly awful road before, ill-fitting of the tourist thoroughfare that it is, and to see that finished product now and the wonderful entrance to our beautiful town of Moonta—a winner of the Top Tourism Town—is excellent.

I am proud of the progress we have made across the electorate, but there is always still more to be done, and work being done there is. I mentioned the road from Arthurton to Minlaton; that is being extended all the way from north Arthurton to Kulpara. That will mean the entirety of that road, when that part is finished, from Kulpara all the way through to Minlaton will have been sealed in the last seven years by then. That is an extraordinary stretch of road and a very important stretch of road for a great deal many primary producers, and it will be a wonderful thing to have that nice, smooth, wide and safe for people to use. So that is excellent.

The Bute to Port Broughton road is being done at the same time. It is technically the same stretch of road but, again, it was a really poor stretch that was bumpy and narrow and is well deserving of an upgrade. So there is work being done, there is work that has been done and there is work that still needs to be done. To that end, we would like to make clear to those in this parliament that whilst we are very much appreciative of all those things that have come before it, we will continue to push for more road funding because there is that much to do.

Regarding the work that has been done, that will have been done, between Arthurton and Minlaton, I would love to see that extended just that little bit further and go south of Minlaton to Yorketown. That is an exceedingly narrow stretch of road. I know from truck drivers who contact me regularly, and Chris Thompson on Facebook regularly, that it is a difficult thing to get two trucks next to each other side by side and go past one another, so that would be a wonderful thing to have that done.

I would love to see the Snowtown to Bute road done—again, that is very narrow. I know that Nick Ottens, from the silo committee there, has been in regular contact about that. That would be a tremendously beneficial road not only for our primary producers but for those people travelling north up out of my electorate to the northern part of the state it would be a wonderful thing. There are a great deal many other roads; this is by no means an exhaustive list, but there are a couple of examples of other ones that will be on our next list and we look forward to pushing for those.

I will be writing to the minister soon because we are now in need of an update about what is happening and the timeline we can expect at the Wallaroo entrance road. This was something that I was thrilled to have committed to prior to the last election. The council and the state government at the time worked together to ensure that there was a solution in place for that. It has been honoured since and works have been underway, albeit rather slowly.

I intend to write to the minister, and I have been in contact with the council to try to ascertain where we are up to because it is a bit of a hodgepodge of responsibility between the two entities. There is work going on. Unfortunately, the next tranche appears to be starting right on the cusp of harvest. Again, it is an unfortunate thing, where the next stage is the freight routes with harvest just around the corner, albeit in a difficult season. It is unfortunate timing, but we appreciate the road getting done nonetheless.

The other one I want to bring to this chamber's attention—and it is a new one on our list but one we will advocate for fiercely—is the intersection at Thrington Road and Mine Road. With the growth at Moonta, Moonta Bay and Port Hughes, that intersection of the road that people use to come from Adelaide to Moonta is becoming increasingly busy. It is not a particularly well-developed intersection. It is a legacy intersection from a time when it was not such a popular route and it is now not a safe one. Those coming from Adelaide have to turn their neck well past 90 degrees to see traffic coming, and those turning right towards Adelaide do not have a slip lane to enter into. I was contacted by the CFS the other day highlighting their concerns, which coincided with my writing to the minister to get an answer. No money was promised but we will continue to push for it as time progresses.

#### **CLUBS SA AWARDS**

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:35):** It is my pleasure to rise and graduate the winners and nominees for this year's Clubs SA, Clubs and Community Awards. Minister Michaels and I had the privilege of attending this fantastic event last Saturday at the Adelaide Oval, along with 400 people closely associated with this brilliant community-driven industry.

For those unfamiliar, our 1,272 licenced clubs represent the lifeblood and spirit of our communities. While they mean so much more to people than just sheer numbers, in economics alone, with 716,000 members, they employ nearly 20,000 South Australians, with the value of their contributions estimated at \$116 million and generating \$624 million in total revenue for our state. When you factor in all these numbers across our entire 1.8 million people, we collectively sustain and proudly support the highest number of clubs per capita in Australia.

Numbers can only tell part of the story, but they serve a great purpose to reinforce why we have good reason to not just celebrate their success but also thank the people who give so much to make them great. I know this is a long list, but while it is still fresh it gives me great joy to ensure the following winners have their names rightfully cemented in *Hansard*.

And so I give my congratulations to: Aldinga Bay Surf Club, Small Club of the Year; Golden Grove Football Club, Medium Club of the Year; Goodwood Saints, Sporting Club of the Year; Stefan Symeonakis, Club Cook/Apprentice of the Year from the Renmark Club; Sarah Jones, Club Chef of the Year from the South Australia Jockey Club; Grassroots Sport Award, Glenelg Surf Life Saving Club; Outstanding Community Service, Murray Bridge Club; Inclusiveness, North Haven Surf Life Saving Club; Environmental Awareness, Glenelg Golf Club; Best Function/Event Venue, South Australian Jockey Club, Morphettville; Best Club Refurbishment, Murray Bridge Club; Employee of the Year, Michelle Jones from the West Augusta Football Club; and Volunteer of the Year, Dennis Johnson from the Port Football and Community Sporting Club.

I have not shared all the winners, as I want to exercise a certain element of northern bias. While outside my electorate I am a proud member of the Salisbury North Football Club, and this really was their night of nights. As I have said online, it is handy they have recently completed their \$1.9 million refurbishment because they are going to need the wall space. That is because they really cleaned up, winning the prestigious Large Club of the Year Award, along with Best Bar Environment, Best Gaming and Best Dining in the cafe/bistro section, along with Daniel Parry being recognised as Manager of the Year.

The irony of the night was that it coincided with the club hosting their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the Convention Centre. It speaks volumes, with the club sending their staff to represent them for the evening, but I can imagine that following a hop, skip and a jump across the footbridge there was an enlarged contingent painting the town green and gold in celebration of their many successes dating back to 1954. That said, I am sure everyone was exemplary in their behaviour because we all know the great lengths Clubs SA go to in displaying leadership and the responsible serving of alcohol.

Again, outside my patch, Cameron Taylor, as both the President of Clubs SA and the general manager of the Para Hills Community Club, has been nothing but supportive, and I am sure nobody will mind me congratulating his crew on winning the Best Entertainment Venue. It must be said how Michael Brown, the member for Florey, and the Hon. Zoe Bettison, the member for Ramsay, are so proud of these local clubs, which they proudly represent.

I also want to take a brief moment to recognise and celebrate the success of those who did not receive an award but were nominated by their respective communities. I had the honour of awarding the Volunteer of the Year Award and there were 15 nominees. In fact, across the whole program there were 107 nominations from 41 clubs. While I am sure management do not make the nomination process overly difficult, putting an application together is a strong reflection on just how much clubs and their people are cherished by their local communities.

Finally, the event could not have happened without the great success of the judges and staff from Clubs SA. They all put on a fantastic show while reinforcing the stellar work they do collectively in providing invaluable infrastructure and services for their respective communities. To everyone involved across the state, take a bow for as a community we know you are part of the tapestry that makes life in South Australia fantastic.

*Parliamentary Procedure***SITTINGS AND BUSINESS**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:40):** I move:

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 11am.

Motion carried.

*Auditor-General's Report***AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT**

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:41):** I move:

That the Report of the Auditor-General for the year ended 30 June 2024, and the update to the Annual Report, as tabled in this house on 15 October, and Agency Statements for the year ending 2023-24, as published on the Auditor-General's website, be referred to a Committee of the Whole House and for ministers to be examined on matters contained in the report and statements in accordance with the timetable as distributed.

Motion carried.

*Bills***CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (PUBLIC REGISTER) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading (resumed on motion).

**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) (15:41):** I will briefly continue my remarks that I made in relation to both the importance of this bill and also the importance of the policies, the programs and the investment that complement this crucial work that is happening through this legislation to ensure that we are dealing with vile child sex abusers. As I said, we need to deal with those predators. We also need to make sure that we have the programs, policies and investments in place that support children to help keep them safe and well and enabled to thrive.

I have gone through a number of those investments and programs, and there are others that I can mention. There is one more in quite a long list and that is that I am very proud that our government has invested \$3.2 million into the establishment of Wakwakurna Kanyini, the Aboriginal peak body for Aboriginal children and young people. I am very proud of that investment.

That is absolutely an investment that is about ensuring that there is a structured voice through Wakwakurna Kanyini to make sure that Aboriginal children and young people are heard and supported on all issues that are important in their lives and that they are enabled to be connected to culture, country, community and kin with deep recognition that being so is both a right and also a protective factor. In terms of that, away from the legislation, that other suite of policies that we have, an investment to really make a difference with and for children and young people, I did want to mention that.

As I have outlined both before the lunch break and very briefly now, through the actions of our government it is really clear that we will do what we can within our power, everything within our power, to protect our community from vile child sex offenders.

Before I wrap up, I just want to say thank you to the Attorney-General for his work in this space and also for those in his office, Claire Morgan and Elliette Kirkbride, for their work towards this really important bill. I thank parliamentary counsel and everybody who has worked to get us to this important point today. I thank those in the upper house who spoke and I look forward to the contributions this afternoon from colleagues in this house. I commend the bill to the house and I seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

## Explanation of Clauses

## Part 1—Preliminary

## 1—Short title

## 2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Child Sex Offenders Registration Act 2006*

## 3—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

The definition of *foreign registrable offence* is amended such that any offence, committed against a child, which is specified in a corresponding law as an offence which results in the offender being required to report information about themselves in the jurisdiction in which the corresponding law is in force will fall within its meaning. By removing the requirement that foreign registrable offences not be registrable offences under the Act, offenders who commit offences in foreign jurisdictions which have analogous offences in the State will now be considered foreign registrable offenders under the Act, rather than simply registrable offenders.

## 4—Amendment of section 7—Who is a foreign registrable offender?

In order for a person to be considered a foreign registrable offender under section 7 currently, a person has to have been sentenced in a foreign jurisdiction for a foreign registrable offence of a prescribed class, and would, if they were in that foreign jurisdiction, be subject to reporting requirements. This clause amends section 7 to remove the requirement that the foreign registrable offence be of a prescribed class, such that any person who has been sentenced in a foreign jurisdiction for any foreign registrable offence, and who would be subject to a reporting requirement in that jurisdiction were they to be presently in it, is considered a foreign registrable offender.

## 5—Insertion of sections 66EA to 66ED

New sections 66EA to 66ED are inserted.

## 66EA—Delegation by Commissioner

Provision is made limiting the power of the Commissioner to delegate certain functions or powers under the Act.

## 66EB—Commissioner not required to publish or provide information

Provision is made clarifying that nothing in the Part requires the Commissioner to publish or provide information about registrable offenders or any other person.

## 66EC—Restriction on publication or provision of information about protected witnesses

Provision is made such that the Commissioner is not required or authorised to publish or provide information about protected witnesses.

## 66ED—Restriction on publication or provision of information about children in care

Provision is made such that the Commissioner is not required to publish information that would identify certain children or young people.

## 6—Insertion of sections 66FA and 66FB

New sections 66FA and FB are inserted.

## 66FA—Commissioner may provide person with image of certain registrable offenders

Provision is made for the Commissioner to have the power to, on application by a person, provide the person with images of certain registrable offenders who live in the same general locality as the person, and in relation to the exercise of the power.

## 66FB—Commissioner may inform child's parent or guardian whether specified person is a registrable offender

Provision is made for the Commissioner to have the power to, on application by a person, inform the person whether a specified person, who has regular unsupervised contact with a child, is a registrable offender, and in relation to the exercise of the power.

## 7—Amendment of section 66I—Conduct intended to incite animosity towards or harassment of identified offenders and other people

This clause amends the definition of identified offender in section 66I to include persons who have been identified by the Commissioner under sections 66FA or 66FB.

## 8—Amendment of section 66J—Publication, display and distribution of identifying information

This clause amends section 66J to extend the definition of identifying information for the purposes of the section such that it includes information published or provided by the Commissioner under the new sections 66FA or 66FB.

9—Amendment of section 66M—Power to enter and search premises

This clause amends section 66M to give police officers power to stop and search serious registrable offenders in addition to their premises. The section heading is amended to reflect this addition.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen) (15:45):** I rise to indicate the opposition's support for the bill and I indicate I am the lead speaker. I will make a few brief remarks. I will not rehearse those contributions of the minister so far as they pertain to the bill. The bill, in fact, deals with three subject areas broadly and, dealt within the order in which they appear in the bill, firstly there is the question of correcting or rendering workable the notion, the working definitions of 'foreign registrable offence' and 'foreign registrable offender'. Those are the subjects of clauses 3 and 4. It just might be noted that where we are talking about foreign offenders and foreign offences, we are in the main referring there to offences committed interstate.

As far as I am aware, while they might conceivably apply to offences committed overseas, the fact is it is highly unlikely that such a foreign offender in that sense would be in South Australia in the first place, but there is an issue about movement between states. As the government has indicated, there is a consistency elsewhere in jurisdictions about this notion that the reporting requirements that apply in the home jurisdiction, that is, where the offences occurred, is the universal approach elsewhere. Similarly, this tie-up to class 1 and class 2 offences expressed in the act as it stands has both no real work to do and, to the extent that it is referring to prescribed offences, it is in fact incomplete and there is a missing link in the reference back anyway.

So the effect of these changes as they apply to those out-of-jurisdiction offences and offenders is therefore to treat those registrable offenders, first of all, not seek to line up their offences with equivalent class 1 and class 2 offences here, but rather refer back to the offence in the home jurisdiction and have reporting requirements apply as per that home jurisdiction. It is rather tortured drafting in the first place and the fixing-up has taken me a bit of time to get my head around so I hope that summation is of some use to the record.

As the minister pointed out, the second aspect of the bill, really the bit that responds to the election commitment and that relates to the extension of registration and reporting requirements, is this adoption of the Western Australian model of the three-tier approach to the capacity for individuals to seek out the services, particularly of police, to conduct searches and to provide information in those three categories that the minister has outlined again in this place. Those are advances that the opposition supports. They have been well elucidated both in the course of the debate in another place in August and again on the record here today.

The third aspect of the bill is relating to search, particularly what is the more modern phenomenon now of the need for police to have the power to search not only devices located at a place of a search or residence but also devices on a person away from a residence.

There are broadly three aspects: firstly, dealing with foreign registrable offences and registrable offenders; secondly, applying the three-tier model that has come from Western Australia, a jurisdiction that adopted this model some five or so years ago, as I understand; and thirdly, the extension for relevant and practical purposes of the capacity both to enter into and break open and search premises and also to stop and search a registrable offender away from premises, including the searching of particularly electronic devices that might be in the possession of such a registrable offender. That is the subject of clause 9 of this relatively short bill.

By taking these steps, obviously it goes without saying that all of us very much hope and expect the bill will enhance both the protection of children in this state and the capacity for crime prevention bodies—particularly those law enforcement officers, the police—to do their work in ensuring community safety more broadly. With that contribution, I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:52):** I rise in support of the Child Sex Offenders Registration (Public Register) Amendment Bill 2024. At the 2022 election the Malinauskas Labor team committed to establishing a three-tiered model for access to the child sex offenders register, with this bill signalling delivery of that promise. There is nothing more important than the safety of

our children, and we believe that South Australians have a right to know if their family is at risk from a sexual predator.

Parents should not have to worry that a babysitter, sports coach or anyone else who shares regular and unsupervised time with their child has any relevant criminal history, and as we progress this bill those assurances parents want are exactly what we seek to deliver. Aligning largely with WA's disclosure model, what we propose is a limited public disclosure scheme of three tiers.

Tier 1 is already in operation in South Australia, comprising a website with photos and personal details of reportable offenders who have either failed to comply with their reporting obligations or provided false or misleading information to police. Tier 2 is a locality search, providing a photo upon application of dangerous and high-risk offenders in the applicant's suburb or surrounding suburbs. Tier 3 is the community protection disclosure scheme, allowing a parent or guardian of a child to inquire about a specific person who has regular contact with that child.

You would be hard-pressed to find a parent or caregiver in my community who does not support this initiative, but the measures that this government is implementing to ensure the safety of children and families do not end there. Just last month, we passed nation-leading laws that allow authorities to indefinitely jail repeat serious sex offenders, with those offenders only eligible for release once they satisfy a court that they are able and willing to control their sexual instincts. If they cannot, those individuals will remain behind bars, exactly where my community wants and expects dangerous child sex offenders to be. There is more too, with increased penalties for child sex abuse offenders, like gross indecency, a legislative ban on child sex offenders working in places that hire underage employees and amendments to Carly's Law that strengthen penalties for offenders communicating with police officers posing as children.

This multifaceted approach to child and community safety presents a clear line in the sand. Child sex offenders will be met with the full force of the law and to those who cannot demonstrate the necessary change in behaviours, we are throwing away the key. Looking back to this bill and the tiers it introduces, tier 2 broadly captures registrable offenders who commit a further registrable offence, or any registrable offender the commissioner is satisfied poses a risk to the sexual safety of a person.

Applicants seeking access to tier 2 information will be required to enter and verify their home address and upon confirmation they will receive an email link containing watermarked photos of any offenders living in proximity of their home. Strict confidentiality provisions apply to this information, with the existing offence of up to 10 years' imprisonment for conduct intended to incite animosity retained. Access to this database is reserved for matters of community safety. This government will not tolerate acts of vigilantism.

Finally, tier 3 captures any registrable offender in regular contact with a child, with regular contact prescribed as three or more days in a year. Applications can be made to South Australia Police with the name of a person, be it a coach, a babysitter or other, with the applicant then provided any offending status via email link.

There are people in my community who have contacted me opposing not just this bill but other child safety measures implemented by this government as well. My message to those people is simple: if you do not abuse a child then your name will never appear on a public child sex offender database. My sympathies for those people, even the ones who have displayed a level of remorse and do not pose an ongoing risk, are limited.

Other amendments to child sex offenders legislation captured by this bill include changes to section 66M of the registration act, which will afford police officers authority to search and inspect items in the possession of all registrable offenders, both at home and away from their premises. Currently SAPOL can only conduct compliance searches for serious registrable offenders and not all registrable offenders. This amendment was requested by SAPOL and our government was happy to oblige.

Further amendment also clarifies the way in which reporting requirements apply to foreign registrable offenders, those foreign offenders being individuals convicted in another state or territory, or in a jurisdiction outside of Australia altogether. The amendment sets straight that offenders



convicted in foreign jurisdictions should have reporting requirements imposed either interstate or overseas applied directly to them in the event that they relocate to South Australia. Again, in the interest of child and community safety, I anticipate my community's overwhelming support for these modest but sensible changes.

One final point that I would like to touch on, relevant to this legislation but applicable in several contexts, is that applications for information on the child sex offender register will be made through the digital police station. The digital police station is a \$19 million budget commitment and not only will it save South Australians considerable time in not having to attend a physical police station for non-urgent matters but it will free up police resources as well.

Alongside assessing the public child sex offender register, you will be able to lodge national police certificate requests, enter vehicle collision reports, place freedom of information requests and more. I anticipate all elements of the digital police station will be up and running by the 2027-28 year, with efficiencies associated with this initiative expected to total 47 SAPOL employees.

Like my government colleagues, I look forward to realising those efficiencies as the station's functions gradually come online, just as I am eager to progress the important child safety legislation we debate today. I would just like to thank Minister Hildyard and Attorney-General Kyam Maher for their incredible leadership on this bill. I commend the bill to the house.

**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) (15:59):** It was just a short time ago that I was able to conclude my earlier remarks and thank the staff from the Attorney-General's Department and the Attorney-General's office. Can I also thank the shadow spokesperson and also the member for Davenport for their very sound contributions towards what is clearly a bill and a step forward that everybody in this house, and indeed in the other house, absolutely supports, as we should.

Bill read a second time.

*Third Reading*

**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) (16:00):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**TRANSPLANTATION AND ANATOMY (DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND DELEGATION)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 September 2024.)

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (16:00):** I rise today as the lead speaker for the opposition on the Transplantation and Anatomy (Disclosure of Information and Delegation) Amendment Bill 2024 with just some brief reflections on the progress that this bill is making through the house. We note that it was subject to public consultation from 25 July to 16 August 2024 through the YourSAy website and through targeted engagement.

The consultation process was conducted over a four-week period from 25 July to 16 August and there were 85 responses received. In breaking down those numbers, it is interesting to see how widespread the responses were across the country: 70 per cent of the respondents lived in states other than South Australia, meaning that only 30 per cent, or 21 out of 82 responses, were from our state. That is a small pool but it is understandably so.

The survey was distributed for responses to its members throughout Australia by an interstate-based organisation, which would, of course, explain those contributions. In addition to

transplant recipients, intended donors and transplant recipient families, the majority of respondents identified as the family of a deceased donor.

Stakeholders from across Australia have submitted written submissions to proposed amendments to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983 aiming to clarify legal matters for South Australian families of deceased donors or those who received organ or tissue transplants. This bill amends the South Australian Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983 to allow families to share stories about their deceased loved one's donation or transplant. The act protects identifying information about a donor or recipient from public disclosure, except with the donor's consent.

This bill also makes minor administrative amendments to modernise the act and allow ministerial delegations, and we note that similar amendments have been made in several jurisdictions, including Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland and the ACT. I note from the consultation summary that the Australian Law Reform Commission announced an inquiry into human tissue laws in August 2024 to determine if legislative reform was needed to harmonise laws across Australia. It is expected that jurisdictional legislation will be harmonised to correspond with that commission's review outcomes into the future.

Reflecting on just some of the feedback that has been received through the consultation process, including concerns that were raised, the sharing of donor stories is supported for families of deceased donors and recipients, but some concerns were raised about the unauthorised release of personal information after their death.

The sharing and release of information, it is suggested, should be limited in certain circumstances, particularly where it may lead to the release of personal or identifying information about transplant recipients by other parties, particularly donor families, without consent. Some respondents advocated for system changes, including direct contact between donor family members and recipients of donor organs. However, a counterview was expressed that the proposed amendments were not appropriate for the South Australian legislative change as it does not consider the emotional and life-changing journeys of donors and recipients.

This bill amends the current legislation to restrict information disclosure to professionals involved in tissue removal, body donation and post-mortem examinations. It allows consent from a next of kin or personal legal representative on behalf of a deceased donor or recipient. These changes aim to improve legal clarity for donor families, allowing them to share their stories about their loved ones publicly and in person, and it is an important amendment bill. The opposition supports the bill.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (16:05):** I most certainly rise to support the bill. It is a complete truism, but our world and particularly medicine has changed so much in the last couple of centuries. A little over 200 years ago, we saw the first ever human-to-human blood transfusion in 1818, although earlier attempts had been made horrifically with various types of animal blood, and even with milk.

In the 1880s, we saw the evolution of the X-ray, and in 1901—the same year the Australian Federation was formed—we discovered that humans actually had different blood groups and a bright spark somewhere worked out that we might have better success with transfusions if we actually tried to match the blood types.

World War I, the war that was supposed to end all wars, was fought without antibiotics and much of modern medicine as we know it also did not exist. It was only as we moved into the Second World War that penicillin went into large-scale production, but even most of that conflict happened without easy access to antibiotics. Back then, major operations were conducted on a hope and a prayer that post-op infection did not kill the person even though a surgeon had saved them from a terrible injury in the first place. Advances like penicillin helped to open the door from one of the greatest advances in human medical history, something that early human societies had only talked about in stories about gods and magic.

In the 1950s, we saw the first ever transplant of a human organ—a kidney—between two identical twins. I saw my first ever kidney transplant as a student nurse at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It was the most incredible experience to watch a patient I knew receive a donor kidney:

pale in an esky, washed in a bowl and placed carefully into the patient and, through meticulous sewing, then connected to that patient. As the clamps were released, the beautiful rush of pink came into the kidney and the blood supply commenced giving life not just to the kidney but to the person who received the kidney transplant.

In following decades, we saw people benefit from thousands of kidneys and from hearts, lungs and livers. I also saw the very first person receive a bone transplant at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital—all these things saving and transforming lives.

As parents, we give the gift of life to our children and in return they give us joy, a lot of heartache, stress, a range of other requests, send us broke and all the rest of it, but this all changes as they age. Others in our community give the gift of life. Sometimes a doctor, a nurse or a person with the right first-aid skills save someone from an episode of choking—I myself had an extraordinary experience on the weekend at a sausage sizzle; anyway, that is best left unsaid—a heart attack or any number of other medical emergencies, and others quite literally give part of themselves to save another.

This might happen between people who know each other, like when someone in a family has matching bone marrow or the right tissue type, just like that very first kidney transplant going back 70 years ago. But most often, transplantation and donation is a gift between two people who will never meet, who will never know what it meant to the other to give the gift of life or receive it. Organ donors are some of the most important unsung heroes in our community, and it is important that we can talk about the gifts they gave and the lives they saved in order to encourage more people to do the same.

But there has been some concern raised about whether people can actually talk about this in public, and this bill seeks to address that concern. The Transplantation and Anatomy (Disclosure of Information and Delegation) Amendment Bill 2024 amends section 39 of the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1983 to clarify that the disclosure of information provisions apply only to relevant donation and transplant professionals. The bill provides that a next of kin or personal legal representative of a deceased donor or recipient can consent to the disclosure of information about that person.

Other jurisdictions in Australia have changed their laws to give more confidence to families and loved ones to talk about organ donation. I welcome this move in South Australia, and I thank my friend the Minister for Health, the member for Kaurua, Chris Picton. Privacy and confidentiality in health settings is absolutely critical, and this bill ensures that those protections continue. What it will change is to ensure greater clarity for donor families who acknowledge their loved ones at public services and events or in raising awareness about organ and tissue donation.

I will not talk for long about my personal family journey that we have had, but everybody in this place knows that we did make that decision. While it is a very difficult decision in very, very difficult times when you are losing a loved one, actually if you have had deep conversations with your loved ones before, you can trust that the decision you are making is the right one.

When our son was in hospital after receiving a brain injury and there was no hope that he would survive, we had very difficult conversations as a family—questioning, of course. I leapt from position A to position S, T, U, V, W, X, Y and Z very quickly because I was a nurse and I had put myself into familiar surroundings in the intensive care unit amongst my colleagues, in a familiar place, but that is an extraordinary position to be in. Families, including my own, had to have their own time to make decisions, but the DonateLife team and the brilliant intensive care team, my friends, helped all of us to make the decision happen at a pace that we could all be comfortable with.

Probably the most important thing about organ donation is that, when the time is there for a discussion, everybody has to be able to make the decision in their own time, at their own pace. We knew that my son Sam wanted to be an organ donor. He had proudly selected to be a donor on his driver's licence. Also, he and I had had multiple conversations at the end of very lengthy and often stressful and distressing workdays about people who were to be organ donors or had become organ donors during the course of my shift. He knew exactly what that was about, and we were comfortable that he would have chosen to do exactly what he did on that day.

Being a community as it is, there were several things that meant at that particular point of time I knew of a couple of people who had received an organ from him, something I needed to keep to myself. Many people who received an organ from him, because of the highly public nature of what happened, knew whose organ they had because of the timing.

So we went for a long time knowing, and then knowing, and then one day a fellow came into my electorate office and said, 'I think time has passed long enough, and I've lost friends without sharing good information,' and, to cut a long story short, this gentleman was the best friend of the husband of the lady, Joyce, who received one of my son's kidneys. Not only was he the best friend of her husband, he was the grandfather of one of the girls who started reception on the very same day and in the very same class as my son. Adelaide is a very small town.

From there, it has become the sharing of photographs and little texts now and then—little messages that are beautiful and really rewarding, absolutely satisfying. We have recently spoken about this publicly and she is very proud of her grandchildren supporting the Sammy D Foundation. We did not even put a thought to the fact that we could have been breaking the law, so thank goodness for this. I think we all know that when there is a good message to be told, we should share it. G'day to Joyce and the family. Keep on keeping on; you are a terrific family.

It is really important that we have such a great system in South Australia. A person's interest in organ and tissue donation after death is captured through their driver's licence, and that makes us unique. If you have agreed to do this, it is printed clearly right next to your mugshot on your driver's licence, which makes it much easier for family as well—trust me. South Australian residents are prompted to answer an optional question about their interest in registering to become an organ donor as part of both online and paper-based licence applications and renewals. Thanks to this kind of approach, South Australia leads the nation with 73 per cent registration for organ and tissue donation, nearly doubling the national average of 36 per cent.

We have a great tradition in South Australia of leading the nation, just like we did with women voting and running for parliament in 1894, container deposit legislation back in the seventies, and our push for renewable energy. We are leading in many ways, and this is terrific. Other places thought we were bonkers or that it could not be done, and we have happily proved them wrong. We start things early, we take a commonsense approach and we get results that leave the rest of the country in our dust.

This legislation is effectively catching up to other jurisdictions, however, when it comes to talking about organ donation. It gives us a chance now to extend our national lead when it comes to the numbers, I believe. This important legislation will remove any concern for, or possibility of, prosecution against a family member of a deceased organ donor or recipient.

As Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well, I have recently been involved in Plan Ahead Week which, again, is a really important thing to make these plans very clear for when you depart earthside, when your family is left to make decisions, or at a time when you are not able to make your own decisions. I have talked about six steps to doing this over and over again in many public forums.

Talk with your family, your circle and your important, trusted people; it might be your medical practitioner or someone else in the community, but it could be family. Ensure your will is up to date, you have your enduring power of attorney completed, you have an advance care directive and you have ticked, signed, completed, applied, registered to be an organ and tissue donor. After that, have the conversation again, lodge all the paperwork in copies with your family, your friends and your trusted circle, and make sure there is no doubt. It takes a great deal of worry from you.

Having a conversation about end-of-life medical care is important, but so is making your position clear about organ and tissue donation. You can make that decision now and remove any pressure or stress on your family because they may be asked to make that call at a very tough time. All the advances in modern medicine that I spoke about earlier, including the development of modern hospitals, has been absolutely miraculous, but they have also meant that people are less exposed to both the beginning and end of life compared to previous generations when people were often born in the front room of the house and departed through the same doorway. Back then, death was a lot more normalised than it is now.

Because of this, conversations about end of life have become less common than they once were. This bill can help to shift the dial on the issue and do so in a really positive way. Death is often tough and traumatic for families, but we have the choice. We have the option to make death not just a part of life but something that can save a life. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:20):** I would like to thank members for their contributions to the bill, particularly the member for Frome, indicating her support on behalf of the opposition, but particularly my colleague and friend the Minister for Human Services, the member for Hurtle Vale, who speaks with passion, honesty and significant personal experience on this issue and brings to the house her life experience and that of her family, which is very welcome.

Organ donation is something that I think all members of the house would regard as incredibly important. Part of that being important is the donor families being important: honouring them, supporting them, thanking them. We have had this uncertainty in our laws. We have had this question mark as to whether that can appropriately occur. It has been raised with me by a number of donor families over the past couple of years that I have been the minister, and we are therefore now seeking to address that, to clarify this legislation and make clear that there is no risk to donor families in making well known the incredible gift that their loved one has made to somebody else.

South Australia has a really strong tradition of organ donation. We are the only state that allows driver's licences to be used to indicate people's support for organ donation, the fact that they want to be part of that. That means that we have the highest opt-in rate anywhere in the country. But it is not just that. It is also the staff we have, the culture that we have, within our intensive care units in particular, the incredibly well-trained staff who have those difficult conversations with families about their loved ones at the worst possible time for those loved ones in losing somebody. It allows us to have a very strong rate of organ donation in the state that allows more lives to be saved. I hope the passage of this legislation will further cement that incredible track record, further cement our legislative framework to make it as easy as possible for those family members to consent for that donation to occur and for those donations to be able to save as many lives as possible.

I would like to thank the team in the Department for Health and Wellbeing, who have worked on this bill, particularly Susan Ireland, Amelia Southam and Ben Stirling, and also Dylan Anesbury in my office. I thank all the organ donation organisations, representatives and individuals who provided feedback and support for the legislation, particularly DonateLife SA, Mr Oren Klemich at Transplant Australia, Donor Families Australia, the Heart Foundation and others. With that, I endorse the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:24):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

## **PREVENTIVE HEALTH SA BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 26 September 2024).

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (16:25):** I rise as the lead speaker for the opposition to reflect and comment on the Preventive Health SA Bill 2024.

The state Labor government established Preventive Health SA in February 2024, consolidating key prevention functions and establishing an advisory council to guide the development of a permanent prevention agency within the state health system with a more consolidated focus on alcohol and tobacco use, controlled substances and suicide prevention.

Throughout June 2024, over 75 stakeholders participated in a public consultation on this draft bill in South Australia. This new bill positions itself to be a continuation of Wellbeing SA, with similar objectives like tackling health determinants and preventable risk factors, improving health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and spearheading preventive health initiatives.

In consuming some of the documents available on the YourSAy website and from the report, the consultation process revealed that Preventive Health SA needs to clarify or is seeking to clarify its focus on non-communicable health conditions, strengthening its council membership and strengthening its functions. It should also aim to strengthen its engagement with stakeholders, collaborating with government and non-government agencies ensuring clarity in functions. The strategic plan that follows should also be clarified as it is and that the chief executive would consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons.

This new legislation—this bill—to be considered has been developed giving consideration to interstate models for preventive agencies such as the Australian National Preventive Health Agency, Victoria Health, Health and Wellbeing Queensland and Healthway in Western Australia.

I also acknowledge that there has been broad approval from the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), Cancer Council SA, Heart Foundation, Diabetes SA, University of South Australia, Flinders University, Adelaide University, Public Health Association of Australia, Australian Health Promotion Association, South Australian Council of Social Service, Local Government Association of South Australia and the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network.

I also acknowledge the establishment of the advisory council for this bill. It has been instrumental to the government, obviously, in formulating this bill that we now consider, with members from a range of backgrounds in preventive health organisations. That membership of the advisory council includes the Hon. Nicola Roxon, who chaired the process; Dr Michelle Atchison, well known to many; Dr Andrew Culley; the fabulous Dr Alison Edwards from Port Broughton; Professor Caroline Miller; Associate Professor Odette Pearson; Kim Morey and Dr Rhiannon Pilkington.

I also note that the YourSAy report from the findings of this consultation period reported that stakeholders provided feedback on operational aspects of the Preventive Health SA Bill including merit-based appointment processes, an investment target, a cross-agency committee, formal collaboration frameworks, priority areas and shared metrics for success. These matters will be integrated into the legislation's implementation, as we understand it, with consideration given to the creation of regulations for these purposes.

The minister might recall that in estimates earlier this year, the opposition was interested to understand more about the anticipated bill that is before us, but also the transition from Wellbeing SA to Preventive Health SA, asking what might be the differences between the two agencies.

At the time, the minister was prepared to provide some update and context, noting that he certainly appreciated the work that had been done by the former Liberal minister, Minister Wade of the other place, in setting up Wellbeing SA, but I think the context was that it did not have all the prevention elements included within it. They were noted to be Priority Care Centres, My Home Hospital and at home community services, all sitting within Wellbeing SA but perhaps not defined as prevention. Whereas, on the other hand, there was not a whole range of key prevention tasks such as smoking, vaping, alcohol and other drug campaigns that were sitting within DASA. I hope I have paraphrased the minister fairly there.

Wellbeing SA, as I have mentioned, was an initiative established in 2020 by the former Liberal government with a focus on improving the physical, mental and social wellbeing aspects of South Australians with a population health approach. As part of the government's response to managing COVID-19 at the time, the agency also launched Open Your World with a particular focus on wellbeing.

The former Liberal government was committed to delivering high-quality public health services focusing on safety, equity, access and responsiveness to benefit the health and wellbeing of all South Australians. The COVID-19 pandemic presented new challenges, of course. We have

heard that exhaustively in this chamber, but it did present new challenges to health systems worldwide and SA Health was integral to the public health response.

Under the former minister's supervision, the department had adapted to the changing environment, designing and implementing measures to deliver responsive, accessible and safe services. The department's work at the time was to improve organisational culture and address needs for the staff and that has been essential to the organisation's success.

Wellbeing SA's five-year plan aimed to improve health and wellbeing in South Australia, embed prevention throughout life, and achieve 2040 outcomes of improved physical, mental and social wellbeing. That Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 focused on prevention, protection, innovation, and sustaining SA Health services and care. The plan aimed to reduce health disparities and respond to priority populations, particularly Aboriginal South Australians.

I also add that the former Liberal government successfully delivered on what was at the time over 50 suicide prevention networks across the state. I am not sure if that is still the number, but on both sides of the chamber there is a genuine dedication to supporting the existence and the services of the suicide prevention networks. I note in particular the member for Elder's leadership and advocacy as the chair of the Premier's advisory body. I am really proud of the volunteers that I come across who involve themselves with suicide prevention networks, in particular in the Jamestown district, the Mid North Suicide Prevention Network, with significant involvement by a lovely fellow called Greg Boston, who has been recognised through Australian of the Year celebrations in the past.

The Mid North SPN has a particular focus on wellbeing and use parkrun in an exceptional way to encourage those who live in the Jamestown community to open their world, get out of the day-to-day routines that they might be in to come together, but also to do something that really does contribute to their own wellbeing. The Mentally Fit EP suicide prevention network from Eyre Peninsula delivers a mental health conference for suicide prevention volunteers that is the only one in the state. Anyone who comes to this chamber and has a suicide prevention network in their own community, I am sure, is proud of the work that they do.

In conjunction with that, through the former Liberal government was the Liberal initiative to develop and draft nation-leading legislation in the Suicide Prevention Act and we continue to reflect on that important piece of legislation in this house.

I have spent some time referencing Wellbeing SA merely to set some context for what was. That then prefaces what is to come, and that is the government's introduction of this bill that transitions our state wellbeing response from that agency to this Preventive Health SA agency.

For those who were entrenched in the Wellbeing SA agency, I wish to thank those staff: those public servants, health professionals, academics and experts who, from my observation and experience and from the contributions I have sought from those who are working inside the agency, really brought their compassion, their expertise and their best effort in advising the government of the day to establish that agency and to meet the brief, which was to cater for the wellbeing needs of South Australians.

It is a simple and humble gesture that I make to thank those who worked within Wellbeing SA. I know not all have remained in those roles and we will learn more from the government about how the Preventive Health SA agency is going to be established through its workforce under the leadership of the CE.

I anticipate some brief exercises in committee. It is important that we expand on some of the details that have come through this bill, but it is the opposition's intention to support this bill and I welcome the opportunity that the opposition has had through the minister's office for those briefings that have been made available to us.

This is a new agency, it is a bill that will govern that and it is important, I think, that we allow the agency to be stood up so that we can see it delivering on the aspirations it lays out for us in terms of meeting the needs of South Australians, addressing those preventive health elements, and incorporating what was good about Wellbeing SA but understanding that there is some expansion of services now. With those concluding remarks, I support the bill.

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (16:37):** I, too, rise in support of the Preventive Health SA Bill 2024, legislation that secures the future of an agency worthy of our state's attention. We are fortunate that Australians, and by extension South Australians, live such long and fulfilling lives. Our life expectancy sits among the world's best. That does not happen by accident, and this government's health agenda is evidence of the investment we are prepared to make in the health and care of every South Australian.

In fact, the same can be said of all governments, no matter their persuasion, right across the country. There is no better place to live in the world than Australia because our people and their wellbeing always comes first. But it is also true that prevention is better than any cure. While there are reasonable steps people can take to ensure their own wellbeing, there are also measures government can employ to educate people on the importance of self-care. That is where Preventive Health SA comes in.

Action is required now to see that any future burdens on our health system, be they ill-health or disease, are reduced. Those burdens will not be lost on South Australians, because they are so prevalent now: smoking and vaping, obesity, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health and wellbeing. These all present real risks to individuals, and wherever possible we want to minimise potential and associated harm.

Despite all the evidence, tobacco smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in Australia. While we would hope that interest in smoking products has declined, e-cigarette use among South Australians aged 15 to 29 almost doubled between 2022 and 2023. That is an unacceptable increase in the number of young people choosing to ingest the same toxins used in bug spray and heavy metals like mercury, many of whom will go on to suffer from nicotine addiction and potentially symptoms of nicotine poisoning.

Obesity is a growing concern as well, and again among younger populations. The 2018 National Health Survey found that 25 per cent of all South Australian children and adolescents aged two to 17 were overweight or obese and more recent data suggests that figure is growing. Looking to adults, almost seven in 10 South Australians were overweight or obese as at 2022. On estimate, that is more than 950,000 people.

Perhaps most concerning, though, is the likely impact on children that have not even been born yet. New evidence tells us that if we do not take significant action as a government, those life expectancies I mentioned earlier will reduce as a direct result of obesity and we just cannot let that happen.

Population data analysis commissioned by Preventive Health SA indicates a substantial proportion of South Australia's population is at risk of poor health outcomes due to preventable risk factors and without intervention we can expect the number of people experiencing these risk factors to increase. That is exactly why we need Preventive Health SA, the agency we established earlier this year with a view to addressing each of the concerns I have referenced and much, much more. Importantly, it also signals delivery of another Malinauskas Labor government election commitment.

We know that targeted preventive health action must be delivered, not just to the broader community but to priority population groups as well, with one of the most prominent population groups being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The burden of disease among Indigenous populations is 2.3 times greater than that of other Australians. Plainly, we must do better here and thankfully we have a body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working with us to drive that change.

One year on from the referendum, we are seeing firsthand how recognition of those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice can positively impact the direction of our state. You will be pleased to know that the bill we debate today has been strengthened by the feedback of South Australia's Voice, being one of the first pieces of legislation to be considered by the nation-leading representative body.

On that, I would like to acknowledge those hurting one year on from the referendum for constitutional recognition at a federal level. Our democracy is always worth celebrating, but the wounds associated with that campaign were deep and for so many they are yet to heal. I would like



to extend my thoughts to those impacted by that event whose lands we meet on today and from myself and so many of my government colleagues I want you to know that it is still yes.

Back to Preventive Health SA and alongside the enforcement efforts of Consumer and Business Services, Preventive Health SA has led the charge on Australian-first laws for tobacco and vaping control. That has helped remove almost \$1 million worth of illicit tobacco products from South Australian streets in the last fortnight alone, in an effort shared between Consumer and Business Services and South Australia Police. I implore both agencies, in addition to Preventive Health SA, to maintain those efforts in keeping our streets free of illicit tobacco and illegal vapes.

The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 is the first of its kind in South Australia, formally recognising preventive health as a key health policy initiative. It demonstrates this Malinauskas Labor government's commitment to embedding systems and structures in legislation for the long term, which, over time, will reduce pressure on the acute health system.

The challenge ahead of us is significant and while we are prepared we cannot do it alone. It is important we acknowledge the work of public health organisations that have so readily supported this government's preventive health agenda, including, but not limited to, the Cancer Council, Diabetes SA, the Heart Foundation, our three major universities, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and so many more.

Thank you to each of those partners for their longstanding commitment to improving health outcomes in South Australia and for their want to build a preventive health system that drives long-lasting change. I look forward to working with each of these organisations well into the future and ensuring the wellbeing of both our growing health network and future generations. I commend this bill to the house.

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (16:43):** I rise to speak in support of the Preventive Health SA Bill 2024, which marks a pivotal point as we seek to cement the role of prevention within our health system. Across the state we know that, while many South Australians enjoy a good bill of health, we must remain focused on the rising rate of chronic conditions within key population groups and communities that we know are experiencing poorer health.

We know that the leading five preventable risk factors that contribute to the total burden of disease are tobacco use, obesity, dietary risks, high blood pressure and alcohol use. The first of these factors which we must contend with is the fact that 8.7 per cent of South Australians over the age of 15 are smoking despite the great steps that we have taken as a nation to address this harm, such as through health promotions, outlawing tobacco advertisements and our world-leading implementation of plain packaging.

While rates of tobacco use have decreased over time through the success of these preventive health actions, we remain vigilant of the rising use of e-cigarettes at a concerning rate, particularly among our young people aged 15 to 29, having nearly doubled in use from 8.4 per cent in 2022 to 15.1 per cent in 2023. With 8.7 per cent of South Australians smoking currently, we do face a risky prospect as research shows that young people who vape are around five times more likely to take up smoking.

Another factor is that in South Australia we also face some of the highest rates of childhood obesity globally, with 25 per cent of children and adolescents between the ages of two and 17 classified as obese or overweight, as highlighted in the 2018 National Health Survey. More recent data, worryingly, does suggest that this issue is only increasing, with the estimates rising to about 27.5 per cent for this age group. Without proper action, evidence suggests that children being born today will face a shorter life expectancy due to obesity, which speaks to the importance of the moment.

Another alarming preventable risk factor requiring our attention is that around 29.3 per cent of adults are consuming alcohol to levels that are putting them at risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury. Importantly, we cannot neglect the health and wellbeing of priority population groups, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons, and we must ensure that any such targeted preventable health actions are done with collaboration in mind. This is especially important because we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular face a burden of

disease that is 2.3 times greater than the general population, and it deserves our utmost attention to help address this gap.

Back to the bill before us, earlier this year we saw the establishment of Preventive Health SA, which has consolidated with a key focus on the prevention agenda, focusing on these risk factors, including obesity prevention, tobacco, vaping, mental health, suicide prevention, alcohol and other drugs and the detriments of health, as a priority area.

Today's bill before us marks a first of its kind here in South Australia with it formally recognising preventive health as an important area of health policy and that it has a permanent home in the infrastructure of our health system in this state. In line with the old adage that prevention is often better than the cure, we are cementing prevention into the structures of our health system so that we can set South Australia up for long-term positive health and wellbeing outcomes that will, over time, also work to reduce the acute pressure that we are witnessing on our health system.

The bill comes to us here in this place having been created in line with the expert advice of the Preventive Health SA Establishment Advisory Council, established with the purpose of drafting this bill. With the Hon. Nicola Roxon as chair of the council, members bring a variety of expertise in epidemiology, public health policy, Aboriginal health, health equity, preventive health strategy, government policymaking and business.

Consultation that was undertaken on the bill received a high level of support across the community for embedding preventive health in legislation. It includes the provision to designate an administrative unit of the Public Service as the Office for Preventive Health SA and establishes statutory functions for the chief executive which cover the breadth of preventive health action, including, for example, commissioning and evaluating preventive health policies, programs and services, making grants, developing partnerships and collaborating to develop policy and actions, leading community education initiatives, monitoring population health and wellbeing data, and providing advice to government and non-government.

The legislation will also set up the Preventive Health SA Council, including members with a diverse range of preventive health knowledge and experience to be able to meet twice a year, playing a key role in providing advice and assistance to the chief executive.

A key provision of this bill in line with the government's commitment to ensuring impartial advice from the independent agency is its prioritisation of the agency's independence. This will enable the agency to lead preventive health actions and offer impartial evidence-informed advice that promotes positive results for the health and wellbeing of South Australians.

Importantly, the bill also contains within it a commitment to work together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by requiring the chief executive to consult and collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons and their representative bodies in performing their functions. Such a commitment to collaboration is of course essential as we look to address the gaps which exist between the general population and priority health groups. Interestingly for the house, the bill before us is also one of the first to have been considered by the South Australian Voice to Parliament, who helped to strengthen it through the feedback they provided.

It is important that we ensure that we have the best systems in place to support the health and wellbeing of all South Australians, be it our focus on addressing rising rates of obesity, tackling the increase in vaping among our people or addressing the inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with a strong commitment to collaboration.

We cannot do this alone and it has been through collaboration and the invaluable assistance provided to the government from the health and wellbeing sectors that we have this bill before us today. To be able to help drive the long-lasting positive health and wellbeing change that we wish to see, this bill will go a long way to ensuring a sustainable prevention system is embedded in our greater health infrastructure and allows for the collaboration necessary to achieve our aims. For those reasons, I commend this important bill to the house.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (16:51):** I rise today in support of the Preventive Health SA Bill to provide for the Office of Preventive Health SA and establish the Preventive Health SA Council. In cultures and communities right across the globe, many have long understood the value of prevention

over cure. One such quote that is regularly shared comes from Benjamin Franklin, who famously advised fire-threatened Philadelphians that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

I would hope that we could all agree, though maybe we cannot all agree, that climate change mitigation and planning for bushfire seasons are better than fighting more frequent and severe bushfires every year. Our health care is no different. Prevention is better than cure, and as a government not just focused on the now but on the future, we are determined to ensure prevention is a key part of our health system. We can work now to ensure better health outcomes for decades to come—and we are.

While many South Australians experience good health, rates of chronic conditions are increasing. Combined with an ageing population, we have all seen the worst that can happen when a healthcare system cannot keep up with demand. One of the leading preventable risk factors contributing to total burden of disease is tobacco use. Currently 8.7 per cent of South Australians aged 15 years and over smoke. The use and availability of vapes among young people right across Australia is only making this serious public health challenge worse.

In 2022, 8.4 per cent of 15 to 29 year olds were regularly using e-cigarettes or vapes, which almost doubled to 15.1 per cent in 2023. Evidence clearly shows that young people who vape are five times more likely to take up smoking. So I am really proud to be part of a state government which is leading the nation in keeping the sale of illegal vapes and tobacco off our streets, an issue that can impact any community.

In May last year, residents in my electorate received a flyer in their letterbox advertising illegal cigarettes and vapes. After receiving a copy of this flyer, I shared this with SA Police, who investigated the proposed site of sale and seized the illegal products within the week. Earlier this year, our state government introduced the toughest penalties of any state or territory in the nation against the sale of illegal vapes and tobacco, including increasing penalties up to \$1.5 million for some breaches and banning vending machine sales of tobacco products in public areas.

As well as smoking, other preventable risk factors include obesity, high blood pressure and alcohol use, with two in three adult South Australians being overweight or obese in 2022 and nearly one in three adult South Australians consuming alcohol that puts them at risk of harm from alcohol-related disease or injury.

Population data analysis and modelling recently commissioned by Preventive Health SA and undertaken by the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute shows that a substantial proportion of the South Australian population is at risk of poor health outcomes due to preventable risk factors. They expect that by 2029, an additional 1,900 children and 48,000 adults will be overweight or obese, almost 25,000 adults will be exceeding alcohol consumption guidelines, nearly 13,000 adults will report high to very high levels of psychological distress and nearly 6,000 adults will report suicidal ideation.

Clearly, we must take comprehensive action to reduce the growing burden of ill health and disease. That is why prior to returning to government the Malinauskas Labor team promised to create a new and independent prevention agency with a mandate to develop evidence-based programs and policies to keep South Australians healthy. Early this year, we kept that promise by establishing Preventive Health SA to strengthen the prevention agenda in South Australia through the consolidation of key prevention functions in a single agency.

As the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention and Chair of the Suicide Prevention Council, I have seen firsthand the work done by Preventive Health SA to support our work and the work of community suicide prevention initiatives. I am very grateful for the excellent staff I have the privilege of working with at Preventive Health through these positions. Your knowledge, expertise and passion are so appreciated.

Preventive Health SA plays a critical role in supporting the implementation of the South Australian Suicide Prevention Plan, which recognises that everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention and provides a framework for prescribed state authorities to develop their own suicide prevention action plans. Preventive Health SA has also been instrumental in helping to establish and support suicide prevention networks right across our state. Suicide prevention networks are central

to South Australia's community-focused approach to suicide prevention and are run by incredible volunteers, who are some of the best people you will ever meet.

These networks aim to raise awareness, reduce stigma and foster community connection, education and help-seeking behaviours. Suicide prevention networks play such an important role in enabling communities to build their own capacity to boost mental wellbeing, prevent suicide and develop postvention strategies. I love meeting with and speaking with these networks, who know their communities deeply. Every community is different, and these networks know what works best for their communities to improve connection and resilience.

The Preventive Health SA Bill 2024 formally recognises Preventive Health SA as a cornerstone of health policy in South Australia and enshrines the infrastructure we need for long-lasting, positive change. The Preventive Health SA Council will include experts across areas like epidemiology, preventive health research, health equity, finance, economics and business. It will also ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices remain central to its work.

Similarly to the Suicide Prevention Act 2021, this bill represents a pioneering approach that embeds critical issues into the framework of our health system. By establishing dedicated councils for both suicide prevention and preventive health, we are contributing to sustainable, systematic change that prioritises wellbeing at multiple levels in the community. In legislating measures that tackle tobacco use, vaping, alcohol and other drugs, obesity, healthy eating, physical activity, mental health and suicide, we have the opportunity to improve the health and longevity of all South Australians.

This approach not only reduces the burden on the healthcare system but also promotes equity by targeting the underlying social determinants of health that disproportionately affect lower socio-economic groups. Effective prevention does not just improve individual lives, it strengthens communities. A healthier workforce that is more productive and engaged brings more South Australians together to live happier, more fulfilling lives, and at the same time we generate positive economic outcomes for our state.

The impact of suicide extends far beyond the immediate and ongoing emotional toll on families and communities; it also has significant economic repercussions. A 2024 UK report on the cost of suicide estimated that, when considering various factors such as employment productivity, healthcare costs and emergency services expenses as well as coroner and legal costs, the average cost of a single suicide for someone aged 30 to 34 is around £1.46 million or \$A3 million. This figure is likely a conservative estimate and the true economic impact may be even higher. While I wish it was not so, understanding these costs is necessary for some to better appreciate the urgent need for effective mental health interventions and support systems that not only save lives but also protect the wellbeing of our communities and economy.

Enshrining a permanent agency dedicated to preventive health shows we are not just reacting to health issues as they arise but proactively working to create a healthier future for all South Australians. This bill goes beyond health care. It aims to create a system and environment that supports every South Australian to live their healthiest life. Its focus is on reducing long-term healthcare costs, improving the quality of life for disadvantaged communities and ensuring everyone can fully participate in the life and opportunities of our state.

I am proud to be part of a state government that is leading the way in preventive health. With the strength of our community and guidance from expert councils, we can ensure that good health becomes a right for all South Australians, not just a privilege. Together, we can build a healthier, more inclusive state. In closing, I would like to thank one of my favourite people, our Minister for Health and Wellbeing, and everyone in his team for their work in bringing this bill to us.

*The Hon. A. Michaels interjecting:*

**Ms CLANCY:** He did not even notice. I look forward to the successful passage of this bill and my continued work with Preventive Health SA and commend this bill to the house.

**The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (17:01):** I rise also to support the Preventive Health SA Bill 2024. I am a very strong believer in the old adage that prevention is better than cure.

We have seen in Western culture a dramatic rise in chronic health conditions which, in turn, is becoming an increasing burden on our health system. The most widespread chronic conditions share common and preventable risk factors, like smoking, poor diet, obesity and excessive alcohol use.

Reducing people's exposure to variable risk factors has a significant impact on reducing the rates of chronic health conditions. It is a simple equation, and I welcome this important legislation to improve the health and wellbeing of South Australians right across the state. I also want to congratulate the Minister for Health on his endeavours in drafting this bill that seeks to:

...lead preventive health action and strengthen collaboration between, and innovation by, government agencies and non-government agencies, including through the provision of expert advice to the Minister and the public sector on policies to be implemented by government...

As the Minister for Small and Family Business, Consumer and Business Affairs and Arts, I would like to commit to strengthening collaborations between departments to achieve the objects of this bill. I am pleased to say that the portfolios of health and consumer and business affairs have been working strongly together already to reduce the risks imposed by smoking and vapes.

We all know tobacco smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and disease in Australia. There are approximately 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 result of smoking. Of course, smoking affects every South Australian, whether you are a smoker or you are exposed to smoking. Curbing this habit is everyone's responsibility.

We have come a long way from the times when most 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. However, in recent years we have seen an alarming trend with the rise in the use of e-cigarettes or vapes. The use of vapes is a growing trend in both South Australia and nationally, particularly amongst children and young people. I am very concerned to read that about 25 per cent of secondary school-aged students have used a vape, with about 15 per cent using one in the past month. That is up from about 2 per cent only a number of years ago in 2017.

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

We have also seen, as has been raised in this place, an alarming trend in the sale of illegal tobacco and vaping products. The sale of illegal tobacco and vape products is becoming increasingly blatant, and we know it provides income for serious and organised crime groups. The Malinauskas Labor government is also cracking down on illicit tobacco and vape products in conjunction with the Albanese Labor 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 and all jurisdictions to develop and implement the National Vaping Enforcement Framework in order to eliminate unlawful vaping in our community. As the minister responsible for the licensing of retailers of tobacco and e-cigarettes, I am pleased that we are looking to increase fines to be the toughest in our country.

Our government wants to send a clear message that we are serious about cracking down on people selling illegal cigarettes and tobacco. As of 1 July, the Premier has tasked me as minister and my agency, Consumer and Business Services, with enforcing licensing and enforcement activities for the sale of illegal tobacco and vape products in SA. CBS has been ramping up their enforcement, including additional FTEs, to cover everything from licensing applications to consumer inquiries and inspections. Inspectors are now regularly out enforcing compliance and conducting raids. CBS has conducted more than 230 inspections and confiscated over one million cigarettes, over a tonne of pouch tobacco, over 300 kilograms of shisha tobacco and over 15,000 vapes.

Since CBS was tasked with these new compliance and enforcement activities, over \$2 million worth of illegal tobacco and vape products have been taken off the street. Currently, CBS has the ability to impose on-the-spot expiation notices of up to \$1,200 and, for serious 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, and 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 next day. Some of the new penalties for selling tobacco without a merchant licence include a proposed maximum of \$750,000 for the first offence and \$1.1 million for the second offence. Selling tobacco to a minor will, if our legislation is passed, result in a penalty of up to \$1.5 million. These penalties are significantly higher than the current range of between \$20,000 and \$40,000.

While CBS has seized significant amounts of illicit products and intends to take appropriate enforcement action, this action takes time, and during the intervening time a shop can just restock and open again to the public. One way of addressing this is for CBS to repeatedly conduct inspections at the same premises, seizing illicit products on each occasion. However, this approach is resource intensive and may lead to increased aggression and therefore increased risk to the safety of our authorised officers.

Instead, there is a bill before the parliament that will enable stores to be issued with interim closure orders. If passed, it will enable me to provide a closure order of up to 72 hours and, on application to the Magistrates Court, a closure of up to six months. These closure orders may be issued to a retail or wholesale premises irrespective of whether they possess a tobacco merchant licence. Our message to dodgy operators is that selling tobacco without a licence or to children will result in substantial financial penalties and shop closures. It is everybody's responsibility to ensure that our children and young people do not take up smoking or vaping or the next harmful trend that this relentless industry tries to introduce.

Through our collaboration with Health and SAPOL, we are supporting South Australian children and young people by ensuring we eliminate the supply chains for illicit tobacco products, vapes and future emerging nicotine products. The Malinauskas Labor government is committed to being at the coalface of tackling the significant public health threat posed by illicit tobacco and vapes and the criminals who sell them. We are moving towards a smoke-free and vape-free future for our young people and we are taking the fight directly to those dodgy sellers, because in South Australia we do not welcome these kinds of businesses. This is just one of the actions we are taking to assist in preventive health measures.

While health and consumer and business affairs has an established collaborative relationship, I am also looking forward to building a similar one between health and arts. It was put by the Director-General of the World Health Organization that the arts can be a powerful ally in our quest to improve health for all.

I asked Arts SA to investigate the exceptional research that has been conducted worldwide, showing the impact on the wellbeing of participating arts, cultural and creative activities, and to engage with our arts and health leaders in South Australia to understand the outcomes of their innovative creative programs. Arts SA is working with the arts and creative sectors, universities and with colleagues across government to embed wellbeing in our new cultural policy.

We already know that our state's arts, cultural and creative sectors are celebrated for their innovation and it is clear that they can and will make an important contribution to preventive health outcomes to ensure a healthier South Australian population. The arts, culture and creative industries and health sectors have significantly grown their connections in primary care, acute and chronic hospital care, rehabilitation, respite care and general wellbeing, utilising therapies from visual arts, music, dance and drama.

Arts can play a significant role in saving future expenditure across health services and social care. In the UK, doctors have a social prescription program, prescribing arts experiences and that has provided an 11:1 return on investment for the health budget and provides, obviously, secure employment for our artists.

On the small business front, we have a number of mental health programs that are available to small business owners throughout South Australia, including one that is being run by the Master Builders Australia, the RISE program, which has seen significant success in recent months.

Prevention is better than cure and this bill will go a long way to assisting preventing serious and chronic health conditions. I look forward to working closely with my friend and colleague, the Minister for Health, to ensure that my agencies are working closely to assist in delivering these preventive health measures. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:12):** This is a very important piece of legislation. We are setting forth legislation which I believe will have an impact on this state for many decades to come. We need to tackle this challenge because we are facing an ageing population, we are facing an increase of chronic disease across our community and we have no other option but to try to tackle that at the source in terms of better preventive health in this state; otherwise, we will see impacts in terms of life expectancy, we will see impacts in terms of people's access to care because that will escalate over coming decades. Prevention is better than cure, as so many members of the parliament have said. I thank all the members who have spoken for their support for this very important piece of legislation.

I would like to acknowledge a number of people who have been involved in the drafting of this legislation in getting us to this point, particularly in Preventive Health SA Marina Bowshall; Lisa Atwell and Georgina Ashworth, but particularly as well the advisory council members chaired by the Hon. Nicola Roxon, Dr Michelle Atchison, Todd Harper, David Pearson, Professor Caroline Miller, Associate Professor Odette Pearson, Kim Morey, Dr Rhiannon Pilkington, Andrew Culley and Dr Alison Edwards, all of whom have helped us to identify the issues, work through them, look at models across the country and have helped us to draft what I think is an excellent piece of legislation to be considered by the house today.

I would also like to thank the many different organisations that have not just issued their support but have been so enthusiastic in their support for this legislation. We had the honour of having a number of them here in the parliament when we introduced the bill a couple of weeks ago. All of those bodies are looking forward to having this enshrined, working with this body for many years to come and hopefully setting the pace and the agenda on a national, if not international, stage in terms of making sure that we have the best possible policy responses to tackling this challenge.

We as a state have been on the front foot for so many policy challenges over our time as a state, since South Australia was first established, that I think that we can take that spirit and that ingenuity and focus it on these challenges into the future. With those comments, I endorse this bill to the house and look forward to the very many prevention activities, policies and changes that will come about through the passage of this legislation.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clause 1.

**Ms PRATT:** The short title—a rose by any other name, perhaps minister. The opposition has reflected on the agency, Wellbeing SA, and I note even in government business programs, whether it is preventative or preventive, we arrive here today with a new agency, a new name. My question is: in landing on this bill and this agency that we are now going to be calling Preventive Health SA, what will be the cost to government of changing the name and establishing the agency?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** The advice that I have is that we do not use much letterhead or things like that these days so there has not been cost in that regard, but there was a redesign of the website and that has cost \$17,000. There were obviously a number of costs associated with the work that happened with the establishment of the advisory council in terms of sitting fees and travel costs, and that is for members who elected to be remunerated—of which I note the chair was very clear that she did not want to be remunerated for that work—and the total cost for that was \$12,000.

Clause passed.

Clauses 2 to 5 passed.

Clause 6.

**Ms PRATT:** In a similar vein, as we consider the establishment of the Office for Preventive Health, what would be the operating budget of this agency?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I am advised the operating budget is \$32.8 million. Maybe at this point I will just explain some of the movements in terms of the budget that have happened between Wellbeing—

**Ms Pratt:** Can you just say that figure again, please?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Yes, \$32.8 million. Essentially there have been a number of different movements that have happened to get us to this point. Wellbeing SA was established with a number of functions that were moved from the Department for Health and Wellbeing into Wellbeing SA. Some of these were of a preventive nature, but it also included a number of measures that could be reflected as hospital avoidance or hospital alternative care options as well. One of the key movements and one of the earliest changes that we made was taking that element of that back into the department.

Those elements included all of the contracting that we do in terms of helping people in the community after they have been in hospital, which is an ongoing contract with a number of providers; it includes the Priority Care Centres work as part of that; and also, perhaps notably, My Home Hospital was put as part of Wellbeing SA.

That was part of the model that was designed by the previous minister whereby that would be a funding source for Wellbeing SA to have My Home Hospital and essentially clip the ticket on the way through in terms of activity-based funding and the national efficient price for that, to enable a smaller amount of that money to be able to be spent on My Home Hospital and some of that to be retained in Wellbeing SA.

That has been shifted into the department, and that was a significant movement in terms of the Wellbeing SA budget to the Preventive Health SA budget. You may see differing figures and say, 'That has been a cut to the budget,' but it has actually just been a movement of those functions into the department.

Similarly, the other move that has increased the budget was moving in place the functions that have come from Drug and Alcohol Services SA, particularly where it was the actions and campaigns around smoking cessation and other activities. That has moved into the body and has offset some of the loss in terms of the budget that was taken by moving the integrated care functions back into the department.

**Ms PRATT:** Is there an FTE breakdown for the agency?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** 103.5 FTE.

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder):** I will put clause 6 as printed.

**Mr McBRIDE:** If I may, and I am certainly not here to cause trouble—

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder):** Sure.

**Mr McBRIDE:** I am just seeking clarity. I have to say thank you to you, minister, and to the staff behind you, around preventive health. I am a big supporter and I obviously had a great briefing on this and was excited by the whole process. All I am looking for is clarity in the questions, particularly with the answer you just talked about with the full-time equivalents of 103.5.

In regard to those full-time employees, it is my understanding that they will be executive leadership-type roles to roll out plans and preventive health-type models that would roll into health care—it could be hospitals, it could be community health, it could be education, it could be healthy eating, those sorts of things.

Could the minister just explain: with those full-time equivalents of 103, are they executive level and will not really be what you would call 'on ground', going out into the community and selling



preventive health advocacy—healthy eating, do not smoke, do not use vapes, obesity if it is an issue in the community in certain areas or aspects, those sorts of things? Could you just explain what those 103 full-time equivalents you have just talked about do?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We might not have time for me to describe what all 103 do, but I certainly can give the member—and I thank him for his support of this initiative—a general outline in terms of the answer to his question. The short answer is, no, they are not executives. When we talk about executives in government that has a certain connotation in terms of a particular salary level. There are some executives as part of that, but certainly we do not have the budget to employ everybody at Preventive Health SA at an executive level. There are a range of different classifications under the public sector enterprise bargaining agreement that would be in place.

The member is correct that we have been having a lot of discussion about community nursing and those sorts of things. These are not people who are out providing direct services to the community. These are people who are predominantly developing policies, who are working with other government agencies who are developing campaigns—for instance, people who will be working on new campaigns to encourage people to stop smoking; people who will be working on our legislation that we will be bringing to the parliament continually on issues such as smoking and obesity and other things.

These are the sorts of policy key questions that will be focused on through the agency, rather than people who are necessarily out in the local health networks doing that frontline clinical work, which of course is very, very important, and that is a key role under the Health Care Act that our healthcare networks have to ensure that they are providing those services. They will obviously work closely with Preventive Health SA in terms of some of that work. We have tried to draw the delineation. This is not about treatment, even at that primary care end of early intervention treatment. This is about getting in ahead of the curve, getting in earlier, to make sure that we do not need that to happen at all.

**Ms PRATT:** Just following on from the theme of the FTEs, you answered the first question, which was 103.5, and my question was a breakdown. Can you state whether those FTEs are current employees and they are transferring within the system, or what proportion of that would be new recruitment?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** That is the current budget that we have for 2024-25. Obviously, this is a body that we are seeking to legislate, but it is operating at the moment as an attached office, so it has an existing budget already and 103.5 is the existing budget at the moment.

**Mr McBRIDE:** Thank you, minister, for the previous two answers. Just in regard to those 103 full-time equivalents with this \$32.8 million budget and all about what preventive health is meant to mean in that sphere, could the minister inform the house what sort of other expenditure might be required if, for example, this preventive health goes down to the Life. Be in it-type campaigns? We used to have Norm, the fat fellow watching TV too much and we want people to be more into sport and obviously being active and perhaps getting children off their iPads and out of their phones.

I think the \$32 million probably really covers off the office and staff and paying salaries, but it would not probably cover off on TV commercials or an education policy around healthy eating and what the canteen should be stocking in the foods. These are the sorts of things that have been talked about and I am just wondering: does the minister have any foresight around what sort of additional funds will be needed to actually make preventive health and this whole new sector of health actually function?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** The budget absolutely covers those things as well; that is clearly what this agency is there to do. In the allocation of its budget, between staff and campaigns and activities, there has to be a clear assessment and judgement made in terms of what is the best use of every dollar. One dollar that we spend on a staff member is not one dollar that we can put on an ad campaign in terms of promoting stopping smoking or vaping or obesity, such as Norm and Life. Be in it, as you say. We want to see, to be honest, more hard-hitting and punchy advertisements than we have seen to date. We have had previously, through Wellbeing SA, the walking campaign. We are looking to be a bit more hard-edged in terms of what we do in relation to obesity prevention

in the future, and picking up some of the best evidence that we can from around the country and around the world in terms of what appears to be working.

That budget of \$32 million is certainly not all on staff. For instance, I think \$9 million is in terms of grants funding. There are a number of different grants that Preventive Health SA runs for community organisations, and no doubt the member will be familiar with perhaps some organisations in the electorate of MacKillop that might have been recipients of suicide prevention grants, grants that we have been running at the moment for defibrillator access in the community, and a range of other different grants that we will offer will be part of it.

So you have campaigns, you have grants, you have staff working with people across government, working with leading health experts developing laws and policies for the government and also working with a range of different community organisations, whether that be people in the non-government space or councils or a whole range of different organisations.

Clause passed.

Clause 7.

**Ms PRATT:** Minister, the question I have is about the operating budget for the chief executive and if that is different to your answer that you gave about the operating budget of the agency being \$32.8 million. What is the operating budget for the chief executive, and how many staff are allocated?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I am advised that it is the same.

**Mr McBRIDE:** I want to talk about success here, and I hope that the minister is on the same page as me. Obviously it is the chief executive but I suppose I am really talking about functions and what this new Preventive Health can mean. One of the things that I did not get a clear explanation of in my briefing—I am sorry, I am not having a go about my briefing either, but one of the things I want to be able to do is to back this and support this, and I want Preventive Health and this new mechanism that you are implementing here to work.

One of the things that I struggle to identify is how you are going to measure success. How will you know that when you spend your \$32.8 million budget that you should not take it out to \$100 million because you have \$500 million worth of success if you manage to have some real changes in life, and over the health \$9 billion budget that I know you have to deal with for South Australia?

In regard to a function of the success of the chief executive and the whole idea here and the staff, how will the success be measured and how will you know not to either increase the budget or to say, 'We need to change tack here because what we intended is not working'?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** That is a very good question from the member for MacKillop and I think you have hit the nail on the head in terms of the challenge of prevention. It is hard to define that success. It is hard to get a quick win where you say that by next year we will have reduced the number of overweight South Australians by half. That is not going to happen. It is long timeframes with this work, and that is unfortunately why it becomes an easy thing to not prioritise. We are all politicians and we are on four-yearly cycles, and this work is decades in the making.

However, you can go back and look at where there have been public health and prevention successes over time and the biggest and foremost is in terms of smoking. Incremental work over time has got us to a point where we have significantly reduced the smoking rate in this state and around the country and around large parts of the Western world at least. None of it is quick and none of it can be within a short four-year timeframe.

What you can do is measure individual elements of that and how they are contributing to the whole. Certainly as part of each campaign that will be run there has to be an evaluation done of that. There has to be work done to make sure that it is as effective as it possibly can be, and there are measures that public health researchers and public health experts can use to determine whether or not it has had an impact.

However, the bigger question is obviously over a much longer timeframe, and part of the work of Preventive Health SA will have to be monitoring and providing that information in terms of how we are going against some of these bigger questions, such as obesity, smoking, mental health and wellbeing—a whole range of these issues—to make sure that we are on track.

**Mr McBRIDE:** The answer is actually what I was looking for and I thank the minister for that. The next part of my question is a concern I raised in my briefing, which is that, if you look at the chief executive and the functions, clause 7(1)(f) says:

to monitor and report on investment and expenditure on preventive health measures...

It is almost like the chief executive is going to be evaluating potentially his own success or failings which, if he is like any other chief executive that work in the government, I do not think he will really want to rock into your office, minister, and say, 'I've done a terrible job. I'm failing in my role and this is a waste of \$32 million.' That would be the first time I have ever seen a public servant come in and admit that.

How do we make sure that, when we report on this new Preventive Health, it lacks any sort of conflict, that it has been assessed and that it has been given a sort of oversight? As I said, I want it to work. It could be assessed by some sort of group, industry, sector or something that is not connected in any shape or fashion that can lead to either a change in direction or better outcomes to make sure your \$32 million is being spent wisely and whether it should be taken out to \$60 million because the benefits are there to be grabbed.

It is almost like you have got started but you have not; you have almost starved it by perhaps being diligent and saying, 'Let's just dip our toe into the water first,' but this is something that is gathering pace and saving \$500 million, for example, with a \$60 million investment in preventive health that might be five years down the track. One of the things I see in the functions of the chief executive is it is almost like this self-reporting type of process and, for all intents and purposes, that worries me.

I wonder whether we should have some sort of anonymous type of process here that would be a strong advocate for either giving you some bad news for some change in direction or actually giving you good news and you should be investing further.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I am pleased to refer the member to clause 16, which outlines the functions of the council, and the council will have an important role in the legislation in looking at the performance of a number of these things. It will have expert people on it and they will look at the performance in terms of how progress is going against the strategic plan, looking at emerging data and research. It will also meet with the minister and will report on the performance of the chief executive. I hope that gives you some comfort in that it is not just a self-assessment.

Clause passed.

Clauses 8 to 11 passed.

Clause 12.

**Ms PRATT:** Minister, your office may also have received this feedback from members in the community asking detailed questions about the establishment of the advisory council. There were some concerns raised about the absence of an applicant who has a background in clinical translation and implementation. To be fair, I have raised this with parliamentary counsel as well. I am interested to know how the chief executive would navigate someone bringing that skill set, benchmarked against the criteria as they currently are, so a background in clinical and implementation.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** In terms of subclause (3), my reading of this is that they are things that need to be covered off but they are not exhaustive in terms of the areas in which we would need to have covered in terms of the council. It may well be that the area that the member has identified in terms of translation clinically, or any other range of skills, would be considered in addition to those skills. I guess those are the minimum areas that need to be covered by the membership of the council.

It is certainly my opinion that it would be hard to imagine that you would be able to cover off all of those things without having somebody that would have an understanding in terms of clinical translation as part of it. While this is not a body that is delivering clinical services, I think that having somebody on there with clinical expertise would be necessary in terms of meeting those objectives in relation to a number of those subparagraphs in place, whether it is (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e). There certainly would be a number of clinicians, people who know about clinical translation, who would also meet those criteria under subclause (3).

**Mr McBRIDE:** I think in general, minister, in regard to the nomination/collection of this council and its criteria, it does cover a very broad base and it does leave the opportunity wide open for you. One of the things I did bring up in my briefing was that one of the things that it seems to be missing is that there is, for example, no-one from the education department on this council. I know you could do this, and I know that you could get someone from the education department. You might say to me, 'Why would you do that?' If you are going to try to change behaviour around the classroom for teenagers under the age of 18, it is the school system that really looks after these students more than any other body at any other time during their lives.

I would have thought that if you wanted to address anything to do with children, so they could live healthier from their first day in life to 18 years of age, you would work through the education system. It is potentially one of those feedback matters, who to have on your council. What I said in the briefing—and I had a really great opportunity in the briefing to talk with a couple of your departmental staff in this area—is one thing we know is that our teachers are already battling to be a teacher, yet they have to worry about breakfast, about whether the students are turning up, about their home life, whether the children are on their phones, whether the phones are in the school or not, whether they are allowed to bring the phone along, whether the children are behaving, whether they are learning what they are supposed to be learning. Then Preventive Health could come along and say, 'Well, you should be making sure they are eating a healthy lunch as well.'

My point here is that if you do not have grassroots-type representation, knowing what the battles are for a teacher, for example, where we are trying to look at a student group, for example, from age zero to 18, then this council does not clearly say you should have someone from the education department. I am hoping it leaves it wide enough open to you, minister, that you do not have to make up the council from just the health sector because that would be a travesty of justice in this whole process working well.

The next sector I would ask the minister to consider, which I again raised in the briefing, is there is no-one from the police force in this either, or that demographic of emergency services. It could be a paramedic, it could be an ambulance operator or so forth. Why would you do that? Let me tell you. Police are actually trying to mop up our society problems and maintain law and order.

We have a policeman in Naracoorte who has been given an award for being a magnificent policeman because he is specialising in domestic violence, and he did a terrific job. We have mental health and stress out there in society, and police are trying to help navigate and look after innocent people, let alone the people who are causing the problems. I think that your council would be stronger if it was diverse in its range of advocacy and diverse in its range of experience and not just about the health system, which sometimes tries to bandaid—this is not a bandaid, this is preventive. This is before we put the bandaid on.

That is why I think your council really deserves the broadest range of representation you can find and all true to your meaning in this government here. I can see that Indigenous is getting a strong representation here, but you are not getting representation from those who are having to deal with some of the biggest consequences when our society breaks down and things go badly.

The question to you is: is your council that you have a selection from here going to be broad enough in its range of selection, and can you give any sort of assurance that you will cover off things like education and the emergency services type area?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** I will just be clear from the outset. We are not going to have a representation body that is the council. There is not somebody whose job it is to say, 'I am representing the police and I am going to take the police force's view on this body.' This is a

skills-based organisation. People will be bringing different skills, not representing a particular organisation.

Having said that, the member is absolutely right that the whole of this organisation's job is not just about the health system. This is why we have divorced this from the Department for Health. This has to be reaching into all the areas of government, but also areas outside of government as well, working with education, working with the police, working with planners, working with every area of government.

We need people on this council who are skilled in a number of different areas, who bring different perspectives to the table, but they will not necessarily all be representing all the various elements, because that would be impossible. We will end up with a council of 50 people if we do that. The idea is to reach in and connect.

The short answer is I think we do have broad enough scope in terms of the way that this is drafted to be able to include people who have experience in different sectors on the council, but irrespective of that it is the organisation's job—what we call health in all policies—to be able to go and connect with the various different parts of government and ensure that there are programs in place in schools to make sure that we can address the health of our young people, which is clearly a critical area of preventive health policy.

Clause passed.

Clauses 13 and 14 passed.

Clause 15.

**Ms PRATT:** Remuneration: I am just interested to know what would be the threshold for remuneration and allowances being paid, and what is the budget.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** As I understand it, for all of our various boards and committees across government the process is that there is a policy in place across government and there will be a Premier's Circular—I am sure someone will know the number—that sets that there is a determination made by the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet as to what the remuneration would be for that. We do not specify it in the legislation.

Following passage and establishment of this act, hopefully there would be a minute that would go to the chief executive, Mr Damien Walker, and there would be an assessment done across government of boards and committees. They would make a determination as to what remuneration would be in place for this, and that would have to be allocated as appropriate from the existing budget.

Clause passed.

Clause 16.

**Mr McBRIDE:** This is one of the things I have probably failed to say—and this is actually to support what you are doing here, because I actually do believe in your preventive health process here. One of the things that I am fearing—and this is what I said in the brief and actually forgot—is that your intention as a minister I have to say I support. I hope it does work. One of the things I did say is that you are not always the minister and you are not always the government. What other ministers can do to this, or what other governments can do to this, is it can be erased, it can be evaporated. How does it stand the test of time? That is what I actually said in my briefing.

No-one really understood how we would actually lock that down or make sure that it was not just a Johnny-come-lately sort of system that lasted four, five, six or 10 years, for the term of your ministry or this government, for example—even though you might have a longer tenure in your job, or the whole government may.

One of the things I want to strongly advocate for, to make sure that success is more likely your outcome here, is about the way that this council is going to function and who they report to. Let's just say that it is about making sure they are doing everything they can for the \$32.8 million you are spending to help save however much of the \$9 billion health budget that could be saved.

Interestingly enough, I just picked up on this point here in clause 16 that the council has to advise the chief executive and the chief executive has to advise the minister, but in clause 16(1)(f) it says:

(f) to give advice to the Minister for the purposes of section 6(2)...

If you go and look that up, that actually means you are reporting to the Premier, as far as I can see, and you will correct me if I have got this wrong.

Minister, can you inform me in regard to the council—who I think, ultimately, are going to be the voice of what is going on and how they are going to do it and obviously, from what I am seeing, report on the successes or failures—how we can have surety that we have not just created a body here for the sake of employing people to sit back in chairs and say, 'We're doing a great job. I'm going to tell the minister what he doesn't really know anyway, that everything's going well. I love his \$32.8 million and we're having a real wow of a time'?

For all the cynicism, what I am trying to say is that I am worried that you do not have any sorts of processes in place to ensure that you cannot have the wool pulled over your eyes, and I do not want that to happen. I want the authorities, the people who belong to this, to be passionate. I want them to be honest. I do not want them to be like what I have to say is seen by the people of South Australia as typical Public Service, just doing what they want. I am asking you, minister: what sureties do we have? Even though you have a reporting mechanism through this chief executive coming back to you and coming back to the Premier, as I said, if they tell you lies and porkies and not the real truth and pull the wool over your eyes, what surety do we have that we are not just wasting the \$32.8 million?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** Thank you to the member for MacKillop. I thank him for his support of the legislation. I agree with him: we need this to be a body that lasts the test of time. That is why we are seeking to legislate. I think that is one of the key reasons why it will help; it is very hard to pull back legislation. Another precondition is that we appreciate that there is bipartisan support for this matter as well. I think that is a key element.

But, clearly, for the organisation to last the test of time, it is going to need to be successful in the eyes of government, opposition, the parliament and also the public. That will be a test in terms of making sure it gets the runs on the board so that a future minister, a future government, a future parliament does not seek to wind this back. Just having this legislation in place does not automatically mean that it is going to be a success. There has to be a lot of hard work to ensure that it is going to be a success.

I do not share the concerns the member has that the council is going to pull the wool over the minister's eyes on a whole range of matters. I think that there are a number of integrity elements of our laws and integrity bodies that would ensure that that is not the case. I am confident that this is one of the things that is going to help us. There is also the fact that, in terms of drafting this, I did not just go to parliamentary counsel and say, 'Can you whip us up a bill?' We brought together a range of different experts, we set them the task of coming up with the best piece of legislation that they could, we publicly consulted on that, and then we brought it to the parliament. I think that shows that this has been a robust process to get to this point and not some sort of bureaucratic process that I think the member is fearing that it is.

**Mr McBRIDE:** This is the last one on this point, and I do not think I have many more after this because I do like what the minister is trying to achieve here. Minister, one of the things we have seen and we have advocated for to your government is that the sports vouchers, for example, be extended beyond 14 years of age. In clause 16(2)(a), (b) and (c)—mainly clause 16(2)—in the last sentence it talks about 'health policy and action and the allocation of sufficient funding and other resources'.

The old 1980s Life. Be in it. program had Norm in front of his TV. One of the things we are now seeing is our young population spending way too much time in front of computers and phones. If this committee, this function of preventive health, says, 'We are losing too many 14 year olds and older from participation in sport, and we think that the sporting vouchers should be rolled out to 18 year olds,' is that the sort of role that you can see that this preventive health could be advocating for?

Let's just say that all the members in this house—I do not care whether they are Labor, Liberal, a crossbencher or an Independent—said, 'Yes, this sporting voucher process really does keep children in sport with the cost of living. It stops at the moment at 14.' Let's just say it is costing you \$100 million, but if it cost the government another \$50 million to capture the 14 to 18 year olds to keep students in sport, is this the sort of role you think preventive health will or could play, and is that what it means in the last sentence in clause 16(2) when it says 'policy and action and the allocation of sufficient funding and other resources' for preventive health across the state, with the examples in (a), (b) and (c)?

**The ACTING CHAIR (Mr Odenwalder):** Before you answer, minister, I apologise to you, member for MacKillop, and to the minister, but I am going to need to ask you to report progress please, unless you can answer it in 30 seconds.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON:** We are very close I think. Essentially, the short answer is yes. Obviously, we want this organisation to work across government and to be involved in a whole range of policy matters, not just this specific one, where there are preventive health issues in other departments.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (17 to 21), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:57):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### **PET FOOD (MARKETING AND LABELLING) BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO) BILL**

*Final Stages*

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

#### **JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMMISSIONER (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 18:00 the house adjourned until Tuesday 29 October 2024 at 11:00.