

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19 August 2025

**The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)** took the chair at 11:00.

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

**The SPEAKER** read prayers.

### *Bills*

#### **MENTAL HEALTH (COMMUNITY VISITOR SCHEME) AMENDMENT BILL**

##### *Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 30 April 2025.)

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:01):** Mr Speaker, welcome back to us.

**The SPEAKER:** I just have to remember everyone's electorate names again!

**Ms PRATT:** F for Frome, Mr Speaker—for a few more months. I rise as the lead spokesperson for the opposition on the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill.

On 30 April 2025, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing introduced the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025, aimed at amending the Mental Health Act 2009. This legislative framework is pivotal in governing the treatment, care and rehabilitation of individuals with severe mental illnesses, with a strong emphasis on recovery and the protection of patient rights. A significant element of this framework is the Community Visitor Scheme, which has been under review following a statutory examination by the South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI) in April 2023.

As part of the consultation process, we know that this review was prompted by statewide public consultations and critical incidents, leading to a supplementary consultation phase from December 2024 to February 2025. While comprehensive amendments to the Mental Health Act 2009 are anticipated at some point, the current bill specifically targets sections 50 and 51, which relate to the Community Visitor Scheme. The requirement for these amendments has been underscored by the South Australian Public Advocate, Anne Gale, who has advocated for expedited—and I underline that word for a reason—expedited legislative action to support the work of volunteer visitors in residential and outpatient treatment settings.

In lifting my head, I notice some special guests in the chamber this morning, and I would join the minister, in his second reading speech three months ago, in thanking public servants for their contribution, including the Chief Psychiatrist, who is present with us today.

The consultation process for the draft bill, conducted between November 2023 and February 2024, was limited to select advocacy groups and did not include SALRI, despite recommendations for broader engagement. While it is the opposition's intention to pretty swiftly support this bill, there is an opportunity that I will take to touch on just a couple of points of concern, perhaps.

Key amendments proposed in the bill include the authority for the minister to appoint, remove or suspend community visitors, along with enabling the Principal Community Visitor to delegate powers solely to staff members. We benefited from an opportunity to receive a briefing from the government to explore that a little further. Furthermore, the frequency of visits to community mental health facilities is set to change. Residential facilities will now be visited at least once every four months, and outpatient facilities at least once every six months, which is a shift from the current bimonthly requirement.

The bill is structured into two main parts, incorporating a transitional provision. The first part establishes the role of the Principal Community Visitor, appointed by the Governor for a maximum of five years, with provisions for removal based on parliamentary addresses or misconduct. The second allows the minister to appoint community visitors for terms not exceeding three years, and grants the Principal Community Visitor the ability to delegate functions to other visitors or designated individuals—a necessary flexibility given reports of the high rate of visit cancellations reported, particularly across the regions. Additionally, the bill mandates inspections of treatment centres at least every two months, while specifying inspection frequencies for both residential and outpatient community mental health facilities to ensure adherence to regulatory standards.

The overarching goal of the proposed amendments is to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of the community visitor engagements and inspections, as welcomed by the Public Advocate, who argues—argued, past tense—quite a while ago for the immediacy of these changes rather than waiting for a comprehensive overhaul of the entire act, which still seems some way off. Part of the briefing that the opposition received was in explaining why this particular set of amendments or this amendment bill needed to be brought forward forthwith. It was to respect the call that was coming from the Public Advocate, who was arguing for the immediacy, the importance, the urgency of these changes. It is a fairly mild complaint, but I think that the house will see very shortly that a two or three-minute speech that was ready three months ago, when the minister delivered his second reading speech, would have gifted back to the state an opportunity for this bill to pass faster than it has.

Finally, the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025 represents a step towards improving oversight and support for individuals with mental health challenges, which obviously fosters a more responsive and accountable mental health care system in South Australia. The opposition shares with the government a commitment to see dollars spent wisely, community services expanded, the workforce supported and, in particular, those who are associated with the visitor scheme to feel the full benefits of this amendment bill. I repeat my gratitude to those who have contributed to its drafting, to the consultation period, and to the minister for bringing this through. With those comments, I commend this bill to the house.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (11:08):** I am speaking on the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025. This Community Visitor Scheme in South Australia plays a huge and important role in safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of people receiving care from a mental health service, people in a state-run disability service, and also NDIS participants who are under the guardianship of the Public Advocate.

Community visitors are trained advocates who conduct regular visits to different sites, providing independent advice and support to the participant or patient and their loved ones. It involves listening to clients about their experience, the care they are receiving and their treatment, reviewing the environment and client records, understanding the work of the service, and clients' engagement in community and activities. It does go beyond a social or conversational visit, and it requires considerable critical thinking and analysis and concise report-writing skills. Importantly, when the reports identify room for improvement, they inform and escalate where appropriate to the service provider, relevant authorities and/or the relevant minister.

This bill makes important changes to the Community Visitor Scheme operating for mental health services under the Mental Health Act 2009. These include varying the schedule for visits to residential authorised community mental health facilities and outpatient authorised community mental health facilities and strategically aligning visits to when it is more meaningful and practical. This is particularly useful in regional areas.

In addition, changing the responsibility of appointing, suspending or removing a community visitor to the minister streamlines the administration process. This also enables the Principal Community Visitor to delegate powers and functions, ensuring more visits can go ahead when volunteers are unable to attend at the last minute and thus reducing cancellations and improving service continuity.

These changes will help improve flexibility and efficiency across the whole Community Visitor Scheme, reduce administrative strain and take a risk-based approach to mental health site visits.

Our government absolutely knows the valuable role our community visitors play in monitoring, policy input and system advocacy.

I would like to briefly reflect on my experience with a couple of our really important community visitors; that is, the principal community visitors. I recall attending the launch of the disability service Community Visitor Scheme—I think that was in around 2015 or thereabouts—with the then minister, Tony Piccolo, and the Principal Community Visitor, Maurice Corcoran. I was so impressed at that point as a relatively new member of parliament with the professional conduct, the knowledge and the compassion of Maurice Corcoran. That was the first time I had met him, but having worked in disability services on and off—and definitely in health for the previous nearly 30 years—I was in fact very pleased to see that this service was not only part of the safeguarding in mental health but would be part of a safeguarding regime for people with disability.

I then formed a really good working relationship with Maurice Corcoran and a friendship that is enduring and has allowed me as well to be able to workshop ideas and thoughts with Maurice Corcoran over the years on a range of matters. I want to thank Maurice and place it on record that I thank him deeply for his input and his determination to make the community a stronger and safer place for all people who may, for whatever reason, become vulnerable or feel that they do not have a voice.

I then move to Anne Gale, who is the Public Advocate and has been for some time. If my memory serves me correctly, it was around 2021 when Maurice Corcoran stood down that Anne Gale was then asked to fill in that role as Principal Community Visitor and do that as a dual role: Public Advocate and Principal Community Visitor. I meet with Anne multiple times a year and speak to her as well in between, should the need be triggered. Anne does an absolutely extraordinary job with her team, providing me with advice as the Minister for Human Services. I want to thank both Maurice Corcoran and Anne Gale for their enduring and powerful service and the legacies that both of them are putting in place within our service provision.

Every year, where possible—I do not think we have missed a year—Minister Picton and I together attend the community visitor thankyou event near the end of the year. It is an appreciation and a volunteer celebration all at once. We have been to the last few of those together and thoroughly enjoy that time that we have talking to people about the experiences they are having and the service they are providing. I would not let a lady's age be talked about publicly, but I am sure the excellent community visitor well into their 90s knows who I am talking about.

People make a contribution to the service, often having previously worked in a care delivery type of role, a community service role or actually in the Public Service. Those people make fantastic community visitors. I would encourage people to go to the website and have a look at how they can put their hand up to be a volunteer visitor.

That event that we go to every year is a real eye-opener to the dedication and commitment that people show and can offer after they retire or change jobs. In fact, more so recently, I have noticed more students or people who are graduate entry into the workforce getting involved to help improve their communication, assessment and observation skills. I think that is a really good opportunity as well.

We know how much the scheme means to all the people who are involved. Last year, we congratulated two long-term visitors, Judy and Anne. They have been with the service for well over 10 years. I thank all the community visitors for what they do. This bill will enable them to continue to do that really important work in our care sector, supporting and advocating for those people who may be unable to do so themselves. This bill will provide some streamlined processes for us to be more efficient and effective in what we do in supporting all those fantastic visitors. I commend the bill.

**Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:17):** I rise today in support of the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025, which seeks to amend the Mental Health Act 2009. The Community Visitor Scheme plays a vital role as an independent oversight body visiting mental health and disability services across our state. The scheme safeguards the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable members of our community, ensuring their experiences are heard and that they are valued.

Established under the Mental Health Act 2009, the scheme serves as a key mechanism for ensuring independent oversight of mental health and disability services. At its heart, the scheme

exists to uphold the rights of those receiving care, particularly people living with severe mental illness, by listening to their experiences, monitoring their environments and advocating for change when necessary. People undergoing mental health treatment, especially those who are involuntarily detained, occupy a uniquely vulnerable position. Independent oversight is critical to ensuring their rights are protected, that they are treated with dignity and respect and that any issues of abuse, neglect or improper care are identified and addressed.

Mental health services visited by the Community Visitor Scheme include the Flinders Medical Centre, Glenside Health Services, James Nash House, Lyell McEwin Hospital, Modbury Hospital, Mount Gambier and Districts Health Service and the Noarlunga health service. The scheme has also visited treatment centres, including The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Ramsay Clinic Adelaide and the Repat Health Precinct in my electorate.

The Community Visitor Scheme supports people receiving care for mental health services, those receiving disability support in their homes, individuals who have the Public Advocate as their guardian and those with an NDIS plan. Its role is to ensure that everyone's human rights are respected and upheld. To do this, the scheme enlists volunteers known as community visitors. These volunteers visit services, check in on how people are being supported and report any issues they find. If a problem cannot be resolved locally, they escalate it to make sure it gets the attention it needs.

Community visitor volunteers come from many different walks of life, each bringing their own unique skills and experiences, but there is one thing they all share: a deep and passionate commitment to upholding the rights and wellbeing of people. Currently, around 41 community visitors generously dedicate their time to this vital work across our state. These volunteers are tireless advocates, working to ensure the highest possible quality of life and care for those receiving mental health and disability support. They draw on a broad range of professional and personal experiences, including some with lived experience themselves, to guide their important work and fulfil the significant responsibilities of this role.

I want to sincerely commend community visitors—every single one of you—and all other volunteers and workers for giving their time, skills and energy to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of South Australians living with disability or mental health challenges. This community visitor role is much more than a social visit. It requires careful inquiry, thoughtful observation and detailed report writing.

Community visitors operate independently of the services they monitor. This independence means they can speak freely and report without fear or favour. They are not subject to internal pressures, and their presence encourages services to maintain high standards, because someone is watching and someone cares. This helps to build trust in the system for both patients and the broader community.

Every time a community visitor enters a service, they are opening a door to a conversation, often with people who otherwise may have little opportunity to speak up. Community visitors talk directly with clients about their care and treatment. They ask questions like: 'Do you feel safe?', 'Are your needs being met?', 'Are you being supported, engaged and treated with dignity?'

The power of those conversations cannot be overstated. For someone in a locked ward, simply being asked those questions and knowing someone is listening can be a lifeline. Over time, regular visits can reveal patterns. They can help identify systemic issues, such as understaffing, unsafe environments, gaps in therapeutic support, and missed opportunities for recovery. This helps create a cycle of learning, accountability and improvement.

In 2023-24, the Community Visitor Scheme made 753 visits to mental health and disability services, produced 506 reports, and found 369 issues that needed attention and five matters of concern that were escalated to senior executives and ministers. Under the Mental Health Act, the rights of patients are not just ethical; they are legal obligations. Independent checking ensures that services comply with the law, that people's liberty is only restricted when justified, and that there is proper documentation of decisions and treatments.

The proposed amendments before us are practical and important. They strengthen the scheme by allowing the minister, rather than the Governor, to appoint, suspend or remove community

visitors, and this will improve efficiency. The bill also gives the Principal Community Visitor the power to delegate tasks, so visits can go ahead even if someone else cannot attend.

Finally, this bill also introduces minimum visiting frequencies for community-based and outpatient services based on risk, while also maintaining robust oversight of inpatient treatment centres. These changes will make the scheme more flexible, responsive and sustainable, particularly as community-based services continue to expand.

An accountable mental health system means putting people first. It means that every person who seeks help receives timely, respectful support. It means health services and providers are responsible not only for delivering care but also for outcomes, ensuring interventions can lead to real improvements in people's lives.

The government and the mental health system value the role of community visitors, who volunteer their time and expertise for the scheme to succeed. Every voice matters, every visit counts and every safeguard brings us one step closer to a more just, compassionate and accountable mental health system.

I think the fact that our Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley, is sitting in the gallery for this debate today shows how much the broader government and community really value the scheme. Thank you for being here, Dr Brayley. I commend this bill to the house.

**Mrs PEARCE (King) (11:24):** I rise today to speak on the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill. We live in a society that prides itself on fairness, dignity and care, but the truth is that not everyone is able to stand up and speak out when things go wrong, which is why the Community Visitor Scheme is so important. At its heart, the scheme is about independent eyes, avid listening and compassionate advocacy.

Mental health care is a universal human right and one that I hold very close to my heart. Every South Australian deserves access to quality, compassionate mental health care, no matter their circumstance. They have the right to be safe, respected and treated with dignity. We need to ensure that we create supported environments for people at their time of greatest need, and we also need to ensure we put the appropriate protections in place to keep them safe, which is why I rise to speak on this bill. It plays such an incredible, significant role as an independent oversight body in South Australian mental health and disability services.

Our government deeply values the role of community visitors. Their role, under the guide of Principal Community Visitor Anne Gale, is entirely voluntary, which means they provide their invaluable time, hard work and expertise to ensure this scheme can succeed out of the goodness of their hearts. They are there to listen, observe and to speak up when needed. More importantly, they are there to give a voice to the voiceless. When someone cannot speak up for themselves because perhaps they are isolated, they are afraid or have gone unheard, community visitors ensure that they are not forgotten.

The role can be challenging, and it goes far beyond a social visit. It involves actively listening to clients to ensure their experiences, care and treatment meet the appropriate standard of care for our health sector—and it works. This scheme has led to real improvements in living conditions, better treatment and increased accountability from service providers.

Community visitors can highlight individual issues, but they also report on broader systematic problems to help shape better policy and practice going into the future, and they possess considerable inquiry and report-writing skills. These reports, with any observations and issues noted, are forwarded to the respective service and escalated when it is needed. Over the last reporting period, 753 community visits were undertaken with 506 reports completed. This enabled 369 issues to be identified and reported, with five matters of concern being escalated to senior executives, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Human Services.

These reports can cover whether clients have a plan of care and support in place and whether that client has been involved in its development; are being treated with dignity and respect; are receiving responsive and appropriate services for their needs; and are supported in facilities that meet required standards and their needs. Community visitors may also advocate for a client regarding their care and treatment. With their client's consent, community visitors can communicate any issues to staff at the service to try to resolve the matter and escalate where it is appropriate.

As I mentioned before, the role of community visitors is entirely voluntary. As with all volunteers, they dedicate their own personal time, skills and knowledge to assist in the delivery of quality mental health and disability care to all South Australians. Volunteers are the backbone of our state, especially those who dedicate their time to our healthcare system. They can make clients and patients alike feel safe and cared for in what can sometimes be an intimidating setting and often in very distressful times of their lives.

Not only are we grateful, we are here to back them in. Our government knows how imperative the Community Visitor Scheme is to health care in our state, which is why the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025 seeks to amend the Mental Health Act 2009 to provide greater flexibility for the scheme, as more community services are gazetted by the Chief Psychiatrist, while ensuring the current legislative requirement to visit and inspect treatment centres, being higher acuity services, at least once every two-month period is not affected. The amendments also seek to:

- authorise the minister to appoint, remove or suspend a community visitor, instead of the current Governor appointment;
- enable the Principal Community Visitor to delegate powers and functions, ensuring more visits can go ahead when volunteers are unable to attend at late notice;
- allow for visits and inspections of residential community mental health facilities to occur at least once in every four-month period, unless specified by regulation; and
- allow for visits and inspections at least once in every six-month period for outpatient authorised community healthcare facilities.

With the flexibility given to community visitors, thanks to these amendments, they can continue to provide outstanding mental health and disability care and provide vital independent advocacy for their clients. This legislation reminds us of something that is absolutely essential: that everyone has a right to live a dignified life. No-one should be hidden away or ignored simply because they live in care.

Thank you again to the volunteers, staff and advocates who support this scheme: your work reflects the very best of our community—fairness, compassion and the courage to speak up. With that, I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (11:30):** I, too, rise today to support the Mental Health (Community Visitor Scheme) Amendment Bill 2025. The Community Visitor Scheme is one of the quiet strengths of our mental health and disability systems. It is an independent safeguard, a human voice and a practical oversight body that makes sure dignity, safety and rights are upheld. It operates under the Mental Health Act 2009 and the Disability Services Regulations and is carried out by trained volunteers who give their time and expertise to support people at their most vulnerable.

The scheme is preventative rather than reactive. It does not wait for something to go wrong before stepping in. Instead, community visitors proactively visit, listen, observe and report. They ask clients whether they feel safe, whether they feel respected and engaged in their treatment. They review the environment and records, they speak to staff and they provide clear feedback, both informally on the day and formally through detailed reports to the Principal Community Visitor, and then these reports are escalated if concerns remain unresolved.

I frequently speak with vulnerable people in my community who are just feeling overwhelmed. This can be for a range of reasons, many of which are not relevant to my speech today. But, it has made me deeply mindful that often people just need a caring and empathetic person to listen to them and to help guide them through a challenging time. Sometimes it is a process or a system that just seems completely overwhelming for that person in the crisis that they might be in, or if they are suffering with mental health challenges. Just knowing that someone is there to listen and to advocate for them can make a huge difference, and that is how I know just how important and valued the CVS visits are.

The scheme is not just about the casual social visits: it requires skill, compassion and rigour. Over the past reporting year, community visitors have undertaken 753 visits across South Australia and, as we have heard, they have produced 506 reports, raising 369 issues that required further attention. I am sure the answers to those reports are providing real improvements in people's lives.

They visited approximately 250 disability services, meeting nearly 600 clients. I can only imagine how many improvements have come from those visits and the real change for people and their families. This work really matters, because mental health care is not a privilege, it is a universal human right. Every visit helps protect that right. Every report ensures accountability and every conversation with a client helps build a safer, kinder and more effective system.

In my electorate of Davenport, we see the importance of this work every day. At Flinders Medical Centre many local families have had loved ones cared for in the Margaret Tobin Centre. One mother told me about the difference it made when a community visitor recommendation was acted on—changes as simple as clearer signage and scheduled quiet hours in the ward, which ease distress during an acute episode of illness. A man recovering in a community residential program spoke with me about how a visitor asked him if the activities advertised on the notice board actually happened, and that simple question led to a walking group and a gardening program that became central to his recovery.

Another local woman shared with me how the scheme prompted her outpatient clinic to introduce better appointment reminders and telehealth options, reducing missed sessions and preventing crisis. These may sound like small changes, but for the people experiencing them they are life-changing.

The bill before us makes sensible amendments to support the scheme as it evolves with our mental health system. It allows the minister, rather than the Governor, to appoint, suspend or remove community visitors, ensuring that appointments can be made quickly and responsively. It allows the Principal Community Visitor to delegate powers and functions so that visits can still go ahead when last minute changes occur. It extends the scheme to residential community mental health facilities requiring visits at least every four months, and ensures outpatient authorised facilities are visited at least every six months. Importantly, though, it does not alter the requirement for inpatient treatment centres to be inspected every two months. Those higher acuity settings will continue to receive the closest oversight.

These changes are practical and they are measured. They strengthen independence, expand reach and ensure the scheme can adapt to new services as they are gazetted by the Chief Psychiatrist. Most importantly, they reinforce our commitment to the rights, safety and dignity of people in mental health and disability services.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of Principal Community Visitor, Anne Gale, and thank every community visitor who gives their time to this work. Their efforts, often unseen, make a real difference in people's lives, including in my community. I also thank the staff and service providers who respond constructively to their recommendations, because true accountability is not about defensiveness but about partnership in the pursuit of better care.

This bill strengthens that partnership. It equips the Community Visitor Scheme to keep doing what it does best: listening, observing, reporting and advocating for improvements. It ensures the protections in our laws are lived out in practice in wards, residential homes and community clinics. For the people of Davenport and for all South Australians this is about more than legislation; it is about trust, safety, and quality, compassionate care. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:35):** I thank all members for their contributions: the member for Frome on behalf of the opposition, and the members for Elder, King and Davenport on our side of the house, as well as the Minister for Human Services, and I note the joint stewardship that we have between our portfolios in relation to this important area.

The Community Visitor Scheme provides an integral safeguarding service, promoting wellbeing, dignity, safety and rights for people living with a mental health condition receiving care from a mental health service as well as, of course, through disability services. This bill provides more practical and greater flexibility to conduct visitations as the gazettal of more and more community health services continues. There has been a significant effort from the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist to gazette more and more of those services and, therefore, we have needed a new approach to how this legislation works.

I would like to thank the Principal Community Visitor, Anne Gale, for her work, but particularly all the volunteers who provide that really important service right across the state. As the Minister for Human Services said, the minister and I have been regularly meeting with those visitors at their

annual functions to thank them for their work and the service they provide on behalf of the people of South Australia. I would also like to thank everyone who has been working collaboratively in relation to this bill, particularly the Chief Psychiatrist, Dr John Brayley; Sally Cunningham from the OCP; Gabrielle Karas from the OCP; the team in the office of the Principal Community Visitor; and Lauris Buckley in my office as well. With those comments, I look forward to the consideration of this bill by the house.

Bill read a second time.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (11:38):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**AGEING AND ADULT SAFEGUARDING (REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 4 June 2025.)

**The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Tourism, Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11:39):** I rise today to speak in support of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill reflects the Malinauskas government's ongoing commitment to strengthen protections for vulnerable adults. As Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I recognise that these reforms represent an opportunity to improve the rights and experiences of our diverse communities within the aged-care sector.

The bill strengthens the objective for the Office for Ageing Well to promote respect and inclusion, which will have a particularly positive impact for South Australians from multicultural backgrounds. These amendments strengthen protections, improve access and embed cultural responsiveness into elder safeguarding.

The Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995 established the Office for Ageing Well to help South Australians age with dignity and stay active and connected with their communities. In 2018, amendments to the act led to the creation of the Adult Safeguarding Unit, the first of its kind in Australia. Initially responsible for handling reports of abuse involving older people and individuals with disabilities, the unit's role has since broadened to cover all vulnerable adults across South Australia. These amendments in 2018 included a requirement for an independent review of the act's operation within three years of the change.

Back in 2016, when I was Minister for Ageing, we led some very strong conversations around elder abuse, how to recognise it, what it is and how our legislative and policy work around it could be supporting it. We then saw some changes in 2018, and we are now here in 2025 to deepen the role of the work of the Office for Ageing Well and to understand the complexities within elder abuse and safeguarding of adults as well.

The South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI) carried out the review, engaging with a diverse group of stakeholders, including individuals with lived experience, government agencies and the wider community. The review proposed amendments to modernise and update the objectives and functions of the Office for Ageing Well to reflect current community needs and expectations.

Revised sections of the act aim to improve the effectiveness of the office and the unit, including clearer definitions. They strengthen safeguarding powers and improve processes for sharing information. The bill implements the government's response to those recommendations to reflect community expectations and emphasises safeguarding as the primary role of the Adult Safeguarding Unit.

The bill updates the definitions for key terms like 'relevant adult', 'abuse', 'consent' and 'serious abuse', to offer better clarity and guidance. It also permits the unit to implement safeguarding measures at any point once an assessment has started, allowing for a more prompt response to concerns. The changes make it clearer when investigations can happen, what information needs to



be recorded and let the unit share information with people who make reports when it is safe to do so, while maintaining confidentiality.

One key change is that legal powers related to safeguarding orders will move from the Magistrates Court to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT), which is expected to improve efficiency in this process. Based on further stakeholder feedback since the initial review, additional changes have been made to support the unit's work. These include acknowledging relevant United Nations agreements on safeguarding and highlighting the important role the community plays in protecting vulnerable adults. The bill will be reviewed in five years' time to ensure that these amendments have improved processes and outcomes.

I think it is really important to see the work that we are leading here in South Australia. As I said before, back in 2016 we started to talk about elder abuse, there were changes in 2018, and there are amendments that are there to discuss what we mean by this and how to help. I do think that movement from the Magistrates Court to SACAT will provide increasing efficiencies, and, particularly when understanding what goes for a particular case for a particular person, the ability for the safeguarding unit to respond to appropriate measures will be really important.

I would like to talk a little bit about what the Adult Safeguarding Unit does. It started in 2019 and it has played a key role in protecting South Australians from abuse and neglect. The unit works with adults, so they are involved in decisions about their own safety and care, unless they are unable to make decisions or are in serious danger. I think that is really important here, because as we age we often hear people talk about their sense of agency and losing control over their decision-making. When you talk about the Adult Safeguarding Unit, the key proposition is putting that person at the centre of decision-making.

Often these are very complex, challenging issues about where that person might be living, their financial situation and the kind of medical treatment they are receiving. Obviously, there is complexity within family arrangements about how that happens and who is supporting that person as they age. Most importantly, this is a free, confidential service providing advice, information and support and every year thousands of South Australians use this service.

In 2023-24, the unit received more than 3,300 contacts, including more than 1,600 reports of suspected abuse, most involving older people and people with disabilities. Emotional and financial abuse are the most commonly reported, often involving a family member. We have to remember, when these questions are asked, it might be a friend of the person involved, it might be a neighbour, it might be someone who they catch up with in a community service situation, or it might be a doctor. The key thing about the safeguarding unit is that those questions can be asked and the report can be made and it will be followed up and looked into.

The unit looks into reports and works closely with other services to respond to concerns and provide support. It also runs education sessions for the community, professionals and service providers to help raise awareness and prevent abuse. This work supports other efforts like the Office for Ageing Well's annual elder abuse prevention Tackling Ageism campaign. That campaign encourages everyone in South Australia to understand how ageism can lead to abuse and how changing our attitudes towards older people can help create a safer, more inclusive society for people of all ages.

Obviously, the Office for Ageing Well is involved in many different things, as well as the Adult Safeguarding Unit, and I think the conversation still needs to keep happening so that we have a deeper knowledge of what we mean by this. What do we mean by safeguarding? What are the areas of abuse we need to look at?

I recognise that during the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Belinda Lake, the chief practitioner of the Adult Safeguarding Unit, explained how the unit supports people at risk of experiencing abuse, or who have experienced abuse. She was able to give a submission and spend time during these hearings to look at the shared stories, data and insights that showed just how important the unit's work is.

I do not want to discuss the importance of this work they do without recognising the complexities of this work. It often occurs in very challenging family situations, with confusion around systems or a lack of trust in services. The work that they do at the Adult Safeguarding Unit is incredibly important. While I am reading it here from a piece of paper about the services they offer

and how they care for people and understand the system, I think we have to give them incredible recognition and credibility for understanding those complexities and putting that older person at the centre of this decision-making as well.

The changes in this new bill will help the unit continue to work more effectively and efficiently, as highlighted during the royal commission. In summary, this Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill strengthens laws in South Australia to better protect vulnerable adults. It gives clearer powers and processes to both the Office for Ageing Well and the Adult Safeguarding Unit, while still respecting the rights of the individuals they support.

The updated laws are based on real-life experiences and national and international best practices and aim to meet the changing needs of vulnerable people in our state. Most importantly, the law recognises that safeguarding vulnerable adults is something we all have a role in, whether that be for our own family or friends or those we encounter in the community in our everyday lives. I thank the minister for her work in this area and I recognise and support this bill.

**Ms PRATT (Frome) (11:49):** I rise as the opposition's lead spokesperson on the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2025, acknowledging, of course, the importance of safeguarding and to commit early on to the passage of this bill and that safeguarding is a bipartisan priority. Protecting older South Australians and vulnerable adults is non-negotiable.

Moral responsibility is certainly a thread through the importance of this legislation to ensure that older people and people living with disability are safe from abuse, neglect and exploitation. As the lead speaker for the opposition, we recognise the role of the Adult Safeguarding Unit, also referred to as the ASU, as a first of its kind initiative in Australia. We have heard that refrain through the chamber in the minister's own second reading speech before the winter recess and again today, and I am actually going to read it word for word with a little addendum. The government's praise of this first of its kind initiative was to say that:

In 2018 the Parliament of South Australia amended the act to introduce an Adult Safeguarding Unit, the first of its kind in Australia. The unit commenced operations in October 2019 and its remit was phased in over three years.

That has now been read into *Hansard* three times. The addendum I have the privilege to add is, of course, that it was during the time of the former Marshall Liberal government and it is a credit to two ministers at that time, the Hon. Stephen Wade and the Hon. Michelle Lensink of the other place, who, as ministers, would have had carriage of the importance of the ASU and, as the house will reflect on some tragedies during that term of government, the significant and important need for the unit to be established.

So why are we here and what are the drivers of this reform? Sadly, we reflect on the tragic death of Ann Marie Smith whose passing in April 2020 was a story of such significance that really we should never forget her legacy and the life she lived. Those failures were revealed to be quite devastating.

This bill is also being influenced by the federally conducted disability royal commission, which was established after seeing an urgent need for stronger protections, early intervention and accountability. But I do have to add at the start of this parliamentary session, after a winter recess of a couple of months, that this is another piece of legislation that has been with the government for consideration for some time. One of the reasons for the delay in it being introduced and even for a briefing being offered was that the state government explained it needed to wait for the federal government to consider the recommendations that came from the disability royal commission, but when we add up all those delays they are very lengthy.

There was the lengthy delay of 10 months we saw before the commonwealth released its initial response, which was in July 2024. The state government explained to the opposition that its own delay was needing to wait on the federal government's full response and to consider what the state obligations would be and perhaps what share of those responsibilities our state might carry. So six years after the Adult Safeguarding Unit was established, three years after the SALRI review was released, two years after the royal commission was concluded, and 12 months since the commonwealth signalled which recommendations it would support, we are finally here. Lucky it was not urgent.

The SALRI statutory review conducted broad consultation with very detailed recommendations—I think there were 46. Some of the stakeholders included Council on the Ageing (COTA), the Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS), multicultural and Aboriginal groups, and disability advocates. It is clear that the community really has been long calling for clearer powers, better processes, and stronger definitions.

In reflecting on that delay to this chamber, questions were asked, certainly through that consultation process, as to how we balance the autonomy and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. I am going to take some time in my response this morning to reflect on SALRI's review and recommendations, and its feedback at the time when it released its review—that was in November 2022.

It had a lot to say and the authors are widely respected for the significant work they do and I think it is important to honour that and to have it recorded here. SALRI conducted an independent statutory review and, as I said, it was completed in November 2022, and presented to the government. It offered many recommendations to modernise and strengthen the act that governs service providers, courts, and individuals who are tasked to keep our most vulnerable safe against abuse and mistreatment.

I wish to thank lead SALRI researcher and report co-author Divya Narayan, as well as her colleague, counterpart and co-author Professor David Plater—known to many. The Director of SALRI, the University of Adelaide's Professor John Williams, said:

SALRI assessed the future of adult safeguarding in South Australia and considered the wider impacts of legislative changes in the adult safeguarding service landscape...SALRI considered current law and practice through its wide-ranging consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders and community members and [had] made [at that time] 46 recommendations to improve the operation of the Act as well as the bodies implementing the Act.

Professor John Williams said:

SALRI's report seeks to balance the autonomy of the adult who might be vulnerable to abuse with the need to safeguard such individuals from abuse and exploitation. Our recommendations reflect the Act's strong focus on upholding human rights by respecting the autonomy, dignity, and presumption of decision-making capacity of an adult.

SALRI's review highlighted the importance of defining and addressing coercion, gaslighting, consent and capacity. The University of Adelaide's Associate Professor David Plater, Deputy Director of SALRI, who was also the lead author of the report, went on to say:

In some circumstances, such as the risk of serious physical or financial abuse or where a victim truly lacks capacity, the ASU should be entitled to take action without the victim's consent.

We see elements of that now in the bill before us. SALRI's review received input from agencies and organisations, community members and the media. SALRI received 60 submissions and 182 responses to its consultation survey, which informed SALRI's understanding about the operation of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act, as well as options for potential changes to present law and practice.

SALRI's consultation included interested parties and agencies, community members, academics, legal and health practitioners, the disability community, aged-care groups, multicultural communities and groups representing older people. I think it is really important to add, particularly as a country member, that SALRI also made regional visits to Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Clare, Port Lincoln, Berri, Whyalla, Naracoorte and Mount Gambier to conduct community consultations.

SALRI has a focus on active and inclusive engagement with regional and Aboriginal communities. I thank them again for their concerted efforts to undertake that wideranging and widereaching consultation process with regional and remote communities to ensure that what they put forward in their final review, along with the 46 recommendations, really signalled to the government—and now to the chamber—what reform was going to be required.

The nature of the bill and what it does, not to speak for the government, is to reflect on the 46 recommendations that SALRI put forward in their review, to adopt most of them and to present the house with 43 amendments that are wideranging, touching almost every part of the act. Some of those key changes include:

- replacing 'vulnerable adult' with the words 'relevant adult';
- updated definitions of abuse, serious abuse and financial abuse;

- embedding references to the United Nations Human Rights Instruments;
- expanding the unit's functions, including safeguarding systemic advocacy and early intervention;
- codifying assessment investigation processes;
- stronger information sharing of confidentiality, including protections for those who make reports;
- consolidating authorised officers' powers, including limited ability to act without consent;
- shifting certain order-making powers from the Magistrates Court to SACAT; and
- technical administrative updates, including a mandatory five-year review.

We intend to move into committee when second reading speeches have concluded. The opposition, through its briefing with the minister, as well as in committee, have and will flag some concerns and raise questions which we aim to explore and resolve.

To speak to the current capacity of the unit, where stakeholders like COTA and ARAS warned of a possible lack of capacity, the Council on the Ageing (South Australia) noted in its own submission to SALRI that, while the Adult Safeguarding Unit represents an important step forward, its current resources may be insufficient to meet the broadened mandate, emphasising the need for proper staffing and regional coverage. It suggested that a proper reporting framework of adult safeguarding might seek to answer questions, including how is efficacy defined and measured, how is it reviewed on an ongoing basis and is the service of the ASU the best way to safeguard adults from abuse?

ARAS highlighted the complexity of elder abuse and the necessity of adequate support for older adults, stressing that agencies like the ASU require sufficient resources to carry out safeguarding, advocacy, early intervention and enhanced information-sharing functions effectively. These concerns underscore the need for adequate resourcing to ensure the unit can effectively carry out its expanded functions, including safeguarding, systemic advocacy, early intervention and stronger information sharing and confidentiality measures.

This bill gives the ASU broader remit without guaranteeing more staff funding or regional coverage. We certainly will strive with the passage of this bill to deliver the balance between autonomy and intervention. New powers, through this bill, will allow authorised officers to act without consent in urgent or high-risk cases. While sometimes that will be necessary, there must be safeguards against any overreach or a perception of overreach.

How will adults' autonomy and rights to make their own decisions be upheld? The SACAT civil tribunal capacity and accessibility jurisdiction shift we will see from the Magistrates Court to SACAT is predicted to streamline processes but will just be raised shortly for a second time with the government. There is certainly a need to test the government's preparedness to resource these changes and to query what training will be provided, and I am sure we will get to that shortly; and, of course, will regional and remote South Australians have fair and timely access to these new provisions?

The opposition's position, as I stated at the beginning, is to signal support for this bill and making allowance, of course, for the very long passage of time, we commit to the house that this legislation is too important to delay any further after the committee stage has concluded.

The opposition supports the safeguards in full and in principle, but without appropriate resources, accountability and real-world delivery, we certainly do not want to entertain the idea that vulnerable adults might remain at risk. Governments of all persuasions must be held to account for ensuring a robust, resourced and responsive safeguarding system. We have seen human failure, negligence and character flaws inflict physical and psychological harm and, sadly, we need strong laws to deter and then enforce our expectations of how older people and people with disability are treated. I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (12:06):** I rise today to speak in support of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill. This is a really important bill and I would like to speak about it today as a member of parliament who represents an electorate with a

particularly significant ageing population. It has been one of the great privileges of my role to have conversations and to continue to engage with older residents in my community.

In my electorate we have over 8,000 seniors, which is over a third of my electorate. My understanding is, although I have not fact checked this exact stat, we have the most people living in aged care or retirement villages of any electorate, so it is a significant proportion of my residents who fall into that category.

As a result of that, it has been important for me to engage with seniors in my community in a really meaningful way. Over the past few years, we have hosted seven seniors' forums, not just external forums where we host at community clubs for all residents to come in but also on site at retirement villages within my electorate, which has been a really important and accessible way for those residents living in villages to access important information and services in my local community.

It has been a really wonderful experience to engage with residents at those forums and to also take on their feedback with respect to what information they would like more of, what information is most relevant and, of course, what is missing from the information that they are already being provided. Throughout that period, we have made continuous improvements to our structure, to our presenters and to our stall hosts directly in response to feedback from members of our community. It has been that feedback that has really shaped the way that we continue to communicate with our community, as well as the dialogue that I have with relevant agencies.

A lot of the speakers we have have come as a result of feedback from those community members. Last week, I hosted a forum on site at one of our villages and we had a presentation from the Falls Prevention Unit from the Lyell McEwin Hospital. Again, that was a recommendation from a resident who attended who had recently had a fall. We know that in the particular village where I was hosting this forum that falls have increased in number and that was something that was particularly relevant to residents in that community.

In the time that I have been hosting these forums, thus far we have had presentations from the Office for Ageing Well speaking about the Seniors Card and other services that are offered, we have had Human Services talking about My Aged Care and also about Centrelink, we have had the falls prevention service, as I mentioned, and we have had the active ageing team from my local council, the City of Tea Tree Gully. We have also had the waste prevention service from the City of Tea Tree Gully, which is always particularly popular because the Tea Tree Gully Council come along with these magnets that tell you what and what not to put in your bins and these magnets go like hot cakes.

As well, last week, the falls prevention service brought the NALHN grippy socks that you get in hospital if you are staying at the Lyell McEwin or at Modbury. They were handing out these grippy socks to the older residents, which also was something that was very well received.

We have also had the Aged Rights Advocacy Service, who I have spoken a lot about, who you can contact if there are questions that you may have, particularly with respect to living arrangements in those villages, noting that we do have 11 retirement villages in my electorate and that this is something really important for my community. We have had the Cancer Council; we have had Dementia Australia; we have had the MFS, who do an excellent presentation on fire safety; we have had SAPOL; and the list goes on. It has been a really wonderful opportunity for people to hear from those services, have them in one place and also ask questions of relevant agencies with respect to their own specific concerns.

On a personal level, some would know that I am the carer for a somewhat vulnerable adult who has now been placed in residential care. It has given me a particular understanding of the complexities of care supports, but also, I think, an understanding of dignity for those in our community who are most vulnerable. My stepdad has gone into care at Bene, the Italian village in my electorate, which is also where I started off my working journey with my work experience in year 10. Him being housed in an aged-care facility that predominantly caters to migrants and those who speak Italian has been particularly interesting, as I understand the added layer of complexities with respect to language barriers and the extra supports that are needed for seniors who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

This act was made to create the Office for Ageing Well, to support South Australians to age with dignity and to remain active and engaged with our community. Over time, the office has worked

to address various social and structural factors affecting health and wellbeing throughout their lives. That is something that we have actually always prioritised at our forums as well: not just having on display at our forums the services for individuals to access but also local community groups.

We know that it is just as important to keep people mentally and physically well and to keep them socially engaged, so, in addition to presentations from relevant agencies, we always have speakers from local community groups, whether it be the bridge club or the heritage museum, and we have had presentations or stalls from our Lions clubs and our Rotary clubs. We have had a presentation from our U3A, who are located close to one of the retirement villages. Again, it is providing opportunities for social connection and also for mental stimulation and physical stimulation, out and about in our community. I think this has been really important, and it is something that we continue to prioritise.

It is not lost on me how many of the volunteers at our local clubs and our local community groups are retired and perhaps in that ageing demographic. Of course, it is also about what it gives those individuals when they are no longer working, particularly for those who may not have extra commitments—whether it be familial commitments or they may not have grandchildren to help with—and what it does in terms of giving a sense of purpose and also giving back in those community groups as well.

The Adult Safeguarding Unit in South Australia started operating in 2019, and it was the first of its kind in Australia. I know that, as a member of parliament, I have had cause to contact the Adult Safeguarding Unit on a number of occasions when I have had concerns about residents in my community. Although that is of course an unfortunate thing to have to do, it has been a really interesting experience, and I have been incredibly warmed by the time, expertise and passion that comes through from the staff on the other end when it comes to protecting particularly vulnerable residents. The Adult Safeguarding Unit have also always assisted me if they perhaps were not necessarily the right place to go to. They have assisted me with referral pathways, and they always give feedback and follow-up phone calls to make sure that we know that person is being looked after.

I know, as someone who had a loved one with dementia that was fast progressing, that I often feel quite anxious when I have an older resident come in and they start to be a bit confused. I know how quickly these things can often change, particularly if they are living alone and there are not people around to see the signs. So, as I am sure all our local members of parliament do, I make it core business for me to make sure that I am always checking in on those added supports and whether perhaps anyone in their life is taking advantage of them in what is a very vulnerable time.

The amendments that we are discussing today did require an independent review of the act's operation and, of course, the rollout of the Adult Safeguarding Unit. That was required to be undertaken within three years of the 2018 changes. Today, we are of course responding to that review, as undertaken by SALRI.

The review was conducted in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including lived-experience groups, government agencies and community members. Again, I think that is really important. As a government we do really prioritise putting people's voices at the forefront of everything we do. I know that for myself, engaging with residents in different ways—generally through community groups or the forums that I hold—is always at the forefront of the communication that I provide back to various ministers.

It has also been a really good opportunity to have ministers come out to speak to older residents in my community. The Premier has come along to a number of my seniors' forums now. We have had Minister Picton, when he was the minister for ageing, come out to speak at my forums as well, and we are always joined by Tony Zappia, a federal MP, and also the local council, so that everyone has the opportunity to engage with our older residents and see what are the most pressing issues at a given time.

It is also really good to use those opportunities to be given feedback. There is often an idea that someone has, and they will come to me at one of those forums about how something could be better accessed. One of the individuals who came to my forum about a year ago started talking to me about whether there was a streamlined process for where they put their will or where they put their power of attorney documents because they lived alone. Within weeks of that conversation with that individual, I went through something myself: my neighbour passed away.

My neighbour lived alone and there was an older lady who would come to visit her from down the street, but other than the lady who would visit her from down the street and myself, we were not aware of any friends or family. It took some time for us to find out who to contact after she had passed, probably a lot longer than we would have liked had we had the information available to us. As a result, it took a lot longer for her to have a funeral and, of course, for her affairs to be sorted.

As a result of this, at each and every one of my forums now I do speak about the importance of having all of your information in one place. For each resident who comes along to one of my forums, I personally donate an emergency medical information book, which was originally dreamed up by my former Rotary club, the Rotary Club of Tea Tree Gully. It is a little book that you put onto the fridge—many would be familiar with them now—where you can put in a list of your medications, you can put in where you put your will and where you put your power of attorney document, and it is all in one place on the fridge for loved ones to find or paramedics to find if something happens.

That, to me, is really important because I encourage the residents to make informed decisions about their own wellbeing, about their own futures and, of course, if they are unwell, their own wishes with respect to their health. I think that is really important not just for their own sakes but for the sakes of their loved ones if something does go wrong.

I think it is really important that when we are reviewing things like the act here that there is a great degree of experience that is provided, lived experience, and a community response because it is only through talking with those whom the act is directly impacting that we are going to know what is best practice and the best way to do these things. I am always pleased to see that these reviews are conducted in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders.

The review did recommend a variety of updates as well as clarifying various parts of the act to better support the work of the office and the unit, including clearer definitions, improved safeguarding powers and better information sharing processes. Again, information sharing is really important in terms of continuous improvement, and I think that that is a really key part of what the review did consider.

This bill, of course, is implementing the government's response, but also it does reflect current community expectations with respect to ageing and adult safeguarding. Again, it is really important that we are contemporary in our knowledge, our understanding, our wording and, of course, our response, particularly when dealing with vulnerable people, and I am really glad that this bill today is doing just that.

I am really pleased always in this place, and in my community, to be talking about what we are doing as a government to better protect our residents. That is not just protections in terms of physical safety, perhaps, but also in terms of mental and social safety. That is really important when it comes to ageing, and I think that is something that we all really prioritise and see there is a greater need for in our communities.

Unfortunately, we all know examples of where those needs have not been necessarily adhered to and we all know examples of where older residents have been taken advantage of by people close to them or perhaps by strangers. So, again, it is really important to me that we are prioritising not just that wellbeing but that safeguarding so that there is somewhere for individuals to turn and something for us to know that we have as a mechanism at our disposal should we see that occurring. I am really pleased to be supporting this bill today and I look forward to its implementation.

**Mr DIGHTON (Black) (12:20):** I rise to speak in support of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill. The bill reflects the Malinauskas government's ongoing commitment to strengthen protections for vulnerable adults. The bill and the work of the Office for Ageing Well are very important and relevant for my community. There are over nine and a half thousand Seniors Cardholders in my electorate, and more broadly the 2021 census showed that around 40 per cent of South Australians were aged 50 years or over, with the share of this group continuing to climb.

Given the profile of my community, earlier this year I moved that the parliamentary Social Development Committee inquire into and report on options to develop and sustain age-friendly communities and cities across South Australia. I just want to highlight a couple of the key elements of the motion that I moved in regard to the inquiry for that committee to take place:

- current and forecasting demographic changes, noting South Australia has the oldest and most rapidly ageing population on mainland Australia;
- the responsiveness of commercial, state government and local government services to the needs of older people;
- best practice approaches to housing, infrastructure, transport, health, employment, technology and social inclusion for an ageing population; and
- opportunities for change to boost and maintain social and economic participation amongst older members of the community, including through the use of existing, expanded or new community hubs with a focus on ageing well.

This bill continues and strengthens our protection for older people and for other vulnerable people within our community.

As has been mentioned by other speakers, the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding Act 1995 created the Office for Ageing Well to support South Australians to age with dignity and remain active and engaged in the community. Over time, the office has worked to address various social and structural factors affecting health and wellbeing. As the member for Frome mentioned, in 2018 the act was amended to establish the Adult Safeguarding Unit—the very first of its kind in Australia—which then began operating in October 2019. The unit was tasked with receiving and responding to reports of abuse involving older Australians and people with disabilities. Its responsibilities have since expanded to include all vulnerable adults in South Australia.

A review was conducted via the South Australian Law Reform Institute. That review made a number of recommendations. This bill implements the government's response to those recommendations, including changes to better reflect community expectations about the objectives of the Office for Ageing Well, and confirms that safeguarding is the primary role of the Adult Safeguarding Unit.

The bill provides definitions for a number of important terms—such as 'relevant adult', 'abuse', 'consent' and 'serious abuse'—to provide clearer guidance. It also allows the unit to take safeguarding actions at any appropriate time after an assessment begins, enabling a more timely response to concerns. The amendments clarify when investigations may be carried out, set out what information must be recorded, and allow the unit to share information with those who make reports where it is safe to do so while protecting confidentiality.

Key legal powers related to the safeguarding orders will move from the Magistrates Court to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT), which is expected to improve access and process efficiency. The bill also includes a requirement for a further review in five years, to ensure the act remains relevant.

I want to go through a little bit about the role of the Adult Safeguarding Unit. The safeguarding unit has been an important part of South Australia's response to abuse and neglect. The unit operates on a consent-based model, working with adults to ensure that wishes are respected, except where there is a lack of capacity or where an individual is at serious risk. It provides confidential advice, information and support, receiving thousands of contacts annually.

Last year, the unit received over 3,300 contacts, including more than 1,600 reports of suspected abuse, mostly concerning older adults and people with disabilities. Emotional and financial abuse are the most common types reported, and that often involves family members. The unit conducts assessments and investigations, often working with other agencies to coordinate responses and provide support.

The Adult Safeguarding Unit also conducts community education and works with professionals and service providers to raise awareness and prevention. This work complements other existing campaigns by the Office for Ageing Well, particularly the annual elder abuse prevention Tackling Ageism campaign. This campaign reminds all South Australians of the links between ageism, older people's rights and the risk of elder abuse, and how tackling ageism—in other words, changing how we think and feel about older people—is fundamental to creating a safer and more inclusive society for people of all ages.



Providing information is very important for older people to ensure that they are able to improve their lives but also to manage the challenges that may face them, including social and financial abuse. I held my first seniors forum earlier this year with the Minister for Human Services, and the forum was very well attended. The feedback I received was that participants really appreciated the opportunity to hear from the minister but also from the Council on the Ageing (COTA), along with a number of stallholders who were able to provide one-on-one information and documentation to those residents who attended. Again, the feedback we received was that it was a really useful and very valuable forum for our older residents. I have another seniors forum planned for later this year.

I want to add a few other bits and pieces about some of the things that have happened in South Australia to support older people before I finish up. More than a decade ago, the Thinker in Residence was a world-renowned expert called Alexandre Kalache, and his Thinker in Residence was particularly focused on ageing. One of the legacies of his Thinker in Residence was the time that is on the pedestrian crossings, like the one on North Terrace outside Parliament House. Kalache observed when he was here that anyone moving slowly—an older person or a person with a disability—would only be halfway across before the light turned green for cars to move. He made the point that age-friendly communities are friendly to everyone because they take into account so much of the diversity in our interests and capacities.

Obviously, peak bodies like COTA, who presented at my seniors forum, provide a really important role in advocating for policy change. There are also intergenerational programs that link retirees and young people. There was a TV show on the ABC, *Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds*. In fact, my old school ran a program that connected Meals on Wheels recipients with our year 9 Rite Journey students. It was a really powerful coming together of these two different age groups, and it was beneficial for both.

Another area I want to highlight is the investment in our community centres. We have a wonderful community centre, the Trott Park Neighbourhood Centre, and a number of our older population utilise that. There are many great things that we are doing to support older and vulnerable people, and this bill will support those as well.

I just want to acknowledge that this bill will provide clearer powers and processes for the Office for Ageing Well and the Adult Safeguarding Unit to carry out their work while respecting the rights of individuals involved. It will ensure that our safeguarding system is not only legally sound but guided with lived experience, informed by national and international best practice and responsive to the evolving needs of vulnerable South Australians.

Importantly, the legislation highlights that we all have a role to play in safeguarding vulnerable adults. I thank those who have contributed their time to shape this bill—I acknowledge the Minister for Human Services, who has just walked in—including those with lived experience of abuse and those working on the frontline of care and safeguarding. I commend this bill to the house.

**Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (12:30):** I rise to support the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill, aimed at better protecting adults at risk of abuse and safeguarding their rights. I think it is really important at this stage that we acknowledge the role of the minister, who has provided considerable support in this area. Protecting our ageing community is very important.

The bill makes significant changes to how we support and safeguard the rights of adults who may be vulnerable to abuse and mistreatment. In particular, key elements in the bill that I support are the provision of additional flexibility within the act to ensure that the relevant adult is at the centre of all responses; providing officers with powers to act when needed to prevent abuse and support streamlined referrals of relevant matters to SAPOL and other regulatory bodies; enabling limited information sharing with people who make reports when safe and appropriate and ensuring confidentiality of people who report suspected abuse; strengthening provisions relating to information gathering and sharing; transferring key legal functions; and acknowledging the role of the whole community in protecting vulnerable adults.

I know at a glance it appears that the last one—acknowledging the role of the whole community in protecting vulnerable adults—is a general goodwill wish, but it really does go a lot further than that. It is a strong message from stakeholders that progress will only be made if we all, as citizens, take an interest in those in our community who are vulnerable. It expresses a need for

each of us to take responsibility if we know, or just suspect, that someone needs better care or, indeed, is being abused. Importantly, there is a call for the whole of our community to protect vulnerable adults.

In addition to organisations that provide for special areas, I think it is important that we highlight some of the things that we are able to do as members of parliament. One of those that I have been carrying out each year is the Annual Seniors Forum. The Annual Seniors Forum is attended by more than 300 people. We have two sessions on the same day and we include local councils, SAPOL, Technology for Ageing and Disability, as well as social organisations like the Enfield Horticultural Society, the Gilles Plains Lions Club and Royal Life Saving SA.

Just recently, I held a community event. It was a scam forum and again it was attended by nearly 300 people. Initially we were only going to have one session, but the interest, particularly from our ageing population, was so great that we added an afternoon session. It was held in the Klemzig Community Hall, and we gained information and advice from scamming avoidance experts, the banking sector and SAPOL.

I would like to thank, particularly, Scamwatch, the banking sector and representatives from SAPOL who presented at the forum. While the age range of attendees was from 30s to 90s, I noted that more than three-quarters of the people were above the age of 50, indicating how vulnerable they felt towards scammers. One comment that I received from a 90-year-old woman was that it made her feel a whole lot safer.

It is a story that highlights the issue of safety. Vulnerable people fear being preyed on. Sadly, there are many people who live in fear in their own homes. It is impossible to state an exact number, as they are often afraid to report their fears and cases of abuse because of possible repercussions. If they have family members who are at fault, matters are particularly difficult.

Compass, an initiative of Elder Abuse Action Australia, funded by the Australian government, estimates that one in six older Australians living at home experience abuse, neglect or financial exploitation. One of the most common forms of reported abuse is physical assault, and this is because reports have to be made if the victim needs medical attention for an injury clearly inflicted by another person.

The most common form of non-reported abuse is believed to be financial abuse by a family member. I myself have spoken with constituents, and it is really heartbreaking when their voice breaks and you see tears in their eyes when they are being financially abused by a family member, but they do not want to cause trouble, they say, because this family member is often perhaps one of only one or two who visits them. We have to recognise there are barriers to older people promptly reporting abuse and getting the help they need. There may be hesitation about the consequences about making a complaint or even physical or mental impairment to their capacity to seek a better quality of life or safer environment.

This is why there is a role for the whole community, which can be a key partner with South Australia's Adult Safeguarding Unit. Apart from encouraging the reporting of abuse, this body raises awareness of older people and contributes to policymaking. I think it is important to acknowledge that the review was an independent review and there was input sought from a wide range of stakeholders. The Malinauskas Labor government, through this bill, is strengthening support for all vulnerable adults. I again acknowledge the work that is being put into supporting our ageing community. I commend the bill to the house.

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:36):** I rise today in support of the Ageing and Adult Safeguarding (Review Recommendations) Amendment Bill 2025. For me, this bill is about something very simple and very powerful, and that is dignity—the dignity of older South Australians, the dignity of the vulnerable adults and the dignity of families who deserve to know their loved ones will be safe, supported and respected. As someone who has spent her whole life rolling up her sleeves in the Mitcham Hills area, whether as a firefighter, a community advocate or now as a member of parliament, I know the strength of community, where that comes from and how that helps us treat and look after our most vulnerable people.

The Adult Safeguarding Unit, created in 2018, was the first of its kind in Australia. Since it began its work in 2019, it has grown to become a lifeline for many people in our state. This bill makes

sure that the unit and the laws that guide it are fit for purpose, clear in their mission and strong enough to act when action is needed.

It modernises the objectives of the Office for Ageing Well so the act reflects what the community expects in 2025, not in 1995. It confirms safeguarding as the very heart of the unit's work. It defines critical terms like 'abuse', 'serious abuse', 'consent' and 'relevant adult', giving certainty to the people on the ground doing this work. It also makes it crystal clear that the unit can take action from the moment an assessment begins and, importantly, it gives them the ability to refer matters to South Australia Police at any time. That is about urgency. That is about saving people from further harm.

For our community members who find the courage to speak up, this bill strengthens confidentiality protections. It also allows limited, safe feedback to those who make reports, so people are not left wondering if their concerns have disappeared into a void. It strengthens accountability through clearer processes, stronger appeal rights and a requirement for another review in five years' time, because safeguarding should never be static. It must always evolve as the needs of our community evolve.

Safeguarding adults is not just the responsibility of government, though. It belongs to us all. Families, neighbours, service providers and communities each have a role to play. When someone does raise their voice, this bill ensures that they can have faith that the system will listen, will act and will protect.

I have enjoyed listening to the contributions of other members and the work they do in their communities to help support older people and help bring them together, because community is one of those things that we really rely on, especially as we age, knowing how hard it is to sometimes make new friends or find the care that you need. When there are opportunities to join others and come together and be able to spend some time, have a cup of tea sometimes maybe, that can be one of the only conversations someone has in that day, so it is really important.

I was really fortunate one day to wander into the Green Dispensary in Blackwood. I was heading in there after seeing a post on Facebook about a lady who works in there who was organising a fundraiser for an older gentleman whose house had burned down and who had lost everything. She had put up a post and asked people to come in and help. I wandered in there and spoke to Tracey Yeend, who is an incredible advocate in our community, and we got to talking about how we can support older people in our area. I had only just recently been speaking to the Uniting Church about trying to organise a forum on dementia, but also on advance care directives. She suddenly said, 'I really want to organise some education sessions on lots of different things.'

Along with Wendy Hall from Dementia Doula's Australia we got together and we came up with the Mitcham Hills Wellness sessions. They have gone from strength to strength. We hold them every month, and every month we have a different speaker who comes along and talks about issues, health ideas and important information about how people can live well as they get older. Tracey is a nurse but also a nutritionist and a midwife and has a vast array of people that she knows, and we have been able to draw on them to come and give these talks, and they have just grown and grown.

We now have in Blackwood easily over 120 to 150 people who come along every month to hear these talks, and they not only get to learn about different health issues but they take them home and they sometimes look at ways they can use that information. I have had plenty of people come up to me following different sessions saying how they had taken the information they learned, they had gone to their local GP and talked to them and they were able to put some things in practice, so it has been really lovely to see that happen.

With these sessions, because they have been so successful, we have been able to start them down in Mitcham as well. Now every month we do them in Mitcham, and we have 80 to 100 people who come along to those sessions as well, and they are different. Some are the same, but some are different, and that is lovely as well. That one comes along with a cup of tea and a bikkie too. It is really great to see people who have not seen each other for a long time, or they are meeting new people and are spending that time together.

Just recently the weather was so poor—it was pouring with rain at night time—we thought we were not going to get anyone come along and 150 people turned up to Blackwood. Equally, at the Mitcham session—again, it was a horrible, horrible weather day—70 people turned up to that

session. It just made me know that we had really found something that these people were missing, and it made me feel really good about what we were doing in that space.

It is a funny thing: when I looked around the room, when we did it last week, I saw all of these new people who had not been before—people who were bringing friends and their neighbours. The outreach of those sessions has been really heartwarming to me. I thank Tracey Yeend for all her work but also both the Uniting Church in Blackwood and St Michael's church down in Mitcham, which help us put on these sessions.

I thank the member for Torrens for talking about scams, because it is something that we hear from people in our community, especially older people who are targeted in this area. Sometimes they are not as savvy on computers or cannot see the warning signs that they are being scammed. I have had plenty of examples, including my own parents who nearly lost quite a lot of money. My dad had been unwell, and he had been always really great on computers his whole life, but someone rang him, he got flustered and, sure enough, they managed to talk him through opening up his bank account and opening up his computer to them. Fortunately, my brother arrived at their house at the same time, and he was able to work out that they were being scammed and spoke to the scammer on the phone three times whilst we were trying to work out how we could trap this guy.

It led me to understand how important it is for us to continue to educate people in our community about the risk of scams. In my office I have a really great young man called Matt Driver and, between the two of us, we would go around and do morning tech teas. We would go to retirement villages and create opportunities for people to come and learn about scams and the signals of scams, and also to help them with technology so that they are safer online and can do the things that keep us connected, like social media or being able to talk with their family across the country and across the world through things like WhatsApp.

Those sessions, again, were really popular and I felt that they really hit the spot for what people need: to come along and have young people—because let's face it, they are better at technology than even people my age—sit with them. I have also had work experience students come along to those sessions to help these people and they have been great.

We talked before about the medical books that are put on fridges. These are really important. Our Lions Club in Blackwood are involved in that project too. They are such an important thing, not only for older people but for parents with young children who have medical problems or conditions, as they can put all the medications that they take, as well as the location of advance care directives, so that when people do have to go to hospital our ambulance paramedics can grab those off the fridge and know where those things are.

It actually happened the other night when I was on a call-out with the CFS. We were assisting a resident and assisting SAAS to get him out because he was up quite a steep driveway. They were working on getting him out and working together to try to find all his medications and work out what was going on, and at that point I really realised the benefit of those books. I want to congratulate the Lions in Blackwood on being part of that program.

We have talked about how important it is to not only look after our older people but make sure they have somewhere to go, and also that they are getting the help, support and education that they need to continue to be able to look after themselves in community. This bill embodies that principle. It takes the voices of those who shared their lived experience through the review and the lessons learned from stakeholders and it turns them into action. That is what we want to see.

On Sunday night, I gave a speech in our local Blackwood Uniting Church. They have been doing a series on journeying and hope, and they asked me to come along to talk about ripples of hope and hope in action. I was incredibly honoured to be asked to come and do that. As someone whose role is obviously to work in community, I take that so personally. For me to be able to go along and be asked and be thought of as someone who does create hope in action was really special. We talked about ripples of hope and how it is not just one, it is multiple, and those small things that you can do every day—whether it is calling an older friend and checking in on them, smiling at someone as they drive past, or waving them through—can create action.

The more we look after each other, support each other and check in on each other, we can build incredible communities, and that is something that I am really passionate about. This bill and these changes honour how we hear those voices with stronger laws, clearer protections and a system

that puts people first, and that is what is so important. I am really proud to support this bill. It is a step forward for dignity, safety and justice. I commend the bill to the house.

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (12:47):** Thank you to the members for Ramsay, Newland, Torrens, Black, Waite and Frome for their really thoughtful contributions. I hope I have not missed anybody. I want to quickly wrap up by summarising the bill, which implements government responses to the review's recommendations, including:

- modernises the objectives and functions of the Office for Ageing Well, reflecting their current work and community expectations;
- confirms safeguarding as the core purpose of the Adult Safeguarding Unit;
- defines important terms like abuse, relevant adult, serious abuse and consent;
- expressly provides that the unit can take safeguarding action at any time after an assessment begins, where appropriate;
- clarifies when and how investigations can happen and what must be recorded;
- includes an explicit power that the unit is to refer matters to SA Police at any stage after a report is received;
- enables limited information sharing with people who make reports, when safe and appropriate;
- ensures confidentiality of people who report suspected abuse;
- improves how people can appeal decisions made by the unit;
- transfers key legal functions from the Magistrates Court to SACAT;
- expands who can apply to SACAT for orders; and
- requires a review of the new changes in five years.

The bill incorporated other additional amendments not considered by the independent review but are in response to feedback from stakeholders, including reference to relevant UN instruments, which:

- underpin the work of the Office for Ageing Well and Adult Safeguarding Unit;
- acknowledge the role of the whole community in protecting vulnerable adults;
- make structural amendments to the act to better align with the sequential order of the unit's response;
- group authorised officers' powers in one division;
- give officers power to act when needed to prevent abuse;
- strengthen rules for sharing and collecting information;
- clarify administrative matters like delegation powers; and
- include relevant consequential amendments.

I acknowledge the contributions of members, including many who hold their own forums to connect with vulnerable adults. I also acknowledge the opposition's comments regarding access to service in regional areas. The AAS operates a statewide service, which includes regional areas and has the capacity to do visits.

I acknowledge the comments from COTA and ARAS regarding the capacity and resourcing of the ASU and note that this bill will also support the unit to streamline services. I also acknowledge the role of the Uniting Communities' Elder Abuse Unit, with whom the ASU work closely to assist those who may be vulnerable and with whom I met only last week.

As highlighted, it is important we ensure legislation keeps up to date with what is and has occurred in a policy space. With the disability royal commission, it was paramount we awaited the recommendations to ensure this bill is aligned as closely to those recommendations as possible.

The National Plan to End Elder Abuse and the working committee continue to highlight the South Australian Adult Safeguarding Unit as standard where there is good best practice in safeguarding vulnerable adults. I understand we will be going into committee.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee Stage*

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 29 passed.

Clause 30.

**Ms PRATT:** Minister, as we touched on in a briefing, just for the benefit of recording in the chamber now, can you explain the thinking behind the deletion of the reference to 'Magistrates Court' and it being substituted by 'SACAT'?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** We had a good discussion about that during the briefing and I thank you for the question. It is to streamline the process and we have reflected and actually further interrogated any of the investigations over the last four or five years and there has been zero that have gone to the Magistrates Court. We had thought there potentially might have been one, but that actually did not occur, so I am really pleased to put that on record. I think this is a sensible approach and we know there would have been, if it was a hefty amount of work, a risk, but we do not foresee that.

Clause passed.

Clauses 31 to 39 passed.

Clause 40.

**Ms PRATT:** Minister, regarding section 49A—Protection of identity of persons who report to Adult Safeguarding Unit, I am really just looking for clarification on how the identity protection provisions for people who are making those reports will be balanced with the operational need to share information during investigations?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** Thank you again for the question. I think this is actually a really important amendment. I, and I am sure as have you, as a hardworking local member who is present on the ground—we do have conversations with people sometimes that crop up and they say, 'Oh, what happened with such and such?', and it might relate to actually a very concerned neighbour or relative who has made a report and they really do not know what has happened as a consequence.

There is a balance between providing some comfort to people who have made a report to actually maintaining the respect and dignity of the people whom the report may have been made about. I am advised that the clause amends the confidentiality requirements set out in section 49 of the act to make and provide that personal information may be disclosed for the purposes of assessing or responding to a potential risk to the life or physical safety of the Adult Safeguarding Unit responding to a relevant matter, or the relevant adult or another person. A regulation-making power to prescribe other purposes for which information may be disclosed is also included.

This clause also makes consequential amendments to replace the term 'vulnerable adult' with 'relevant adult' wherever it appears. So that is quite a fulsome description of the clause. The rationale is that there are circumstances where it may be necessary for the Adult Safeguarding Unit to share information with another person or body for the purpose of assessing or responding to a potential risk to the life or physical safety of a staff member, relevant adult, or another person, such as a reporter or other household member—I think 'reporter' in this case means the reporter of the incident, not necessarily a journo.

This amendment preserves the presumption of confidentiality, but recognises there may be times where some information may need to be shared to protect the life or physical safety of another person and the types of information that may be shared under the provision would include known safety risks in a person's residence such as the presence of firearms or dangerous animals or previous violent offending. There is another information sheet for me to read out, so this is the whole clause. There is another bit further on which talks about the insertion of section 49A. Furthermore,

this will ensure that the identity of a person who makes a report to the Adult Safeguarding Unit is kept confidential, except in specified circumstances.

Then a bit further on we talk about SALRI recommending that we make this amendment to clarify that the identity of the person who makes a report of abuse is confidential unless the person making the report has given consent for their identity to be revealed for a particular purpose, or identifying them is otherwise necessary, such as where a report has been referred to the police. Was there other information I can offer? Are you happy with all that?

**Ms PRATT:** Thank you. Looking at the same clause and 49A, would there be any penalties for unauthorised disclosure, how would they be enforced and what is meant by 'in the opinion of' in 49A(c)?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** The maximum penalty is \$10,000 and the judgement around these breaches and penalties are made by the director of the unit and that is determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the severity of the disclosure or the breach. Then the third part of your question?

**Ms PRATT:** How do you interpret 'in the opinion of'?

**The Hon. N.F. COOK:** It would be the professional judgement of the director in relation to the amount of information that has been disclosed.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (41 to 43), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

*Third Reading*

**The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (12:59):** I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

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

#### **SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION (COMMENCEMENT OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

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

#### **STATUTES AMENDMENT (HERITAGE) BILL**

*Assent*

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

#### **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT (BREEDER REFORMS) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

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

#### **BIODIVERSITY BILL**

*Assent*

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

#### **NORTH ADELAIDE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE BILL**

*Assent*

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

#### **CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (DEFENCES—INTOXICATION) AMENDMENT BILL**

*Assent*

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

**STATUTES AMENDMENT (VEHICLE PARKING AND URBAN RENEWAL) BILL***Message from Governor*

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

*Parliamentary Procedure***VISITORS**

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of, firstly, some school visitors that we have from Mount Barker Waldorf School, who are the guests of the honourable member for Kavel, and University of Adelaide law students and Marden Senior College students, who are guests of the member for Dunstan.

We also have members of the Goldsworthy family, including former member for Kavel, Mark Goldsworthy. We have the Hon. Dean Brown, former Premier of South Australia. Dean, it is always good to see you in here. We have the Hon. Michael Wilson, former member for Torrens; Grant Chapman, former member for Kingston; and David Cox, also a former member for Kingston. We welcome you all to parliament today as we pay tribute to some of our former members.

*Condolence***GOLDSWORTHY, HON. E.R.**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:04):** By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of Mr Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO, former member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I rise to pay tribute to Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO, former member for Kavel who passed away on 1 July at the age of 95. Everyone's path to political service is deeply and uniquely personal, but there is one thing which I believe unites all who serve in these chambers, and that is that we might leave having made our own mark on our great state. In most cases, that mark is metaphorical at best. In the case of Roger Goldsworthy, however, it is a mark which literally is visible from space—via satellites at least, anyway.

Eric Roger Goldsworthy was born in Lameroo and never lost his connection with regional South Australia and the people who lived and worked the land. He trained as a teacher but initially found that the work was not sufficiently appropriate for him so he returned to farming, heading to the Adelaide Hills to create what eventually became the largest chestnut farm in the Southern Hemisphere. This became the family home for Roger, his wife Lyn, and then to their three children Carolyn, Mark and Rhys.

Roger supported the growing Goldsworthy family with a return to teaching at Gilles Plains High School, but plans for yet another career reinvention were swiftly taking shape. Drawing inspiration from Thomas Playford, another Hills farmer who went on to make an indelible mark on South Australia, Roger chose to enter politics. After previous tilts for the seat of Barossa under the Liberal and Country League banner, Roger became the first member for the new seat of Kavel in 1970, a seat he was to hold through seven elections, for an impressive 22 consecutive years.

As member for Kavel, Roger also proudly served as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party for 15 years, taking the record as the longest-serving Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party anywhere in Australia. As Deputy Premier in the cabinet of David Tonkin, following the Liberal's landslide victory of 1979, Roger also took on the portfolio of Minister for Mines. This was a crucial portfolio at a pivotal moment in the state's development, and Roger deserves to be remembered for his leadership in putting our state's resources sector on its modern trajectory, one that has uplifted our state's economy and contributed to the prosperity of our people substantially ever since.

He was one to first realise the incredible potential of our mineral wealth and of the urgency of developing the extraordinary bounty discovered in the state's Far North. At the time, the Tonkin government faced strong opposition to any expansion of the number of mining operations in the state, and especially any proposal that included the mining of uranium. However, thanks to Roger's diligence, determination, and sheer single-mindedness, and an eleventh hour indenture agreement with Western Mining Corporation Resources and BP, Olympic Dam was created. I do not need to tell



anyone in this place how that has been a game-changing asset. Olympic Dam has been for our state, the nation and the world, an incredibly important resource.

Furthermore, a condition of the Olympic Dam indenture was the formation of a town to service the facility. Roger, demonstrating his characteristic passion for regional development, had argued—and correctly—that a well-resourced local centre would also provide greater economic and regional benefit over the mine's considerable life span than would otherwise be possible if it was just a typical fly-in fly-out system. Roxby Downs remains living testament to Roger Goldsworthy's foresight today.

As Minister for Mining, Roger also established the Cooper Basin Liquids Project, a site which remains the nation's largest onshore oil and LPG resource. Our state genuinely owes a great debt to the minister for his wisdom and determination in getting the deals done. The mere fact that my colleague the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis, who himself aspires to be an active and progressive minister for mining, has acknowledged that 'Roger probably is the best ever mining minister of the state' says a lot, and certainly indicates the degree of respect afforded to him from across the aisle.

Roger stepped down as the member for Kavel in 1992, passing the baton to the returning John Olsen, but the Goldsworthy political dynasty continued, with Mark subsequently being elected as the member for Kavel from 2002 to 2018—and I acknowledge his presence here today as well.

In retirement, Roger continued to serve the state as a member of the Resources Industry Development Board, among other expert roles. He was appointed to the Order of Australia appropriately in 1997 and inducted into the Energy Hall of Fame in 2017. Retirement also provided the opportunity for Roger to focus on his other great loves of music, particularly singing, his unshakable Christian faith and service, and his precious family: his beloved Lyn, with whom he shared 73 amazing years of marriage—an extraordinary achievement—and his children, his grandchildren and even one very besotted great-granddaughter.

We offer our sincere condolences to all of Roger's loved ones, and I move that this motion be commended to the house.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:11):** I also rise today to support the condolence motion in recognition of the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO. Best known as 'Roger', Mr Goldsworthy was born in July 1929 in Lameroo within our state. He was a conservative country man who lost his parents at an early age. Intelligence and hard work saw Roger graduate from the University of Adelaide with a Diploma in Teaching. He also studied physics, chemistry, maths and geology. Roger worked as an inspiring high school teacher and was an apt farmer.

At the age of 22, Roger married the love of his life, Ms Lynette Chapman. Described as soul mates, Roger and Lyn were always loyal and supportive to one another. They lived in their rural home of Paracombe where, together, they raised three beautiful children: Carolyn, Rhys and Mark (with whom I was pleased to serve in this house). Roger and Lyn have been commended for their parenting and told they have every reason to be proud of the successful and decent people their kids grew up to become.

In 1968, Roger ran for the seat of Barossa but was unsuccessful in winning it back for the Liberal and Country League during this term. In 1969 the seat of Kavel was created, and Roger was encouraged by a friend at church to run for preselection. At the time, there were two strong candidates and one other. The first vote for preselection was Goldsworthy 30, Giles 30 and three for the other candidate. On the second vote, Goldsworthy won preselection by one vote. As they say, politics is a game of inches. In the 1970 state election, Roger went on to win Kavel with a large majority, which he would do again seven more times—a testament to his work ethic and his effectiveness as a local MP.

Roger spent much of his early political life carefully and quietly expanding his knowledge of parliamentary procedure, state finances and the economy. He would go on to become deputy leader in 1975, a position of leadership he would hold for almost 15 years—a credit to the confidence that his colleagues had in him. This saw Roger assume the position of Deputy Premier when the Tonkin Liberal government took office in 1979. Goldsworthy was appointed Minister for Mines and Energy, Services and Supply, leaning on the strengths of his education background and his interest in the portfolio's significance for the development of our state.

Roger's understanding of state finances that he had honed early in his political life was put to good use when he was also appointed chairman of a committee of ministers who were given the role of controlling spending to ensure every budget was within surplus. Roger was respected within this role, but it was his role as Minister for Mines and Energy that truly brought him enduring respect over his career.

He was a passionate believer that our mining resources, including South Australian uranium, should be available to suitable customers. He had the foresight, the courage, the conviction and the understanding of the potential that our state held in this regard. It was Roger's careful leadership that led to the Liberal government establishing Olympic Dam at Roxby Downs. While there was a lot of public criticism around the project, it was Roger's responsibility to ensure that the project happened successfully.

Olympic Dam held copper, gold and uranium, but there was no essential infrastructure effectively to enable the mine so it took tough negotiations that were had to settle the state government's contributions and return to activate the project. Over the months of work to follow, Roger faced many roadblocks both inside and outside his party, but his steady hand allowed the government to overcome each one, leading to the passing of necessary legislation through the parliament for the establishment of the mine.

The jobs and prosperity that have been created for the people of our state ever since will forever be marked in our state's history and in turn cements Roger's legacy as a man who contributed genuinely to the advancement of our state's economy. Roger's personal efforts in completing this project actually earned him his induction into the Australian Institute of Energy Hall of Fame in 2017.

In 1992, Roger retired as the member for Kavel and John Olsen took his place. When John Olsen retired in 2002, Roger's son—I am proud to say a former colleague of mine and of many in this place—Mark Goldsworthy, ran for the seat. The story was recently shared with me that it was during Mark's campaign that Roger and Lyn became actively involved again, with Roger in particular becoming quite nervous. On the day before the election, Roger's nerves were so bad that Lyn sent him out to get a haircut. Of course, the aim was to get him away from the campaign office, but she told him he should go to look good in the photos that would be taken the next day!

Anyone who knew Roger knew that he had a head of lovely curly hair, but when he returned from his haircut, nobody could keep from laughing at the worst haircut he had perhaps ever received coming at that awful time. The bowl cut made for an extraordinary story and long-lasting joke between Roger and his friends.

Roger was respected on both sides of the house when he was in parliament and loved by so many in every aspect of his life. It was truly an honour to attend his funeral and to see so many of his friends and family who held him so dear. He was a true gentleman with a wonderful sense of humour. On behalf of the opposition, I pass on our condolences to Roger's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well. May he rest in peace.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:17):** South Australia has lost a giant. Roger Goldsworthy is probably not a household name; however, he should be. His contribution to the people of South Australia as a former minister for mines and energy and as a former deputy premier in the Tonkin Liberal government, in my view, is the finest demonstration of a mining minister this state has ever had.

Roger was a man of rare foresight and conviction. In an era when it was deeply unpopular he championed uranium mining in South Australia, not for political convenience but because he believed in the economic future of this state and what mining of Olympic Dam could deliver for generations of South Australians. He was right then and he is right now. For those of us who opposed him at that time, including my party, we were wrong and it is, I believe, to our great shame. It is important that we say that.

Roger championed the Roxby Downs indenture bill through the South Australian parliament, a bill that baked in an additional expenditure of \$50 million in 1981 by Western Mining, who had already budgeted to spend \$50 million, taking it to a total \$100 million prefeasibility study. In today's dollar, according to the Reserve Bank inflation calculator, that is close to half a billion dollars of expenditure in South Australia. At that time, no other project in Australia had required an expenditure

in excess of \$100 million in the prefeasibility stage, not even anything on the North West Shelf. The bill gave the regulatory certainty necessary to facilitate such a prefeasibility investment.

That decision has allowed BHP, which is there today, the custodians of that South Australian resource, to spend \$10 billion in his lifetime purchasing assets alongside Olympic Dam in order to expand South Australia into a copper province, not just a copper mine. Back then, South Australia's mining royalties were \$8 million, and the project—that one project—promised to increase this by \$30 million per year. It promised to employ up to 3,000 people at a time at the mine site, and it promised to establish the Roxby Downs township.

Thanks to Roger's leadership and determination, South Australia became home to Olympic Dam, the largest mining operation in the world, employing today about 8,000 people. What people might not know is, in terms of operational expenditure, it exceeds the joint venture in the Cooper Basin each and every year in its expenditure. It is the cornerstone of private investment in our economy. This achievement alone—this achievement alone—marks Roger in the annals of South Australia's history as probably one of our greatest parliamentarians.

But this is beyond just uranium. He played another pivotal role in making South Australia the largest exporter of onshore oil in the country, with the construction of the Moomba to Stony Point liquids pipeline, a nation-building project that helped transform South Australia's energy landscape. His support for the development of Stony Point and the processing facility at Port Bonython lay the foundation for South Australia's participation in the national oil and gas industry. That infrastructure today still remains critical, it is vital, and it contributes each and every day to the energy exports in our domestic security, something, again, that Roger deserves credit for.

Whether it was mining, gas or energy policy more broadly, Roger Goldsworthy understood the importance of sovereign capability, of value-adding and long-term infrastructure investment. His insistence, through the Olympic Dam indenture, that copper be smelted here in South Australia, that decision alone, to add complexity to our economy by having a smelter rather than an export facility, has fundamentally changed the way we view our entire economic outlook in this state. There is nothing wrong with exporting ores to other countries to be processed. Western Australia do an exceptional job of it, but what Roger ensured in this state is that we would add value here. That is a remarkable achievement. Think, at the time, how much easier it would have been to process that ore somewhere else.

Under his stewardship South Australia ascended as a globally respected mining and energy jurisdiction. The state Drill Core Library at Tonsley fittingly includes the Goldsworthy Room, named in honour of his vision and service. Beyond politics and policy, he was a generous mentor, a principled advocate. He was decent, he was honest, and I was one of those lucky enough to have met him and known him. He was warm, he was thoughtful and he was always generous with his time. No doubt he was partisan, as we all are, and so we should be, but he was always happy to give his advice.

South Australia is a better, stronger and more resilient state because Roger Goldsworthy served in this parliament. We are a stronger and better place because Premier Tonkin had the good foresight to put this man in charge of this very important industry. I am very sad at his passing. I wish his family, especially Mark, who I know the best of the family, but obviously Lyn and Carolyn and Rhys, all the very best in their commemoration of their late father. There must be a unique pride in knowing that their husband, their father, had done so much to grow this state. This man has earned the title of nation builder. We will look back 50 years from now at what BHP are doing in the copper province of South Australia, and generations will look back thankfully, that there were people like Roger Goldsworthy who served in this house. God rest him and God comfort those who loved him.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:24):** The order of service for the funeral of the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO on 11 July said it well. Roger was a giant of South Australian politics and played the key role in ensuring the development of the Olympic Dam Roxby Downs uranium, copper and gold mine, which has sustained the South Australian economy for the past 40 years.

That he was a giant of South Australian politics sells it somewhat short—he was a giant of South Australia. I acknowledge, in particular, Lyn, Carolyn, Rhys and Mark for your presence here with us today. I am particularly thoughtful that Lyn for so many years met weekly with my grandmother—with Nana—and they would share a morning tea together in retirement and it was

marvellous to be together at Roger's funeral just a few weeks ago. I want to recognise, along with so many of my colleagues, present and past on this side of the house, the presence of the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Education at that state service, and I extend thanks to the government for providing that on behalf of the family.

To Lyn, you were married for 73 years and Roger is celebrated as a giant of the state, and he did it right alongside you for those 73 years. That in itself is an extraordinary achievement, and as one who comes to a parliament as a son of a father, I think it is one of the great tributes that can be paid to a father that inspires another generation and, Mark, I recognise you in particular for your service as the member for Kavel for so many years subsequent to Roger.

I want to say a few more words, in particular, about Roger's towering achievement as minister for mining during the Tonkin government from 1979 to 1982. The high watermark, of course, was in 1982 on the passage of that critical legislation, the battle for which was one of such towering achievement that we would do well to stay and reflect on it. It took much more than vision. It took a dedication to wrestle with the parliament of the state, lots of prevailing sentiment that was abiding for years at the time, and I will just reflect on that in some detail.

But it wasn't a flourish, and I commend to members a contribution that Roger made to the parliament in late 1980, having returned from overseas travel. This is just a short part of that succinct contribution he made in the house on 25 November 1980. He said that he had been meeting with government officials and industry in Canada, Britain, Sweden, Holland, France and Japan and he also visited Hong Kong and Israel on that journey. Amongst other observations, he said:

I have obtained valuable information which will assist the government in its consideration of issues, including the development and processing of our uranium resources, exploration for hydrocarbon resources and further development of existing resources, and future use of coal for power generation and renewable energy resource technology, especially in solar energy and electric vehicles.

That is in November 1980. He was truly visionary, practical and dedicated towards the task of achieving the improvement that was, in part, inspired by those inquiries, even early in the period of his time as minister. On this occasion, I will make a rare extended reference to *A History of the Liberal Party*, written by Baden Teague. He addresses the establishment of the mine at Roxby Downs in the following terms:

The massive mine at Roxby Downs could only have been established by a skilled and determined Liberal Government. The Liberals went to the '79 Election with a policy to develop Roxby Downs, at a time when all their political opponents and every environmental group in Australia were vehemently opposed to any form of uranium mining. Labor opposed it at every stage of the debate in Parliament. Most of the Unions opposed it. Mike Rann was a staff advisor to Labor Leader Bannon and strongly anti-uranium, who publicly boasted that Roxby Downs was just 'a mirage in the desert.'

Roger Goldsworthy, Liberal Deputy Premier, as the Minister for Mines and Energy, rightly regarded this win for Roxby's approval by Parliament as his finest hour. This Olympic Dam copper, gold and uranium mine was to be a free enterprise mining development but it was necessary, before private investment could begin, to have Parliamentary approval to guarantee the Indenture, to sign the contract for the terms under which the mine would function and to agree on the royalties payable to the SA public for the minerals extracted.

As the Minister for Mining has already addressed.

There was no doubt about the extraordinary size of the Roxby Downs mineral deposit. It had been discovered in 1975 following world-leading geological work led by Dr Roy Woodall AO, the chief geologist of Western Mining Corporation...It was reliably estimated to contain the fourth-largest copper deposit in the world, the fifth-largest gold deposit in the world and by far the largest uranium deposit in the world. The trouble was though, that these minerals were 300 metres underground and located in a desert, 580kms north of Adelaide, with no infrastructure, no utilities and no services. To establish roads, electricity, water supply, and housing let alone community services, would cost one billion dollars. The mining company, of course, negotiated to maximise the government's contribution, but the government knew that it could only afford to pay for the school, the hospital, local roads and a police station, which it would normally be called upon to provide in the establishment any new township.

The negotiations for the Indenture Agreement involved not only getting the agreement of the mining company to pay the normal royalty applying under the Mining Act, but also to pay a second-tier, profit-related royalty to ensure that the public received a fair return from the anticipated mineral wealth. This 'fair return' was politically essential in order to convince the public that this venture was in their interest. More than a dozen such issues were raised and negotiated by expert teams over many months in 1980-82.

It was something that took place over the bulk of the Tonkin government's period.

The pressure to agree on the details of the Indenture mounted and became even more intense when it became clear in early 1982 that, if the Indenture Bill failed to pass Parliament by 30 June, there could be no second attempt. WMC's partner, British Petroleum (BP), was already losing patience with the whole venture and threatened to pull out forever.

At the same time, there was another kind of pressure that had to be dealt with. This was from the constant and ferocious pressure arising from Labor's platform-ban on uranium mining and its deliberate scare campaigns to foster fear in the public mind of the perceived dangers of uranium radiation, of the health risks to employees and, at worst, the potential diversion of uranium from providing fuel for energy production to making destructive bombs. All these challenges were confronted by the Liberal Government—

led by Roger, sustained over years—

which responded with rational arguments and scientific facts. The scare campaigns of Labor and the Unions went on to infect the media, the parliamentary committee inquiries, and the constant parliamentary debates. At one stage, Minister Goldsworthy had to stare down a false Report on radiation dangers that had come from a Labor-influenced section in the SA Health Department, until experts both from Australia and overseas examined it and found it to be unsound and its conclusions false. Even sections of the Mines Department for a time obstructed their own Minister's negotiations about the royalties, because these public servants genuinely believed that the Minister's proposed high rates in the second royalty might deter private mineral exploration in the future. However, Minister Goldsworthy, fully supported by the Tonkin Liberal Government, withstood all these pressures and distractions. The Liberals pressed on.

The final battle for Roxby could only be won by 'getting the numbers' [on the floor of] parliament. The House debate would not be a problem because the Government had the numbers there, but in the Council the Liberals would be defeated by one vote if the Labor and Democrat Councillors voted together against the Indenture Bill. Everyone was aware of the issues and everyone was aware of the numbers. After full consideration, all seemed lost when the Bill was put and the Council defeated it. However, the next day, one of the Labor Councillors, Norm Foster MLC, had serious misgivings about the outcome. He was the one member of the Labor opposition who had most actively researched the matter; he had visited Roxby, he had been involved in the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry, and he understood the potential of this mine to bring employment and genuine, long-term prosperity to the State and people. Foster had met with the preliminary workers at Roxby and he knew that they would lose their jobs if the mine failed to go ahead; and he had never taken any action that would take away jobs from workers. He informed Minister Goldsworthy about his change of mind and Goldsworthy acted with immediate urgency. He used the recommittal procedure in the Council to have a second vote on the Bill. With lots of drama, Foster conscientiously swapped sides and, on 19 June 1982, the Bill was passed.

This was how Roxby began. The mine was soon fully established and by the end of its first year of operation there were 1,200 jobs on site and another 4,000 jobs supporting the mine. The initial revenue to the state was \$30 million pa and this has greatly increased since. Importantly, the mine is returning a profit to the Mining company and to its shareholders who provided the development capital. For over thirty years, from first production in 1988, it has provided employment and prosperity to the people of South Australia. Only a Liberal Government could have achieved this complex development.

Finally, to go on to that moment in 1982:

The journalist, Matt Abraham, published a report of events when the Roxby legislation was finally passed. He wrote, "The Liberal Government finally let its hair down late yesterday afternoon to celebrate the Roxby Downs go-ahead. Norm Foster had taken the longest walk of his life to cross the Legislative Council floor to let the Bill pass. The Liberal party room was crowded and the scene was one of absolute, untainted, almost child-like elation. It is hard to imagine politicians being any happier, even after an election victory. The curly-haired Roger Goldsworthy was standing on a chair looking like he wanted to have a darn good cry as the off-key strains of 'for he's a jolly good fellow' rang about his ears. A bleary-eyed flush-faced Premier nodded in agreement as his Deputy thanked all those who had worked towards this outcome. This unbridled release of emotion came at the end of an electric day. Tingles ran up my spine."

I thank the house for bearing with me for what was an extended quote that I hope captures the spirit, energy and dedication that it took for Roger to achieve that outcome in that era, which I think was appropriately summed up, as I said at the outset, in the form of the order of service. That alone rendered him a giant of our state. His legacy continues to this day and, indeed, as the Minister for Mining has observed, will continue for many decades to come.

I do briefly want to acknowledge, in what we all recognise was a period of extended service to this parliament as the member for Kavel since 1970, his extended service to both the opposition and the government, to the Liberal Party, as deputy leader. It is a point not lost on me at this time, and while I could not for a moment look to emulate that record-breaking achievement as deputy leader of our party, his service in that role and his demonstrated commitment to unity and our capacity to do great things in government stands as a testament and an example to all of us who serve as members of a party of government and as members of parliament. His service was exemplary in that regard and his towering achievements for the state of South Australia will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (14:39):** It is with pride that I speak to this condolence motion for the Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy AO. Roger Goldsworthy was the Deputy Premier during the Tonkin Liberal government from 1979 to 1982. During this time he was also the Minister for Mines and Energy, playing a crucial role in the establishment of the Olympic Dam mine in Roxby Downs and the Cooper Basin Liquids Scheme. He was the longest serving deputy leader of the Liberal Party in Australia.

As Minister for Mines and Energy, Goldsworthy was involved in the establishment of the Olympic Dam mine and the Cooper Basin Liquids Scheme. The liquids project involved an expansion of facilities in the Cooper Basin, the building of a 660-kilometre pipeline from Moomba to what is now Port Bonython near Whyalla, and the construction of a treatment plant at Port Bonython. The products of the Port Bonython plant included condensate and crude oil for domestic consumption, and LPG for both domestic consumption and export.

The Stony Point (Liquids Project) Ratification Bill was enacted in 1981 and construction of the necessary facilities began in the same year. Shipments from the Port Bonython plant commenced in 1983. Just as an aside, I was working in the Cooper Basin around Moomba and elsewhere in those years of 1982 and 1983 and saw the construction of the extended plant at Moomba and obviously the pipeline connecting through to Port Bonython.

A key issue for the Tonkin government, when it came to power in 1979, was the prospect of developing the state's extensive uranium resources, in particular the recently discovered deposit at Roxby Downs, which also included significant quantities of copper, gold and silver. The government committed itself to securing this development, with Roger Goldsworthy as Minister for Mines and Energy given total responsibility for realising this goal, both in terms of policy direction for negotiations and both political and parliamentary debate regarding the project. An indenture agreement was negotiated with the joint venture companies and the Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) Bill was enacted in June 1982 in the face of extreme political opposition to the development. The Roxby Downs project has produced enormous benefits for South Australia in the period since the commencement of mining operations in 1988.

An interview with Roger Goldsworthy regarding the sale of South Australian uranium formed part of the 1981 documentary *Backs to the Blast: an Australian nuclear story*. To quote Roger Goldsworthy:

We're living in the real world, and countries like Canada, France, Britain, Sweden, Japan, all of which we visited, are committed to an increasing nuclear program. In fact, I believe we have a moral obligation to supply energy to an energy-hungry world and there is no other option.

I quote Roger from Parliamentary Debates in the House of Assembly on 20 February 1980:

In these circumstances, to make our uranium available to suitable customers under appropriate controls is the only responsible approach. Not to do so would be to deny a source of energy to countries which have no option available except the nuclear option for a significant part of their power generating capacity at present and in the future, and to condemn them to economic depression. This would surely be disastrous for the Western world and developing countries and cause greatly increased hardship and suffering. To use Bob Hawke's words, all we will be doing is making energy scarcer and dearer to those we should be supporting. I commend our policy to the House.

Other achievements—and some of these have already been quoted—are the establishment of the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy, chair of the Gawler Craton Infrastructure study for the commonwealth government, and a member of the Resources Task Force set up by the South Australian government to revive the mining industry in South Australia. Achievements outside of politics include being a member of the University of Adelaide Council 1970-73, a member of the Resources Industry Development Board, and a member of the South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy.

The Hon. Eric Roger Goldsworthy was awarded Officer in the Order of Australia for service to politics, to the parliament of South Australia and to the community on 26 January 1997 as part of the Australia Day 1997 Honours List. The Hon. Roger Goldsworthy AO was inducted into the Australian Institute of Energy Hall of Fame in 2017. He was awarded this honour for his work as the Minister for Mines and Energy from 1979 to 1982 and his significant contribution to the development of appropriate energy policies and the state's energy resources.

I just want to make a couple of other comments in relation to Roxby Downs. It has long been known as 'North Kimba' in relation to the amount of farmers from the West Coast who went north to

work at Roxby Downs. Roxby Downs has provided much needed employment for people right across the state. In fact, my son works up there from time to time as a mechanical engineer with Redpath Mining. It has provided tens and tens of thousands of jobs and political stability for many, many South Australians and others who fly into this state to work at Olympic Dam.

I just want to reflect on a speech by the former member for Kavel, Mark Goldsworthy. I might get a bit emotional, but anyway we will see how we go. It was quite an emotional speech and it did, as it is now, affect me. This shows the dynamics of the debate and the heat of the debate during getting Roxby established. Part of the speech that Mark gave in this house was about a Christmas lunch where Roger had to leave the table because the media pack was on the driveway. I thought that that is service to the community when you have to front the media on your driveway while you are having your Christmas lunch. That shows the detail of the man and his support for not just this state but this great country.

We have heard all the other things that had to happen to get this legislation approved in this parliament, but that was truly a moving speech that Mark gave in this house and that is only part of it. What a giant of a man and his contribution to the prosperity of the state. Vale, Roger Goldsworthy, and my sympathies to the family.

**The Hon. D.R. CREGAN (Kavel) (14:47):** The Premier has made remarks, the leader has made remarks, the minister has made remarks and the shadow minister has made remarks. What room is there for the local member? There is important room. Can I share these following three anecdotes with Roger Goldsworthy's family by way of comfort. We are all aware, when we come to this place, of the standing of our predecessors. That standing lives in our minds and, of course, we are aware of the contribution of our predecessors if they have been a minister of the Crown or served in some other way or had a very significant standing in the community prior to arrival.

We are also deeply conscious of the work of our predecessors as local members and the way in which they made quite often a very quiet contribution to their community. The work of a local member is often concealed. It is not revealed in this place necessarily or revealed properly until sometime later, for example the work of a member in the course of significant bushfires and Roger Goldsworthy was involved in that, in industry transitions where people's livelihoods are under threat and Roger Goldsworthy was involved in that, and at moments of great tragedy for individual families and Roger took a significant role in that.

A local member is tested in all of those circumstances, and in other circumstances. In a sense, it is a form of ministry, and Roger was particularly well equipped for that, not just because of his Christian faith and principles but also because of a deep humanity and compassion, a willingness to do more despite all the calling on his time, despite having a family and the necessary contribution that he had to make to that, to a marriage, to his friends, to all of the other pursuits he had been involved in, in a very lively way, prior to coming to parliament. He was able to discharge his responsibilities in each of those realms, but also to maintain considerable space and scope to be an excellent local member.

May I share with Lyn, Carolyn, Rhys and Mark, and other of his friends here today, and with the house, three anecdotes that were shared with me. Of course, it is not often the case that a new member is overwhelmed with stories of their predecessor, and they might come to those stories with perhaps a degree—I am not certain—of measurement, a measurement of themselves, first of all, as to whether they are going to be able to live up to that expectation and then, as a professional politician, viewing whether perhaps in their estimation their predecessor was an adequate local member.

Roger Goldsworthy was far more than an adequate local member: he was first and foremost a very sound local member which is, of course, what is required in regional communities, including the Adelaide Hills. He is remembered as somebody who was willing to do far more for a constituency than might be expected. There were three anecdotes that loom large in my mind and that I can recall to the house clearly and without notes.

The first occasion on which a number of constituents were eager to impress on me the standing in which they held Roger Goldsworthy was, of course, in the course of the Cudlee Creek bushfire when they remembered his work on Ash Wednesday and in other local disasters. They emphasised to me that this was a man of kindness, of depth, of intellect, and of compassion.

There are two other matters: the first regarding a lady who had gone on to become a significant academic in Australian university life. It perhaps will be unsurprising for me to relate to you that she took a very different view to Roger Goldsworthy in relation to the exploitation of uranium assets in this state. She had been deeply involved in moratorium movements in opposition to the war in Vietnam and also in relation to a number of other matters, including opposition to the war in Iraq.

It might be said that she was diametrically opposed politically to Roger. She said that she had confronted Roger in the street, expecting that he would seek to evade her and would not be willing to engage with her in terms of her deeply held philosophical perspectives and beliefs. It was the opposite: he had considerable time for her and was willing to hear her out. He understood the perspective that she put, and she felt that she had been not only heard but understood, and that she was able to engage with him intellectually. She had remembered it all her life. This was something that she felt politicians were not expected to do. In fact, her interaction with him had changed her perspective of what political leaders are capable of being and doing.

Finally, the anecdote that I wish to share with Mark and Lyn and Rhys is one in relation to a local constituent's desire for citizenship and the belonging, of course, that comes with that, and the security—in the case of this particular constituent—and the lengths that Roger had gone to to ensure that certain papers that had been missing in the application might be recovered from the United Kingdom to serve her application and to ensure that she could be a citizen of Australia.

She had never forgotten it, her family had never forgotten the kindness, and she was prepared to speak for him then and there and to emphasise to me that I should live up to those standards as a local member and that, if I did not, she was surely going to judge me, and all of her family, too, who lived in the community, and they would remind me of it regularly. What else can be said has been said, and I wanted to share those remarks as the local member.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (14:54):** I knew Roger Goldsworthy a little—I wish I had known him more. I had enormous regard for him, and I am fortunate to have had some insight through some of his children who I have the honour of calling my friends.

Roger Goldsworthy's career prior to politics was fairly distinguished as well. My mother-in-law was one of his students at Gilles Plains High School and had him for physics. She showed me a photo of her class recently. The leader had the story about the hair and, I tell you what, those photographs of that rich curly hair were memorable. She remembers him fondly.

He was a teacher, he was a father, he was a servant of the community, he was a friend to many and he was also a constituent of mine for several years. I first met him at Balmoral in Dernancourt for that period of time when that was in my seat. I subsequently also had the privilege of serving the community in Paracombe that he and his family added so much to that the member for Schubert now serves. The Goldsworthy name is indelible with those parts.

I remember when I visited Roger and Lyn at Balmoral being struck with the grace and the dignity with which he comported himself. He was a substantial figure of South Australian history and, as somebody who had been an MP for about four or five years at the time, I did not know much at all, certainly by comparison—but he had time, he had advice and he had interest.

At the funeral service the family offered substantial reflections, and they were incredibly good to hear. Richard Yeeles talked about the same topics that the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the minister and others have talked about: the most substantial minister for mining in South Australia's history and the impact of the work that he did against the tide and against common opinion at the time, which now has such a substantial impact on the way in which we all are able to live our lives, and the prosperity in which we find ourselves. They were important reflections.

I was struck by the reflections of David Cox who, despite having been a political opponent during the 1980s as an adviser in that field, despite having served the Labor Party in the federal parliament, became in later life an extraordinarily good friend of Roger Goldsworthy through the Friday lunchtime group at the naval and military club. I loved hearing about the ways in which Roger, David and their colleagues would solve the problems of the world right up until very recent times. To the age of 95, he was so interested in our state, our future, our community and with a perspective he was willing to share.

I am incredibly interested in, and think it is worth mentioning, his legacy as deputy leader of the Liberal Party, a role he took on in the 1970s at a time when the Liberal Party needed to be brought



together. In becoming the deputy leader of the Liberal Party he served through our party our state with dignity, respect and a sense of servant leadership. The Minister for Mining talked about the way in which he pursued the Olympic Dam proposal against the tide, against potentially political interests, and I think it was that suppression of self, the suppression of one's own political interests that also was the hallmark of his term for 15 years as deputy leader of the Liberal Party. He put the party's interests and the interests of the leader of the times ahead of his own, and by doing so he served the state. That is a role model that all deputy leaders worth their merit should aspire to.

Having done the role for about two years and nine months, and having aspired to do so in the tradition of Roger Goldsworthy—who did it for five times longer—I particularly again reflect: Lyn, thank you for how you and Roger served the state in that way. I have to say it can be a tough job and he did it with grace, with dignity and with other people's interests at heart always. He was very proud of his children. I know the pride he had for Mark, whom we all know reasonably well, and I know how proud he was that Carolyn was awarded the OAM earlier this year. I know how interested he was and how proud he was of his children's service.

So to Carolyn, Mark, Rhys and, of course, Lyn; and to the grandchildren—Caitlin, Fraser, Zoe, Harry, Tom—and to Zara: there is much to be proud of. Roger Goldsworthy will not be forgotten for as long as this parliament stands.

**The SPEAKER:** Could members please rise so that the motion can be carried in the customary manner.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

*Sitting suspended from 15:00 to 15:09.*

**ALLISON, HON. H.**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:09):** By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Harold Allison, former member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I rise to pay tribute to the Hon. Harold Allison, former member for the seats of Mount Gambier and Gordon, who passed away on 28 June at the age of 94.

Every MP takes office with a duty to act in the interests of their constituents, to be familiar with the unique and changing needs of the community and be ready to muck in and fight for the best possible outcomes for the community's local interests. That was exactly what the people of the South-East got with the election of Harold Allison MP in the seat of Mount Gambier.

Born in Sheffield, Harold arrived in South Australia at the age of 25, having already served in the Royal Navy and working in the steel industry. He settled in Mount Gambier where he explored multiple new avenues: working as an accountant, a hotelier and a real estate broker before finally moving into his first true calling as an educator. For 15 years he served as a librarian and then teacher at Mount Gambier High School, becoming a valuable and beloved figure both inside and outside the school community.

His determination to see Mount Gambier thrive drove him to enter politics where his popularity within the local community manifested in a 15½ per cent swing at the 1975 election, a win that turned Mount Gambier into one of the safest Liberal seats in the state. His star rose sharply from there. He went on to serve in the Tonkin Liberal government as Minister for Education and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and also held roles as Deputy Speaker of the house and Chair of Committees.

Throughout his time in the house, he was forever a fervent champion of the South-East and a tireless advocate for local issues. These ranged from his quest to reinstate Mount Gambier's passenger rail to victories in securing reliable water supplies for the region. Win or lose, Harold's campaigns were always conducted with his characteristic unflagging optimism.

His greatest political legacy, however, was arguably the pivotal role he played in the return of a vast parcel land to the Pitjantjatjara people, the area we know today as the APY lands. Negotiations with traditional owners had begun with the then Dunstan Labor government in the mid-1970s and could so easily have stalled after Labor's electoral wipeout in 1979. However, the fearless advocacy and leadership of Harold Allison as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs ensured that the

Tonkin government continued with the process with legislation to transport land rights to the Pitjantjatjara passing with government and opposition support in 1981. His time in the chamber ended with his retirement in 1997.

It is a testament to the enduring strength of Harold's personal reputation that the fondness within his community has clearly not diminished in the years since, particularly given the sheer volume of tributes that have followed the news of his passing. The outpouring of fond memories from former students and constituents on radio, in print and on social media speaks volumes about the legacy Harold left in the South-East and the love that he inspired in his community.

He leaves behind his children Fiona and Tim, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. We offer our condolences to his family, friends and loved ones. I commend this motion to the house.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:13):** I also rise to support the condolence motion recognising the Hon. Harold Allison. Harold Allison was born in Sheffield, England, on 10 July 1930. From 1948 to 1950 he served in the Yorkshire Royal Navy before working as an export representative with W.M. Jessup and Sons, a steel manufacturer.

Harold, like so many incredible people in our Australian story, made the great decision to migrate to Australia in 1955, arriving in Adelaide on the SS Orontes on 25 March. He settled in Mount Gambier, working as an accountant and licenced real estate agent before joining the education department in 1959 as a temporary junior assistant teacher. He went on to spend 15 years in education, including as a teacher and librarian at Mount Gambier High School, aside from a three-year period as a hotel owner, and this would serve him well in his political future.

In 1975, Harold stood for election, winning the seat of Mount Gambier, which had previously been considered a safe Labor electorate. He represented Mount Gambier until 1993 and then the seat of Gordon from 1993 until his retirement in 1997. In the Tonkin government, Harold served as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Education from 1979 to 1982, continuing as Minister for Education until November 1982. Later, from 1993 to 1997, he served as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

Harold was well suited for the education portfolio, drawing on his time as a teacher and librarian. However, one of Harold's most significant contributions came in 1981, not in the education portfolio but in his capacity as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, when he was instrumental in convincing the Liberal government to transfer more than 103,000 square kilometres of land, an area larger than Tasmania, to the Pitjantjatjara people under the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act. As then Premier David Tonkin acknowledged, the act was described as 'very much one of the most significant pieces of legislation which has come before this parliament in its entire history'. In 2001, the ongoing significance of the act was recognised in a major centenary federation project, charting the development of Australian democracy through key documents.

Beyond his legislative accomplishments, Harold was known throughout his life for his calm and steady manner. As a teacher and librarian, he left an impression on generations of students at Mount Gambier High School. He was remembered as both quiet and effective. In politics, he brought that same character. He earned respect across the chamber as a thoughtful but diligent parliamentarian. He was also passionate in his advocacy for the regions. He argued strongly for the future of country rail services and for securing reliable water supplies for South Australians in the South-East.

Harold Allison passed away peacefully at his home in Urrbrae on 28 June this year, aged 94, and is survived by his children Fiona and Timothy as well as grandchildren and a great-grandchild. On behalf of the opposition, I extend our sincere condolences to his family. Harold's service to South Australia, his advocacy for regional communities and his role in advancing land rights will long be remembered. May he rest in peace.

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (15:17):** I rise to pay tribute to a man whose life and service left an enduring mark on Mount Gambier and, in fact, the Limestone Coast and this parliament. Harold Allison, who recently passed away at the age of 94, served Mount Gambier for 22 years until his retirement in 1997. Harold was first and foremost a servant of the people, a Mount Gambier-first man, as many have said. Until the age of 24, he was the only politician that I had really known. I remember him coming to primary school, when I was there. When I was in high school, he would come and do

visits and, of course, like we do now, brought a group of us up here to go through parliament. It is very long legacy.

At the time, I spoke to him and said, 'What made you put your hand up for the Liberal Party?' He said, 'Well, nobody else did.' It was a Labor stronghold. Mount Gambier had plenty of timber mills, with a strong union backing. Quite honestly, nobody thought he would win. It is a credit to him for putting his hand up and giving people a choice. Since his time, Labor have not held the seat. Before entering politics, as has been mentioned, Harold was a teacher, senior librarian and mentor at Mount Gambier High School.

Thousands of students remember him as a teacher who made geography, English, maths and even algebra come alive. Some credit him with inspiring their own teaching careers. Others recall his French lessons, his love for theatre, his role in school pantomimes and his deep knowledge of local geology, warning decades ago about the risks of over-draining in the South-East, a challenge our community is grappling with right now.

Former Mount Gambier High School chairperson Maureen Klintberg, who worked closely with Harold in the mid 1990s, described him as a man for the people, a man who engaged with all ages and all walks of life. His memory for faces and names was legendary. It seemed he knew everybody and he never forgot their cause. Harold was passionate about education and deeply valued the views of parents. He encouraged and supported their involvement and he advocated tirelessly whenever issues arose that affected the education of our young people.

The stories shared since his passing speak volumes and I echo the words of the Premier. You can go on the Facebook page and have a look at all the comments there. There are former students recalling lunch hours in the library, school play rehearsals and Harold's calm encouragement. Locals remember him for turning up at sporting clubs, leading hockey teams, even crossing the floor in parliament when Mount Gambier's interests needed to come first. One resident told of how Harold personally followed through with their issue until it was resolved, turning a lifelong Labor voter into one of his staunchest supporters.

There are also lighter moments and memories too. He had a famous saying: 'a cup of tea and a bun', which he prescribed for any problem that anybody was facing. There were campaign T-shirts calling to turn the lights on and the way he never seemed to age in the eyes of those who knew him. What stands out most is the respect my community has for him. He won the votes and hearts of many Labor voters. Others simply called him a true gentleman.

About 10 years ago I personally took Harold his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday card. We sat down for a cup of tea at the car wash near Cross Road. His son owned the car wash and he was sweeping the floor when I arrived. He gave me lots of advice over the years, but two things always stood out in my mind. One was: 'Look after the people of Mount Gambier and they will look after you.' The second was: 'Don't be a tight-arse. Make sure you buy some jugs of beer for the winning sports team when they do their Mad Monday tour of the pubs.'

Harold Allison leaves behind his children Fiona and Tim, his grandchildren, a great-grandchild and an entire community that benefited from his integrity, hard work and humility. On behalf of the people of Mount Gambier, and this parliament, I extend our deepest condolences to his family and our gratitude for his decades of service. May we all strive to serve with the same decency, dedication and care for others that Harold embodied every day of his life.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:22):** I rise briefly to give my reflection on a long life well lived by the former and long-time member for Mount Gambier and for Gordon. I think the member for Mount Gambier has put it beautifully, particularly the observation about having hand-delivered his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday card at the car wash. That is exactly my memory in recent times since Harold had moved to Urrbrae in Adelaide in this last decade or so: a glint in the eye, a very practical down-to-earth Mount Gambier first, local member first, and that is a tremendous legacy for any of us, and that was Harold all the way through.

I want to particularly reflect on a moment in history. He was not only Minister for Education through David Tonkin's government, but, of course, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The significant moment of the legislation in 1981 was the then Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act, which had come after a lot of work done by the Dunstan government in the last couple of years, in particular, and was then

carried on and delivered, after a lot of work and negotiation led by Premier Tonkin, with Harold Allison by his side as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Harold Allison is there in the photos.

There was actually a slideshow display on at Umuwa last March—it was about three years late due to COVID and other reasons. There was a 40-year celebration of that legislation at Umuwa and there was a slideshow running and there in amongst those 1981 photos—filled with great happiness—is Harold Allison in his bright red open-neck shirt in the crowd with so many happy people gathered there. That is a memory that will stay with me.

It is a fitting legacy. Harold was not shy about engaging in the public debate about the time since 1981 and the establishment of the pit lands and ongoing now as that legislation has developed. Certainly, it was not a moment that for all time solved those very longstanding issues in relation to those who live on and own those lands; far from it, the work continues, but a key moment in history for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in 1981. It was made possible by his dedication to his community as the long-time member for Mount Gambier. Vale Harold. May he rest in peace.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:25):** The Hon. Harold Allison was a man of great conviction, community spirit and service to both his adopted home of South Australia and the people he represented for so many years. Born in Sheffield, England, on 10 July 1930, Harold's early life already reflected a commitment to service. He joined the Yorkshire Royal Navy between 1948 and 1950 and afterwards worked as an export representative for WM Jessop and Sons, a proud Sheffield steel manufacturer.

In 1955, Harold made the bold decision to migrate to Australia. He arrived in Adelaide by ship. Like so many, he came to this country with little more than a suitcase, determination and energy. He threw himself into work and into building a life and, in this instance, it was in the South-East of the state. For a time he was an accountant and a licensed real estate agent in Mount Gambier, but in 1959 he answered a different calling, education. I was interested to learn that after 15 years of being a teacher at Mount Gambier High School he bought a pub. What does that say about his experience in that role?

Those who knew him in education saw firsthand his dedication to young people, to giving them not only knowledge but also grounding to become good citizens. In 1975, Harold took another step of service, and this time it was through politics. He stood for the seat of Mount Gambier, which had long been a safe Labor seat, and he won that seat with a large margin. From then until his retirement in 1997, Harold was a popular and respected local member. He was a tireless advocate for his community, particularly in the areas of regional rail services and water supply.

His greatest political legacy has been spoken about by speakers prior to me, and that of course was the return of the land to the Pitjantjatjara people. He was a strong advocate for that in the Tonkin government and drove that process. That act of justice and reconciliation remains a landmark moment in our state's history, and Harold's role in it is enduring. Harold was in every respect a parliamentarian of substance, yet beyond the chambers of parliament he was also a man deeply engaged in his community. Even long after his retirement, his interest in politics and public life did not wane.

I recall meeting Harold when he became a member of the Unley branch of the Liberal Party in 2006, following the redistribution that brought parts of the City of Mitcham into my electorate. Despite having left parliament nearly two decades earlier, Harold's passion for politics and his commitment to his community remained as strong as ever. That is who Harold was: never detached, never disengaging, but always present and willing to contribute.

On 28 June this year, just three weeks shy of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday, Harold passed away peacefully in his home in Urrbrae. He leaves behind his children, Fiona and Timothy, who can take great pride in the life their father led and the legacy he leaves. Harold's journey from Sheffield, to the South-East, to the South Australian Parliament tells the story of a person who has dedicated their life to service. He taught, he represented, he advocated and, above all, he cared. His contribution to South Australia, particularly to regional communities, will not be forgotten. Today we remember Harold, we mourn that his loss, we celebrate his life well lived and a legacy that will endure. Vale Harold Allison.

**The SPEAKER (15:29):** I would like to speak briefly. As a nine year old in 1975 when Harold Allison won that first election, growing up just outside of Mount Gambier I know what a seismic shift

that was for people to go from having a Labor representative to a Liberal member of parliament. It was because of the universal love that people had for him, and as a nine year old you picked up on that, hearing stories from family and friends of family. In 1976 it was the centenary of Mount Gambier and he was front and centre in all of those celebrations, so as a young kid you saw him everywhere.

I would not mind hazarding a bet that I am the only person in this place who went to school with a Harold Allison Liberal for Mount Gambier sticker on my school folder. Every 10 or 11 year old wanted a sticker. We had lots of stickers. This was a dinner plate-sized sticker with Harold Allison in black and white, a photo of his face, and what we now call 'Bignell blue' for the Liberal—I think that is when I fell in love with that political colour. We moved to Adelaide a year or so later and it must have amused the teachers that there was a kid in grade 6 with the education minister's picture on his folder.

Vale Harold Allison. You did a great job as a local representative. You stand out as an example for people. It does not matter how people have always voted: if you go out and you offer to be a good representative, people will vote for you.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

**The SPEAKER:** The house is suspended until the ringing of the bells.

*Sitting suspended from 15:32 to 15:41.*

**CAMERON, HON. M.B.**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:41):** By leave, I move:

That the House of Assembly expresses its deep regret at the death of the Hon. Martin Bruce Cameron, former member of the Legislative Council, and places on record its appreciation of his meritorious service, and that as a mark of respect to his memory the sitting of the house be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

I rise to pay tribute to the Hon. Martin Cameron MLC who passed away on 24 June at the age of 89. The political career of the Millicent-born Martin Cameron began in the federal Senate; however, Martin's senatorial service was notable mainly for its brevity. It began in May 1969, when he was nominated to fill the vacancy left by the passing of Senator Keith Laught, and only lasted until October of that same year as a result of an election. However, the Senate's loss would become the state parliament's gain and proof that you cannot keep a determined country boy down.

Cameron had farming in his blood and after completing his studies in Adelaide he took on a 600-acre property at Thornlea, along with his wife, Barbara, turning it into a thriving mixed-use farm, also successfully expanding into agricultural seed supply. During this time Martin joined the Liberal and Country League for whom he ran for the seat of Millicent in 1968 and was legendarily defeated by former Labor Premier Des Corcoran by a single vote. Unbelievable!

To Martin Cameron's extraordinary credit he persevered with his political career, and that is pretty remarkable after losing by a vote. He was tapped to fill a casual vacancy in the Legislative Council in July 1971 and so began his storied career in state politics. While a proud conservative in many ways, there was a progressive streak in Cameron, one that manifested in his passion for representative democracy. His unwavering support for the adoption of universal suffrage for the state's upper house put him at odds with the Liberal and Country League. This issue drove him to follow former leader Steele Hall into the short-lived Liberal Movement in the early 1970s.

He returned home to the rebranded Liberal Party of South Australia a few years later and went on to serve as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council for much of the government of John Bannon while also serving as the opposition spokesperson on health. He will be forever remembered by everyone within earshot of the parliament for generously choosing to entertain his colleagues and staff by practising bagpipes in the halls of parliament, something that has not yet been repeated.

In 1990, Martin announced his retirement from politics and a return to Thornlea, but that did not mean embracing the quiet life. He went on to serve the state in numerous capacities as a member of the ETSA board, as chair of the inaugural Seafood Council and as chair of the Trustees of The Sailing Ship Trust of South Australia, reflecting his passion for South Australia's maritime history and especially his role in resurrecting the tall ship *One and All*. He also returned to political service, serving as president of the state Liberal Party from 1995 to 1998. We offer our condolences to

Barbara, Martin's beloved wife of 65 years, and to their children, grandchildren and loved ones. I commend the motion to the house.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (15:45):** I also rise today to support the condolence motion in recognition of the Hon. Martin Bruce Cameron. Born in Millicent on 24 August 1935 to Gordon and Asta Cameron, he grew up in the South-East before moving to Adelaide to attend Scotch College. In 1954, he undertook six months of national service and then studied agriculture across the Tasman at Canterbury Agriculture College in New Zealand where he earned a diploma.

After returning to South Australia, he worked on farms in the South-East, including at Kalangadoo. In 1958, he met Barbara Hensley and they married in 1960 and together raised five children, building a strong and enduring family life alongside his public career.

Martin first sought election to this place in 1968, contesting the seat of Millicent, and that contest was famous for, as we have heard today, being decided by that single vote. Labor incumbent, Des Corcoran, would be declared the winner. The year after, Martin was appointed to fill what was a casual vacancy in the Senate for the LCL and he served from May to October 1969, but he was defeated at the general election later that year. In 1971, leaning into that passion that he had to serve, Martin made the call to come back to state politics, where he won a Legislative Council by-election for the LCL. As we have heard, he went on to become a key figure in the Liberal Movement under Steele Hall, before he joined once again the Liberal Party when the parties united in 1976.

He was certainly an early and very determined advocate for reform of the Legislative Council, notably the extension of full adult franchise, which he would later go on to describe as his greatest achievement. Re-elected in 1975 as a Liberal Movement candidate and again in 1982 and 1989 for the Liberal Party, Martin served in the Legislative Council for almost 20 years and from 1982 to 1990 held the leadership position, as we have heard, of Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. He also went on to serve as shadow health spokesman, which he did from 1985 to 1990. It was in these roles that he truly was tireless in holding the government to account, per the Westminster tradition, especially on the state of the state's health system.

While he never went on to serve as a minister, he knew he never had to to keep making his mark, and all those who knew him would tell you that he certainly was known as a very colourful, at times unpredictable, figure in the parliament and somewhat of a larrikin who used humour, persistence and occasional mischief to make his points heard. We have all heard the famous story of the bagpipes that occurred in the corridors of parliament. Of course, it would not be allowed today under your leadership, sir, in that chair.

Martin passed away on 24 June this year in Adelaide. He leaves behind a great legacy and a great family: Barbara, their five children, and many grandchildren. He will certainly be remembered as somewhat of a fighter, a fierce advocate and a reformer, but also a true icon in South Australia's political story. On behalf of the opposition I extend our condolences to Martin's family. His service to our state, his commitment to democratic reform and his passion for public life will be long remembered. May he rest in peace.

**Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (15:49):** I rise to just briefly emphasise—I think the Premier has put it very well, as has the leader—the point about Martin Cameron's heroics in 1968. Having been encouraged by Ren DeGaris to take on the challenge, and having been moved by a whole lot of what he regarded as objectionable Labor policy in the mid-sixties, he takes on Des Corcoran, loses by a vote but, just as we have been hearing about Harold Allison, he got a 13.1 per cent swing his way to get to that one vote.

We are talking about these major swings in the South-East and, yes, he lost that by a vote but he acquired this huge LCL following as the result of having achieved that and, at the same time, having kind of found his feet as an aspiring politician. Having been encouraged by Ren DeGaris who had a long history in the South-East, he became, even before his candidature in 1968, a key fellow traveller with Steele Hall. Steele Hall was hugely supportive of him and that set the scene for what was at times a highly combative and fraught period of years going on into the mid-seventies within the LCL, and the Liberal Movement. Thank goodness there he was as part of the reunification and serving for a long time having come the long way around to the Legislative Council.

I do just also want to make an observation about dear Barbara who, for the 20 years or so of Martin Cameron's long and distinguished service ultimately in the state parliament in particular—apart from that short stretch in the Senate—ran and took responsibility for the family farm and all that went on in the South-East during that time. Martin Cameron certainly left his mark as a man of principle, and a man with strong beliefs about how to serve in public life. My condolences in particular to Barbara and the family. May he rest in peace.

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:52):** Martin Cameron was born and raised in the South-East. He was educated at Naracoorte, Penola and Millicent for his primary years and then attended Scotch College in Adelaide. He undertook six months of national service in 1954 and went on to study agriculture at Canterbury Agricultural College in New Zealand and earned a diploma before returning to contribute to farming in the South-East.

Martin's first foray into politics came in the 1968 election, and we have heard others speak about that, but what else happened with that one-vote victory of the incumbent, Des Corcoran, after that very last swing was that there was a court-ordered supplementary election. There was a second election to determine the legitimacy of that election, and Des Corcoran was ultimately returned after that supplementary election.

Then in 1969, he served just five months in the federal Senate and it was not until 1971 when he joined the Legislative Council. He was a steadfast advocate for universal adult franchise for the council. He often took principled stands that set him apart from established views within the Liberal Party. Of course, prior to 1975 you had to have an interest in property before you could be a candidate for the Legislative Council and before you could vote for anybody in the Legislative Council, and moving away from that was a significant change that he supported.

Between 1973 and 1976 he stood with the Liberal Movement, a progressive faction that split from the Liberal and Country League (the LCL as it was known) and he was the sole Liberal Movement member in the upper house until 1975. He rejoined the Liberal Party in 1976 and later served as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council from 1982 until 1990. After retiring from parliament, Martin continued to serve the Liberal Party as President of the South Australian Liberal Party and was a vocal supporter of the 'yes' case in the 1999 republic referendum.

I had the privilege of meeting Martin Cameron early in my own political journey, one of the first MPs I was introduced to upon joining the Young Liberals in my early 20s. In those formative years, his warmth, openness and encouragement were instrumental in helping new members like me feel welcome and inspired to be involved. He always had time for advice, a kind word and a gentle nudge towards getting involved. Though many knew him for his legislative accomplishments, and his role in shaping progressive reform within the party, it was his personal generosity and belief in young talent that left an indelible mark for all who knew him.

Martin Cameron's legacy is one of principle, conviction and mentorship. He helped forge a path for reform in South Australian politics, and nurtured the next generation of leaders with humility and encouragement. We honour his memory, celebrate his contributions and extend our deepest sympathies to his wife, Barbara, their children, grandchildren and extended family. May he rest in peace, and may his spirit of public service continue to inspire us all. Vale Martin Cameron.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:55):** I met Martin Cameron in late 1996. I was a newly joined member of the Young Liberal Movement and Martin Cameron was President of the Liberal Party. He was sitting as the chair of the state council—260-odd strong as it was then. At that time, the Liberal Party's membership would have been 7,000 or 8,000, and the breadth of strongly held views in the Liberal Party at that time was, as it is now, a matter of record, and Martin was somebody who united people from those different views. Some people may not know the name Martin Cameron and would have been hearing of some of these achievements over the last 20 minutes or so. They would reflect on the fact that somebody who had the support of Ren DeGaris and Steele Hall for various aspects of his parliamentary career is a notable achievement.

We are joined in the gallery today by the Hon. Dean Brown and the Hon. Michael Wilson, titanic figures of South Australian politics. Michael Wilson was the transport minister who brought the O-Bahn to South Australia. Dean Brown's achievements are many as Premier and Minister for Public Works in the Tonkin government—and I highlight the biggest election victory in South Australia's history.

The other key point as a former education minister I will make briefly—and I apologise for the digression about Dean Brown, the public works minister who ended the DMAC program and thereby ushered in a wave of improved school building programs in South Australia that we have been very grateful for over the last 45 years—is that they were part of a government and a time that Martin Cameron was part of as well. It was a time during the 1970s when there were substantial philosophical questions facing the future of the Liberal Party.

Martin Cameron chose in favour of principle and the community and the state's long-term interests rather than short-term political gain. He was a man of deep principle and also a man of reconciliation. He was someone who was integral to the reunification of the Liberal Party and the Liberal Movement, somebody whose role in bringing people together demonstrated that compromise does not have to be the enemy of principle—in fact, they can work incredibly well together—and in the 1990s, when I came across Martin, the demonstration of that was the high regard in which he was held as president of the Liberal Party, supported by the whole of the state council, irrespective of whether the moderate tendency or the conservative tendency at the time were in the majority. I think there were years when he was president when most of his vice presidents would have been from either side of the party, and Martin had all of their regard.

He was President of the Liberal Party and also, as the member for Unley said, he was patron of the Young Liberal Movement at the time as well. He put a significant amount of effort into ensuring that young people who had an interest in politics were given the opportunity to engage in the senior party and to have their principles and their energy harnessed to the benefit of the Liberal Party. His service to South Australia was profound and his loss will be felt keenly by his family. Vale Martin Cameron.

**The SPEAKER (15:59):** I first met Martin Cameron in 1984 as a young journo on Rupert Murdoch's first newspaper, *The News* (Adelaide), which was just across the road. I came to Parliament House one day. Randall Ashbourne was the political journo for the *Sunday Mail*. He introduced me to Martin. Martin Cameron said, 'You're not one of those Bignells from Glencoe, are you?' I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'You're not Trevor's son, are you?' I said, 'Yes, I am.' He said, 'He cost me the 1968 election.' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'He always voted Liberal but I know he voted for Des Corcoran in that 1968 election.' I am thinking, 'You've got the wrong bloke. My dad has never voted Labor in his life.'

Fast forward to 2001, I go from journalism into politics as a media adviser. I go down to tell dad that I have joined the Labor Party and he said, 'I've voted Labor before.' I said, 'When did you ever vote Labor? You have been a mad Lib and Country Party person all of my life.' He said, 'I voted for Des Corcoran in the 1968 election and the two elections after that.' So Martin actually was right and he knew who cost him that 1968 election!

I did get to know Martin quite well. He was not a minister but he was the Leader of the Opposition in the upper house and he did a lot of the campaigning for the Liberal Party. Randall was not much of a friend of the Liberal Party so he used to cover the Labor media conferences when I was at Channel 7 and I would cover the Liberal ones and Martin was quite often the front person for the Liberal Party. He was a terrific fellow. I always got on very well with him.

I did see and hear him play the bagpipes here. The leader said that I would stop that sort of behaviour as Speaker. I wouldn't; I would encourage it. I much prefer it to the banging of desks by school students who come in here and make a bit of a racket. Give me the bagpipes any day.

Martin was a great man and he was another one of those great south-eastern political figures that we were very glad to know. Vale Martin Cameron. To his friends and family we wish you well at this difficult time. Could members please rise so that the motion can be carried in the customary manner.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

*Sitting suspended from 16:02 to 16:12.*

*Parliamentary Procedure*

### **ANSWERS TABLED**

**The SPEAKER:** I direct that the written answer to a question be distributed and printed in *Hansard*.



## VISITORS

**The SPEAKER:** I would like to recognise that we have with us the former member for Elder, leader of government business, minister for energy, transport, infrastructure, and many other things, including my first boss in politics, Pat Conlon. Welcome to parliament, great to have you in here.

## PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Auditor-General—

Report No. 6 of 2025—Update to the Annual Report for the year ended  
30 June 2024

Report No. 7 of 2025—Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-29

Children and Young People, Office of the Guardian for—Adelaide Youth Training Centre:  
Special Report into the use of Isolation at the Adelaide Youth Training Centre  
Report July 2025

Rules made under the following Acts—

Adelaide Park Lands—Park Lands Lease Agreement—Portion of Golden Wattle  
Park/Mirnu Wirra—Park 21 West [Ordered to be published]

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

Remuneration Tribunal—

No. 4 of 2025—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Global Conference  
of Hellenic Lawyers—Chief Justice Kourakis and Justice Gray—  
Determination

No. 4 of 2025—Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance Global Conference  
of Hellenic Lawyers—Chief Justice Kourakis and Justice Gray—Report

No. 5 of 2025—2025 Inaugural Review of Remuneration for Clerks and Deputy  
Clerks of the South Australian Parliament—Determination

No. 5 of 2025—2025 Inaugural Review of Remuneration for Clerks and Deputy  
Clerks of the South Australian Parliament—Report

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

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands Rights Act 1981—Report of a Conciliator  
appointed under section 35A Report 8 August 2025

SA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program—Plankton Counts Report

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights—General

Criminal Investigation (Extraterritorial Offences)—General

Employment Agents Registration—General

Legislative Instruments—Postponement of Expiry—2025

Portable Long Service Leave—General

Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability)—General—2025

Public Trustee—General

Return to Work—

Employment and Progressive Injuries

Prescribed Disease

Serious and Organised Crime (Unexplained Wealth)—General

Summary Offences—Knives and Other Weapons—No. 2

Supreme Court—

Fees in Probate Jurisdiction

Fees Notice—2025 (No. 2)

Work Health and Safety—Prescription of Fee—2025

Rules made under the following Acts—

Supreme Court Act 1935, District Court Act 1991, Environment, Resources and  
Development Court Act 1993, Youth Court Act 1993, Magistrates Court—

Joint Criminal—No. 8  
Uniform Special Statutory—No. 7

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
National Parks and Wildlife—Protected Animals and Marine Mammals

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

Flinders University—Annual Report 2024  
Torrens University Australia—Annual Report 2024  
Adelaide University—Annual Report 2024  
University of South Australia—Annual Report 2024

By the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport (Hon. A. Koutsantonis) —

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Motor Vehicles—  
General—2025  
National Heavy Vehicles Registration Fees—Regulatory Component  
Personal Mobility Devices  
Rail Safety National Law (South Australia)—Fees—2025  
Road Traffic—  
Miscellaneous—  
Personal Mobility Devices  
Photographic Detection Devices (2025)  
Road Rules—Ancillary and Miscellaneous Provisions—Personal Mobility  
Devices

By the Minister for Energy and Mining (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
National Energy Retail Law (South Australia)—Local Provisions—2025

By the Treasurer (Hon. S.C. Mullighan)—

Emergency Services Funding Act 1998—  
Declaration for Vehicles and Vessels Notice 2025  
Declaration of Levy and Area and Land Use Factors Notice 2025  
Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Aquaculture—Fees Notice—2025  
Emergency Services Funding—Remissions—Land—Miscellaneous—2025  
Fisheries Management—Fees Notice—Fishery Licence and Boat and Device  
Registration Application and Annual Fees (2025)  
Public Corporations—  
Distribution Lessor Corporation  
Generation Lessor Corporation  
Transmission Lessor Corporation

By the Minister for Police (Hon. S.C. Mullighan)—

Police, South Australia—Return pursuant to Regulation 49E(2) of the Police  
Regulations 2014 Review Period 1 July 2011 to 11 June 2025  
Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Hydroponics Industry Control—General

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—

Gene Technology—Miscellaneous  
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia)—  
    General  
    Professional Indemnity Insurance  
Mental Health—General—2025  
South Australian Public Health—Notifiable and Controlled Notifiable Conditions

By the Minister for Human Services (Hon. N.F. Cook)—

Human Services, Department of—State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-29 Report  
Inclusive SA—State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-23 Annual Report 2024  
Regulations made under the following Acts—  
    Child Safety (Prohibited Persons)—Fees Notice—2025  
    Disability Inclusion—Fees Notice—NDIS Workers Check (2025)  
    Retirement Villages—Miscellaneous

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
    Fire and Emergency Services—Fees Notice—2025 (No. 2)

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
    Building Work Contractors—Building Indemnity Insurance  
    Conveyancers—General  
    Fair Trading—Fair Trading Regulations 2025—General  
    Land Agents—General  
    Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing)—General  
    Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians—General  
    Residential Tenancies—General  
    Retail and Commercial Leases—General  
    Second—hand Vehicle Dealers—General

By the Minister for Local Government (Hon. J.K. Szakacs)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
    Local Government—Members Allowance and Benefits  
    Local Government (Elections)—Elections  
    Outback Communities (Administration and Management)—General  
Local Council By—Laws—  
    Berri Barmera Council—  
        No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
        No. 2—Moveable Signs  
        No. 3—Local Government Land  
        No. 4—Roads  
        No. 5—Dogs  
        No. 6—Cats  
    City of Mt Gambier—  
        No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
        No. 2—Local Government Land  
        No. 3—Roads  
        No. 4—Moveable Signs  
        No. 5—Dogs  
        No. 6—Cats  
    The City Of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters—  
        No. 1—Permits and Penalties  
        No. 2—Moveable Signs  
        No. 3—Roads  
        No. 4—Local Government Land

No. 5—Dogs  
No. 6—Waste Management  
No. 7—Cats

By the Minister for Housing and Urban Development (Hon. N.D. Champion)—

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
South Australian Housing Trust—General

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

Regulations made under the following Acts—  
Architectural Practice—  
Election  
General  
City of Adelaide—  
Election and Polls  
Members Allowance and Benefits  
Planning, Development and Infrastructure—  
Fees Charges and Contributions—Compliance Fee  
Fees Notice—2025 (No. 2)  
General—Community Title Land Division  
Survey—Qualifications  
Valuation of Land—Fees Notice—2025 (No. 2)

*Ministerial Statement*

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE REPORT**

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:15):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** Mr Speaker, today the South Australian government released the report of South Australia's historic Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, entitled 'With courage: South Australia's vision beyond violence'.

The South Australian government established the royal commission after the murder of four women in South Australia in one week in November 2023, horrifying the community and domestic family and sexual violence experts and advocates alike.

Natasha Stott Despoja was appointed as the royal commissioner commencing on 1 July last year. In completing her inquiry, she has undertaken extensive consultation, including 10 days of public hearings, over 380 written submissions, receipt of 1,147 Share With Us responses and 173 listening sessions. The royal commission's work has been guided by both an advisory group and an Aboriginal partnership committee, deliberately and purposefully seeking to understand lived and living experience of those impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

The royal commission has made 136 comprehensive and wide-reaching recommendations which provide a road map towards generational reform in South Australia, structured around key themes, including:

- structural reform focused on creating a cohesive and effective system;
- increasing the awareness and visibility of domestic, family and sexual violence by investing in workforce education and the justice system, as well as increasing community awareness;
- supporting safe help-seeking and access to crisis response;
- strengthening focus on people who use violence through programs and legislative reform;

- building holistic supports for survivors that focus on longer term recovery and healing; and
- establishing a strong foundation for prevention.

To ensure that the broad suite of recommendations can be properly considered and addressed, the state government has immediately accepted seven of 136 recommendations to be pursued within timeframes recommended by the royal commission, namely:

- the establishment of a dedicated ministerial portfolio for domestic, family and sexual violence;
- the establishment of a government stewardship function to lead collaboration across government agencies, recognising that the implementation of generational reform will require whole of government coordination and effort;
- the development of an implementation plan by the Senior Leadership Committee—being South Australian government chief executives—for the phased implementation of the commission's recommendations;
- requiring performance agreements for state government chief executives to include achievement of the actions and impact identified in the implementation plan—recognising domestic, family and sexual violence as a whole of government priority;
- the development of a five-year statewide domestic, family and sexual violence strategy; and
- the establishment of separate lived experience advisory networks for adults and children, with a smaller group providing advice and expertise to the minister—acknowledging the strong message from victim survivors that their voices and expertise must be central to designing, delivering, and evaluating services and policies.

Implementing these recommendations puts in place the architecture for a lot more further work so that the scope and breadth of the remaining 129 recommendations can be properly considered by government. The royal commission benefited from the experience of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence, cautioning against reactive implementation in favour of a considered and resourced implementation plan that is not rushed.

The commission has helpfully provided guidance on the suggested sequencing of implementation and ideal timeframes for the commencement of the work to implement each recommendation, providing a pathway to improve the way we respond to the scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence and preventing it from happening in the first place. On behalf of the state government, I welcome the findings of the royal commission and thank the commissioner, Natasha Stott Despoja AO, and her staff for their considerable work.

Importantly, I want to recognise and honour the brave South Australians who lived or are living the experience of domestic, family and sexual violence who came forward with courage—great courage indeed—to tell their own often harrowing stories. Ending domestic, family and sexual violence is a collective responsibility. It requires strong leadership, and today the work begins to respond to the 136 recommendations in a way that delivers change strategically, methodically and in a way that can deliver lasting change over time.

This is an incredibly important piece of work and I would like to put on the record my particular thanks to Natasha Stott Despoja for leading the royal commission, ably assisted by a number of staff throughout government. I am reluctant to name anyone, but I think Kim Eldridge in particular, who is an outstanding woman who has demonstrated extraordinary capability, has made a substantial contribution to this effort. I sincerely hope that members are able to familiarise themselves with the report.

The royal commissioner has made clear that she stands willing and available to provide substantial briefings to any member in this place or members of the media who would like it. The Voices report I particularly commend as well, because anyone who reads that document will feel somewhat determined to make sure that this is not a document that goes on a shelf but rather provides a road map to have meaningful impact in our community.

**RECENT LOSSES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY**

**The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (16:26):** I table a ministerial statement made in the other place by the Hon. Emily Bourke today.

*Parliamentary Committees***PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (16:28):** I bring up the 141<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled Glandore Oval Redevelopment.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 147<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Happy Valley Water Treatment Plant Powder Activated Carbon Dosing System.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 148<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Storage Capacity Upgrades.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 149<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled South Australia Netball Centre Redevelopment.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 150<sup>th</sup> report of the committee, entitled Alberton Oval Stage 4 Redevelopment.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 151<sup>st</sup> report of the committee, entitled Whyalla Sporting Hub.

Report received and ordered to be published.

**Ms HOOD:** I bring up the 152<sup>nd</sup> report of the committee, entitled New Mount Barker Hospital—Clinical Services Building and Central Energy Plant.

Report received and ordered to be published.

*Question Time***ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:30):** My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier take responsibility for South Australia's response to domestic violence? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** In today's press conference, Natasha Stott Despoja claimed that 'South Australia once led the nation in this area and we are now way behind. The sector is fragmented, crisis driven and lacking leadership'.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:31):** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question on what is a really important day for the state, one that I hope proves in the long term to be a bit of a turning point in the way that we confront domestic violence. In answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question directly, yes, I do take responsibility as Premier of this state for the response to the royal commission. A royal commission is ultimately commissioned by the Premier through Her Excellency and this is a comprehensive piece of policy work for which the government is very grateful.

Can I take this opportunity, given the Leader of the Opposition's question, to speak to the methodology that we are applying in response to the royal commission. The royal commission has within it 136 recommendations and makes very clear to the government how best to go about implementing those recommendations. It sets out a rather prescriptive guide to government around the timelines that it should adopt in the application of the recommendations that have been made.

It is a prevailing theme of the royal commission report that to the best of the government's ability we assess to be consistent with the advocacy we see coming from the sector, that is those organisations in our community that do frontline service delivery around domestic violence, and consistent with a clear learning of the Victorian royal commission that it is important that time is taken to methodically plan out how recommendations will be implemented before they are adopted.

In fact, the royal commissioner today in her press conference, which I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition to watch, makes very clear that there are lessons to be learned from Victoria about not rushing to just tick off recommendations but rather to work through them.

*The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The Leader of the Opposition interjects referring to the \$3 billion figure, which I note has also been referenced in a hyperpartisan press release that the Liberal Party have put out. I am going to resist making—

*The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The leader will cease interjecting. You have been warned.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** The Leader of the Opposition says, 'Take it seriously'. I would simply say this to the Leader of the Opposition, before he keeps pressing—

*The Hon. V.A. Tarzia interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The leader has been warned a second time.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —take the time to read the report. Take the time to read the report. Unless the Leader of the Opposition is the fastest reader in the state, he has not yet read the royal commission report before putting out a press release relating to it, which is worthy of contemplation for members opposite. But more than that, the Leader of the Opposition refers to the dollars allocated by the Victorian government, which itself took weeks to announce a funding allocation post the release of the report, which is consistent not just with the approach we are taking but also consistent with what the royal commissioner herself has recommended.

So, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to play politics with this report, he will be doing a grave disservice to the importance of the report and the thoughtfulness that has been put into its development. I would encourage the Leader of the Opposition to read the report before he goes rushing out putting out any more press releases.

#### **ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DOMESTIC, FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:35):** My question is to the Premier. Who will be the standalone Minister for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, and will the government accept all the recommendations of the royal commission and, if so, when?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:35):** The Leader of the Opposition, had he familiarised himself with the government's response, the press release or indeed the lengthy press conference today, would be aware that I enunciated the government's position with respect to each of those issues, but I think it is important and worthy of repetition.

The first thing is that there are 136 recommendations today. We have accepted seven. We have chosen those seven very deliberately because those seven put in place the government architecture and the governance framework to then deal with the remaining 129 recommendations. Those include the acceptance of recommendation 1 for a standalone ministerial position. I have made clear in our remarks today that we don't just accept the recommendation, we intend to implement it, in effect, within weeks.

Secondly, with respect to the recommendation that speaks to a central government stewardship role, we accept that recommendation because it, too, allows us to respond to each of the other recommendations. There are two options available to the government in our assessment with regard to where that stewardship sits. The minister and I have been in active discussions about that since we received the report on Thursday. We intend to announce our determination in coming weeks, but we accept that recommendation.

The other recommendations that we have accepted today speak to a few different areas, one of which is the capacity to coordinate more broadly across government a long-term strategy to tackle this challenge, including the acceptance of the recommendation for a strategic plan for a five-year period to be put into place.

More than that, there are recommendations that speak to ensuring that lived experiences are central to all government deliberations. This is something that the minister has already been doing, including in advance of the royal commission, which is exceptionally important work. So we have already in place frameworks in government to ensure that is fed into the response. But we chose those seven recommendations deliberately because it is what sets us up for a response. Allow me to say this to the Leader of the Opposition: when all of those recommendations will be formally responded to by the government we have committed to do by the year's end, but do not expect us to wait until the year's end before we start doing some of the actions, particularly some of the practical things that are within our power now.

As a government, we are very conscious of the fact that we have a big legislative agenda to try to fulfill between now and the end of the parliamentary sitting year. We now add to that because there are reforms referenced in the royal commission that, if enacted, will require legislative change and the one I foreshadowed in the press conference today relates to a recommendation around how we regulate alcohol deliveries to the home. This is something that the Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs is already working on as we speak and we will have a submission coming into cabinet within the next couple of weeks for us to contemplate and then we, in turn, once that has gone through the appropriate cabinet process, would anticipate it is within this government's wherewithal to then translate that to legislation that we can bring to the parliament before the end of the year.

I cite that simply as an example that we are not going to wait until the end of the year to start enacting recommendations. Where we can deliver an iterative response that speaks to the degree of urgency around the issue we can, but it won't be at the expense of the quality of consideration that many of these recommendations apply, which again is relatively consistent with what the Victorian government did where the \$3 billion figure the Leader of the Opposition interjects with was a figure that didn't come out until seven years after the royal commission's report was implemented. On this side of the house we treat the issue seriously by consideredness consistent with the recommendations made in the royal commission report, and will consider and continue to deal with it with the appropriate level of speed that does justice to the issue at hand.

### **ALGAL BLOOM**

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:39):** My question is to the Premier: will any beaches be closed due to the harmful algal bloom?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:40):** This is a significant moment: the Leader of the Opposition has just asked his first question regarding the algal bloom. This is a first. Of course—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** —on this side of the house, we have been dealing—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader! Premier.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I simply welcome the Leader of the Opposition's recent interest in the issue. In respect of the closure of beaches, this is a matter that has been discussed repeatedly at our task force that we have established. The government has received advice, and that advice has evolved it is fair to say, but we have been consistently receiving advice going right back to the establishment of a scientific group reporting to government many months ago now.

In respect of the question around beach closures, yes, this is a subject matter that we have interrogated and, as it currently stands, the position or the advice that the government has received is that it is not anticipated that there will be any need for beach closures because the consequence



of beach closures would obviously be dramatic and, of course, is not warranted given the relative discomfort or inconvenience that is experienced as a result of the impacts of the harmful algal bloom.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has been on radio recounting various sources of anxiety within the community. One can, I think, form their own judgment as to whether or not his objectives there are to inflate anxiety or rather to address it with fact about whether or not people can walk their dogs along the beach, for instance.

The advice that the government has received from SA Health is that people are able to go to the beach. Indeed, if they are brave enough to jump in the water in the cold they can do that, too, but we advise people—on the back of that advice—that where people see discoloured or foamy water then they can work on the basis that that is likely to represent a greater presence of the algal bloom, and one may want to consider whether or not that is a course of action they would like to undertake. But beaches, on the advice that we have received, will not be closing.

There is a range of complex policy challenges that we have with the algal bloom and that is something that no doubt we will traverse as questions continue to emerge throughout the crisis, but one of the challenges that we also have to contemplate is the fact that the algal bloom is now affecting regions where the algal bloom does not exist, which is a function of a perception within the community, a perception fuelled by fear that, indeed, the algal bloom has wiped out the entirety of our coastline when, clearly, that is not the case.

It absolutely has had an impact in a substantial number of areas in the state, quite a severe impact, and one only has to walk along the beach and bear witness to some of the marine life that has washed up to feel somewhat disconcerted that this is happening in our state of all places. It is confronting and it is challenging. It can quite legitimately provoke a response that is not just emotive for people, but has a significant psychological impact, and we should be acknowledging that and seeking to address it where we can.

But it is also true that those of us in positions of leadership have a responsibility to not unnecessarily exaggerate the pain in the community by creating the perception that there are places in our state where you can't walk on the beach when you absolutely can. That is a balance we continue to pursue. We do it under difficult circumstances, and we would very much welcome a bipartisan approach from those opposite for responsible and mature discussions around the harmful algal bloom.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the leader, I just remind members on my left that interjecting is contrary to standing orders, so I draw to your attention, member for Chaffey, that you are warned for the second time; member for Flinders, twice as well; member for Frome, twice as well; and member for Heysen, once.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:45):** A supplementary, if I may. Will the government release that advice that the Premier was alluding to; and what, if anything, is the government's plan for summer, including any beach closures and restrictions on things like surf lifesaving and children's swimming lessons?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:45):** I will deal with the latter part of the question first. On 27 August, the government is engaging with a substantial and important meeting with senior representatives of the surf lifesaving community around the state in respect of the algal bloom. We have offered to Surf Life Saving to have that meeting as quickly as possible. The date they have suggested is 27 August. That will be an important forum to discuss a range of issues, including VACSWIM, but the advice I have received through channels to me is that those registrations will be proceeding as per normal.

What happens with VACSWIM, which is a great community service that I recommend to any parent—we have certainly used it repeatedly—is that, as is the case with every VACSWIM lesson, there is a comprehensive examination done of the beach and the water by Surf Life Saving before the lesson goes ahead to look for swells, debris or conditions that informs about the safety of the lesson. That approach will continue to be applied here, but as the situation evolves the advice will continue to be examined and changed in the event that that is required.

In regard to the summer plan, we have made it clear that we are working on a summer plan and it will have multiple elements to it. One of the things we want to do is make sure we are providing as much information as we reasonably can to the community around the algal bloom, the location of the algal bloom and the testing analysis that's done around the algal bloom. But one of the challenges that members in this place should be cognisant of is the ever-changing and evolving nature of the algal bloom.

You can test a body of water in the morning and it might be all clear, and then by the afternoon it might not be, and vice versa. It moves, it changes in concentration, tides have an effect, other oceanographic movements have an effect, sun conditions have an effect—it is very dynamic from one beach to the next. What's the case on one side of the jetty might be different to another. So one has to be very cautious in calibrating the public advice that we make to reflect the circumstances that we confront.

More than that, with respect to beach closures, if that advice that we have changes then of course we seek to let the public know at the same time. Our public forums have been well attended. We have had a number—I have another one tonight in Hallett Cove—and we continue to have those in both regional South Australia, metropolitan Adelaide, up and down the coast. These are forums that are conducted with public officials to be able to provide advice. Anyone can come along and ask questions. They are completely unfiltered. Members of the media are present, they are transparent in nature and we provide advice in accordance with the best advice.

These forums are orientated towards providing accurate information, not fearmongering but answering questions, not recirculating conspiracy theories. On this side of the house, I am very proud of the fact that we have a consistently held view that science should inform public policy.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** On this side of the house we are not flirting with the anti-vaxxers, we are not flirting with net-zero preoccupations, we are not denying the science. We are embracing the science to make sure that accurate information is given. Something has changed amongst those opposite over the course of the last four years, something has changed, and we will see how that plays out for them.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Mount Gambier, clearly the members for Chaffey, Flinders and Frome did not hear me the first time, so you are on your third warning, all three of you. The next time you will not be warned; you will be exiting. Member for Mount Gambier.

### **FORESTRY INDUSTRY**

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (16:49):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise what policies the government has in place to safeguard the sovereign capability of the forest industry into the future? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BELL:** Today marks National Forestry Day and SAFPA have released a policy paper in response to the rapidly escalating risk confronting South Australia's timber and wood products sector following the United States' decision to increase tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber to 35.19 per cent. This latest escalation is part of a broader global shift toward protectionism in trade policy with significant potential to disrupt international timber markets and impose severe flow-on effects for both Australia and, in particular, South Australia's forest products industries.

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:50):** I thank the member for Mount Gambier for his question and thank him for not just his support of the industry but the advocacy he has provided to everyone, which was certainly instructive in the development of the government's policy regarding the forestry sector and represents the most substantial investment in the forestry sector we have seen in the state's history and one that we are very proud to be rolling out in conjunction with the member for Mount Gambier's advocacy.

Yes, there are inevitably going to be implications to the substantial tariffs that have been placed on Canadian softwood, one that the government continues to monitor. However, the government remains somewhat steadfast and confident that the performance of our industry will be

resilient given not just the dynamism that we see in the industry in South Australia but the constant pursuit of innovation to make us increasingly competitive.

People would do well to be aware that the adoption of the radiata pine here in South Australia has been a leader with respect to innovation using both research and the applications of technology to make our forestry sector particularly productive using every last bit of the fibre at the state's disposal so they can participate in the supply chain right across. It is not just about softwood being used for the purpose of timber but also contributing to a range of other industries in the South-East, as the member for Mount Gambier will be well aware.

The forestry industry makes a \$3 billion contribution to our economy. For those of us in metropolitan Adelaide that always runs the risk of being a little sight unseen. What we have done as a state government is to make sure we make an investment where we can to see the innovation continue, so we invest in the Centre for Excellence, which is a major investment on behalf of the state government that is done in conjunction with the substantial investment we make for the establishment of a master plan, the investment in AI technology being used for fire protection and, of course, the major investment of revitalising the TAFE in Mount Gambier in conjunction with the technical college.

On one singular site we will have the Centre for Excellence, the TAFE and the technical college to make sure that we are not just doing the research to advance the industry but that we are procuring the skills to make sure that it is increasingly globally competitive.

One of the other challenges that the government confronts in the South-East to ensure that we contemplate how best to use science to get the best outcomes is to look at the water allocation plan in the South-East, which is a very complex and important piece of work being done with science at the centre of it and something that the Deputy Premier has been working on in conjunction with the industry.

In terms of the impact, we note SAFPA's report that following the imposition of tariffs Canadian producers will probably have to find alternate markets for approximately 20 million cubic metres of timber. That puts us in a unique position because, of course, it wasn't that long ago that the world was crying out and we would have desperately welcomed Canadian timber in some respects because we didn't have enough to build the homes that were required. That does not feel like that long ago.

We see that in the current global economy things can change, and change quickly, which is why the best policies pursued are the ones that are focused on long-term productivity and innovation in a sector that has always had a long-term time horizon in terms of return on investment. We continue to monitor the situation and are very happy to work with the industry if there are policy changes that are required.

## STATE ECONOMY

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (16:54):** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the house on the South Australian economy?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:54):** It is interesting. There are undoubtedly challenges that government must confront, and this has always been true. It has always been the case that governments, regardless of their political persuasion, will have to deal with events of the day and challenges that are presented towards us, and certainly there's been a run of them recently: challenges in Port Pirie, the algal bloom, drought.

I am very grateful to be part of a government that has an exceptional team across the front bench—whether it be responding to a domestic violence royal commission, the challenges around aged-care patients in the hospital system, algal blooms, Port Pirie, Bedford—that as a team works together. We stand up and rise to each of these challenges, and we do it professionally.

But it's also true that we have to also maintain our eye on the big picture and the big picture in terms of how the economy is going and what are the things that we can do to influence the performance of the economy. As a government, one of the areas of focus that we have had, that is delivering results, is making sure that we look at housing not just as a critical service for the community, and something that is desperately required for people to live in, but also as an economic lever.

What we have seen in now report after report, including many released since the parliament's last sitting, is that housing is growing at a very rapid pace in the state of South Australia that exceeds every other state around the nation to the extent that, whether it be ABS data or, more recently, the Commonwealth's State of the States data, we see that we are a staggering 22.8 per cent up on the decade average in terms of dwelling starts, 16.7 per cent up on construction work done, 26 per cent up according to the ABS year on year in terms of new dwellings. If there is an Australian family looking for a jurisdiction that is pulling every policy lever at their disposal to get more homes being built then South Australia is the place for you.

Only yesterday, the Treasurer and I met with the CEO of National Australia Bank—it was somewhat refreshing to be able to sit with him—who offered analysis backed up by figures that he had at his disposal, speaking to the outperformance of the South Australian economy with respect to the rest of the nation. This is an economy that is doing well in terms of the labour market. People are in more jobs, wages are going up, there's a greater presence of secure part-time and full-time work versus casual work. Wages are going up in South Australia, housing dwellings are going up. Business confidence is going well.

*Mr Telfer interjecting:*

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I thank the shadow treasurer for his very useful cooperation, and I would invite him to only look at the ANZ Stateometer; in fact, I think it is NAB that also measure much of these statistics in terms of our performance. The shadow treasurer is welcome to ask questions of the government. But when you look at all the statistics, the Commonwealth Bank has us ranked at number two in the nation, second only to Western Australia, who are still cashing in on the GST that those opposite gladly handed over. We are a state that is doing well in respect of our performance in comparison with the rest of the nation, notwithstanding the challenge that we have before us. We will keep our effort up because that is in the DNA of this government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call on the leader, the member for Flinders, obviously not a quick learner, you can leave the chamber under 137A for 15 minutes.

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

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And a couple of other members on my left are going to follow. Leader.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:59):** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier asked the federal government to declare the algal bloom a natural disaster and, if so, when did he do it?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (16:59):** Yes, and I have not just said it publicly, I have also said it privately.

**The Hon. V.A. Tarzia:** When?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS:** I am happy to go back and check the public transcripts, but I think they are there for the public to see.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:00):** My question is also to the Premier. Did the government invite US-based algal bloom expert Donald Anderson to South Australia and, if so, when?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:00):** Yes, the government did invite Don Anderson to come over here and he is here at present meeting with scientists. I am not sure when the invitation was first issued, but I am aware that back on 3 June PIRSA organised a meeting with a forum of some 80 scientists from international locations, as well as national and state, to start the conversation about what kind of evidence had been collected across the world, and subsequent to that have had a number of discussions with scientists overseas via various telecommunication mechanisms.

At some point during that period, they have clearly identified that Dr Anderson is a useful person to bring over, having had significant experience with the blooms that exist in the United States, although not *Karenia mikimotoi*. In Florida particularly there is the bloom of *Karenia brevis* and he has had experience with that. He is here at present, as I say, meeting particularly with SARDI but also with the EPA and with the environment department.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:01):** My question is again to the Premier. Did the government pay for Mr Anderson to visit South Australia and have you, as Premier, met with him?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (17:01):** I am happy just to verify that, but the advice I have received up until this point is I think we have made a contribution. Certainly, the CEO of PIRSA, Mehdi Doroudi, made clear to me that there was an opportunity to be able to have the professor come to South Australia. He floated the proposition with me and I thought it would be a worthwhile exercise. I think there is a meeting with the task force that we've got, as we do on Thursdays. I think I am right in saying that we might have contributed to the cost of his travel, but I am happy to take that on notice just to make sure I am providing accurate information to the house.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:02):** Supplementary: based on the answer that you may have paid for his travel, was there any condition on that payment, including that he not be asked to speak to media?

**The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (17:02):** Given that he has spoken to the media, I am not so sure.

#### REGIONAL GP SERVICES

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (17:03):** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister provide an update on efforts to recruit GPs to regional areas? With your leave, sir and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BELL:** Over the past eight weeks, Mount Gambier has experienced the closure of the Urgent Care Clinic, the Mount Gambier Family Health practice and a second general practice clinic is currently operating without a GP. At this current point in time, there are no general practice clinics in Mount Gambier, the second largest city in South Australia, accepting new patients. Is there any action the government is taking to address this urgent shortage of doctors?

**The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (17:03):** Thank you to the member for Mount Gambier for this important question. We know how critical general practice is for people right across the state and right across the country.

Obviously, while it is predominantly the commonwealth government's responsibility, in terms of the provision of general practice services through Medicare and also through Medicare urgent care centres, it is something the state government takes a very significant interest in and works collaboratively with the federal government and primary health networks in terms of how we can assist to address these issues. I am obviously concerned in terms of Mount Gambier in particular as a major regional centre in this state and the pressure that it puts in terms of our emergency services.

Obviously, it is something that the government is investing in and we are soon to open the upgrade in terms of the new Mount Gambier expansion of the emergency department there, but we do not want to have a failure in terms of the federal government's general practice services, leading to more pressure on our emergency departments. The good news is that there is a lot of action that has been taken in term of general practice. The downside is that a lot of those things take time.

In Mount Gambier, and in the Riverland as well, the really positive news is that we now have Flinders University undertaking regional medical training, so students are undertaking their entire degree based in regional areas. That is a great asset for the Limestone Coast to have into the future that doctors will be undertaking their university training in the region. Adding to that, we through the state government are undertaking work to do the next level of their training based in regional areas across the whole state.

This is a program that first ran through the Riverland, through the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence. It is called the single employer model, where we are able to employ doctors after their graduation to work in their general practice training to become regional specialists, to become rural generalists as it is called, to work in public hospitals in regional areas but also to work in general practice. We have had to get exemptions to the Medicare rules for that to happen, and it has been very successful in the Riverland in terms of the recruitment of doctors to that region.

We now have permission for that to roll out across the state. We now have trainees in that program who are undertaking that across the state, and that is going to continue to grow and grow over time, which is an excellent potential future pipeline of those doctors, but obviously that takes time as well.

The other area where states and territories and the commonwealth have worked together is in terms of the work that we are doing to try to improve our pipeline of attracting general practitioners from other countries, particularly countries where their training is requisite to our training, particularly the United Kingdom where we know that there are a lot of UK doctors who are keen to move to Australia. We want to try to make that as easy as possible, of course maintaining all the safety rigorous steps that we need to do so.

We have put in place what is called an expedited pathway. That has been in place for a few months now and is seeing doctors, who I understand predominantly have been coming from the UK, coming to Australia through that expedited pathway, removing some of the steps for doctors who are accredited in the UK having to jump through multiple hoops. Where we have been able to be successful in terms of the recruitment of doctors from the UK, sometimes it takes years to jump through all the hoops, even though they have all the accreditation of the UK system, which is obviously requisite to ours. That is another potential way by which we can address this issue.

In term of the urgent care centre, very briefly, the federal government is out to tender again through the primary healthcare network, after the previous provider hit financial difficulties, and we are hoping that a new provider will be able to take that up and provide those services to the community.

### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:07):** My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. In relation to the algal bloom, what date did the government first receive reports of dead fish and what immediate action was taken?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:08):** The dates for the beginning of the bloom, the first reports were really around 17 March down on the south coast, in the member's electorate, where there was the appearance of not only foam on the beach itself and in the water, the reactions that some surfers had had but also the beginnings of some dead sea life, so it has been for a significant period of time.

There were also occasional reports of dead animal life that wasn't what we would think of as sea life, so birds and there were some kangaroos that died down in the member's area. There was some concern that perhaps they were associated with the algal bloom.

So, really from the 17<sup>th</sup> or so of March since this bloom first started, both PIRSA and the environment department have been testing animals that have washed up, as well as testing water, as well as increasingly of course monitoring by the use of satellites the progress of this bloom.

When it comes to, say, a marine mammal like a dolphin that might be washed up—as does happen from time to time in any case—when the animal is fresh enough, that animal is taken for a necropsy, as a non-human autopsy is called, for an assessment of what may have caused the death, if it is possible to determine it, and also whether there are any toxins associated with that animal. That has also taken place for some of the fish life that has washed up in order to determine what the impacts of the bloom have been, paired with constant water testing to see what species is in the bloom also.

That has been the way in which they have been able to determine that *Karenia mikimotoi* was the dominant species in the bloom, one that is toxic and lethal to fish and sea life generally—anything with gills, anything attempting to breathe under the water—but not toxic to mammals,

humans or bird life. So that is the action that has been taken by the very diligent public servants and scientists with the government who have been undertaking that assessment ever since the bloom showed up.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:10):** Again, my question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Has the government explored mitigation measures such as clay flocculation to treat the algal bloom and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:11):** I would like to talk about the clay method, which is very topical at the moment because PIRSA and SARDI have invited Dr Anderson to come over, who is one of the people who published a paper about a year ago on the use of clay.

Just to give a little bit of background on that for people, we are talking not about pure clay as it might be dug up from the land; to use that to address algal blooms takes an enormous amount of clay and it is not particularly effective. There is, however, an approach that has been used in China to modify clay by putting additives into clay, including aluminium, to make it more effective in what is called flocculating, which is the capacity to form a heavy curtain over algae and make it sink to the bottom of the sea.

There are reasons why you would be cautious about doing that. One is that if you are putting an additive in, you are putting an additive into the ocean: for example, aluminium, which we need to be very careful about. Another is that where there have been some trials on this with bivalves—and for us, of course, that is particularly important as bivalves are oysters and mussels—clay can retard the growth of those animals. That is not necessarily a reason to not use it but it is something to be aware of, and when you are adding a whole lot of sediment to a water body that can change the nature of the ecology there.

South Australia has a very diverse biodiversity; in fact, I am not sure if people realise that we have a broader range of biodiversity in our marine environment than in the Great Barrier Reef. The Great Southern Reef is an extraordinary reef and houses an extraordinary variety of biodiversity. We also have very high-quality biodiversity in a very good marine environment. China is the only place that has used this approach in open water to deal with *Karenia mikimotoi* in the ocean, and the Chinese marine environment, I would venture to say, is neither as diverse nor as healthy as the South Australian one. Certainly, we wouldn't rush to simply adopt an approach that has been undertaken by China, nor have other parts of the world.

The US has undertaken a trial and Dr Anderson is one of the people, as I said, who published the paper about a year ago on that trial, which involved water in tanks on land for a 72-hour period with three species of marine life to see how they were affected: a clam, a sea urchin—and another one that will come back to me shortly. That trial did indicate that it was pretty effective at dealing with *Karenia* in that short period, that there was perhaps some retardant of growth for the bivalve, but that otherwise they felt it went reasonably well.

So the US, although it hadn't previously approved the use of clay, has indicated that the next time there is a *Karenia brevis* outbreak in Florida that they will permit a one acre area of ocean to have a dose of this clay.

We are talking about something that is exciting but experimental and one that requires approvals. One of the approving authorities, the most important one, is the APVMA which is a commonwealth authority. We have been in touch with them. What is occurring during this week is that we are looking into whether we can do a trial, probably on land or in a very confined water body, to see what the impact might be on our marine environment, and we thank Dr Anderson for coming over to help us discuss that.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (17:15):** Again, my question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. When did the Deputy Premier first receive correspondence in relation to the algal bloom crisis, and what was the Deputy Premier's response? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr BASHAM:** *The Australian* reported on 14 August, I quote:

On April 7, a constituent wrote to Premier Peter Malinauskas contrasting the government's management of the bloom with its passion for major sporting events...The Premier's office referred the letter to the office of Environment Minister Susan Close, which in turn referred it to the office of Primary Industries Minister Claire Scriven, whose office said it was an environmental question and sent it back to Dr Close.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:16):** You would think that the people on the other side have never been in government, but maybe that's because it hasn't happened all that much. My office has handled hundreds—I think it is getting near to 700 items of correspondence and documentation—associated with the algal bloom. Understandably.

Every so often someone will send an inquiry that comes to one minister or to the Premier and needs to be directed to one or more ministers to get an answer because we have different responsibilities. Every so often, and very rarely, but it does happen, one minister suggests that another—and I am saying 'minister'. I mean 'minister's office'. We are talking about administrative staff, who work extraordinarily hard in ministers' offices, who might direct it to another one and that one might think that there needed to be some answer included.

Anyone who has been a minister knows that that happens. The fact that there is I think maybe a dozen occasions when that happened for this issue, given the volume of correspondence that has occurred, suggests that this is a non-story. Now, congratulations on getting a little bit of media on something to do with the algal bloom being whether one piece of correspondence is passed to another piece of correspondence. What really matters here is whether anyone is interested in the algal bloom on that side.

**Mr Pederick:** You just threw your staff under a bus.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hammond!

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** That's unfair. That is unfair to say because my staff are extraordinarily hardworking and have worked their guts out on this algal bloom.

**An honourable member:** Bleeding hearts.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** So we are not sure how we are reacting to this—

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, can you resume your seat. Members on my right! And member for Florey, your voice stood out the most, so you are on your second warning, member for Florey. While I am out there, given that the member for Hammond couldn't help himself, you are on two warnings; and member for Chaffey, you can join your colleague under 137A for 15 minutes.

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

*The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Unley, you have been quite good today, but now in the last lot you have actually spoken up three or four times, so you can be on a second warning as well.

### ALGAL BLOOM

**Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (17:19):** I have a question for the Premier, but perhaps the Deputy Premier in his absence. Can pubs and hospitality businesses affected by the tourism side effects of the algal bloom be included in the business support grants immediately? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr ELLIS:** At Port Vincent, where the impact of the bloom is probably being felt most acutely currently, there is a kiosk that serves food and drink on one side of the road that is eligible for the grant. On the other side of the road, there is a pub—



*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hold on a sec. You can start again. That's three, I think, member for Florey, and the member for Hammond is on three, too, for helping me out. Member for Narungga, you can actually have your question unimpeded now because the next member who speaks out will leave the chamber.

**Mr ELLIS:** Famous last words, Deputy Speaker. I have a question for the Deputy Premier. Can pubs and hospitality businesses that have been affected by the tourism side effects of the algal bloom be included in the business support grants immediately? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**Mr ELLIS:** At Port Vincent, where the impact of the bloom is perhaps being felt most acutely, there is a kiosk that serves food and drink that is eligible for the grant on one side of the road. On the other side of that same road there is a pub which also serves food and drink but isn't eligible for the grant.

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (17:20):** I thank the member for Narungga for his question. As always, I think it's important that he continues to raise the issues that are front of mind for his electorate. The government has been very aware over the course of recent months, as we have been discussing during question time today, that there has been not only significant concern about what the algal bloom means but also the business impacts of the algal bloom, whether it's on the fishing industries and the participants within them or the broader impacts in communities which are either being directly impacted by the algal bloom or that there is some spillover effect.

Just yesterday, the government made its most recent changes to the industry support package focused on fisheries and the industry participants within them to make sure that we were relaxing some of the criteria to make it easier for some of those businesses to access financial support. The way in which this government has continued to try to make funding assistance available for affected businesses is to make it relatively easy for them to apply through the Department of State Development and they can show essentially two very simple bits of information. One is what the most recent three months of trading activity has looked like and compare it back to the same period of time 12 months earlier. If there has been a decline in turnover of 30 per cent then they would be able to access those funds.

We have, to date, tried to focus our efforts on providing direct financial advice to those small businesses that we understand are most immediately most likely to be affected by any reduction in activity along the coastline. For example, we have identified kiosks alongside beaches as a category of business that would readily fall within that category.

But I am aware that there has been some concern from some pubs and hotels which, of course, attract perhaps a broader part of the community to their operations, not necessarily just relying on the daytime trade that the beachside locations will attract to their premises, that they haven't been included to date in the same way. In fact, I was listening to talkback radio this morning when I think the proprietor of the Stansbury hotel was raising this issue as well.

I think that, while some of those pubs and hotels are not currently eligible for those financial assistance grants that we have made available to other businesses, which are, as far as we can tell, ostensibly more impacted by a decline in trading conditions, I think what we have done to date is demonstrate that we are willing to be flexible and revisit those terms should it become required in the future.

As the Premier was at pains to highlight earlier, what we are concerned about is not just the impact on those communities that are affected directly but the perception more broadly into other communities which actually aren't affected by the algal bloom but where South Australians or, indeed, others might think that they are affected and hence there's a downturn in trade. That is something that we are continuing to monitor. We have made it clear from day one that we are prepared to be flexible and continue considering how we might be able to help, and that might be an avenue in the future.

**ENERGY POLICY**

**Mr BROWN (Florey) (17:25):** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Mining. Can the minister update the house on recent energy initiatives and any alternative views regarding them?

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:25):** I thank the member for Florey for his question. You often get alternative views when it comes to energy policy. This government had a policy of backing gas to firm renewables and there was an alternative policy that opposed that. Those opposite had their plans. They attempted to lower power prices by \$302; they failed and didn't reach it, so there is always toing and froing in energy policy.

What you don't usually get is within the same political party the alternative views popping up, which is what I find fascinating. Just recently the member for Hartley, in his announcement of some of his energy policies, came out and made the bold statement that he is going to lower power prices. Within his own party there are some alternative views to statements just like that, and I thought I would read out a few. This is a quote:

Any politician on any side who promises they are going to bring down power bills are really kidding themselves and also the public.

That person goes on to say:

I will never believe a politician who utters the fact that they are going to bring down power bills. It will not happen. It has not happened.

This alternative view is pretty steadfast in their views about politicians who come out and say that they are going to lower power bills. This politician with this alternative view within the same political party has also said:

To date, privatising ETSA to SA Power Networks has not produced savings for the average consumer, energy customer or household, but it has been great for SA Power Networks' Hong Kong-based owners.

I go on to this other person with alternative views within the same political party who has also said:

Governments had a misplaced ideology that they could not run ventures like this profitably and that they were best left to private enterprise. How wrong they were, particularly with energy costs now going through the roof.

It goes on and on and on to basically say that 'Any political leader'—and I am quoting now—'or party who promises to do that is a fool.'

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** A fool. Who would say such a thing within a political party? Well, it's the new watchdog; it's Frank Pangallo. He is off the leash, sir. That is not the first time Mr Pangallo has had what I would describe as colourful views about his new leader. There was that awkward moment when they tried to shake hands and couldn't quite shake hands. Mr Pangallo wasn't very happy about Mr Tarzia patting his dog—he didn't seem to like him touching the watchdog for some reason—the fake laughter, the awkward laughter. But I've got to say that these alternative views about the current Leader of the Opposition grow. When his most recent recruit—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** He's a good man—celebrated with the Labor Party. It's an important point. It is important to remember that the current alternative views on energy policy from Mr Pangallo don't just stop on energy policy. He has alternative views on all sorts of things, from industrial relations to the personal conduct of the Leader of the Opposition.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER:** Point of order: standing order 98. The minister was specifically asked about energy policy only.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question did say alternative views, but I—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, please!

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Does any other member on my right wish to assist me? No, right. I think the minister is straying a bit.

**The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS:** Alternative views in the parliament should be welcomed—in fact, that's what the public demand. They demand alternative views, they want a contest of ideas. What they don't want is a contest within a political party for ideas. It's very hard to have that contest when one of your key new members—since he wishes to win and form government—has said to the Leader of the Opposition that he is unethical, and that type of behaviour does not give you good policymaking; it gives you very bad alternative outcomes.

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (17:29):** My question is to the Premier, because I have not been advised otherwise. Can the Premier advise which of his ministers is responsible for the management of the algal bloom crisis? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** In an article by David Penberthy in *The Australian* on 14 August, it was reported that:

The sluggish response of government to South Australia's algal bloom crisis has been exposed with the release of excruciating correspondence between senior bureaucrats trying to work out which department is responsible for its management.

Letters and emails obtained under FOI...read like a Yes Minister sketch with a three-way buck-passing exercise unfolding over several weeks between the departments of Premier, Primary Industries and Environment.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Deputy Premier, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy) (17:30):** There is a kind of two-part question there: who's in charge? It's Peter Malinauskas, the Premier of South Australia, but the question of—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I have enormous respect—

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members are aware of parliamentary protocol, so I would suggest you just listen to the answer.

*Members interjecting:*

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I suggest you listen to the answer.

**The Hon. S.E. CLOSE:** I have enormous respect for David Penberthy, and I think he has covered this issue very, very well, but I will say that I don't call two departments having to work out whether the emphasis is more on environment or fisheries as being buck-passing. I think everyone was working incredibly hard to get the answers to the people who are writing in to us.

*Sitting extended beyond 18:00 on motion of Hon. A. Koutsantonis.*

#### Grievance Debate

#### ALGAL BLOOM

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (17:32):** I rise today on behalf of communities, farmers, fishers and families who have been devastated by this government's failure to tackle the harmful algal crisis impacting our coastline. We know it is not just an environmental disaster, it is a failure of leadership, a betrayal of public trust. Today, we did not even have the Premier remain here for the entirety of question time. I was not advised, I do not know if you were advised—

*Ms Clancy interjecting:*

**The Hon. V.A. TARZIA:** Well, such is the arrogance of this Premier that he does not even think he has to notify the Leader of the Opposition or yourself that he has other commitments. We

only get one hour a day of accountability in this place, and he still could not even front up for that today.

We have learnt that more than a dozen of the nation's leading marine scientists and associated experts wrote to then federal environment minister Tanya Plibersek in 2023 pleading for help. As Phil Coorey writes in the *AFR*, the scientists were anticipating upcoming marine heatwaves in the nation's southern waters, requesting \$40 million in funding across 10 years to be able to better monitor and assess the impacts of the changes, which have grave implications for the fishing industry and, where possible, to also take mitigating action. That call went unheeded. Scientists warned the government to act. And what did we get? A crisis that has spiralled out of control. Labor has been too late.

By March this year, fish were dying, water was tainted and surfers on the Fleurieu were reporting coughing, sore throats and blurred vision. These are the facts. Entire communities were left reeling. Government delays have come at the same time as the spread of the algae like wildfire, threatening lives and also livelihoods. I have spoken to fishers who have lost their income as aquatic life suffocates. Tourism has been devastated as bookings have been cancelled en masse right across the state.

What did we get from this government and their federal counterparts? Photo-ops and bandaid clean-ups. They seem more preoccupied with saving face than saving the environment. Photo-ops and bandaid clean-ups—all too late. We have a government that prioritises headlines over solutions, pointing fingers at everyone but themselves. It sounds familiar, doesn't it, because we have heard it all before.

On the drought, we heard the Premier in his own words say, 'We can't make it rain.' On housing, the Treasurer said, 'Nobody is saying the government could do any more on housing.' Do not even get me started on the ramping crisis. It is a pattern of behaviour from this government and it prompts the serious questions as to what is at stake: our environment, our health, our economy.

Governments cannot necessarily control what happens in our state, particularly when it comes to natural disasters, but they can control the response to those natural disasters. The response from this Labor government has been nothing short of disgraceful. It has been too late for the fishers losing work, it has been too late for the businesses going bust and it has been too late for the ecosystems that are now on the brink, and South Australians deserve better.

Our community deserves a government that prioritises our environment over PR management, or mismanagement at the moment. We need a government that acts with urgency at the start of the emergency, not once some of the worst impacts have been realised. We need immediate action and a science-based plan with clear timelines to restore our precious ecosystems and waterways. We need a royal commission to get an independent review, marine monitoring to examine health and economic impacts and develop prevention and response measures for future algal blooms, because we know that they will return, as they have overseas.

No more excuses, no more delays, because it is the future of our ecosystems, our environment, the livelihoods of those suffering, and every moment of delay is a moment too late. We will continue to shine a light on this very important issue.

We know that the federal government was alerted to the signs of this in 2023. We know that \$40 million was asked for—\$4 million over ten years—and they were denied. They were denied, and this will go down as scandalous. It might be years before our marine ecosystems recover and it has been quite clear that this is a Premier who cares more about LIV Golf than he does about Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent. He should hang his head in shame.

He should hang his head in shame that today he did not even have the courtesy to be in question time for one hour. We only get three hours a week for accountability in this place and the reply so far has been nothing but substandard. With the Prime Minister coming tomorrow, we call on Anthony Albanese to recognise this as the natural national disaster that it is.

### REGIONAL ROADS

**Mr BELL (Mount Gambier) (17:37):** I want to talk about the state of our country roads. I do not reckon there would be a country member in here who would not back me up in saying they are

the worst they have ever seen. They are certainly the worst I have ever seen. I imagine this will be a key plank of an election platform going forward.

There is something deeply wrong with the contracts and how the government has tendered for the state of our country roads. I have never seen it so bad in our region. We have had some rain of late and the potholes appear overnight. We are not talking about just little cracks—they call them crocodile cracks—we are talking deep, gouging potholes that destroy people's cars.

The number of calls that I have had in the last three weeks—in all my time as a politician I have not had this number of calls come into our office. People bring photos of the potholes with sharp edges on them, damaged rims that are costing people \$160 to \$180 to get the blown tyre fixed, and if they cannot bang out the rim they are up for a new rim on their car as well. These are just ordinary people going about their business, trying to get to work, trying to take the kids to sporting practice and the impact that our roads is having on them is something that I have never seen.

The other day, I went out to the saleyards for a mental health day and driving out there I pulled over, took photos and sent them into Fulton Hogan straightaway. I had never seen that stretch of road so broken up with so many potholes that will do serious damage to our residents' cars. The old saying goes: it is amazing that our cars need to be roadworthy, but our roads certainly are not car worthy. It is not the first time I have spoken about this; I have spoken about it for a number of years.

One solution that I have put forward is re-establishing the highways departments, to get locals looking after local roads. Not only does it employ people in our country areas to rebuild population, they also stay. There are schools and they obviously get involved in sporting clubs. It is a way of helping repopulate country areas. But more than that, it is country people looking after country roads, taking that extra bit of care to make sure that the job is done properly, so that when potholes do appear the fix is immediate, because they are the ones walking the streets, and people know there is greater accountability.

An owner of one of our tyre stores that I visited said it is not unusual to have five tyre replacements a week due to potholes. The sad part is that, when you take photos, send them to Fulton Hogan, and look for any compensation at all, the response is always no, they are not liable for any damage to cars or their rims, and basically tough luck. We have to be able to do better. I see South Road being built at billions and billions of dollars, and it is a project that I totally understand. Our country residents deserve the same level of investment as those in the city. I am calling on the government to relook at these contracts.

I have spoken about the Fulton Hogan contract, and, quite simply, the allocated funding is nowhere near adequate to maintain our roads. There must be something about the quality of material going in. If it is breaking up this quickly, why can we not be building our roads to a higher standard, so they can actually last more than 12 months? The road to Millicent had not even been completed, and there were potholes in that brand-new road. It is just unheard of.

As I will stress again, we need lasting solutions. Residents should be able to travel safely to work without worrying about a \$500 bill, worry about learner drivers and probation drivers or inexperienced drivers who do not see the potholes or, worse than that, start swerving away from them into oncoming traffic.

#### **SEVERIN, MR P.**

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (17:42):** In recent days it has been sad to hear the news of the loss of Peter Severin, someone who would be known well to yourself and many members of the house. Peter Severin served South Australians well as the chief executive of the Department for Correctional Services for a number of years, from 2003 to 2012. Minister Emily Bourke issued a ministerial statement earlier, so I do not propose to retread all of those comments but just highlight, for context, some of the service he provided.

Peter Severin was born in Germany, trained as a social worker and started his career in the prison service in Germany, coming to South Australia and service in the Department for Correctional Services for a period of nine years, which was not insignificant, as chief executive in that department and then went on to become the Commissioner of Corrective Services in NSW for another nine years, from 2012 to 2021. He did some work in Queensland as well and did some work internationally as

part of his role with the International Corrections and Prisons Association. The significant regard in which he was held was profound.

Sir, when you were the Minister for Correctional Services and I was the shadow minister, one of the things that I observed during that time—I think it was about 18 months, maybe a touch under two years—when I had the privilege of holding that portfolio after the 2014 election, was the number of people who worked in this field with scarce resources, trying to improve community safety despite sometimes a regrettable lack of political interest. Around the world, sometimes necessity is the mother of innovation and invention, and probably in all areas of government service there are very few where that is more relevant than Corrections.

Peter Severin dealt with scarcity but he also was an innovator. He was somebody who, from what I could see from opposition benches, always sought to be thoroughly innovative in his way of dealing with whatever he had in order to get the best outcome for the people of South Australia. It was not always an easy situation. I remember that there were sometimes issues with the unions that were arguing for pay in that area or conditions, and there were sometimes really difficult conversations to be had, and Peter Severin would confront those conversations head on. I understand he had a great relationship with Peter Christopher from the association and indeed would work to resolve issues as quickly as they could be done in a difficult environment.

Despite sometimes the terrible crimes committed by the people who are in our corrective services system, Peter was somebody who understood that the rehabilitation of a prisoner was not just a matter of moral clarity but was about community safety as well, because if that prisoner was going to become a member of the community, a member of society, then it was critically important that they be rehabilitated. His work in South Australia led to that. He had a couple of examples, not only bringing some conditions at places like Yatala, the Women's Prison, Mount Gambier and Port Augusta to 20<sup>th</sup> century, if not 21<sup>st</sup> century, standards, but he was also responsible for a significant expansion of rehabilitation services.

He was good enough to lend me some of his time when he was the commissioner in New South Wales. Indeed, I was hoping to meet him and he actually made time in his personal time to come and meet me—when I was not available—not to talk about anything behind the scenes but just to talk about the philosophy of good stewardship of a prison system. He also was kind enough to introduce me to some of his colleagues in England and I was able to visit the Lewes Prison as a result of his introduction to Tony Challenor to see how they did things. He encouraged me to take an opportunity in New Zealand when you, sir, offered to take me with you and he said that that was an outstanding idea with the opportunity to look at rehabilitation systems offering best practice.

Peter's deputy was David Brown, who to this day continues as our chief executive. I asked David for his reflection and he said:

Peter was a dear friend and mentor. His sudden and unexpected passing is a big, big shock. Peter and his wife Isabelle returned to Adelaide at the beginning of this year. They were very happy to be home. Peter was still very busy in his role as president of the International Corrections and Prisons Association. He was meant to be heading off to Poland in a couple of weeks to represent ICPA, and he will be missed by many.

David's longer comments can be seen in the ministerial statement. I also recognise Duncan McFetridge and thank you for the introduction. I did not know Peter for very long, but the engagements I had with him highlighted to me somebody whose conviction, principles and work ethic were utterly dedicated to serving a community, whether here in South Australia, in NSW or around the world, and he will be missed. I pay my respects to his family.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would echo those comments from the member for Morialta and I would say that his replacement has done a sterling job as well. David Brown has maintained that philosophy which Peter had in the prison system. I call the member for Waite.

#### WAITE ELECTORATE

**Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (17:47):** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I cannot tell you how proud I am to be standing here today, because on Sunday on Kangarilla Oval it was buzzing with energy as 12 teams of CFS cadets, their leaders, their families and their trainers all came together for the Region 1 Cadet Championships. It was a real celebration of community teamwork and the next generation of firefighters.

As someone who wears the yellow PVC myself, I know just how tough the drills are. A hose drill, a complicated draughting drill and a burnover are not just exercises, they are skills that could one day save lives. To see our young cadets step up with such determination and confidence, it makes me proud, not just to be a firefighter, but their local member and a member of our community, knowing that they are the future of looking after us. Every cadet who took part deserves a huge pat on the back. You gave it everything, and to the cadet leaders and our supervisors, thank you for the hours of guidance and encouragement. To the families, thank you for standing behind your kids, they could not do it without you.

Here is the part I am especially thrilled about: our Sturt group did not just show up, they absolutely shone through. Their Alpha team consisting of Emma, Ellie, Tayla, Angus and Harper absolutely smashed it, finishing in a combined time of just 10 minutes and 40 seconds to claim first place, and right behind them the Bravo team of Brooklyn, Toby, Kaydah, Gregor and Onyx pushed hard and proudly claimed third place, with a time of 15 minutes and 17 seconds. The Sturt teams were in the top three. That is no accident, it is teamwork, training and heart and they have done themselves proud, and their families and our community proud.

To show you how well they trained, in the first drill our Alpha team came first and the Bravo team, who are quite a bit younger, came second. In the second drill, Alpha was first and Bravo third, and in the third drill Alpha was second and Bravo fourth. Bravo had two members with only two years' experience, and the other cadets had less than six months, so they absolutely shone through. When I look at these cadets, I see the future of the CFS.

I see young people who are learning not only how to fight fires but how to stand together, trust one another and give their best under pressure. As a firefighter, that gives me enormous confidence in what I saw. So, to Emma, Ellie, Tayla, Angus, Harper, Brooklyn, Toby, Kaydah, Gregor and Onyx, congratulations. You are champions in every sense of the word.

Staying with that winning feeling, on Sunday, after cheering on our cadets, I headed to Blackwood Hill oval to cheer on our Blackwood Footy Club women's teams as they took part in the preliminary finals, and let me say they smashed it. The senior women's HFL team absolutely sent Hahndorf packing with a 52-10 thrashing, the under 14 girls won 80-7 against Mount Lofty, and the under 12 girls won 22-16 against Henley.

What was really special was the number of locals who turned out to cheer them on. It was tricky to even get a car park, and there are plenty of them. That is what I love to see. As Deputy Chair of the Women in Sport Taskforce, it is so good to see the support for this women's program that Blackwood do so well. Even more lovely was witnessing all the little lads who were there just watching footy. They were watching footy; not women's footy, they were just watching footy, and that is absolutely what we want to see.

Well done to all of our Blackwood teams, because also on the weekend our B-grade men wiped the floor with Onkaparinga Valley 107-19, and the under 18 boys also got in the action against Onkaparinga with 110-26. The under 16 boys got home also against Onka 32-30. It is going to be an exciting weekend of footy, and I will be there with the rest of our community cheering our club on.

A quick shout-out to our park rangers, who celebrated World Ranger Day on 31 July. Tony Magor and the team did a lot of work lighting up all of the landmarks in Adelaide, and I was really pleased to be able to assist them to make sure that Parliament House joined in the fun. It was lit green and it was fantastic to see them come together. I was happy to play my part. I do have a motion for them tomorrow, but I am not sure if we will get there, so a big shout-out to the rangers for the work that they do in preserving, conserving and caring for our national parks and wildlife and for the support that they give our Friends of Parks and nature as well.

Finally, on 27 July our community came together for another wonderful event organised by Blackwood Action Group, celebrating the history of Hawthorndene that has turned 100 this year. Ex-councillor Lindy Teuber and legendary Peter Hough gave an excellent talk on the history of both the suburb and the Coromandel Valley Ramblers, who will be celebrating 100 years next year. They were supported by Hawthorndene students from year 6, Lowenek, Lenora and Malee, who provided the voices of the settlers, and they did such a wonderful job in front of a big crowd. Over 140 people enjoyed the talk, and it included a beautiful afternoon tea from Pauline Dodd. We cannot wait for the next event, which is a big community picnic.

### HAMMOND ELECTORATE

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (17:52):** I rise to initially talk about the parliamentary schools education program and the Murray Mallee regional program, which was held recently at the Square Activity Hall in Murray Bridge. I want to acknowledge the work of the education team in bringing out their floor mats that cover both houses of parliament, whether it is the Legislative Council or this house, and the education they provide to hundreds and thousands of kids across the state, not necessarily just here in Parliament House.

We had kids from Mypolonga Primary School, years 4, 5 and 6, with 50 students attending. We had Fraser Park Primary School, years 5 and 6, with 22 students. We had Murray Bridge North School, year 6 and two groups of year 4. There were 50 year 6 and 90 year 4 students. We had Callington Primary School, years 5 and 6, with 20 students attending. We had Mannum Community College with two groups of year 6 to 9 students, with 100 students attending. Murray Bridge South Primary School had two groups of years 5 and 6, with 90 students. We also had Eastern Fleurieu school, Langhorne Creek, years 5 and 6, with 21 students.

It was great to see students from the length and breadth of my electorate attend these education sessions. It was fantastic to catch up with most of them on different days and give them my perspective of parliamentary life in the time that I have been here. Again, I really applaud the Parliament House education staff and the excellent job they do in bringing this outreach into regional communities especially across the state.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of a man who I have known well for over two decades now, Damien McQueen. Damien recently passed away, and I pass on my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Sue, and his children, Kimberly and Bronte. He was a long-serving member of the Liberal Party and was a huge support to me as I came through preselection back in 2004. He helped with many campaigns over the years.

Damien became part of the Mypolonga community when he joined the football club as a senior player, playing 46 reserve and 20 league games. Prior to joining Mypolonga, he played for St Marys in the NT, Henley Beach YCW and the Imperial Football Club. He coached the Mypolonga Senior Colts from 1976 to 1978, guiding the team to a runner-up finish in 1976 and a premiership in 1977. Damien played a key role in organising a successful 40-year reunion of the premiership side in 2017. He was Mypolonga Football Club secretary from 1977 to 1983 and was honoured with life membership in 1984. He served as treasurer of the Mypolonga Combined Sports Club from 1985 to 1997.

Damien was also a driving force behind important developments at the Mypolonga Football Club, including the introduction of senior committee portfolios, the upgrade of oval lights and the River Murray Football League's night footy series. He was the go-to master of ceremonies for many Mypolonga Football Club events, and assisted in compiling their *Dust to Diamonds & Beyond* publication for the club's 80<sup>th</sup> year in 2008.

Damien was also a valued member of the Mypolonga Cricket Club, gaining life membership in 1994. He sits fifth overall on the club's all-time wicket takers list with 538 wickets. He played in premierships in A-grade, B-grade and C-grade, and was premiership captain for the B-grade. He also umpired football across a number of football leagues, including the Western District Umpires Association, the River Murray Football League, the Mid Murray Football League and the Combined Southern Leagues Football Umpires Panel.

I knew Damien as a great Liberal supporter, a great friend, a great family man and, as I have just indicated, a great supporter of sport in our community. Certainly to the Mypolonga district he was a valued member, a quiet achiever behind the scenes who stood up for his community and a lovely family man. His family will miss him dearly. Vale Damien McQueen.

### COMMUNITY HUBS

**Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (17:57):** I rise to speak about community hubs and the great work they do both nationally and in the community that I am privileged to represent. Community hubs build social cohesion in Australia. They are welcoming places where families from diverse backgrounds, particularly mothers with preschool children, come to connect, share and learn.



The National Community Hubs Program is a proven place-based and culturally centred way of building connections and strengthening social and economic capital within culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Hubs are embedded in primary schools and they bridge the gap between families, schools and the wider community. They connect families with each other, their school and local services and support. Their success rests on the teamwork between coordinators, hub leaders and school leadership.

Community hubs work across four key areas: engagement, by connecting families in culturally diverse communities; early childhood, by preparing preschool children through playgroups; English, by providing opportunities to learn and practise the language; and vocational pathways, by creating links to volunteering and employment. In raising this, I acknowledge the leadership of Bec Kotow, CEO of Community Hubs Australia, for her role in guiding this model nationally.

In South Australia, we are fortunate to have three hubs located across the Playford, Port Adelaide Enfield and Salisbury council areas. The Salisbury hub serves school communities including Karrendi Primary, Para Vista Primary, Paralowie R-12, Salisbury Primary and St Augustine's Parish School.

Locally, Karrendi Primary School's Karrendi hub has grown into a truly welcoming centre under the leadership of Aleesha Yi. Programs such as adult English classes, playgroups and pathway courses are run with warmth and professionalism. A toy library, established just a year ago, has already become a cornerstone of the hub. It was a joy to celebrate its first anniversary with stories, smiles and the ever popular hippo pop play piano. I was pleased to read to the playgroup and to present certificates to volunteers Parvin and Belinda—illness being no barrier to recognition, with a paper cut-out of Belinda's head a very worthy substitute.

This toy library is more than just toys on shelves. It gives families a place to learn, laugh and grow together, free from financial strain. Parvin deserves special mention. Her commitment has been remarkable and her recognition as a finalist for Volunteer of the Year in Australia with Toy Well speaks volumes. Volunteers like Parvin are the quiet strength of our communities. Their generosity makes a difference every single day and her example inspires others, particularly new arrivals seeking a way to contribute and to belong.

No hub succeeds without volunteers. They are the backbone of every English class, playgroup and event. I cannot name them all today, and I apologise for that, but I want each to know they are deeply valued. I do wish, though, to acknowledge Sue Bradford-O'Reilly for her guidance, which I value greatly, and to also recognise Belinda Reid once more for her outstanding contribution, not only to the hub but to our wider community.

Community hubs are about connection and that spirit was on full display at the Bush Playgroup held at Para Wirra Conservation Park on 12 August. Five buses of parents and children came together for a day of fresh air, a picnic and toasted marshmallows. The day was made possible thanks to Green Adelaide and Words Grow Minds, and to Marra Dreaming for offering basket weaving. I also thank Costco and the Red Tree Foundation for providing fruit and snacks for families. These events are the grassroots experiences that turn strangers into neighbours.

Community hubs are also forward-looking. On 5 November, Minister Cook and I will welcome hub participants to parliament. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to see it up close and feel that their voices and stories are part of our shared civic life.

For anyone wanting to learn more or become involved, I encourage you to begin your journey at the Community Hubs web page: [communityhubs.org.au](https://communityhubs.org.au). Whether through volunteering, attending English classes, joining a playgroup or simply connecting with others, each hub has a place for everyone.

Community hubs are one of the quiet success stories of our country. They bring people together, foster understanding and give families the tools to thrive. I am proud that within Adelaide's north, we have embraced this program and I thank every leader, every volunteer and every partner who make our hubs the welcoming and vibrant places they are.

*Private Members' Statements***PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (18:02):** The AFL has been right to say that there is no place for homophobic slurs on the football field and has handed down some strong penalties to players who have used them. But what message does it send when in the same season the AFL engages Snoop Dogg to headline its grand final entertainment?

Snoop Dogg is an artist whose earlier work that made his career is littered with the very same language of hate. That contradiction suggests a systematic blind spot in the AFL's understanding of how damaging this language is. Punish a 23-year-old footballer and then for the biggest event of the season give centre stage to someone who has made a career normalising the same abuse.

Women's groups have already voiced strong opposition to Snoop Dogg's appearance, pointing to his long history of misogynistic lyrics and treatment of women. When this is added to his record on homophobic slurs, the AFL's decision looks even more tone-deaf. That contradiction suggests a systemic blind spot in the AFL's understanding of how damaging this language is. If the AFL were serious, it needs to show consistency because anything less undermines the very standards it claims to uphold.

**Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (18:04):** I rise to give a huge congratulations to the Walkerville Netball Club, the Cats, on its elevation to the Hospital Research Foundation Group Premier League from the 2026 season. The club will field teams in both the premier division and the reserves division. Founded in 2010 by five country netballers, over the last 15 years it has grown to become the equal largest club in the Adelaide Metropolitan Netball Division, with more than 450 players. This is a true country club in the city and I want to congratulate president of the Walkerville Netball Club, the impressive, the formidable, the incredible Jessica Nicholls.

This is a team effort, so I want to thank Jess along with current and former AMND committee members Lou, Nanette, Trudy and Peter; head coach, Kate; and junior head coach, Ellee. I also want to thank Michelle and Kate, who contributed to the application process, along with others who served on the board, such as Sarah, Emma, Alicia and Trudy. Thank you to the coaches, umpires, volunteers and, importantly, the players.

This club was an inspiration to me to deliver a brand-new Walkerville Recreation Centre, in partnership with the Town of Walkerville, which will deliver recreation services to the heart of Walkerville, including a two-court stadium for netball, basketball and other sports. The future is bright for the Walkerville Netball Club and the Town of Walkerville. Congratulations to the whole club.

**The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (18:05):** I love any opportunity celebrating the next generation of young people who are going to come and serve in this place in the years ahead. I celebrate Scott Kennedy, the candidate for Morialta; Julian Amato, the Liberal candidate for Adelaide; Lamorna Alexander, the Liberal candidate for Mount Gambier; Anna Finizio, the Liberal candidate for Dunstan, and so many other wonderful candidates coming through the system who I am sure will serve this place well.

But lifting the eyes above the horizon, I am also tremendously encouraged by the young people I meet in our schools who may be the generation after that. I want to highlight to the house the potential in a young man by the name of Tanishvel Manivel, who has spent the afternoon with us in this chamber. He came in for a meeting with me to talk about his passion for youth representation, housing and opportunities for young people to succeed in this state. That meeting was supposed to be just before question time and I did not get to him before question time. He was engaged in listening to the important contributions through the two hours of condolence motions. He was engaged through question time. He has been engaged through this grievance debate.

He has contributed to our state through the Youth Advisory Committee at Campbelltown City Council and the state government, the student SRC and the Youth Ambassador for Human Rights with Amnesty International. Mate, I am very excited to see what you do in the years ahead. I think that you are reflective of so many other young people in this society who will contribute great things in the years ahead and I cannot wait to see it happen.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (18:07):** Last Friday was VP Day (Victory in the Pacific Day) and there was a special ceremony held in Canberra to mark the occasion. A number of World War II

veterans were invited to be part of that and one of those veterans was Reg 'Swannie' Swanborough. He is a resident in my electorate.

Reg, or Swannie as he is better known, turns 103 on 30 September this year. He was quite proud to tell us that he is the oldest retired copper in this state. He is the sole survivor of a major sea battle during World War II. He is the RAA's longest serving member at the moment. He is the oldest driver's licence holder. He actually still drives his car at 103. He is also the oldest marcher on ANZAC Day and at other services.

He served originally in the Royal Navy and then left the Royal Navy at the end of World War II and joined the Australian Navy and spent over 30 years in the Navy. He saw some horrific things during his time at sea, but he has still obviously lived life to the fullest. He is quite active. He goes to the gym twice a week. When he left the Royal Navy, he was a union member, worked on the harbour board, sold insurance, was with SAPOL and was in the Reserves. He has lived a full life and I wish him a happy 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday for 30 September.

At 18:09 the house adjourned until Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 10:30.

*Answers to Questions***REGIONAL ELECTORATE OFFICES**

In reply to **the Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley)** (1 May 2025).

**The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police):** There are currently three other electorates that operate second part-time offices. The electorate of Flinders has a main office in Port Lincoln and a second office in Ceduna, the electorate of Mawson has a main office in Aldinga and a second office on Kangaroo Island, and the electorate of Stuart has a main office in Port Pirie and a second office in Port Augusta.