

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

The SPEAKER (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell) took the chair at 10:30.

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

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

DROUGHT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COORDINATOR BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 September 2025.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (10:33): I rise to speak to this very important bill relating to drought response and recovery. I note—and I say this in a very broad sense—that I believe that across the last two seasons in the agriculture area we have had only about 40 per cent of the rain, or less in places, right across the state, and this has had a devastating effect not just on our primary producers but on communities, small, large and medium-sized communities, right across the state. It has been a devastating impact.

The costs of farming these days—and I have talked about it many times here—run into the millions of dollars just for plant. Many of your major items are \$1 million each if you are buying new plant. Yes, not everyone buys new plant, but then you still have to spend many hundreds of thousands to have the appropriate plant to put a crop in, and not just that: even on a small scale these days, just on your farming inputs, many people would be spending if not \$1 million, very close to it.

Some of the bigger operators would be spending \$4 million to \$5 million just on inputs. When I talk about inputs, that is your seed, your fertiliser, your chemical inputs. It is not just during the growing season but during the preparation to put a crop in, making sure you conserve all the moisture that you can. Then if you have lay paddocks that you have to set up, it is spray topping them beforehand. Mind you, most cropping land nowadays is cropped all the time, though there are significant parcels of land that were left out this year. I know at some down home, in particular my property that I leased out, there was some land left out just to keep stock, to keep ewes alive and to keep lambs alive, because they were lambing at the time when a decision was made to put a crop in or not.

Last year especially was devastating. It was a devastating drought year for this state. We had way below average rainfalls—that far below it is not funny. It was not just the driest year on record; it was the driest year not on record, I believe. Just because we do not have records does not mean it was not that dry. It was a very tough year to get through. Crop yields were way down. There was black frost. A lot of people cut wheat for hay, putting maybe two header runs, which could be 12-metre runs each way, so 24 metres of crop into a windrow. If you did not do that, it would not be tall enough to rake. It would fall out of the hay rakes and you would lose whatever return you had.

So it has been an incredibly difficult time. Then we get into this season, where there were a lot of late starts. Most crops are probably at least six weeks behind. Yes, as you drive around the state, you can see some pretty handy-looking crops, but they are short. The canola is out in flower and that looks all good, but I can tell you that in a lot of places there still is not enough rain. In some areas there has been just enough rain to stabilise the crop. We need all the rain we can get through to November-December so that we can get not just grain and oilseed crops off but vital hay crops.

People have been spending an incredible amount of money. In some cases, people have been spending a quarter of a million dollars just on their own to keep stock alive. People have taken the brave decision to hold all their breeding stock, 8,000 ewes and lambs, to keep their production alive. Others have taken the drastic step of reducing numbers or getting right out of stock, which means that they have a long way to come back to recover from this drought if they have to buy stock in. It is having devastating impacts right across the state.

We see what happened the other day with those fierce winds. That would have taken whatever available moisture was there, noting that in most places they are only getting five to six millimetres of rain a week, if they are getting that. The winds would have just sucked almost the life out of the soil, so that much-needed rain is vitally needed. That is the real answer for agriculture: it is rain, but it is not coming. In the meantime, we need to have the appropriate drought response and recovery coordination to make sure we do get the right response.

I note that the government's response to put in \$73 million has beefed up Rural Business Support. That is a vital service that operates all the time, providing vital mental health counselling and directing people to services and farm household support, but the reality is that probably 10 per cent or less of farmers can access farm household support, so the rest have to get on with their lives.

There are other grants that have been put up by Infrastructure to offset the drought with better times, whether it is buying field bins to feed stock in the dry times, whether it is buying water infrastructure like tanks and pipelines. That is all good stuff, but the trick is you have to have money to co-invest, whether you are making a \$5,000 co-investment alongside \$5,000 from the government or \$20,000. I can tell you that when people have literally not just scraped the barrel but have scraped out the bottom of the barrel and are through the bottom, there is no money to co-invest.

I note that federal drought response loans are available, but they are still running at 5.18 per cent, and that is still a lot of interest in this day and age to pay for the many millions of dollars that are needed for a successful farming operation in this day and age. We have called for low or no-interest loans to get people through. I think it would have been an appropriate response to go down that path, knowing that governments can borrow money on the bond markets pretty cheaply and probably still could have come at a net zero result for government or just down a little bit. I think that would have been a much better response to facilitate people getting through the seasons.

I note that in recent times Alex Zimmermann was appointed as the drought coordinator, and that is a good thing. I have worked with Alex whether in fire or flood, but we need more than that. We need people to have access to real support. Beyond that, we need people to know—I know with the National Drought Agreement that has been in place for probably nearly a decade now, people say drought does not get declared, but people out there in the real world, outside politics, generally do not know that that exists because it is not publicised.

It is far better, as this bill suggests, that we have a declared drought emergency so that not only farmers know that drought has been declared, because they have been frustrated not knowing how the system works at the moment, but also the bankers and the financiers, the ones who need to know what is going on. I am sure there were plenty of straight-up conversations late last year and early this year—and obviously going into this next harvest season—with their farmer clients on how the future is going to pan out. I think it would be better for everyone involved, including those in the political sector right across the board, because this is just about showing the reality of it so that people know that they are taken seriously.

I have said in this place before, with the way farmers are farming now—and have done for 20 years, 30 years, some for 40 years—with no-till farming methods, and a lot going to disc seeders with very minimal disturbance of the soil, or their single-pass seeders, there is very little disruption to the soil. I can tell you that if we had had these two years of drought even 30 years, 35 years or 40 years ago, you would have seen, as we used to see in the old days, dust blowing across roads, blinding people as they drove around the country, and you would have seen graders literally grading that valuable topsoil off the roads.

I can assure you that farmers are doing their bit. They are making absolute use of every inch, every millimetre of moisture that they can get to produce what they can. They are doing great things

with the moisture that they are obtaining and the moisture they are saving by browning out ground before putting in a crop. They need to be acknowledged for what they are doing in supplying many, many billions of dollars to the state's economy, and they need to be recognised appropriately.

When times are tough like they are now—and I salute all the hay runs that have been happening as well—farmers need to be appropriately acknowledged so they know that not only do people care but they know that farmers are doing their best to feed not only South Australia but Australia and the world. I commend the bill.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:43): I move:

That the debate be adjourned.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes27
Noes.....14
Majority13

AYES

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

NOES

Basham, D.K.B.	Batty, J.A.	Brock, G.G.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Cregan, D.R.	Ellis, F.J.
Gardner, J.A.W.	Hurn, A.M.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pederick, A.S.	Pisoni, D.G.	Tarzia, V.A.
Teague, J.B.	Telfer, S.J. (teller)	

PAIRS

Malinauskas, P.B.	Whetstone, T.J.
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Motion thus carried; debate adjourned.

Motions

FOSTER AND KINSHIP CARER WEEK

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (10:50): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges Foster and Kinship Carer Week;
- (b) appreciates the dedication of foster and kinship carers who provide love, stability and support to children and young people, making a lasting difference in their lives;
- (c) recognises the significant impact carers have in improving outcomes for children and young people facing adversity;
- (d) encourages South Australians to consider the rewarding experience of foster caring; and

- (e) commends the Malinauskas Labor government's ongoing support for carers, including investments in carer advocacy, increased carer payments, implemented flexible respite support payments and refreshed the Statement of Commitment to foster and kinship carers.

Today, in the middle of Foster and Kinship Carer Week, I want to pay tribute to every single foster and kinship carer. I also want to thank those who have been foster or kinship carers in the past. Hearing stories of people who cared for dozens of children before needing to head into sort of foster carer retirement fills me with so much emotion and so much gratitude. We as a government, parliament and community cannot thank you enough.

Making the decision to care for a child or children in care is a big one. You are making the choice to share your home and life with a child who, in many circumstances, you have never met, and I am so grateful to the hundreds and hundreds of people in South Australia who have made that decision. Thank you for opening your hearts and your homes to a child or children who need help, who need support, who need safety, and who need unconditional love. That last one is really important. You are not robots who just meet the physical needs of a child. You connect with them deeply, because how can they feel safe with you without that connection and bond? You form that bond, whether they are with you for a weekend or a decade.

I want to recognise the pain and grief you can experience when that child leaves your care. Even if you are confident that that child is returning to their biological family and will be safe and will be loved, or to another carer who will provide a loving home, it is not easy, because you connected with that child, you did not put up an emotional barrier to protect yourself. You gave everything you could to them, including emotional safety, and saying goodbye regardless of the circumstances is really, really hard. Thank you for choosing to put children first, despite the emotional toll it can have on you.

I am on the Economic and Finance Committee and we have a current inquiry into home care for children and young people, and I was really happy to hear from Centacare at one of our hearings about the support provided to carers when a child has transitioned to another placement or been reunified. Centacare has a support worker go out and do loss and grief work to help carers heal from that. They also provide opportunities for carers to connect with one another and provide peer support to each other, because it is a unique experience that people rarely understand.

Apologies if I have already shared this story in this place before, but you can hear it again if I have. I remember being very upset at the end of a placement, not knowing if I would ever see that child again in my entire life, and a friend said, 'Well, it's like Guide Dog puppies. You always knew they wouldn't be with you forever.' Suffice to say that did not have the intended calming effect on me, but it is also true to say that no other foster carer or kinship carer would ever say that. They would never diminish this unique grief that we as foster and kinship carers can experience. So that peer support is incredibly important.

Before entering this place I was a member of a really incredibly warm, kind and supportive Facebook group. I am very grateful to my fellow foster carer, Anna, who told me about it. People did not get annoyed when every single person kept asking, 'What's the number for Bronwyn at Centrelink?' Bronwyn is this—well, I am not even sure if she is still there now—absolute legend you could call and say, 'I am having a problem with the childcare rebate' or 'I am having trouble with this.' She was an incredible help. Other Facebook groups will say, 'Search the group' or 'Have a look yourself', but this group was not like that. This group was just so lovely and warm, and they would just keep reposting Bronwyn from Centrelink's number over and over again.

I also recently met with local foster carers in my community, Steph and Tim. They shared with me that they have a monthly catch-up of local foster carers where they can share their experiences and provide support to one another. I am really looking forward to attending their next meeting in October.

Our government is committed to supporting carers, and we acknowledge the critical role you play and we play in helping children and young people to be safe and nurtured. We have listened to and learnt from those with lived experiences in the Child and Family Support System. We know that listening directly to foster and kinship carers, children and young people with care experience, and

the organisations that support them helps our government to understand where improvements can be made as well as what is working well.

It is why our wonderful Minister for Child Protection, my friend, has announced the establishment of the Carer Council, which provides advice and reports directly to the minister. This is a council made up of paid carers who have had direct experience with the Child and Family Support System and who inform the design of policy, practice and future legislative reform. Further, the Direct Experience Group, comprising families and parents with direct experience of the Child and Family Support System, provides an opportunity for care leavers and parents and family members of children in care, or those engaged in the child protection system, to have a voice in system improvement.

In our last budget, the Malinauskas Labor government committed an additional \$85.1 million over four years to support children and young people in care, and an additional \$3.3 million over two years to continue the Finding Families and Additionally Approved Carer programs to expand support for the placement of children and young people with family-based carers.

As I seem to do every year in this place, I once again encourage every single one of you who is listening—and I presume many are watching, up there in Hansard and maybe up there and over there—or who might read this to please consider becoming a foster carer. If you are asked to be a kinship carer, please do not discount yourself straightaway. You can do it, and you can change a child's life. Of course it is scary, but I have seen people as they are about to leave hospital holding their baby, and they seem terrified. I think it is normal to be afraid. Parents who are leaving the hospital do not get an instruction manual, but at least we as carers do get training and do get support.

So if there is even just a tiny part of you, member for Bragg, that might think that you might want to be a foster carer, please take the first step of making contact with an agency. Dip your toe in the water. When you do, you will find that there are many different types of fostering: there is emergency, short term, long term and respite. If you feel like you just could not make fostering work, maybe respite is an option for you. We are always desperate for respite carers. You can become another trusted, supportive person in a young person's life while giving their full-time carers the break they need to continue to be the best carers that they can be. You offering up every second weekend, or a weekend a month, or some time in every school holidays makes a huge difference to that child and also to everyone around them.

If I have not managed to convince you to become a carer, please consider how else you can help. Child protection is everyone's responsibility. All of us have a role to play in the child protection system, so think about what yours is. Is it volunteering with or donating to organisations like Treasure Boxes or Puddle Jumpers? Is it cooking a meal for a family down the street who you know are struggling? Is it checking in with children and young people in your life so they know they have your support? They also get to see what it is like to be community minded, and it helps you to be a good role model for them. In everything you do, please start from a place of compassion with people and not judgement. We can all do something, and we must do something, no matter how big or small.

Thank you again to every single foster and kinship carer. Your choice has made—and will continue to make—an immeasurable difference to not just the lives of the children you care for but our whole community.

The Hon. K.A. HILDYARD (Reynell—Minister for Child Protection, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) (10:59): I thank so very much the member for Elder for bringing this motion to this place. I wholeheartedly thank the member for Elder and her partner for absolutely opening their home, their hearts, their lives. The member for Elder is a very beautiful friend of mine, and she is a foster mum to the best girl: a girl who brings sunshine and joy to the lives of everybody she meets.

Foster and Kinship Carer Week—indeed, every week—is a really important opportunity for us to recognise and to celebrate the dedication, the kindness and the commitment of carers across South Australia. I think that foster and kinship carers embody the very best of our community—generosity, strength and hope—as they help children and families to heal, to grow and to thrive. I am constantly inspired by the dedication of these remarkable individuals who give so much of

themselves to ensure that children feel and are safe, loved, valued and supported, and absolutely know that they are not alone, and I am constantly inspired by their strength and resilience.

They are the ones who are there with children and young people at 2am, at 2pm, and at every hour in between. They are there when children, who have gone through some of the most unimaginable trauma, cannot sleep; when they find it hard to face the day ahead; for their most joyful and their hardest moments—sitting with children, meeting them wherever they are at, holding them through the dark and through the light. They are also the people who accept a call to provide emergency care to a baby or a teenager when something really, really difficult has happened in their lives, and they are also the people who are there to give those long-term carers, who are there for children 24 hours a day, some respite.

Carers are extraordinary. It is such a gift to meet with them, to listen to them and to learn from them. Learning from our brilliant foster and kinship carers is something that I absolutely treasure, and something that I see as utterly necessary in undertaking the role that I do with such determination to make things better for them and for the children and young people for whom they care and, indeed, for their birth families also.

That shared commitment that carer families and birth families have to the wellbeing, safety and support of children and young people shines through very strongly in all of our conversations together. They constantly reaffirm that what unites every person engaged with children in contact with the child protection and family support system is love and care for the children who most need our collective support. It is this united sense of purpose and love, of wanting to drive the change that makes a difference in children's lives, that has been foundational to the reforms that we are continuing to advance.

Our government is utterly committed to strengthening the child protection and family support system in ways that improve children's lives. We are investing and staying the course in driving reforms that prioritise stability, cultural safety and support, including for carers, because we know that, when carers are well supported, children thrive.

I am really proud of the progress that we have made in several key areas over the past few years. We have rightly increased carer payments, providing a 4.8 per cent payment increase in July 2023, as well as a \$50 per fortnight increase for family-based carers providing care to children under 16 years, and this was followed by further increases in July 2024 and 2025. We established, through feedback from carers, the flexible respite carer payment of \$800 annually that carers can use in whichever way works for them to have more of the support and the respite that they need.

We have established carer connect, a formal network and information session series hosted for carers. We have streamlined assessment and approval pathways, and we are strengthening post-care supports to ensure that young people have the best chance of being set up for success, sometimes through continuing their journey with carers. We have introduced a brand-new carer services team, and we are enshrining new rights for carers to be heard and a pathway to our quality of care guidelines in our new legislation.

Most importantly, we are relentlessly listening to carers about what works and what does not, and what else we need to do to directly inform the implementation of the refreshed statement of commitment, the implementation of the new Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025 and the development of new carer support models. As the member for Elder said, we have established our Carer Council. They are an extraordinary group of wise, generous carers who continue to provide crucial advice and are doing so with such strength and such wisdom. I cannot imagine our journey of reform without them, nor without the strong and effective advocacy of Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers, the peak body.

It has been absolutely beautiful to witness the interactions between the Carer Council, a representative group of foster and kinship carers, and our Direct Experience Group, an extraordinary group—the first one, I understand, that exists in Australia—of birth families, families who have had an experience in a different way of the child protection and family support system. One of the most beautiful things I have witnessed is those two groups now talking together and presenting at conferences together about how important it is that birth families and carer families, where possible,

work together, surrounding the child for whom they are all there with love, understanding and a pathway to healing.

We continue to ask carers to share their ideas, rightly, on how we—government, our broader community and the sector—can do better with and for them together. The future of the child protection and family support system in this state will be shaped by the voices of all with direct experience, including carer families, to ensure that the system is well equipped to support children and young people and the remarkable and selfless foster and kinship carers who welcome them into their homes, hearts and lives.

These individuals have such a huge impact on a child or young person's life. It is so inspiring to hear the stories of children and young people who are thriving with them. Sometimes we see things like improvements at school, experiencing for the first time the joy of family holidays, reconnection with culture or trying new activities. Some are accessing much-needed therapeutic support through carer advocacy and others are reaching for their dreams as they contemplate life as an adult, knowing that there is someone there for them.

Carers are crucial to the child protection and family support system, and we very deeply value their contributions. They provide a safe space, a soft place to land, and a source of stability, love and care for children and young people who sometimes have not had this before—children who are now thriving thanks to the love, support and stability provided to them by their remarkable carers.

I echo the member for Elder's comments: if you have ever thought about caring for a child or know someone who has the capacity to provide a child or young person with love, care and support, please consider opening your heart and home to a child or young person in care. Whether it is for a weekend, a month or years, you will absolutely make a lasting difference in a child's life and you will likely absolutely make a lasting difference in your life too.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:09): I am glad to rise to indicate the opposition's support for the motion from the member for Elder today. It is good that in this Foster and Kinship Carer Week we focus on the truly loving, essential contribution that foster and kinship carers make to supporting those most vulnerable children in our state. I will come back to it shortly.

It needs to be appreciated that that is a vital human family substitute in circumstances where children are finding themselves vulnerable, often in circumstances where their parents are lacking capacity for any number of reasons and in circumstances where work can be done to bring them back to their parents. In the meantime, children are going to thrive when they are in a family environment, so we salute foster and kinship carers.

So far as public policy is concerned, and particularly in relation to the supports that the Department for Child Protection can provide to foster and kinship carers, we ought to adopt an attitude of humble service and support to those foster and kinship carers. In discharging the public obligations of the department, we should not be finding ourselves treating foster carers and kinship carers as stakeholders under the control of the department. The emphasis very much ought to be on reinforcing and serving and supporting the parent substitute role that foster and kinship carers provide.

I recognise Fiona Endacott and her leadership of the now official peak body Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA. The work that the peak body does to bring individual carers into better communication with the services and support that are available to them from the department continues to be important.

I want to shine a particular light on the extraordinary work, particularly over recent years, that Grandcarers for Grandchildren SA has been charting under the leadership of Mike Feszczak, who I think it is fair to say has transformed that group and taken it from strength to strength. I pay tribute to Her Excellency the Hon. Frances Adamson AC and Rod Buntin as co-patrons of Grandcarers for Grandchildren and to ambassadors Mrs Lan Le OAM and Jane Reilly OAM. I think those who are working towards building that network of grandcarers for grandchildren speaks very loudly for the role that the group is playing.

I pay particular tribute to Grandcarers for Grandchildren because the work that they are doing is so central to the point that we all agree on: the last place a child is going to want to be, benefit from or thrive in is that last resort of state care. Not only is state care hugely expensive but it is the furthest away from the family environment in which a child will have the best opportunity to thrive.

Secondly, Grandcarers for Grandchildren shines a light on the kinship role that is usually grandparents. The name has been changed recently to reflect the fact that it is a wider community than only grandparents. 'Grandcarers' is a good term, and the fact is that in that range of supports around a vulnerable child often grandparents find themselves in a uniquely complex role. It has been described as an informal role, in which a grandparent is also caring for their own child in need of support to restore capacity.

Yet we are still insufficient, in my view, in terms of our capacity to provide a thoroughgoing means by which those grandcarers can be fully supported—in the way, properly, that foster carers are financially supported for the work that they do—and that fully respects the capacity of grandparents to, in the best of cases, restore capacity for their children to return to the parenting role, and their capacity to ensure that the grandchildren are able to thrive in those difficult circumstances.

We ought to do everything that we possibly can to ensure that foster caring, grandcaring and kinship care of other kinds are celebrated as an aspirational goal for all of us in the community. For those who find themselves providing that care, whether for a member of the extended family or as a foster carer for a short, medium or long term, we should celebrate and recognise that that is extraordinarily valuable work in the interests of our state's most vulnerable children. I support the motion and commend its passage.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (11:17): I am very pleased to support the motion today and acknowledge Foster and Kinship Carer Week. I join with the member for Elder and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the others who have spoken in encouraging all members of our community to consider the opportunity to serve our community, and particularly to provide the love that is much needed in the hearts and the lives of some of our most vulnerable young South Australians, by taking up the opportunity of foster and kinship care.

I think the way in which foster carers and kinship carers support our state's wellbeing cannot be overstated. There are some 4,000 children, or thereabouts, in South Australia in foster and kinship care, formerly known through the Department for Child Protection, as well as those in other informal relationships. That number of people probably underscores the significant number of children who do need support.

The hundreds who are in that institutional care that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition identified are supported by staff who work hard, no doubt in very difficult and challenging roles, but the opportunity for a child or a young person, particularly under the age of 18, to be in a home environment, in a family environment where there is the opportunity to feel love and safety, is tremendously important and is nigh on impossible to replicate in an environment where somebody is working their shift. With all the care and dedication that they can provide while doing so, those foster and kinship carers have that opportunity to play that role in the child's life.

The motion is broadly worthy of support and obviously we will support it. I do, however, want to highlight that there are positive endeavours by people in this house on both sides of politics who, when given the opportunity to serve in government, have done their level best to support the child protection system and, indeed, with the opportunities and the safety and the hearts and minds of those young people at the forefront of their considerations.

This government has put in place some measures, and, of course, the deputy leader has outlined those where we support them. The former government also worked hard in this space and put in place some reforms that were very important. I know the former minister fought hard to ensure that we could lift some foster care payments until children turned 21 because of the opportunity that that home could provide them for a few more years. Sometimes a home that did not have a lot of money for a few more years was tremendously important as that child was moving past school into young adulthood.

I think some of the other measures that were important are, indeed, acknowledging Catholic Education, at the encouragement of the former minister, and a number of other non-government schools now provide scholarships to children under guardianship. I think for foster carers, potentially whose own children may go to a non-government school, when they have a foster child in their home that can be a tremendously stable thing. Of course, if a foster child is in a school already, ideally you do not want to dislocate them from that school if that relationship is prospering.

But there are 4,000 children we are talking about and 4,000 unique stories, and each one of them needs to be taken very seriously. The opportunity for a couple of hundred scholarships per year provided by Catholic schools and a couple of independent schools as well does make things easier for some of those families, does make life less stigmatised, more normal and provides a greater sense of location for some of those children, and so I acknowledge that work as well.

I want to briefly mention some of the organisations. The member for Elder talked about Puddle Jumpers and Treasure Boxes. There are many non-government organisations that work in this space and I highlight, as the deputy leader did, the work of Grandcarers SA—the volunteers, the staff and the board who work very hard, particularly for that cohort who may not even necessarily be receiving foster care payments.

I think kinship care accounts for about a thousand more children in South Australia than foster care does. There are different circumstances in which that can be categorised, but of course the role that those people, whether they are grandparents or aunts or uncles or other kin, play in those children's lives and the important recognition that the department and government and we as parliamentarians should give them is worthy of being highlighted. I appreciate Grandcarers SA for the professional way in which they advocate for the cohort of grandcarers in our state who do such a tremendous job and I express my appreciation to them for that work as well.

I encourage all members of our community to consider the role they could play as foster carers, kinship carers, respite carers or other sorts of carers to support those children. There is, in my heart, a desire for government to provide a framework for all South Australians to live lives where they are supported to fulfil their potential.

Vulnerable young children, who have done nothing to contribute to the unfortunate circumstances in which they find themselves, are I think at the heart of where government needs to be considering providing that support for young people to fulfil their potential. Vulnerable young people in this circumstance, particularly those who have been unable to be placed in stable family environments, are at much greater risk of incarceration later in life, and they are at much greater risk of unemployment later in life, or not being able to fulfil their potential.

So continued endeavours by government, by organisations and NGOs such as Grandcarers SA, and by every individual in our community who can, each and every one of them, play a role that they can find time for, is the way to support those children and young people to have their best lives, and I support therefore that intent.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:24): Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed and spoken on the motion. Thank you to the minister, the deputy leader and the member for Morialta. I did not expect to feel quite so emotional when doing this motion but when I made the choice to become a foster carer it changed my life for the better forever.

I do want to say that it is something that everyone should consider because it is really special to make a big difference to someone's life. If you are as lucky as I am, you might get cool presents like this bracelet that I received from my little one this morning as I was heading out the door. Thank you again to everyone for contributing and thank you so much to every foster and kinship carer in our state for everything you do. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

BASHEER AM, MR M.R.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (11:26): I move:

That this house—

- (a) mourns the passing of distinguished South Australian National Football League (SANFL) administrator and stalwart, Max Basheer AM;
- (b) acknowledges his immense contribution and enduring leadership across nearly 50 years of service to the SANFL, including 25 years as League President and as Chair of the South Australian Football Commission;
- (c) recognises his pivotal role in the establishment of Football Park and in securing the entry of the Adelaide Football Club and Port Adelaide Football Club into the Australian Football League (AFL);
- (d) acknowledges his long and outstanding career in the legal profession, including his service as honorary solicitor to the South Australian Amateur Football League; and
- (e) extends its sincere condolences to Mr Basheer's daughters, Jayne and Ann, and to the Basheer family on their loss.

I rise today to speak to the passing of Max Basheer AM as we mourn one of South Australia's true legends, a man whose life bridged the worlds of law, of leadership and our beloved game of Australian football. In fact, when I was at the Crows game only about a week ago, I looked out into the Max Basheer Stand at Adelaide Oval.

Max Basheer AM was not just an administrator, he was a builder, a visionary and a steadfast guardian of a sport that unites us all. His passing at the remarkable age of 98 leaves a void in our state's sporting heart but his legacy certainly endures.

Born in 1927 in the South-East timber town of Kalangadoo to Lebanese Druze immigrants, Max embodied the migrant spirit of grit and determination. He got his taste for footy playing for Prince Alfred College and then with Adelaide University in the 1950s. It was off the field where his true genius really shone.

For nearly 50 years he poured his soul, literally, into the SANFL (it was the SA NFL then not the SANFL) transforming it from a local league into a powerhouse that propelled South Australia onto the national stage. He was SANFL President from 1978 to 2003 and Chairman of the SA Football Commission from 1990 to 2003. As the Hon. Rob Kerin, current Chairman of the South Australian Football Commission, so aptly said:

The greats of our game are often remembered by their accomplishments on the field but when we remember those who have had such profound impact off the field, there are few others like Max.

Max's service was indeed immense and selfless. It was guided by an unyielding passion to grow the game that we all cherish. Max played a pivotal role in establishing Football Park and securing the entry of Adelaide Football Club and Port Adelaide Football Club into the AFL. We can safely say that we in this place are all beneficiaries of such achievements, achievements that stand as enduring testaments to his vision and his leadership. It is therefore appropriate that Max Basheer has been honoured in the AFL Hall of Fame and with the naming of a stand at Adelaide Oval that I referred to.

Max's considerable accomplishments saw him inducted as a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Australian football in 1998, which also was a good year for the Crows, I might add—the last good year for the Crows.

Max's accomplishments for Australian football are complemented by his immense contributions to the legal profession. He is remembered as a much-loved and respected member of the profession but also as a cornerstone of his former firm DBH Lawyers, formerly known as Duncan Basheer Hannon, until his retirement at the age of, can you believe, 92 in 2019. A career stretching across six decades is itself an incredible accomplishment, it really is.

Max said he knew from a relatively early age that he wanted to practise law. He began his legal journey in 1947, when he articled to Povey and Waterhouse as a law student. Under the mentorship of the esteemed Elliott Johnston QC, Max developed a lifelong passion for the law and a reputation for integrity, wisdom and generosity. He was admitted to the bar in 1951 after graduating from the University of Adelaide, and he really did build a formidable career in the law.

He became a partner in 1954, and the firm was renamed to include his name, Basheer. By 1966, he became the sole partner of that firm, the beginning of a significant period of growth for the firm. In the early 1990s, Max practised with Peter Humphries and David Tillett under the banner of Reilly Basheer Downs and Humphries before amalgamating with Duncan and Hannon to form

Duncan Basheer Hannon. He remained an active and integral figure at DBH until his retirement in 2019 at that extraordinary age, as I referred to, of 92.

Described by DBH Lawyers' current managing partner, Amy Nikolovski, as a much-loved and respected member of the profession, Basheer's tenure was defined by his integrity, dedication and unwavering commitment to serving both clients and the broader community, qualities that earned him widespread admiration even in his later years. His legacy in the law continues through the profound respect that he commands from colleagues, adversaries and clients alike, underpinned by his renowned sound judgement but also his calm, measured presence.

He left an enduring mark on the profession. Many personal tributes, such as that from close friend and former colleague Peter Humphries, highlight Basheer's approachable and also much-beloved character. His contribution to the profession over nearly seven decades is actually unmatched, that I can think of. As Law Society president Marissa Mackie reflects, Max exemplified the values of integrity, collegiality and public service, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations of lawyers to come.

On behalf of the opposition, I sincerely extend our condolences to Mr Basheer's daughters, Jayne and Ann, and to the Basheer family on their loss. May he rest in peace. He will be deeply missed.

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (11:32): I rise today to support this motion and also pay tribute to the life and legacy of Max Basheer AM, a man who has left an indelible mark on both the legal profession and the great game of Australian Rules football in South Australia. Born in 1927 to Lebanese immigrant parents, Max grew up in Adelaide and was educated at Prince Alfred College before studying law at the University of Adelaide.

Max followed his passion for the law, graduating in 1951 and going on to become one of the nation's longest serving lawyers. His legal career extended for more than six decades, marked by distinction, dedication and integrity. At the same time, Max devoted his life to football. In the early 1950s he was playing for Adelaide University whilst he completed his legal studies, and his administrative career began in 1954 and spanned nearly half a century.

As President of the SANFL for 25 years, he guided the sport through times of great challenge and change. He saw the establishment of Football Park at West Lakes, navigated the long and difficult struggle to have football played under lights and steered South Australian football into the national competition, securing the Adelaide and Port Adelaide football clubs' entry into the AFL—go Crows. Max was deservedly recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1988 and inducted into both the SANFL and AFL halls of fame in 2005. His name lives on with a grandstand at Adelaide Oval named after him.

Today, we remember Max Basheer not only for his leadership but for his lifelong service to our state. I extend my condolences to his family, friends and the wider football community. His contribution will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (11:34): I also take the opportunity to recognise a great of the game of Australian Rules football here in South Australia and acknowledge his service to the legal profession. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for marking this occasion of the death of Max Basheer and bringing it to parliament, because I think it is important to recognise Max in parliament. I would like to concentrate my contribution on talking through Max's contribution to football here in South Australia.

Max had a long 50-year association with the SANFL. For 25 years, one of the key times was when he was the President of the SANFL, going from 1978 through to 2003. I had the great opportunity to play SANFL football at Norwood, and basically Max was the president the whole time that I was playing football. When you play football, everyone naturally thinks straightaway of the greats of the game, because of course that is what makes the game of football.

However, it is also those stalwarts of the game who work behind the scenes and administer the game who actually allow the footballers to go out onto the ground and do what they do best. Max was right up the top as the President of the SANFL. As a young fellow, his early presidency would have been when I was watching football. The association with Max would have been him reading out

the Magarey Medal votes, the count and then awarding the Magarey Medal to some of the greats of the game.

The seventies and eighties would no doubt be recognised as the SANFL's halcyon days. Of course, it was before the national competition and it was when the game of SANFL football really developed. We had Sturt in the sixties bring in the handball and the running game, which made the game a lot more open and enjoyable to watch, then in the seventies and eighties other teams replicated that.

We had colour TV come along and bring the games to life and telecast them, and we had fantastic crowds coming to the SANFL games. As a young fellow, that was the pinnacle. Kicking the ball around at lunchtime at school, on the primary school oval, it was taking marks and pretending you were Kernahan or Michael Aish, some of the greats of the game, and so many others thought that too.

Of course, Max was president. I talked about the SANFL and the fact that there was the national game. At the same time, the VFL was also a very good competition, and there were some terrific state games between the two teams. Those competitions got to showcase which was the best competition because you would have players who played in the SANFL basically playing in the VFL as well. It got to the stage where it became State of Origin, because there was the perverse situation sometimes where you had South Australians who were playing in the VFL playing against South Australia, so we had State of Origin games, which I will come back to shortly.

One of the first indelible marks that Max made on football was his work to establish Football Park at West Lakes. The SANFL and SACA were co-tenants at Adelaide Oval, and that was becoming more and more fractious, so the SANFL took it upon themselves to set themselves up and not be beholden to cricket, to be masters of their own destiny and set up Football Park. Max was instrumental in setting up Football Park, which basically became the home of South Australian football for so long here in South Australia.

One of Max's great strengths, when I talk about administration, was trying to push through what seemed like insurmountable hurdles. Of course, one of those hurdles was trying to get the lights up at Football Park. Nowadays night football is basically a part of the game—in fact, a lot of spectators prefer the night football to the daytime football—but back then, in the late seventies and eighties, the only night football here in South Australia was played at Thebarton Oval and at The Parade. Max had to fight through what was a royal commission into the lights at Footy Park and was able to get that through.

Getting back to the state games, the first State of Origin game played under lights at Footy Park was in 1984. While the result was line ball, with the Vics just beating South Australia, as a kid I indelibly remember Stephen Kernahan kicking 10 goals, and just being so proud of the fact that—he was playing at Glenelg at that stage—there was a South Australian who was just tearing up these famed Victorians.

The Victorian push to get South Australian players continued. Of course, great players want to test themselves against other great players, so we saw South Australians going over to the VFL. Max, seeing that as a huge threat to the SANFL, set up the player retention fund, basically giving a financial inducement or incentive for South Australians to stay in South Australia. From Norwood's perspective we had Michael Aish and Garry McIntosh staying to play here, and Glenelg had Chris McDermott playing here. That was great. As a young fellow—getting back to my time as an actual player while Max was the president—I was able to be mentored by greats of the game who, had it not been for Max and his player retention scheme, may not have been there to mentor players.

Of course, at the same time the VFL was trying to expand, and one of the reasons was that a lot of their clubs were broke. Max had run the SANFL very well, and many of the SANFL clubs were more financial than the VFL clubs. The VFL was trying to expand to survive, and it brought the WA team, West Coast, into the competition. There was huge pressure for South Australia to bring in a team, and Max could see that that was what the best South Australian players wanted.

He always had the best interests of South Australian football at heart, so when Port came in 1990 and said they were going to take up a VFL licence, he knew it would have had a major impact

on SANFL. I remember I was just playing under 19s at the time, but it was a real febrile time amongst the clubs; they were nervous about it. Max was able to ensure that the SANFL secured the licence of the Adelaide Crows, and basically was able to ensure the longevity of the SANFL.

Looking at some of the quotes from people at the time, Leigh Whicker, who was the CEO of the SANFL and who was the CEO the whole time, commented about Max that:

If you want to know why there is still an SANFL today—and not an AFL-SA—it is because Max refused to have South Australian football and the SANFL become subordinate to the VFL or AFL. When the West Australians caved in in 1986...the pressure on the SANFL was immense. But Max was determined to have South Australia stand firm until we could be part of a national competition on our terms. It was important that this included a strong and independent SANFL.

That is true today: the SANFL would still be the pre-eminent league outside of the AFL in the country. We have the SANFL grand final coming up just this Sunday, where two of the powerhouse clubs of the seventies are playing—Sturt and Glenelg. In the eighties Glenelg won back to back, in 1985 and 1986; fast forward to 2023 and 2024 and they are back to back again. They are playing Sturt this weekend, going for a premiership 'three-peat', so I wish all the Glenelg players the very best. There are so many Glenelg supporters in the electorate of Morphett. They love the Tigers and they are passionate, and they want to see the Tigers bring home a 'three-peat'.

One of those passionate supporters, of course, is Peter Carey, one of the greats of the game, another one I did not mention who stayed here in SA to play. He is a games record holder in South Australia and has won three premierships. People ask him, 'If Glenelg wins that means there are going to be some players who have won four premierships, so how do you feel about that?' He says, 'Great, I could think of nothing better.' He is a Tigers man through and through, and so to the Tigers players playing this Sunday, I wish you all the best and hope that you claim the premiership.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:44): I rise to support the motion of the Leader of the Opposition today, and it is well that the house takes this time to recognise a man who has been rightly described as a titan of South Australian football. Mr Basheer, I think, as the member for Morphett has just so eloquently described, occupied a place for those of us of this age of continuity in terms of keeping to the strength and integrity of what was, through the seventies and eighties in particular, the place where you found the best brand of football played anywhere.

You would not ordinarily as a child be conscious of who the lead administrators were, but Max Basheer was known as a constant throughout all of that time. It is just extraordinary how long Max was at the centre of all things football in South Australia. I want to just make that connection again as well about how he was fortunate to have some legal skills. He was qualified as a lawyer and when his playing days ended—and he was a very accomplished footballer; we can sort of hear about what North Adelaide might have to say about whether he might have had a chance to play on at Sturt and so on—he went straight into playing a leading role in the service of football using his professional skills.

So he has done that from the early fifties as a very young man, and then, as the decades have continued, he has demonstrated what passion and commitment to the sport can do in terms of delivering for all South Australians, because we know that South Australians take enormous pride in the brand of Aussie Rules football that we play, and Max was right at the centre of keeping that strong. Max was there for those halcyon days of the SANFL, and that is true particularly in those years through the middle and late eighties prior to the commencement of the Crows in 1991. But, as the member for Morphett has highlighted, when the time came for the Crows to start off in 1991, and then when the time came for the Power to start in 1997, he was making sure that the SANFL stayed strong.

Just one nod to one of those players retained for South Australia: Garry McIntosh was and remains a hero of South Australian football, and maybe Garry was the kind of player who might have stayed anyway. He played all his footy here and he starred as a huge figure at Norwood, of course, but hugely starred as a State of Origin champion. He is very much the SANFL player of the Max Basheer era who sums it up in all sorts of ways, and the legacy pans all the way through to the present day. He coached our eldest daughter to a premiership at Payneham Norwood in just recent years.

I remember bumping into Garry and bringing it to Emily's attention, and I said, 'Do you know who that is over there holding that bag? That's Garry McIntosh.' She was like, 'Oh yeah, righto.' He inhabits that club and continues on, but retained from that great time, I hope in part in thanks to Max's foresight in making sure that players and teams stayed strong when the challenge was on. So as a man dedicated to this state, dedicated to football, and all the people who are integral to it for a lifetime of service, we pay tribute to Max Basheer. Vale Max and thank you for helping to make South Australia this great place that it is.

The SPEAKER (11:49): I would also like to add a few words, and I endorse the Leader of the Opposition's motion. I was lucky enough to know Max when I was a journalist and he was the already long-serving head of the SANFL. He came from Kalangadoo like the rest of the Basheer family, including his brother Fred, and we came from Glencoe, so we were kind of rivals. We did not dislike Kalangadoo as much as we disliked Mount Burr, but it was getting close with the Magpies.

What I really liked about Max was his sense of humour. He was one of the hardest people to come up against in business or in making a decision, but once he had walked away from that negotiating table, he was one of the funniest guys. As a journo, we used to go to the Magarey Room after games, and Max would be there with Leigh Whicker. They made a pretty good team, and we would be in there having stubbies of Eagle Blue or West End super dry and having a good old chat after the game. I just remember Max's great sense of humour. He could always see the lighter side of stuff.

When it came to sticking up for South Australian footy, he made a lot of decisions that were based on a tenacity that few people I think are capable of. Whether he got all those decisions right is going to be debated for decades, particularly that one around Bruce Weber and the Port Adelaide Football Club's ambition to go into the AFL. Of course, that followed on from the decision of the VFL to take in a team from Western Australia, which became the Eagles. I think that was at a time when people were thinking, 'Well, South Australia's team should go in then,' and it ended up being that the Brisbane Bears went in under the ownership of Christopher Skase and Paul Cronin.

It will be long debated whether South Australia should have gone in in 1987 or whether Port should have gone in, as they proposed, in 1990. But in the end we ended up with the Crows going in there as a composite team, and I think Max oversaw the creation of that team. Right from that very first trial game that they had down at Footy Park, which I was at, and then the opening round game a fortnight later, the crowds came in their tens of thousands, and they have not stopped coming for the Crows and for Port. A lot of that is down to Max's ambitions. Also, before that, he took on Sir Donald Bradman when it was Bradman running cricket and Basheer running football in the late sixties, early seventies, and Max had no qualms in saying, 'We are going to go it alone.'

The other thing that people admired about him was that he never placed the sport in great debt. As they built Football Park they would go, 'We can afford to do this much of the building now, then we are going to do part 2, then part 3 and part 4.' So we saw Football Park built up over the years.

I am not sure that Max was that keen on the move back to Adelaide Oval. It was more being driven by cricket and Ian McLachlan, who did a really good job. I remember Kevin Foley as Treasurer and Pat Conlon as infrastructure minister were working really closely with cricket and football. Maybe Max did want to come back into Adelaide Oval, but, again, he always drove that hard bargain that he was so well known for, and footy got a fair few things out of that move. I have absolutely zero doubt that a lot of those concessions that footy got were down to Max's tenacity and his ability to drive a bargain but at the same time being such an affable fellow.

One of the highlights of grand final week in Melbourne was the SANFL commission used to go over there all the time, and if you were anywhere around the Grand Hyatt or the MCG over that that weekend and you bumped into Max or Leigh Whicker or were with them on the plane on the way back there was always a fun time had by all. They were great human beings as well as Max being an amazing administrator and lawyer.

I want to pass on my condolences to his family, in particular to his nephew David, who took over the running of the Strathmore Hotel after his dad, Fred, died. I know David is very, very proud of his Uncle Max. So to all the Basheer family, my condolences.

Motion carried.

WEEK OF AGEING WELL

Mrs PEARCE (King) (11:54): I move:

That this house—

- (a) recognises that South Australia's Week of Ageing Well is held annually, 1 to 7 October, in line with the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October;
- (b) notes this week recognises, values and celebrates the diversity and significant contributions of older people and is an opportunity for all South Australians to connect through events or activities that support us to live happy, connected and meaningful lives;
- (c) acknowledges that South Australia has the highest proportion of older people on mainland Australia, with more than 37 per cent of the total population aged over 50; and
- (d) congratulates the Malinauskas Labor government for introducing free 24/7 public transport for Seniors Card holders and making concession increases to provide support to more seniors and those on low incomes.

I rise today to recognise a week that shines a light on the strength, wisdom and vitality of our older community members. South Australia's Week of Ageing Well is more than just a calendar event; it is a celebration of living and ageing well. It is an acknowledgement of ongoing journeys of contribution, growth and connection.

Ageing well is not about a passage of time—it is about embracing it. It is about recognising that every stage of life offers value, purpose and opportunities to thrive. This week honours rich experiences, diverse voices and lifelong contributions of older South Australians who help shape the heart of our communities. From volunteering and mentorship to advocacy, creativity and care, older people continue to lead by example. As a state and as a government, it is our responsibility to ensure they are supported, celebrated and included every single step of the way.

This week invites people of all ages to connect with each other and have conversations about ageing well to support a deeper understanding of what ageing well means across the state and to highlight the roles we all play in supporting each other to live and age well. This week also aims to promote activities that support us to live happy and meaningful lives, support organisations, groups and community members to host events, and raise awareness of ageism, diversity and accessibility.

South Australia is proud to be a state that recognises and values the contributions of our older citizens. With 37 per cent of our total population now aged 50 and older, we understand that supporting older South Australians is not just important; it is essential. Our state has taken meaningful steps to ensure that ageing well is not only possible but encouraged. We are leading the way in creating an environment where people can continue to live with purpose, dignity and connection at every stage of their life.

Our government is committed to helping ease the cost-of-living pressures for all South Australians. As we know, older people living on low and fixed incomes often feel this burden immensely. We delivered on our election commitment to make public transport free for Seniors Card holders. The increase in patronage by Seniors Card holders since our government extended free travel to all day, every day shows the success of this initiative, which gives seniors more choice and greater independence by removing a barrier they were experiencing when it came to public transport.

I am also proud that our government has delivered a doubling of the Cost of Living Concession for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders. This record investment will support more people, including seniors, to meet the cost of living by removing the cost barrier to participating in community life.

The Week of Ageing Well, in part, is due to the fantastic work of the Office for Ageing Well. Along with bringing us the Week of Ageing Well, the office is actively listening to older adults and collaborating with government, non-government and community organisations to ensure they remain active, engaged, supported and safe. Many of us in this place would know of the comprehensive suite of programs and services that the Office for Ageing Well offers, including the Seniors Card program, which provides discounts and benefits for those who are aged 60 and over. By working

closely with the community, the office is committed to ensuring that ageing in South Australia is not only safer but more fulfilling and inclusive.

I have witnessed this commitment to connecting with older South Australians firsthand, and it is a commitment that I and the government share deeply. I am always pleased when they accept my invitation to speak directly with my local community at events such as my Community Safety Days and also my Seniors Expos, where information, support and resources can reach seniors directly. These events are more than just an opportunity to distribute flyers, they are a vital space that creates meaningful conversations.

We are there to listen to the experiences, concerns and ideas of older people firsthand, ensuring that programs remain responsive and also relevant. By showing up at events like these, we can break down the barriers to access and build trust, making sure that no senior is left out of the conversation of ageing well.

Community groups play a vital role in promoting independence, purpose and also social connection. Staying socially connected with peers can significantly improve mental health, reduce feelings of isolation, and help older people stay active and also engaged. Whether it is a local walking group, a book club, a men's shed or the local Probus, these spaces offer more than just activities: they provide a sense of belonging.

There are groups in my local community like the Golden Grove Mall Walkers who just this year in March celebrated their 20th birthday. How incredible. This group plays such an important part of our local community, and I know that the member for Wright would agree that we always enjoy attending and being able to have a cuppa after their morning walks.

Today, I want to place on the record my deep appreciation to Linda Fretwell. Linda has organised the Village Mall Walkers for all of those 20 years, and this month she is stepping down. Linda's work and her dedication to active living and the Mall Walkers is absolutely incredible. From organising each and every session, making Christmas time special for the local members, and also making sure that the volunteering, contributions and efforts of each of the members each year is recognised and celebrated, Linda truly goes above and beyond. She will be missed dearly, and I certainly hope that we will continue to see her at the morning walks every Tuesday and Friday morning.

As we celebrate South Australia's Week of Ageing Well, let us carry forward the message that growing older is something to be valued, supported and embraced. Our older community members have shaped the society we live in today and they deserve absolutely every opportunity to continue living meaningful, connected and independent lives. Our government is committed to building a future where ageing is not seen as a challenge but as a time for continued growth, contribution and joy. We will keep working to make sure South Australia is a place where everyone, at every age, can truly thrive. I commend this motion to the house.

Motion carried.

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

A quorum having been formed:

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (12:04): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges all South Australians acknowledged in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List; and
- (b) thanks them for their service to our nation, our state and their community.

The King's Birthday 2025 Honours List recognises the service of 830 Australians for their outstanding achievements and contribution to our local communities and, indeed, our greater society. The King's Birthday Honours celebrate selfless service, integrity and creativity of Australians across a variety of sectors. It recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement and, as was put by His Excellency General the Hon. David Hurley, those who have been awarded an OAM collectively speak to who we are as a nation.

I think it is really important to note at this opportunity that anyone, of course, can nominate a member of a community for an award in these honours lists for an OAM or another award. It does not matter who you are or where you are from, we just want to celebrate that selfless service, integrity and creativity, regardless if you are known by a million or known only by a few. Often it is those unsung heroes we like shining a light on during the honours lists, both on Australia Day and on the King's birthday.

This year there is a large number of South Australians from a variety of sectors who have been rightly acknowledged for their work in our local community. I would like to commend and congratulate all of them not only on their award but on often decades of selfless service in whatever field that they are endeavouring in.

This year, in particular, I want to most notably acknowledge Emeritus Professor Roger Williams Byard and Dr John Maxwell Coetzee. Professor Byard has been awarded as a Companion of the Order of Australia for his significant contribution to medicine, forensic pathology, tertiary education and community. Dr Coetzee has been awarded for his long service to the arts, particularly literature. He has published a book every three years since the late 1980s and has previously been awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature, as well as the Booker Prize on two occasions and the Key to the City of Adelaide in 2004. I pass on my congratulations to both of them on those very significant awards.

The King's Birthday Honours List this year also acknowledges a number of my local constituents, some of whom I want to acknowledge today, including Mr Andrew Chapman AM. Andrew Chapman has received an Order of Australia for his significant services to youth and to the marina industries. Among his many roles, he has contributed significantly as the Chair and the President of the Marina Industries Association since 2011, as well as the Chair of the Advancing Youth Foundation of South Australia since 2016. A very warm congratulations to Andrew Chapman.

Frank Agostino OAM has been awarded with the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the motor trade industry and his community. Mr Agostino is again a very deserving recipient and a long-serving contributor in various roles in my community and beyond.

Alan Bartram OAM has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his significant contribution to the gem and opal industry in Australia, alongside his extensive community and volunteer roles within the South Australian Museum, as well as Rotary.

Thomas Gerard Ganley OAM has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the aviation industry, particularly through his role as the Executive General Manager of Parafield Airport since 2023 and formerly as national Chair of the Australian Airports Association.

Finally, I acknowledge Sister Mary Frances Ryan OAM, who has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work as a sister since 1969 and for service to the Catholic Church of Australia.

Congratulations to all of those in my local community who were rightly acknowledged in the King's Birthday Honours for 2025. That very small snapshot of half a dozen or so individuals shows the breadth of the contribution those we acknowledge make, often endeavouring in fields that sometimes we do not know a lot about, but toiling away for many, many decades, quietly often, and for their work to be acknowledged this year in the King's Birthday Honours List is a great honour and rightly acknowledges their contribution to our communities. I thank them all for their work and services to not only our local community but to our state and our nation.

I also thank and acknowledge all of those beyond my electorate—830 Australians—for their outstanding contributions to our community and to our greater society. The Order of Australia was first formally instituted by Queen Elizabeth II on 4 February 1975. Prior to this, Australians were recognised through the British Imperial Honours system for services by members in the armed forces. It was not until 1992 that the British and Australian OAM systems officially parted ways, and we have the system that we see today, where there is a whole number of different ways we acknowledge that service, such as appointments as companions, an AC, made for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree of service. There is appointment of officers made for distinguished service, an AO, and appointments as members, an AM, made for services in a particular area or a particular

group, as well as appointments of the Medal of the Order of Australia, made for service that is deemed worthy of particular recognition.

This year there were those two South Australians that I mentioned earlier, who were acknowledged for that eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree of service, being Emeritus Professor Roger Williams Byard and Dr John Maxwell Coetzee. I commend them, but importantly those other levels in the general division, the military division of the OAM, are also incredibly important, particularly those where we focus on members of the community who have made a contribution in a particular field, and it is often a really great opportunity to highlight unsung heroes across our local community, across our state, across our country, who often for many decades have done incredible work.

It is my absolute pleasure to move this motion today, acknowledging not only the 830 Australians for their contribution, but in particular the contributions and acknowledgements of those South Australians and those in my local community who were awarded honours this year. I congratulate all of the winners of those awards.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:13): It is my privilege to rise and to recognise, in supporting this motion, the recipients of awards of the Order of Australia at this year's King's Birthday Honours. As I took the opportunity to advise the house yesterday, there is particular joy—and she will excuse the pun—in the award of the OAM to a hero of Macclesfield, Joylene Edwards, for her decades of service to Aussie Rules. It is particularly fantastic that, on Saturday, Macclesfield won the premiership for the first time in 45 years and that the investiture ceremony for Joy was held on Monday this week. Macclesfield has really seen the glory days returned, and in all sorts of ways that is a fantastic thing.

If I might take a chance to reflect, as always, on the wonderful community contributions that are made by recipients, including in my area of Heysen, and reflect on the institution of the Order of Australia itself. This year seems to be a year for 50th anniversaries; I celebrated one myself earlier this year. It also happens to be the 50th anniversary of the institution of the awards. It is true to say that, throughout Australia, these awards of the Order of Australia are recognised and respected as marks of honour that appropriately—and free from politics or partisanship, but in the most unifying of ways—honour those who have made significant contributions to Australia.

I would say two other things about the situation that we find ourselves in in South Australia, in relation to the process. The recipients of an award of the Order of Australia cannot be conferred that honour without, for practical purposes, steps being taken by people to nominate them. So it is very important that, as representatives of communities throughout the state, as members of this house, we make it really clear that it is really important to get out and nominate those who are making significant contributions to communities in all sorts of ways.

These awards are within reach; they appropriately recognise practical, day-to-day service over decades. They also of course celebrate those highest achievers in their various fields throughout the country. I do emphasise, as Her Excellency does on behalf of South Australia in particular, the need to make sure that those who are worthy of recognition are nominated. I understand that South Australia can do more nominating, and we would have even more people recognised were there more active efforts in South Australia to make those nominations.

These things can come in waves, and we might see more active participation in the nomination process in different parts of the state and around the country for different reasons. But it is well to emphasise that if there is someone who is worthy of nomination you should make sure they are nominated.

The second observation that I want to make about the order and the conferral of the awards is that it has become increasingly clear that there is a very long time that passes from nomination through to conferral. That is something—while we are talking about highly respected awards, a high degree of integrity and widespread respect around the country—that can be enhanced by a capacity to administer nominations without undue delay. I think the quicker a worthy nomination can be established and concluded so that the conferral of the award can occur, the better. That is very important, and I hope that we can move away from a time in which we need to emphasise the

nominating of a worthy recipient, because it is going to take a huge amount of time for that to work its way through the process to conferral.

So I join with other members who have congratulated all recipients of those awards. We will look forward to doing so again shortly. Just as Her Excellency has reminded recipients at investiture ceremonies this week, I would encourage recipients of those awards to wear their pins, to wear them proudly, because the awards are truly recognising service that ought to be celebrated and recognised throughout the community. Congratulations to the recipients, and we look forward to the continued integrity of our awards in the Order of Australia.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:22): I rise to also contribute to this motion acknowledging all South Australian award winners on the list who have done great work with South Australians, and acknowledge their service to the nation, the state and their communities. I will talk about a few people recognised on the King's Birthday Honours List.

Andrew Lincoln Chapman, whom I personally know, was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia. He is the son of Tom and Wendy Chapman, who instigated the Hindmarsh Island marina. Obviously, they were keen advocates of the Hindmarsh Island bridge, to get that connectivity to Hindmarsh Island, notwithstanding the controversy which I will not go into today in regard to that bridge. It certainly connected Hindmarsh Island, so there were no long waits for hours and hours for the ferry on either side, at Hindmarsh Island and Goolwa, and in accessing the island as the marina was developed.

Andrew worked alongside his father, Tom, and his mother, Wendy, in promoting the marina and moving that forward. They also had a proposal for a marina at Port Wakefield, which I think would have been very good for this state, but it came up against stumbling blocks over time. I want to salute—notwithstanding the challenges that people seem to have in this state with development—the vision of the Chapman family in what they did on Hindmarsh Island. I also salute Andrew's work. He has moved on with youth mentorship, taking very much a leading role in regard to marina organisations across Australia.

Obviously in the terms when I looked after Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island in the electorate of Hammond I had a lot to do with the Chapman family. Sadly, we farewelled Tom Chapman only two weeks ago at St Peter's Cathedral. It was quite a moving service where the eulogies went for almost an hour. I was very pleased to supply Sally Grundy, Tom and Wendy's daughter, with a South Australian flag to drape Tom's coffin because he was very committed to South Australia. Certainly I salute Andrew's work and his work that he continues to do with youth and the marina community.

John Lush, a Mallala farmer who I have known for many years in the agricultural industry, is very much a proud and strong advocate for agriculture in this state, as he has been for many years. I saw him only the other day at the Grain Producers SA annual general meeting. John, as strong as ever, is pushing for reforms in lead organisations across Australia to make sure we get a united message on agriculture, especially in these times where we have seen unprecedented drought here in South Australia and in western Victoria.

John is always a strong advocate. I was opposition primary industries spokesperson during the time when the South Australian farmers federation collapsed and Primary Producers SA was being born, and John was very much at the forefront of those discussions. It was certainly a real pity at the time that the South Australian farmers federation did fall over, because it was a great organisation, but the funding model just did not work. It does not matter how you look at it: you need funds to run organisations.

Now, with the levy model—that was heavily debated—coming into Primary Producers SA, Livestock SA and Grain Producers SA, we actually have a model where these lead organisations can advocate on a farmer's behalf, and there is nothing more certain than in this time of severe drought. I congratulate Brad Perry and the rest of the team, John Gladigau and others, who are doing that vital work for South Australian farmers.

I really want to take my hat off to John Lush. I believe he got a lifetime achievement award at the Grain Industry Awards that were held earlier this year and he certainly deserves that. His is certainly a name that will be forever thought of in agripolitics in South Australia. Let's not forget that

every time someone goes off to advocate for other farmers, they are not doing the work at home, and it does come at a detriment to your own property. So I salute John for that service and salute him for the service that he will do into the future.

I knew Dr Peter Rischbieth as a well-renowned doctor, one of the doctors of the highest regard in Murray Bridge, who served in Murray Bridge for many years at the hospital, the emergency department and the Bridge Clinic. He gave such fantastic service. You always knew you were getting the absolute facts working with Dr Peter Rischbieth. He was not just working in regard to the health needs of our region; he worked in different positions across the state in promoting remote and regional health needs so that we can get better outcomes and better health services right across the state.

I absolutely take my hat off to Dr Peter Rischbieth. I have had several conversations with him, and certainly he was one of the lead doctors, along with Dr Martin Altmann and others, with whom I had discussions before the 2018 election on the policy debate around a new emergency department at Murray Bridge.

It was just fantastic working with Dr Rischbieth and the other doctors and health professionals. They went through about nine or 10 drafts of how they wanted the emergency department built, and that just showed the commitment they had to making sure they got the right building, the right services and the right room layout so that it would work. I can assure you, as someone who has had to utilise that building once for emergency treatment, that it is set out well and they do magnificent work. I salute Dr Rischbieth and wish him well in his retirement.

Another person I want to speak on particularly is John Rowley, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia. He is a long-term Liberal supporter. I believe he lives in Adelaide now but he used to run a roadhouse at Yamba near the border. That would have been many long hours of work—anyone who runs their own business like that knows the time and dedication needed for that. I acknowledge John's dedication to the community right across the board. He is a very selfless man, a man who you can have very strong conversations with but you know he is solid and you know he is giving you good advice. I congratulate John Rowley as well.

To all the other winners and to all the unsung heroes who may have been nominated and have not received an award: the process does take time. Not everyone gets through; I understand that. I know people do not do what they do for awards, but it is so nice to see people who have given such great service to their communities, their state and their nation get that recognition.

I have worked with the award secretariat multiple times giving references, as I am sure other members from across the board in this house have done. If you know a proponent for receiving an award, they seek a reference, and I am happy to be part of that process. For everyone who received an award in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List, I salute you for your service to your community, your state and your nation.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (12:31): I am pleased to rise to support this motion. It gives the opportunity to highlight some of the extraordinary contributions made to South Australia and our nation by some terrific South Australians.

I think back to the people who have won awards over the years and the work that it has represented in our community: people like Domenico Zollo, the tireless President of the Holy Mary of Montevergine Association—the Maria Santissima de Montevergine Festa Associazione—and the people in my community who have done work like that. I think of people like Vincent Ciccarello for services to arts and education in South Australia, who is a wonderful South Australian, and people like the member for Colton for services to sport and as Australia's greatest Paralympian. These are some of the names that I think of when I think of the awarding of an OAM or other title.

Today, I highlight in particular in the education space the work of Carolyn Grantskalns. She is long overdue in her recognition for an OAM in the King's Birthday awards. Carolyn Grantskalns served South Australia's young people as a teacher, a principal and a leader of the independent schools sector. She has retired from that full-time work and is now serving the new government of the day on the History Trust board and as Chair of the Teachers Registration Board, a role I think she took over from Jane Lomax-Smith, if memory serves me well. She has plenty of things she could

be doing with her life and continues in the service of South Australia's community, our education system and our children and young people. I thank her for that. It is an appropriate acknowledgement that she receives on this occasion.

Frank Agostino is one of the other awardees in the King's Birthday Honours this year, somebody who is a role model as a leader in business, particularly in the motor trades industry, which is well recognised. It was a pleasure to be at the MTA dinner, I think it was late last year or early this year, where he was so duly acknowledged for that extraordinary service.

To all of the awardees for their service to our state, our community and our nation: I thank you, and this parliament recognises your work in addition to the recognition which you have received through the honours list.

Motion carried.

WORLD PARKS DAY

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:35): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges that 17 September is World Parks Day, a day to celebrate and recognise the importance of these green spaces for their environmental, cultural, and social values;
- (b) recognises the important work that volunteers play in conserving and protecting South Australia's parks, in particular members of the Friends of Parks and Nature; and
- (c) recognises the work of the Malinauskas Labor government in preserving and expanding South Australia's parks, including through the addition of land and the proclamation of new parks.

I am very lucky to live in a part of the world that is very green and spacious. I live in the south, in the electorate of Davenport, where we are lucky enough to have Glenthorne National Park, a beautiful space that our community has really embraced and started to enjoy. We have over 350 parks in South Australia. It is certainly something that our state should celebrate, and it is fantastic to see so many families getting out to really enjoy these activated spaces.

I have just been told by my colleague the member for Waite that she is actually the member for parks, when I thought that I was. It turns out that she is, having Belair National Park in her electorate of Waite, Belair being the oldest national park in the state. I will not take her glory and give you all of the other fantastic facts about Belair National Park. I think she and I will just have to agree to disagree on which of the national parks is the greatest.

Of course, it is Glenthorne National Park, so I would like to take this opportunity to provide a shout-out to the Friends of Glenthorne, who do a fantastic job of protecting that new national park space. They have planted thousands and thousands of new seedlings and saplings over the last few years, and they often host local community groups and local primary schools at Glenthorne for a day out for them to learn all about our nature and the beautiful wildlife that we have in the south.

I am excited to be able to share that very soon we will be making it even easier for kids to access Glenthorne National Park. Right across the road is IQRA College, and they have been lobbying me for some time now to get safer access across Majors Road so that they can visit daily and check in on the saplings that they have planted over the years. I am very proud that we are going to be able to deliver that safe crossing for them very soon, which I know will also benefit the children at the O'Halloran Hill childcare centre, who often pop on those cute little high-vis vests and potter over the road to learn a little bit more about nature.

We are so lucky to have a government that is committed to only expanding our national parks as well here in South Australia. Almost 725 hectares, the equivalent of 450 Adelaide Ovals, are being added to three popular South Australian parks, providing more access and better protection to our state's natural attractions for local, interstate and international visitors. They are the Murray River National Park, Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park in the Riverland and the Sceale Bay Conservation Park on the Eyre Peninsula.

It is very exciting to see that we are investing more in this space and protecting those beautiful spaces here in South Australia. I am conscious of the fact that I do not have a huge amount

of time left to speak on this, and I know that the member for parks is very keen to contribute, so I might hand over to our next speakers.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (12:38): I would like to make a minor amendment to the motion that is proposed. The amendment would delete paragraph (c) and replace it with:

- (c) recognises the significant work of former and current governments in preserving and expanding South Australia's parks, including through the addition of land and the proclamation of new parks.

I think it is important that we understand how important parks are to our psyche in Australia and South Australia in particular. It is wonderful that we have such a large expanse of parks across our state. The history of the parks goes a long way back to 1891, with Belair National Park being the second park declared in Australia after the Royal National Park in New South Wales, which was proclaimed in 1879.

We have other parks as well, going back to Flinders Chase National Park on Kangaroo Island, established in 1919. Coorong, just prior to my lifetime, was proclaimed a national park in 1966. There are many parks out there, such as Mount Remarkable, which was proclaimed a national park in 1972, and Coffin Bay National Park also in 1972.

There are many others as well. Glenthorne National Park was a very recent addition under the previous government, turning what used to be a research centre into a national park. Likewise, in my own electorate, there was another national park declared, the Hindmarsh Valley National Park, which is an exciting piece of terrain, a very interesting piece of land in my electorate. It has significantly steep sections to it, which makes it a really challenging piece of terrain on which to have ever done anything agriculturally. That means this land has some very good remnant vegetation, which is really important to some of the species that are there.

We need to understand how important these parks are to our environment and what they mean for the people of South Australia. It is certainly important that we protect these pieces of land to protect the fauna that live in these areas. Endangered species such as the yellow-footed rock wallaby, the glossy black cockatoo and the Australian sea lion are all important fauna that we need to help preserve. It is important that we manage the parks so that we are able to make sure that we maintain and protect these environments.

Community health and wellbeing benefits of parks and green spaces encompass accessibility to these green spaces around Adelaide's Parklands, coastal reserves, and regional hubs. It makes people really enjoy the outdoors, giving people the opportunity to enjoy these spaces. As much as I think about preserving these areas to make sure we maintain our historic vegetation and what was there previously, it is also about allowing people to enjoy those spaces and actually experience the beauty this country has, which is one of the most important things.

As I said, governments going back to the 1890s have been protecting this land by declaring national parks. It must be recognised that all members of this place, no matter which party they are from, have done their bit over time to make sure that these places are protected and looked after. Once we declare them national parks, we also need to make sure that we continue to look after those spaces.

I think it has been something that this chamber has been very supportive of on both sides, including the crossbench, making sure that we continue in this space. It is important to recognise that both the current government and former governments of both sides have made the effort to improve the national park network, hence the amendment to the motion. With that, I conclude my remarks.

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (12:44): I rise today in support of the original motion and I welcome the opportunity to reflect on World Parks Day, and the extraordinary value of open green spaces in South Australia and, importantly, in my community.

As the member for Waite, and as someone who grew up across the road from the very best park, Belair National Park—and I still live across the road from it today—I know firsthand just how lucky we are to be surrounded by extraordinary parks and reserves. I have spent countless hours walking, riding, volunteering, and simply soaking up the peace in our parks, and I know many in our community feel the same connection to the places we are fortunate to have on our doorstep.

In the Mitcham Hills, we are blessed with an incredible diversity of parks: Belair National Park, Brownhill Creek, Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, Blackwood Forest, Watiparinga and Sturt Gorge. These places not only offer beauty and biodiversity but also provide a place of refuge and connection with nature, with history and with one another.

Recently, I had the joy of attending the 40th anniversary of the celebration of the Friends of Belair National Park and it reminded me just how special these places are and how deeply they are cared for. Belair has always been a place of firsts. Established in 1891, it was South Australia's very first national park, only the second in the entire nation and the eighth in the world.

For the past 40 years, the Friends of Belair National Park have been at its very heart. Since 1985, they have planted trees, pulled weeds, restored creeks, monitored the wildlife, and recorded history and the shared story of the place within our community. Tens of thousands of hours of volunteer work are visible in every corner of the park. This dedication is mirrored in our other parks through other friends groups as well.

On Saturday 20 July this year, over 175 volunteers came together with the Friends of Blackwood Forest for a massive community planting day. In just one morning, over 1,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses were planted, mulched and watered, marking stage 2 of a \$15,000 revegetation project focused on restoring the East-West and Minno Creek lines. I was glad to join them and to see the pride on people's faces as they worked side by side to restore the much-loved and hard fought for local forest. Equally, the Brownhill Creek Association continues to do outstanding work regenerating native vegetation, restoring the creek and celebrating Kaurna heritage along this important waterway.

Of course, none of this happens in isolation. Across Waite, we have Friends of Sturt Gorge, Friends of Shepherds Hill Recreation Park, Friends of Waite Conservation Reserve, Friends of Waite Arboretum, and smaller but equally dedicated groups like Blackwood Action Group, Woodlake Reserve Action Group, Hurds Hill Reserve Regeneration Group, landcare groups and the Red Gum Gully Bushcare Group. They remind us that conservation does not just happen in big parks; it is happening in the small reserves and bush pockets right across our suburbs.

Importantly, these groups work in partnership with our rangers, whose work is as diverse as it is vital, from biodiversity conservation to cultural heritage protection, from fire management and compliance to education, emergency response and volunteer support. On 31 July, we marked World Ranger Day and we lit Parliament House green to thank our rangers for their extraordinary contribution and to honour those whose lives have sadly been lost in the line of duty.

On 28 August, I had the absolute honour of attending the SARA screening of *Guardians of Hope*. It was a documentary created by former South Australian ranger Amanda Dudgeon. Amanda, whose vision was an inspiration for all in attendance to follow our dreams and be brave, showcased just how vital the work of rangers and conservation protectors is and how they are giving us hope for the future.

There were so many rangers in the room it felt so special and they were from different work contexts: traditional owners, National Parks and Wildlife Service, ForestrySA, SA Water and non-government organisations. Rangers are who we look to for hope and guidance when it comes to the natural world and wilderness. Rangers are resilient and reliable, often knowing what to do and how to help. With climate change effects being seen in changing weather patterns, algal blooms and droughts, our rangers are at the forefront in reducing threats, protecting wildlife and reassuring the community.

To acknowledge the work that our rangers do, as well as celebrate how lucky we are to live in our community, I am hosting a Living Around Parks Expo in October in Waite. It will be a chance for our community to learn more about our parks and hear directly from the rangers and the friends groups and be inspired by their work. There will be sessions on bushfire management, advice on planting gardens to support biodiversity and wildlife, and stories from volunteers who dedicate their time to caring for these spaces. I am very pleased to be able to organise this opportunity to bring our community together, and I am hopeful that it will inspire them to not only care more for their own green spaces but also consider what they can do to help support our parks more broadly.

Of course, our parks are not just places of conservation; they are also places of community and recreation. In Waite, our parks are alive with activity, whether it is parkrun on Saturday mornings at Belair, disc golf within the Belair National Park as well in the old golf course, the Marion Riding Club, the walking and trail running groups (TRSA), and our mountain bike riders who trail through quite a number of our parks on weekends, public holidays, school holidays, and at any time really. They are playgrounds for all ages where families gather, friendships form, and health and wellbeing are nurtured.

Playgrounds and recreation spaces help families and children connect with nature from a young age. Belair National Park is home to the much-loved Adventure Playground, which will soon undergo significant upgrades starting just after the school holidays, ensuring it remains a magical place for children for generations to come. Personally, I have my own special connection of going to the Adventure Playground all the time as a child. I remember quite vividly coming down the massive slippery dip that used to come down the side and, of course, it was made out of metal and was usually quite hot. There are some good memories and sometimes not so good memories.

Mr Pederick: I bet they have got rid of it now.

Ms HUTCHESSON: It is not there anymore, sadly. I continue to advocate to try to get it back, but I am not sure I am going to get anywhere with that. The improvements to Playford Lake that are coming as well will improve the accessibility and enjoyment for families. Closer to our neighbourhoods, we have just completed our community consultation on the Waite Street Reserve upgrade. I am really pleased that, thanks to strong community support, feedback and also by my own feedback, the new design will include a basketball hoop, a small but important win that will give young people in our area more opportunities to be active in recreation.

These spaces, from our national parks to our local reserves, from bush tracks to playgrounds, are all vital parts of our community. They give us opportunities to connect with nature, with each other and with our own wellbeing. This year, we will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Wittunga Botanic Garden, another jewel in our community, cared for by the wonderful rangers from the Botanic Gardens and the friends group that is supported by the passionate volunteer guides as well from the Botanic Gardens.

Today, on World Parks Day, we celebrate all of these places and the people who care for them. We thank the volunteers, the rangers and, indeed, the community groups who give so much of their time. Every weekend they are out there, and they are working hard. It is really lovely to see that not only do they understand the importance of protecting biodiversity and protecting the spaces, but that they also get such joy from being with each other and learning from each other. I love that the most about our Friends of Parks groups. When I visit them and go and help them sometimes, they are so friendly and they really welcome you. They want to teach you and encourage you to learn as well. I am really fortunate that we have so many within my community.

I would also like to recognise the important work of our government in preserving and expanding South Australia's parks through new proclamations, the addition of land, and by strengthening the resources that support these special places. Whilst Waite is full of parks, I will accept that there are other parks in other areas and that they, too, are important. They actually are looked after by incredible Friends of Parks groups and rangers across the state. We would be nowhere without those groups because it is such a huge amount of work that they manage to get done.

A really good example of that is in Belair. There is a family who took over a patch to look after and have been doing it since their kids were really young. Every year for Father's Day, Craig Baulderstone, who was made life member at the Friends of Belair, as his gift has his whole family in his patch, weeding and conserving in that area. When you walk past that patch, which I do often—it is near my house—you completely notice the difference between how it has been so well cared for. There are so many weeds that they need to look for, whether they are broom, blackberries or a whole lot of others that they continue to pull out, so that it provides such beautiful biodiversity and a great place for nature.

I was walking through there the other day and not really looking and then looking, and there was a family of little owls just sitting on a log, which is really unusual for them to be down so low, but

they were sitting there pretending not to be seen, and it was very cute. I am very fortunate to live in an area that is surrounded by parks, as is our community, that really shapes our identity and gives us hope. Let us continue to celebrate them, to protect them and to ensure they remain places of beauty, biodiversity, play and belonging for the generations to come. I support the motion.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:54): I rise to support the amended motion in regard to today, which is World Parks Day. I notice all the benefits that national parks bring for the health and wellbeing of our society and people who access them. I am going to take a slightly different approach and reflect on the Coorong National Park and the Billiatt and Ngarkat parks. They are all pretty broad parks that have either been in my electorate or are adjacent to my electorate in my time as a member of parliament. I have certainly visited all those parks throughout my life.

In the Coorong, over time there have been many rudimentary shacks that have been put in place. I know people who have some of these shacks. Thankfully, when we were in government, we have gone through a level of freeholding, which is ongoing, hooking up proper wastewater systems and that kind of thing so that people can have tenure. These are real shacks. People get down there in these shack communities. There are not many of them, but it needs to be recognised that these shacks provide a lot of community fun and get together, as well as a lot of relaxation time for people in the community.

Billiatt and Ngarkat are both very big parks with many tens of thousands of hectares. I share farmed a property next to Ngarkat Conservation Park, which can have its challenges with the amount of wildlife that comes over a normal-height fence. Plenty of emus and kangaroos decide that they do not necessarily need to live just on the park, which is a bit of a confronting issue to deal with when you are trying to grow wheat crops on the other side of the fence. It is an issue.

I know it says in the legislation, because I have looked it up, that governments of either colour never pay for fencing next to a national park from freehold land. I find that quite interesting because, if you are a farmer and you neighbour land, you are responsible for paying for 50 per cent of that fence. However, to my knowledge, I have never seen the government put in the appropriate money because it would need a significant fence, probably two metres high, to make the wildlife stay in the park.

I had some very enjoyable weekends out in that fantastic park at Ngarkat. It sometimes had some severe burn scars, because it is like a magnet for lightning strikes. I remember one fantastic trip driving up from the property at Emu Springs out the back of Tintinara and heading up towards the Mallee end or the Lameroo end of the park in an old three-speed Toyota we had. It was pretty reliable, considering what it was. We lost one axle on the way in. I cannot remember now whether it was the front or back, but we kept going on whatever axle I had.

I had instructed my friends, who were coming in from the other end, that if I was not there getting towards dusk they should come and look for me. I got a flat tyre and I did not realise how close I happened to be to Box Flat where we were camping. When I got a flat tyre I thought, 'Well, that just takes the cake.' It was just another challenge for driving through the park. I had plenty of supplies with me if we had to set up for the night and sleep in the swag, which we were going to do anyway. It was so funny because the next thing I heard a crash and bang as a Toyota came down the track to assist us with fixing the tyre.

A park like that is fantastic. You can do the border track with four-wheel drives, going more from the Mallee end up towards Lameroo and Parrakie heading south. You can certainly commute there and have a very peaceful time out in that Mallee scrub well away from traffic and the hindrance of city life, if you are a city dweller. It is a great place to have out there. There are great tracts of land that are preserved like that, and many people have enjoyed their time traversing these parks. As I said, it can be four-wheel drive tours, motorbike tours and the like.

I really enjoyed my time in these parks. They do cause a problem sometimes with fire management, and I have talked about that here in the past, but we do have to be realistic in that management.

Debate adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

The SPEAKER: I am not sure who is trying to do the bribing here, but there is a donut here—maybe from the police minister, is it? Have you an explanation for where this donut came from?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN: My apologies, Mr Speaker. It is Blue Donut Day, in recognition of Police Legacy and the work they do to support police officers and the families of police officers.

The SPEAKER: What a great cause. Thank you very much for the bribe; I will put it on my register of interests—full disclosure to the deputy leader.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table:

By the Speaker—

Judicial Conduct Commissioner—Annual Report 2024-25

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before we get to committees, I would like to welcome to parliament some guests that we have here today. Firstly, Naracoorte Primary School—it is great to have people up from the South-East—and you of course are guests of the member for MacKillop. We also have students from Saint Ignatius here, and they are guests of the member for Newland. It is terrific to have everyone in, and I hope the people in here are as well-behaved as you are when you are back at school.

Parliamentary Committees

PRINTING COMMITTEE AND PUBLISHING COMMITTEE

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (14:07): I bring up the joint report of the Legislative Council Printing Committee and the House of Assembly Publishing Committee.

Report received and ordered to be published.

The SPEAKER: Some great people have been Chairs of that committee, like Mike Rann, who I think created the prefix that said 'the very important and all-powerful Publishing Committee'.

Question Time

BELGRAVIA APPAREL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:08): My question is to the Premier. Did the Premier sign a letter authorising a government department to give a \$1 million grant, paid for by South Australian taxpayers, to an Adelaide clothing company, Belgravia sports apparel, and, if so, how and why?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:08): I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I can talk to the grant that was provided to Belgravia, which is a South Australian enterprise that employs South Australians to make goods for global markets. I am in a position to be able to provide formal advice to the house that I have received official government advice that Belgravia have expanded and transformed their Mawson Lakes facility into an even more cutting-edge and state-of-the-art manufacturing hub on the back of state government industry support.

Similarly, they have been able to upgrade their sportswear production capacity from 2½ thousand units a week to 5,000 units a week. There has been a 50 per cent increase in turnover

from the financial year 2022 to financial year 2024, and now Belgravia is manufacturing products for Nike that were once produced in China.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the opportunity to enunciate all of the benefits that we have seen in terms of economic growth here in South Australia as a result of that industry support. More than that, it is these types of initiatives that have incrementally, when you add them up, resulted in South Australia having the fastest economic growth in the country on the mainland. We have seen the South Australian economy grow at a faster rate than the nation's economy.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley, the Naracoorte Primary students are watching and they think you're being a little rowdy, and so do I.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I make that statement on the basis of facts, and I can report that the source of those facts is the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Mr Speaker, you will detect that I am at pains to refer the house to the official advice I have received from the South Australian government. I am at pains to report on the economic growth success of this state, as reported independently, officially, by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, because on this side of the house we place merit and value on accurate statements of fact. On this side of the house—

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order, sir.

The SPEAKER: The deputy leader.

Mr TEAGUE: I just call on the Premier to table the document that he is referring to.

The SPEAKER: I don't think he has to table the document unless it's statistical information.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: On this side of the house, when we stand up and make a contribution to important public discourse on any number of things, our first source of information isn't to run to ChatGPT. We are not running off to AI.

The Hon. D.G. Pisoni interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Unley can leave the chamber until the end of question time. There's too much of a hullabaloo going on in here. I can't hear the deputy leader's point of order.

The honourable member for Unley having withdrawn from the chamber:

The SPEAKER: Deputy leader, did you have a point of order?

Mr TEAGUE: I am calling for the tabling of the document. The Premier has even gone further to claim that he is studiously referring to it. The house ought to have the benefit so that we can do that as well.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business, on the point of order.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: It is a briefing note. It is not to be tabled, sir. It has not been a practice of the house.

Mr TEAGUE: It is the practice of parliaments for centuries. Ministerial responsibility requires, if the relevant minister is referring to a document and going further to claim to be referring to the document for the very reason that he's trying to make a point about studiously adhering to the facts, it's a perfect example of where the Premier needs to table the document so the house has the benefit.

The SPEAKER: Premier, can you continue with your answer?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I think it's becoming increasingly evident why the house of government, when the Liberal Party were in charge, chose for you no longer to be Speaker, sir. It is clear that on this side of the house we place a high value on speaking with the authority of official advice and that we are very cautious to make sure that on important public policy debates we don't rely on AI to be able to inform our opinions. It is somewhat concerning that on matters of critical importance to the state, such as the algal bloom, there are some people in this parliament on that side of the house who would feel so at ease questioning the advice of official experts, marine

scientists, on the algal bloom, and cite ChatGPT as their reason for doing so. That's unacceptable: we will stick to the facts.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my right will come to order.

Mr TEAGUE: I just reiterate, the call for—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Sorry, members on my right will come to order. I can't hear the deputy leader.

Mr TEAGUE: I am obliged to raise it in a timely way. The Premier has concluded his answer. In those circumstances I repeat the call for the Premier to table the document.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Parliamentary briefing notes have been used in this house since ministries were offering ministers advice. They don't get tabled, sir; of course they're not tabled.

The SPEAKER: I don't think it's—

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr TEAGUE: On the point, the Premier has not described these documents that he has referred to as briefing notes. He has referred to reliance on the ABS and other facts that he is studiously relying on by reference to a document in his hand. He should table it.

The SPEAKER: I can't see the document from here, but if it is briefing notes you never have to table briefing notes. It's your question time and we're seven minutes in. We can go backwards and forwards on this. Leader, do you have a question?

BELGRAVIA APPAREL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is to the Premier. Has Belgravia Apparel been requested to return the grant money and, if not, why not?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:16): No, they haven't, and that is because Belgravia Apparel received that grant subject to all of the appropriate checks and processes that the Department of State Development would apply when providing grants to private organisations—no different to a grant to a sporting club, no different to a grant to an industrial organisation, no different to a grant to a business—they are all subject to very thorough scrutiny. That was examined during the course of the Ombudsman's report and was found by the Ombudsman as such.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, the member for Hammond and the member for Florey: you are on your final warning. You will be joining the member for Unley in the tuckshop if there is any more of that noise.

BELGRAVIA APPAREL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): Again, my question is to the Premier. What process has the Premier put in place to ensure this type of issue doesn't happen again?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:17): The implication of the Leader of the Opposition's question is that somehow there is a problem with Belgravia dramatically growing its business on the back of a grant from government, and the Ombudsman made it clear in her report that there hasn't been any finding of wrongdoing.

BELGRAVIA APPAREL

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:17): My question is to the Premier. Is the Premier confident no other grant moneys have been inadvertently and incorrectly paid to private companies, and that he hasn't signed any other letter authorising this information?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:18): The Ombudsman's report speaks for itself and makes very plain that there is no finding of maladministration or any such misconduct. I well understand why the Leader of the Opposition would be asking these questions given the utter desperation that is emerging from those opposite and the—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Leader of Government Business and the Leader of the Opposition will both come to order. I can't hear the Premier.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —air of desperation is further evidenced by the interjections from the Leader of the Opposition himself, making implications that somehow the government is responsible for the timing of when the Ombudsman releases its reports. It is a completely independent office, and someone like the Leader of the Opposition should know something as basic as that.

The type of basic intuition that you would normally expect someone to possess, that would warn them off attaching themselves to a watchdog that in actual fact is an Exocet missile that has turned, coming back in your own direction. It is somewhat extraordinary that anybody in this parliament would be remotely surprised that the Hon. Frank Pangallo would end up becoming a liability for those in the opposition.

Each and every member of the opposition probably needs to reflect on whether or not they have the courage of their convictions to advise the Leader of the Opposition, whom you all work for, and say to the Leader of the Opposition, 'Have we really thought through whether or not this is a good idea?' in welcoming Mr Pangallo into their fold as the candidate for Waite. Did any of you advise Vincent that this is a bad idea? That is a legitimate question, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Premier, there's a point of order from the deputy leader.

Mr TEAGUE: It's standing order 98(a). If ever there was a descending into debate in response to a fairly specific question about processes, to be confident that grant moneys are not paid elsewhere, then this is it. The Premier needs to return to the question.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has concluded. The member for Narungga.

ALGAL BLOOM

Mr ELLIS (Narungga) (14:20): My question is to the Minister for Environment. Will the government use Hydro2050's nanobubble technology to treat the harmful algal bloom in the Gulf St Vincent?

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) (14:20): Yes, it is a thoughtful question about one of the technologies that has been proposed in recent times that might be able to help address the algal bloom. Of course, the one that we are particularly interested in is the modified clay that we have discussed in this chamber, as well as elsewhere, but there has been a suggestion from, I think, three companies, including the company mentioned by the member, for the use of nanobubbles, which involves, essentially, putting ozone into the water to address harmful blooms of various sorts.

I am speaking a little bit elliptically like that because it has not been used in a marine environment as far as we know and there's certainly no published research to say what its effect in the marine environment is. It has been used in freshwater systems in enclosed areas where there has been such a cyanobacteria, which is known as blue-green algae but which is actually a bacterium, not an algae. It has been proposed to be looked at for application here, whether in the maritime environment or somewhere like West Lakes.

There needs to be approval. Because ozone is something that can be destructive in the environment, PIRSA has sought an application to have authorisation from the APVMA—which is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority—for it to be used in order to consider whether it might be appropriate. The APVMA has asked some further questions, as I understand it. That has gone through to the company. The company may have already provided the information to

the AVPMA, but we are not aware of whether that has occurred or not as yet, although we are paying attention and following up to see whether that has occurred.

It may be that that authorisation is given, it may be that it isn't, so we will wait and see on that. There then will be the question of whether its applicability, in any one of the three companies that are proposing it, but particularly obviously the one that the member has referred to, is seen to be acceptable, and will require, obviously, EPA authorisation as well.

All of that is a long way round to say that we are well aware of the technology. It was first presented to me in the context of potential use with the Torrens and now it is a question of whether it might be applicable in any of the circumstances. I am not certain, when we talk about the open marine environment, of the extent to which something that is used in reasonably small scale would in any way be able to do anything, still less what impact it might have on the marine environment. But we are paying close attention, including seeking necessary authorisation in order to not preclude its further consideration by the state or agencies that are involved.

PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:24): My question is to the Leader of Government Business. Can the minister update the house on the importance of providing accurate information to the parliament and the consequences of not verifying research?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:24): I am glad that the member has asked me this question, because it gives me an opportunity to put some things on the public record. We are all in a unique position in this house. We are accountable to the public. We rely on accurate, transparent and truthful evidence, and any attempt to provide inaccurate information not only undermines the integrity of the process but risks damaging the parliament itself.

Mr Pangallo and the Leader of the Opposition have claimed that it was all an administrative error—a typo in a URL. Maybe. But it wasn't that. After initially blaming an administrative error and then blaming staff, he has now admitted to using an AI application to compile a list of non-existent academic documents and phoney links that he apparently submitted to parliament without checking.

Well, the experts within SARDI and other government agencies checked. They conducted extensive searches. It wasn't a witch-hunt. Mr Pangallo invited it. He said his claims weren't conspiracy theories. He provided sources and implored government agencies to review them as part of their research into the algal bloom. On 26 August, during the Budget and Finance Committee, Mr Pangallo said, and I quote:

I have decided to give you [Professor Doroudi] the references so you can see that I am not just plucking it out of midair as a conspiracy theory.

Professor Doroudi then says in reply, in Budget and Finance, and I quote:

On balance, if you provide what you have and the committee has we will provide you back...our scientific response.

What did the government searches uncover? Non-existent sources despite thorough investigations, and no such papers matching the titles, authors or dates could be located online from recognised academic databases. Incorrect citations and invalid web links. The URLs provided in the submission either did not function or linked to an unrelated article, and no alternative source pathways could be identified. Misattributed authorship: while there are research papers that have similar titles, they are not authored by the individuals named in the document that was provided.

For example, the M.L. Richlen reference provided by Mr Pangallo is problematic for a number of reasons. First, the cited article doesn't appear in volume 9, issue 5 of *Harmful Algae* like Mr Pangallo claimed. Second, M.L. Richlen, a research specialist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, has provided written confirmation that she did not author any such paper. If M.L. Richlen herself has confirmed she did not write the paper, it raises serious concerns as to why and on what basis this reference is provided to a parliamentary committee.

Regarding the role of government in public administration, if the Liberals can make an administrative error like this, what are they capable of if put in charge of our schools, our hospitals and our transport system?

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey! The member for Newland! The Saint Ignatius' College students are still here, watching you as a local MP.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: If you use AI to create fake documents—if I did that, I wouldn't be asked to resign; the Premier would sack me. He wouldn't give me the option.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Well, that's the thing. At least I turn up to work. I don't go shopping, and there is a difference.

BALYANA SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Mr TEAGUE (Heyesen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:28): My question is to the Premier. Will the government commit to retaining Bedford's Balyana site as supported independent living for its current and any future residents? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TEAGUE: Balyana residents and their families are facing an uncertain future after being told by Bedford Industries that they will need to move from the place they have called home for decades. In a letter to the Bedford chair, Ms Janet Miller, on 22 May 2025, the Premier notes that, and I quote:

Bedford...will need to cease provision of SIL [supported independent living] services sooner than previously determined.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mr TEAGUE: Just the quote from that part of the Premier's letter; it's from the Premier to the Bedford chair, Ms Janet Miller, and that is dated 22 May.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:29): I thank the Deputy Leader for his question. This is an important question and something I know the Minister for Human Services has been working on as well in conjunction with my office, along with McGrathNicol, the commonwealth and Bedford themselves. Bedford obviously has a range of operations. The one that is best known to the people of South Australia is the supported wage operations or the employment services that are really important and touch hundreds and hundreds of families, if not over a thousand families. That's the bulk of the operation that people are most familiar with, but they also do provide supported accommodation services, principally at the Balyana site.

As part of our rescue package to buy time for Bedford, the state government has acquired the Balyana site and, over the medium to long term, there will need to be a transition of people who are at the Balyana site off it to other services. One of the reasons why we made the acquisition of the Balyana site wasn't just to provide cash to Bedford but also because there was a real risk that, given the state of Bedford's affairs—particularly financial affairs—the people living at the Balyana site could find themselves abruptly having to find alternatives. By us acquiring the Balyana site, it put the South Australian government in the box seat to provide greater control and security to the people who are there. Had Balyana gone into an unplanned immediate administration, the people living there, and their families, would have no certainty about a path forward.

What we are doing as a government is working in conjunction with Bedford, or a successor to Bedford, about a thoughtful transition off the site. We have made clear that that can't happen in the short term. I have made that clear directly through my office to Bedford and other related parties. I personally have kept abreast of this situation through my office, and intervene where necessary to make sure that there isn't any abrupt transition.

Bedford themselves had a meeting of families in the not too distant past, and we instructed them at that meeting—which happened, I have to recall the date but sometime in recent weeks—we

specifically instructed Bedford to make clear the government's position in this regard. Whether or not that was done as effectively as it should have been is a matter of judgement, but I make clear that any transition for those individuals or those families off site, which will happen in due course and needs to happen at some point, has to be done in an orderly and smooth way. We are not seeking to bring that date forward; instead, we are acting to work to provide more time to allow for more certainty—certainly more certainty than otherwise would be the case if there was an unplanned administration.

I take this opportunity, given the Deputy Leader's thoughtful question, to make clear that, as the process has unfolded since the government's intervention, it had become increasingly clear to the government, to the commonwealth, through McGrathNicol, that the financial position of Bedford was even more dire than we first understood, and that was starting from a pretty low bar. So this remains an ongoing challenge. We made clear our plan through the rescue package was to buy time so that the federal government could intervene in the event that there was not a salvageable position, and that work remains ongoing.

BALYANA SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:33): My question, again, is to the Premier and perhaps, bearing in mind, in light of that answer. Will the government consider all reasonable means of ensuring that Balyana continues to provide supported accommodation, including bringing it into DHS-supported accommodation services, approaching another accommodation provider or, as has been put to me, selling it to family and supporters of the residents?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:34): The short answer to the deputy leader's question regarding are we looking at all options, including other providers or even DHS providing services ourselves, is yes, but not with a view to permanency but with a view to orderly transition.

The Balyana site itself is run-down. The advice we have received is that it is reaching a point where it is no longer fit for purpose. People in these supported accommodation environments deserve to be treated with dignity in accommodation that is appropriately maintained and suits the needs of the people who are living there. It hasn't been maintained to a standard that we would think best fits their legitimate requirements. They are obviously old facilities. Old facilities either need to be heavily invested in, in terms of maintenance, or new facilities need to be accommodated. That hasn't happened in the way that potentially it could have.

Our intervention seeks to stave off the unplanned transition. We don't have plans for permanency at Balyana. Our plans are to make sure that we can graduate a transition off the site, but that's not going to happen this year. We are not trying to get people off in a matter of weeks or even immediate months. It needs to be done in a thoughtful way in conjunction with the people who are there. Whether it be done via DHS or another provider, they are options that are on the table.

But to be clear, there has never been a suggestion from the government that our plan was to retain Balyana to continue to operate for the purposes that it currently does in the long term. We said that from the outset. There are more appropriate places for people to go to; they just need to be found and worked through thoughtfully and compassionately in conjunction with families. I don't think Bedford has communicated that plan as effectively as what it otherwise could have been with those families—as I said, that's a matter of judgement, but that is my judgement because if there is any uncertainty to that end, then clearly there has been a point of failure in terms of that communication to the families. But the government's position has been consistent and clear.

BALYANA SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): In the circumstances of that answer as well, what is the government's plan for Balyana and particularly after any feasible leaseback to Bedford—as is being presently contemplated, as I understand it—and can the Premier now rule out any future sale of Balyana to a private developer?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:37): I have just now received a full copy of my correspondence to Bedford on 27 May that the deputy leader referenced.

Mr Teague interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: I don't know if that's a seven or a two, but so be it. Just for the sake of clarity for the house, I might make clear what my letter says in full context. It says:

Given Bedford's recent issues—

this is my letter to Janet Miller, the Chair of the Bedford Board—

I understand Bedford has determined that it will need to cease provision of SIL services sooner than previously determined.

I go on:

I can assure you that there is no demand from the State Government for Bedford to cease provision of SIL services in the immediate term.

I hope the deputy leader didn't deliberately exclude that para. I go on in my letter:

The residents and families must be at the forefront of any decisions made with respect to Balyana over the coming months and they should be assured that nothing will change for them at this time.

I have made this position clear within the State Government and have also written to McGrathNicol to advise of my expectations in this regard.

I will ensure that my full letter becomes available to all sources on AI and ChatGPT or anybody else so that everyone in the state of South Australia can be under no misapprehension around the strength of feeling that I and my government have about our determination to look after the people at Balyana.

Mr TEAGUE: I invite the Premier to table the letter, please. There is no attempt to cherry-pick from it.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: Sure. No problem.

The SPEAKER: The Premier is tabling the letter.

BEACHPORT POLICE STATION

Mr McBRIDE (MacKillop) (14:39): My question is to the Minister for Police. Is the minister aware that the seaside town of Beachport is currently without a police officer? With your leave, Mr Speaker, and the leave of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr McBRIDE: It is my understanding that the Beachport Police Station has been closed since May. Constituents are concerned that the station will be unmanned during the busy summer season.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:40): I thank the member for MacKillop for his question. I can understand that police staffing is of principal concern to communities across South Australia. As I have articulated in information I previously provided to the house, sometimes that has been a challenge as South Australia Police have continued to increase their rates of recruitment during the course of the term of this government in order to catch up on the deficit that we found on coming to government in police numbers, in particular as it affects regional communities.

I want to reassure the member that the Beachport Police Station has not been closed but there has been an absence of staffing at times over periods of the last four months due to staff movements, including the taking of leave by officers who would otherwise be available for stationing at Beachport. Police have responded to that by issuing a process to receive applications for interested sworn officers to be located there. As the member knows, it is a pretty nice part of the world down in the South-East and we would hope that we have some success making sure we have adequate staffing to reassure the community that they have access to the policing resources they need to keep them safe in their community.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr BROWN (Florey) (14:41): My question is to the Treasurer. Can the Treasurer outline the importance of members setting an example regarding the responsible use of AI?

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Treasurer, Minister for Defence and Space Industries, Minister for Police) (14:42): I am pleased to take this question from the member for Florey, given his keen interest in the application of AI technologies, particularly as it relates to people who are involved in the Public Service. In fact, the member for Florey has been tasked with carrying this forward in the public sector environment in South Australia.

In the recent state budget, we allocated \$28 million towards the appropriate and responsible rollout of AI across public sector agencies in a way that involves careful trialling, the training of people who would use it so that they know how it can be used responsibly and the opportunity to make sure that it's only used for purposes that enhance productivity but maintain the high standards expected within the public sector of integrity and accuracy.

Just as an example, I noted the response that was given by the opposition yesterday to the provision of bogus references and source materials by the Hon. Frank Pangallo to a select committee. Yesterday, the story was 'it was just an administrative error.' I thought, 'I have heard those words before: administrative error.' That's the same excuse that the then government used in the last term of the parliament to justify dozens and dozens of bogus erroneous accommodation allowance claims: 'administrative error'. Now I know everyone is down on Frank this week, and rightly so, but at least he's got the team line right: 'administrative error'.

It is pretty apparent to most people who have had even a passing experience of using some of the artificial intelligence tools that are now widely available to members of the community that care needs to be taken. Even if you search in Google, 'What are the risks of using generative AI for the provision of information?' then Google Gemini itself will provide you the answer of the risks of doing it, and it talks in particular about AI hallucination, including fabricated facts like a chatbot citing a non-existent study. Just one inclusion in a Google search bar can come up with that. Seconds of effort is all that's required in order to guard oneself against the risks of using this technology.

I must say today we have moved on from administrative error and unfortunately we have had the unedifying episode of the hunter becoming the hunted—the tabloid journalist fleeing down the corridor away from the media, seeing someone else's foot put in his door jamb in an effort to just secure an accurate explanation about what actually went wrong.

I think it is clear to all of us that we have all learnt something this week. There is a lot of work to do for those opposite making sure they can use complex parts of technology, like a Google search bar, and making sure that we are providing accurate information to the parliament in whichever chamber or whichever committee it is required to be provided.

BALYANA

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): My question is to Minister for Housing. Has the minister had any discussions with Renewal SA, SA Water or any other government agency about Balyana?

The Hon. N.D. CHAMPION (Taylor—Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Housing Infrastructure, Minister for Planning) (14:46): Not that I can recall. There might have been some conversations about that, but not that I can recall. I will take it on notice and get back to the house.

ALGAL BLOOM

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (14:46): My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier requested the Prime Minister introduce a JobKeeper type of program to provide financial support for businesses and workers impacted by the harmful algal bloom crisis? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr TELFER: In a recent media interview, the Premier said that the Prime Minister has done everything the Premier has asked of him, but further financial support doesn't seem to be one of those requests.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:47): That is not an accurate characterisation of my remarks at all. I have made clear that we have made a number of requests of the commonwealth regarding financial support for the response to the algal bloom. That has been forthcoming. I have also made clear, certainly in the public realm in a number of forums, that our intention is that, as we develop the summer plan with the intention of releasing it in October, as I have publicly foreshadowed, including I think in this place, we will be going to the commonwealth and asking for their assistance again. In fact, only today I understand the Deputy Premier herself has spoken again with—

The Hon. S.E. Close: Yesterday actually.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: —yesterday—Minister Watt. The Prime Minister is currently overseas, but the Prime Minister is well abreast that we have a request that is coming, and I have made that clear. The proposition of a JobKeeper type of arrangement is unique in its nature. We have only seen that for one event in Australia's history through countless natural disasters, but we are developing the summer plan and we will be asking the federal government for support to that.

In respect of business support—and this is important—only yesterday I met with another organisation representing the recreational fishing sector in an industry context (not the rec fishers themselves) and again the point was made, which seems to be a consistent theme from every business affected by the algal bloom, that the one thing they want more than government support is customers. That is what they want.

Of all parties, the Liberal Party would have a familiarity with the fact that enterprises in this state are not looking for government cash, they are looking for customers. In some instances, there are good reasons why the algal bloom has denied businesses customers. We should support them accordingly, and we have been—and we intend to continue that.

However, there are other instances where businesses have been affected by the algal bloom because they don't have customers for no good reason. There are many parts of our economy and our coastline that are completely unaffected by the algal bloom; there is no algae on their shoreline, there is no algae in their waterways. People should be visiting there more than anywhere, given that fact, yet they aren't experiencing that patronage or custom because of the perception of the algal bloom. We know there are some people in South Australia who are not eating South Australian seafood—not because there is a good reason not to, but because of the perception of the algal bloom.

That is why facts matter, because if you run around espousing facts that are coming out of AI, or that are a plain fabrication, there are victims to that crime. It is not the parliament or the media or the government: the victims of that crime are the people in our community who are actually experiencing pain as a result of this natural disaster.

The rest of South Australia looks to all of us to get it right. They look to all of us to rely on trusted sources of information when we talk about the algal bloom, not to run around with AI-generated sources of information. So there are victims to your crime, and you need to treat that seriously.

ALGAL BLOOM

Mr COWDREY (Colton) (14:51): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Who has funding responsibility—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Premier will come to order. Member for Flinders, you are on your last warning. I cannot hear the member for Colton.

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Leader of Government Business, I would like silence so we can hear the question from the member for Colton.

Mr COWDREY: Who has funding responsibility for beach clean-up activities, including dead fish and seaweed at beaches covered by West Beach Parks, as a result of the harmful algal bloom? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr COWDREY: Local councils in South Australia have been provided with the opportunity to bid into a fund to assist with the cost of beach clean-up activities as a result of the bloom. The opposition understand that West Beach Parks is unable to access the fund and instead has to fund beach clean-up activities within existing budgets. The expenditure potentially puts users of land at West Beach Parks, including local sports clubs and community groups, at risk of losing funding opportunities, particularly with an expected downturn in patronage at the caravan and accommodation facilities run by West Beach Parks.

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (14:52): I thank the member for Colton for his question. The beach clean-up exercise is important; this is actually quite a considerable logistical effort, particularly in some parts of regional South Australia which are affected by the algal bloom. Arguably, depending on when you look at it, it is actually metropolitan beaches that have been most adversely affected by the algal bloom in terms of the geography; the other part is in the member for Narungga's electorate—which I know he is familiar with—and on the eastern YP, in particular.

Ms Pratt interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: We will keep visiting your electorate, member for Frome, don't worry about that. In respect of the clean-up, it is a significant logistical exercise, given the area we are talking about. Some local governments have been doing it better than others. Local government is ultimately responsible for the amenity of the beaches themselves—and some of them are well-equipped to clean up the beaches and some not so much.

What we have done, through the taskforce exercise, is commission a substantial piece of work to enable greater coordination and more resources going into the clean-up than would otherwise be the case, seeking to partner with local government. We have also worked with Surf Life Saving to help participate in that effort. They have access to infrastructure that we are calling upon.

In terms of the progress of that effort, it is gearing up, and there are a number of agencies within the state government that are contributing to it, DEW being one and the SES being another through Chief Beattie at a coordination level—and now he is being seconded into DPC as part of that coordinating effort.

We are progressively, as weeks go by, really trying to ramp that up, principally because we know that, like anything, government, no different to a business or an individual, gets better at things with more practise and more time. We wanted to start sooner rather than later in this effort, knowing that we are probably going to take time to get good at it. I have been particularly concerned about making sure that we get good at it by Christmas. It won't be feasible to make sure that every single minute of every day there isn't a fish on the beach or dead marine life.

In regard to West Beach Parks, I am happy to take that on notice, given that the member for Colton has raised it, and make inquiries about how we work with them and incorporate them in that effort. We have been in touch with West Beach Parks. The Minister for Tourism and I have certainly been in touch with them regarding the Great State vouchers to make sure that they're included in terms of eligibility. There was a suggestion that it should only apply in regional South Australia. We made a conscious decision to include metropolitan Adelaide, with West Beach Parks specifically in mind. I am happy to take that on notice and have a look at it. It is an important question and I am happy to make further inquiries, given the member for Colton raised it.

GLADSTONE GAOL

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:55): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage. Can the minister update my Gladstone community and the Gladstone Community

Development and Tourism Association regarding the future of the Gladstone Gaol? With your leave, and that of the house, sir, I will explain a bit further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: On Sunday 24 August, a meeting was held at Gladstone, with the minister, where the association presented their annual action plan for 2025 onwards, where it was stated that the government was going out for expressions of interest for people to operate the facility as a tourism and community asset. The Gladstone Community Development and Tourism Association would like to be part of the future direction of the Gladstone Gaol.

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) (14:56): Yes, obviously the two of us were at that meeting, which was an excellent opportunity to have a conversation about the future of the jail, also with the mayor and with the head of the Department for Environment and Water. If I can characterise the requests of the association, or the actions that have arisen subsequently, \$100,000 has been allocated to heritage improvements of the site at House 1, particularly about the reroofing that's required to protect that. While not answering all of the challenges for the location, I think that the association was pleased to be aware of that.

Another challenge that has been raised is the question of the pigeons, which is a problem that is existing far and wide. They have taken up residence in the jail, and the environment department has agreed to take that into its responsibilities through its asset management services in order to try to address those. Another question, as the member has raised specifically, is around the expression of interest that has been, I think, long-awaited, it would be fair to say, and I have referred to it in answers to questions previously that the member has raised here.

There has been, as a result of the meeting that we had, a further meeting now with a more senior person within the department and the association to talk them through what the expression of interest looks like, because it's important before it goes out the association is comfortable with that. I understand it is now expected that expressions of interest will go public in early October. I think the association is reasonably comfortable with that timeline and also with the contents.

A further question that was raised was around their desire to establish a community garden outside the walls of the jail. The department has undertaken to work with the council in finding an appropriate location. I think that the original location that's been identified has probably got some asbestos or some other challenge associated with it, but there's plenty of land around there, so the department will work with the association and with the council to identify that.

A final suggestion that was made, which I thought was an excellent one by the association, was whether there's the capacity to do some trade training in some of those more heritage trades, for people learning to be glaziers, bricklayers, stonemasons, and so on, to come up and do some work on the jail so that they get the opportunity to test their skills, but also the jail benefits from that.

There is a similar project that occurs currently at the Adelaide Gaol. So the department has undertaken that they will work to see if they can replicate that at Gladstone in order to be able, as I say, not only to benefit those who are learning those trades but also to benefit the fabric of the jail, which certainly needs a lot more love and attention than it has received for some time.

Work on all five of those that are of importance to the association and to you as the local member will advance the cause of the jail again being celebrated and understood. The fact that that open day was so well attended really demonstrates that there is a potential very great interest in people going to see the jail. So I very much look forward to hearing an update on each of those as they roll out, but I know the member will be paying even closer attention than I will and will be calling me and my department to account if it's not going as fast and as well as he would expect.

INFORMATION LITERACY IN SCHOOLS

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Education, Training and Skills. Can the minister advise the house how schools are responding to combat misinformation and disinformation and ensure academic integrity?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills) (15:00): I thank the member for Adelaide for this excellent question. It was a pleasure to join her just last week, in fact, at Prospect Primary School to see a program which is directly related to this issue in action. At Prospect Primary School, students are taking part in what is called the Newshounds program. It teaches our youngest learners to distinguish fact from fiction and to stop, think and check before believing everything they see, read or hear. I think we can all agree in this place, particularly this week, that this is not an optional skill set in today's world. In fact, it is an essential part of preparing children to navigate an environment where information can be inadvertently wrong or, at times, even deliberately wrong.

As students move into the secondary schooling part of their journey, this work continues. In high school, students are taught not only to identify misinformation but also how to use new technologies such as artificial intelligence responsibly. This focus on truth and integrity runs right through our system. In fact, the Premier himself has spoken in this place on many occasions about the importance of equipping young people with the tools to detect misinformation and disinformation. That need was one of the driving forces behind our civics reforms and the recent civics convention at Adelaide Oval, where we saw more than a thousand year 10 students from right around the state come to learn about these really important issues.

This week I also joined the member for Florey at Adelaide Botanic High School to announce the rollout of our EdChat AI platform to public high schools. There is a very important disclaimer that appears at the bottom of every piece of information that EdChat produces. It says this: 'EdChat can make mistakes. Validate important information.' I think this is a lesson for all of us, but particularly I think it would seem this is a lesson for Frank Pangallo, the Liberal Party's own fake newshound. We have learned today that he used AI to generate a list of peer-reviewed documents and references, failed to fact-check them and then submitted faulty links as if they were reliable sources. We have all heard of 'frank and fearless', but this is more like 'Frank and peerless'.

Indeed, if he was a year 12 student, he would have failed the assignment. Under the SACE, students are bound by strict requirements to conduct honest and ethical research. They must not fabricate, falsify or misrepresent evidence, data or authorship. The penalties for doing so are rightly severe, but it would seem that our senior secondary students in this state are held to a higher standard of accountability than the opposition's own watchdog. Our students would never get away with the excuses that Mr Pangallo has made this week. They know the penalties. They know the importance of integrity. They are trained and prepared to meet those standards, yet somehow Mr Pangallo gets a free pass from the Leader of the Opposition, who I think by this stage must be feeling a bit like the dog owner at the park who has run out of bags.

Yes, our schools are responding. They are embedding digital literacy, critical thinking and ethical research into every stage of learning. They are preparing students to be discerning citizens who can spot misinformation, understand the risks of AI and meet the standards of honesty and accountability. It is particularly ironic that just days ago the opposition's education spokesperson, the Hon. Ms Girolamo, who also happens to be the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, the exact committee where Mr Pangallo aired those dodgy documents, went on 891 to say this:

It is so important that in the younger years that numeracy and literacy is front of mind, and problem-solving skills, critical thinking, things like that, rather than just relying on AI. It can be inaccurate so there are certainly concerns from that perspective.

But it seems that no-one told Mr Pangallo that, who I think has now probably cooked up more sources than Maggie Beer.

The SPEAKER: Speaking of the Barossa, the member for Schubert.

BAROSSA HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:04): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has land been purchased for a new Barossa hospital and, if not, when will it be? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: There is \$5 million in the state budget to purchase the land and an EOI closed earlier this year.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:05): No, not yet, and that is under active consideration by the government.

ALGAL BLOOM

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Environment and Water. Has the state government tested for brevetoxins in the water or foam at Glenelg's beaches?

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS (Croydon—Premier) (15:05): I am happy to take the question. The government is ramping up its brevetoxin capability, as I think I referred to in the house only yesterday. The nation is without a brevetoxin testing capability. It has always been done in New Zealand where these issues have emerged, and we have taken the initiative here in South Australia to procure and develop the nation's first brevetoxin testing capability. As I mentioned yesterday, that is happening in Thebarton at Agilex. We are very grateful for their work. As that testing capability grows so does our ability to test other elements of the environment.

The testing of the brevetoxin has principally been focused on the biggest risk of where the brevetoxin is, and that is, of course, through human consumption. The risk of that occurring is through shellfish, particularly bivalves; namely, oysters and mussels. Thankfully, we look forward to an update on this tomorrow. What we have seen is the presence of the brevetoxin reducing in many of the oyster production sites that are affected—bearing in mind the majority of oyster production sites are unaffected. Mussels have since come back online, which is good news.

We have seen that the brevetoxin in the areas that would present a risk to human health have been declining in those areas. That's not to say it is a permanent feature of this—not at all. The brevetoxin presence can go up as the volume of algae goes up. The algae itself, in some respects, can be a lead indicator for the presence of brevetoxin, but does not guarantee the presence of brevetoxin.

In fact, the brevetoxin is still, at this point, largely coming from a source that is not yet determined in terms of the specific algae species. *Karenia mikimotoi*, we understand, is not the producer of the brevetoxin. It is another species within the algal bloom, of which there is a very, very great number indeed, and therein lies the challenge.

What we are going to do is continue to make our judgements on the basis of science. We are speaking to as many scientists as we can, and the world's foremost experts are informing our opinion. That is what we've got to do. That is what we are going to do: we are going to make decisions on the basis of the science. The science is evolving because this is an unprecedented event, but that is our clear focus, and I would actively encourage all members of the parliament to focus in on the science and get access to the scientists rather than bouncing in to parliamentary inquiries trying to usurp the scientists or prove the scientists wrong. Rather than trying to prove the scientists wrong, maybe one of the better things we can do is to listen to what the scientists have to say.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P.B. MALINAUSKAS: If the member for Morphett knows of a brevetoxin testing capability in the nation that no-one else can find, then he is welcome to furnish the house with that evidence, but in the meantime we are building that capability up in a scientifically rigorous way, because that is what good public policy demands of us for this crisis.

Grievance Debate

HOUSING INDUSTRY

The Hon. D.G. PISONI (Unley) (15:09): There is no doubt that this place, the parliament, works so much better when the members of this place reflect the communities they represent. They share the aspirations and issues that may also happen throughout the community.

Today I want to talk about an issue that affected me that has implications right around the inner suburbs in Adelaide. In my electorate of Unley, in the electorate of Dunstan, in the electorate of Bragg, in the electorate of Colton and, of course, in the electorate of Morphett, we are seeing

high-rise developments popping up through SCAP applications. Councils do not have any say or any input. Of course, they can place a submission at the time of the SCAP hearing, but the decision is made by Labor's six-year project and that is the planning rules that apply today.

There is a property next to a property I have an interest in in Glenelg, and I gave evidence at the time of the hearing in September 2023 supporting the development, which is a 13-storey development on 426 metres of land and certain things were approved and others were not approved and the building has been built. Then a number of months ago it was discovered that there were substantial variations in that building that nobody was made aware of. As a matter of fact, the builder had not even put in an application for variations but continued on with that project.

The council asked for information about those variations; they wanted an explanation and wanted to know what they were. The builder has refused to hand that information over until the council threatened legal action and then they were given the information.

What we see is that what were originally approved as open-air ventilation vents for a first and second-storey car park have been converted to full outlook and engine rooms for air conditioning for the entire 11 apartments that are in that building. They are on the boundary ventilating into the 17 residences, balconies and courtyards. This is the only source of fresh air for many of those apartments.

How did this happen? It happened through a variation that was described as a new practice. If we look at Practice Direction 19, which gives additional context to section 42 of the act, minor variations no longer require notification to neighbours. Not only that, the council cannot even get the detailed information. They only had oral information about what was going into that space.

On top of that, the basement of that building now requires a pumping station because of the water that is coming into that building—this is at 19 St Johns Row and being constructed by Lucy Commercial—so it appears now that permanent pumps, without any consultation, will have an impact on those living nearby where people's bedrooms are within 2½ metres of those pumps.

The issue that we have here is that this is now all done in secret. Any documents are exempt from FOI and so, if you want to follow up after the event and make sure that things were done properly—that there was no corruption involved and that there was a proper process in the assessment of these variations—you cannot do it. Labor's changes have meant that the public are not allowed to know. This has massive implications for any of those suburbs, whether it be Unley Road, whether it be Magill Road, whether it be The Parade or Fullarton Road or whether it be Greenhill Road. We have seen an increase in the social licence for these types of developments, but this is going to mean that nobody is going to know what is going up next to them and what impact it is going to have on their property.

ADELAIDE ELECTORATE

Ms HOOD (Adelaide) (15:15): I rise to provide an update regarding actions being taken to improve safety, security and amenity at Housing Trust sites Bentzen Court on Walkerville Terrace and Elliot Lodge on Park Terrace. The Housing Trust has introduced some immediate steps to significantly increase the amount of security and clean-up services at both sites.

A dedicated housing officer has been appointed to Elliot Lodge, and the trust has implemented an immediate increase in cleaning, rubbish removal and graffiti removal. It has also begun the process of installing CCTV, demolishing and refurbishing the laundries and undertaking painting, flooring and lighting upgrades. Works to upgrade common areas, to landscape outdoor areas and to remediate a fire-damaged unit will also begin this month. The state government has also recently instigated an onsite meeting between the Housing Trust and SAPOL to inspect the complex and remove any unwanted visitors.

Works underway at Elliot Lodge follow safety upgrades recently announced for Bentzen Court, including the installation of CCTV, fencing upgrades, increased cleaning, more frequent security patrols and stricter tenancy management. I have also established a local resident working group with nearby residents, the Town of Walkerville and the trust, which is meeting monthly to receive regular progress updates, provide feedback and advocate for long-term improvements at these sites. I want to thank these local residents for their time and valuable contribution.

As a community, we know that most Housing Trust tenants are good neighbours who deserve to feel safe and secure in their homes and in their neighbourhoods. We also understand this is a complex issue not confined to one suburb. Many walk-up flats were built in the 1950s and 1960s and are now outdated by modern building and living standards. That is why work is progressing on the upgrade of several Housing Trust walk-up sites across metropolitan Adelaide, including at Glengowrie, which I toured recently, and at Oaklands Park and Findon.

I have also worked with local residents to secure a recent refurbishment of a trust complex in the CBD. These upgrades are occurring alongside changes to tenant selection processes for walk-up flat sites, with greater emphasis on considering the neighbourhood as much as the needs of the prospective tenants. I really want to thank my local community for their support as I continue to advocate for our local area, working closely with local residents, listening, developing solutions and delivering positive outcomes.

We also have quite a number of local sporting groups in our community who will be going to the grand finals this weekend. First, to the Walkerville Football Club I want to say, 'All the best to the As and Bs' who will both play Plympton this weekend. I also have a shout-out for the Cs: unfortunately they missed out, by just one point, on making the grand final. I really do wish all those teams the best of luck for the footy grand finals, and I have a big shout-out for president Ryan Curry and all those who contribute to it being such a great footy club. I was there just a couple of weeks ago, doing both a canteen shift and also working behind the bar. It was great to support this; it really feels much like a country club in the city. I really wish all the footy players all the best.

To the Walkerville Netball Club, I am always blown away by how they keep going from strength to strength. These are the teams that will be competing in the grand finals this weekend: the Junior 8s, the Primary 6s, the B5s, the Junior 4Bs, the C2s, the B2s, the sub-Junior 4s and the A grade. The A-grade team have been minor premiers for three years running, and if they do win this grand final it will be back-to-back premierships.

It is no surprise then why this club has actually been accepted into the Premier League. It will be their inaugural season next year. They had a very exciting announcement recently that former Thunderbirds coach, Jane Woodlands-Thompson, will form part of their coaching team for their inaugural Premier League season in 2026. So I want to wish that wonderful club—all the netball players, all the volunteers—all the very best. Congratulations on an absolutely amazing season and, as I like to say, #BigMeow.

WATTLE PARK KINDERGARTEN

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:20): I rise on behalf of the Wattle Park Kindergarten community in my electorate who, just last month, were notified that the department would be making some changes to the site from 2026 and would be reducing the Wattle Park Kindergarten—which is currently operating as a full-time site—down to a part-time site. That was a decision that I totally disagreed with, and I have spent the past few weeks talking with parents, families and the governing council of the Wattle Park Kindergarten about what that decision would mean for them, and campaigning alongside that community to reverse that decision and to make sure the Wattle Park Kindergarten remains operating as a full-time site in 2026, and into the future, because it just makes sense.

As I recently pointed out to the minister responsible, demand at the Wattle Park Kindergarten is already exceeding capacity. The Wattle Park Kindergarten is operating at full capacity currently and, indeed, it is turning families away. Based on current registrations for next year, I have been told that the kindergarten, if reduced to a part-time site, would have to decline enrolments to a number of children both from within the catchment area and also from outside the catchment area. So partially closing a kindergarten, which is already operating at capacity and where there is clearly demand, does not make any sense.

Secondly, there are simply no viable alternatives in our local area for these children to go to if this kindergarten was reduced to a part-time site. Neighbouring kindergartens—such as Newland Park, which was partially closed last year; Magill, which I understand the government intends to reduce capacity at from next year; Kensington Gardens Preschool; and McKellar Stewart—are all operating at capacity, I am told. They cannot absorb Wattle Park families nor children from outside their catchment areas.

When a decision like this is made, it really begs the question, 'Where does the department and where does the minister expect these children to go?' Ultimately, what it would mean is that local families and local children will suffer. The decision would mean reduced flexibility for parents and for families, leaving only one option for attendance days. Many families would have faced disruption to childcare arrangements and to work arrangements, and I fear it would have left many without being able to access preschool at all.

Wattle Park Kindergarten is a cornerstone of our community. It has been delivering high-quality early education for decades, and I think partially closing it would have been a severe blow not only to the families in my local area who enjoy the Wattle Park Kindergarten, not only to the employees of the Wattle Park Kindergarten but, indeed, to our wider community as well. It also would have been a decision totally at odds with this government's stated policy outcomes. I thought this was a government that had apparently committed to expanding early childhood education, yet in the eastern suburbs it is the opposite that is happening with cuts and with closures, so it would have been a terrible decision.

Very happily, we have been campaigning over the past few weeks to stop this partial closure of the Wattle Park Kindergarten. I have been dealing with the minister. We have gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions, working with our local community, and I am very pleased to report that the Wattle Park Kindergarten will now continue to operate as a full-time site in 2026. That directly follows the advocacy from not only me but the local community who would have been really severely impacted by these bad decisions that are being made without much reference to the people who are most affected by them. So I will keep campaigning for increased investment in early childhood education in the eastern suburbs, even if the Labor government perhaps might not be so interested in that.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Just before I call the member for Dunstan, I have just observed—there has been a bit of discussion about dogs today in here in question time—that we have seeing eye dog Lana with us. I love dogs in parliament, and Dusty is very disappointed that a former Speaker banned him from the parliament, so it is very nice to have Lana in here, who is assisting Lisa.

Grievance Debate

MARRYATVILLE IN CONCERT

Ms O'HANLON (Dunstan) (15:25): When I walked into Adelaide Town Hall for Marryatville in Concert 2025, I expected to hear good music. I have already lauded Marryatville High School for the extraordinary achievements of their big band, which this year gained second place in division 1 at Generations in Jazz—Australia's premier jazz festival for young musicians, which the Big Band ensemble has consistently placed in for the last 30 years. I was also thrilled to announce that the same group recently won most outstanding high school jazz ensemble in the world in the US-based *DownBeat* magazine awards, a worldwide publication for professional instrumentalists.

So I expected a top-notch performance, but what I experienced was far greater: an evening that left me mesmerised, speechless and in awe of what a school community can achieve when vision, passion and talent come together. From the opening sequences, it was clear that this was not just a concert but a celebration of discipline, creativity and joy. To hear young performers like Allen Li on piano, Andreina Robins on keyboard, Nok Hui on bass, Thomas Crescitelli on drums, Billy Stalley-Gordon on guitar, and Ryan Tillman and Maddy Bowden on vocals was to be reminded of the astonishing depth of talent in this school community.

None of this happens by accident. It takes leadership, vision and tireless dedication. Principal Julie Ferguson deserves enormous credit for shaping a school culture where the arts are a cornerstone of learning. She understands that music is not a luxury for students but a necessity. Head of Music, Mat Noble, is a powerhouse of inspiration, passion and energy for the importance of music for all children and young people as an outlet, as expression, as an instrument of emotional and psychological growth, and also as a partner in academic education. Matt is a mentor and guide who draws out of his students not just technical excellence but joy, confidence and connection.

Alongside him, the entire music faculty, from classroom teachers to instrumental tutors, has created something that I have no doubt would be the envy of the nation.

The performances were extraordinary. The symphony orchestra under Jasmin Feneley and Aldis Sils soared with Chaminade's *Concertino pour Flute*, brought to life with brilliance by soloists Akane Mears and Jacinta Dela Rosa. The baroque ensemble, with Ying Ying Shu as soloist, played Bach with extraordinary precision and vitality. The choirs, the chamber and concert choir, and the combined voices in the finale reminded us of the unique power of human harmony. Neuroscience tells us that when people sing together, their heart rates synchronise, their breathing unites and the brain releases chemicals that enhance memory, wellbeing and resilience. Watching these young people, I could see those truths in action, with music binding them together as one.

The Big Band, SwingTones, Pops Vocal, Bird with Strings and the Funktion ensemble gave us music that lifted the roof. Soloist students like Luka Ferguson on saxophone, Reuben Elmualim on vibes, Eden Kwok on piano, Hugh Loipersberger on guitar, Myles Griesche-Church on saxophone and Andy Tettamanzi on trumpet shone with artistry that promises bright futures.

The science of music is as inspiring as the sound. Learning an instrument strengthens memory, problem solving and spatial reasoning. It literally builds new pathways in the brain. Singing in a choir develops not only pitch and rhythm but teamwork, empathy and the ability to listen deeply—skills that spill over into academic learning and life itself.

Think of a teenager drumming in a band—not necessarily my instrument of choice before I discovered this, but now I am thinking very differently about it. The auditory cortex is busy decoding the singer's voice, the guitarist's chords and the drummer's own kit, separating sounds and keeping track of timing. The motor cortex sends rapid-fire signals separately to both hands and feet so the drummer can coordinate between different movements on the left and right sides of the body. Procedural memory stores motor patterns built from practice. Dopamine and endorphins boost motivation, while oxytocin deepens connections with the singer and the bandmates.

In short, drumming with a singer is like running a mini orchestra inside the body: ears, eyes, muscles and multiple brain regions are all working together so rhythm, coordination, and emotion merge into one seamless performance. When we invest in music, we are not only creating great performances but building stronger, smarter, kinder human beings.

I left Marryatville in Concert humbled but deeply proud: humbled by the students whose courage and talent shone so brightly and teachers and tutors who dedicate their lives to nurturing that talent and so proud that this is South Australian public education.

On a personal note, I also want to acknowledge Andy. Through his love of and dedication to his musicianship, Andy has been the one person who finally inspired my own son back to music and to pick up his guitars again. That, to me, is a valuable measure on its own merit.

GIANT PINE SCALE

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:30): Today, I would like to talk about Labor's giant pine fail for the communities in Highbury, Hope Valley and the north-eastern suburbs. Giant pine scale is an invasive insect pest. It sucks the sap from pine trees. It is from Asia, Eurasia and Europe but it is now infecting the north-eastern suburbs of Adelaide. Some years ago, 4,000 trees in Victoria were infected by giant pine scale. The pest was considered endemic in Victoria and, as a result, the Victorian forestry industry has been decimated as they have been unable to control the giant pine scale in that state.

In South Australia we have an eradication policy, and we hope that our forestry industry, which is worth billions to this state and employs thousands of people, will be able to continue without giant pine scale infecting it. The pest sucking the sap as it does defoliates trees, the branches die, the trees become desiccated and ultimately the trees die. But the problem is that while that process takes place, through insects or birds or indeed by machinery, the pine scale can transfer to other trees in the local area.

When these pests are found—as they were in 2023 in Highbury and Hope Valley around the Hope Valley Reservoir, Silverlake Reserve, the Elliston Reserve and the Highbury Aqueduct

Reserve—the process undertaken, supported by the expertise of PIRSA, is to remove the trees. The destruction of the tree is the only way that the pine scale can be killed and the trees are chipped up and left on site ultimately until the pest is dead. Further, the surrounding trees are removed as well, given the capacity for insects to move the pest around to surrounding trees. In 2023, there were about 900 trees removed and destroyed in my area and the immediate surrounding areas.

I have spoken about this in the house before. At all stages I have tried to be collaborative and supportive of the government in being able to deal with this significant pest in a bipartisan fashion. However, my patience is absolutely at an end because of the failure of the government to adequately deal with this over the last two years, firstly, in terms of the timeliness of dealing with the pest as it has arisen and spread, and secondly, in terms of the response from the government to our local councils and particularly to our local community who would like these areas revegetated.

That was in 2023. It has been more than two years, for example, that the Elliston Reserve in Highbury, across the road from the Hope Valley Reservoir, has been a barren wasteland. The council has done its best to put in some jumps to make a BMX track, but in the winter it is a sludgy mess and in the summer it is a barren and hot field of dust. It is not a pleasant area and it is a carbuncle on the nose of Lower North East Road for anyone driving down there. It sticks out like a sore thumb. The government says it is the responsibility of the Tea Tree Gully council if they wish to revegetate it. A paltry \$150,000 for Elliston Reserve is not enough.

Meanwhile at Hope Valley, we understand that there are another 700-odd trees to be removed in the coming year on top of the 1,400 that have now been taken. Clearly, those have not been taken in a timely enough fashion. The laxity of the government response in removing these trees has put further trees at risk. It has put at risk our forests further afield as the pine scale can be picked up by birds and transferred across.

The assurances that the government would remove these trees as every case is found, which I have received over the last two years, I no longer have faith in. The assurances from government that replanting would happen to support our local communities' amenity, I no longer have any faith in. I was incredibly pleased to see the Leader of the Opposition, Vincent Tarzia, and the candidates for Morialta, Scott Kennedy, and Newland, Sarai Birch, announce on the weekend that a Liberal government would put in place a \$5 million giant pine scale recovery fund, enabling the replanting of these areas at no cost to ratepayers and, importantly, the speedy, timely and safe removal of further trees when they become infected. I commend to my local residents the commitment made by Scott Kennedy and Sarai Birch and I look forward to seeing it implemented after next year's election.

WAITE ELECTORATE

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (15:35): On Saturday 6 September, I had the honour of joining the Friends of Belair National Park for their 40th birthday celebrations. It was a fabulous afternoon tea and awards celebration at Main Pavilion in Belair. At the awards, the Mayor of Mitcham and myself reflected on our connection to the park. Between the two of us, not only did we grow up down the road from the park but we actually grew up across the road from each other, so we had a lot of the same reflections. We talked a little bit about how going into the park as a young person provided a place of sanctuary, a place of peace and often somewhere where you might run away to.

It was lovely to join all the members of the Friends of Belair. They have given so much over the last 40 years. They are out all the time, whether they are weeding, whether they are conserving, whether they are planting, whether they are educating or even taking bush walks. They continue to give so much, and we thoroughly appreciate all the work they do. The event itself was attended by quite a number of the volunteers as well as representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I was proud to present the service awards to many of the members, including Dene Cordes and Christine Stanley, who chalked up 40 years, so they have been members the whole time that the group has been functioning. In particular, Dene Cordes actually wrote the book on Belair National Park. The book is called *The park at Belair: a social history of the people whose struggles and vision gave South Australia the National Parks and Wildlife Service we cherish today*. With only 1,000 copies, of which I am very proud to have one, it was lovely to see him honoured in this way.

Christine Stanley has also given 40 years to the Friends of Parks, and she continues to do such a wonderful job in that space.

Life membership was also given to Craig Boulderstone, one of my neighbours, and I spoke about him previously today. Craig and his family have given so much to the national park with the work that they have done every year, every day. They have a beautiful section of the park that they look after and you really notice the work that is done there. Across the park, through all the different areas that they look after, they really take the time to make sure the park is protected, that the park's staff have got the support they need to look after things like noxious weeds and conservation. I thank all the members of the Friends of Belair for their work over the years.

The weekend was particularly busy in my electorate, and on Saturday morning I joined our fantastic Belair National Park parkrun volunteers. I was placed as a marshal on the teardrop, which sometimes we call the lonely teardrop, although it is not lonely because over 200 people run past and you get to cheer them on as they go. It is always fantastic to see our community out together, enjoying themselves, exercising and starting the weekend off well. The Coromandel Valley Rotary plant sale was also on at the Waite Street Reserve. That is such a well-attended event and, with spring just around the corner or here already, it was incredibly busy with lots of people buying all the plants they need to get their gardens up and running.

From there, the Upper Sturt Soldiers Memorial Hall had their art show. That was a fantastic event organised by Georgia McDonnell. She has done some fantastic things for the Upper Sturt community and I wish her well in her efforts to become a new councillor with the Adelaide Hills Council. There were some incredible pieces of artwork at the art show from the Upper Sturt Primary School. The year 6s had done some great work, including a couple of beetles that I was quite interested in and may well have put a red sticker on, so well done to all of the students there.

From there I got to celebrate a 70th birthday with one of our locals, and after that I was really happy to represent the Minister for Multicultural Affairs as well as Tourism at the Malaysian night market, the pasar malam, which was just a fantastic collection of food trucks as well as craft and all sorts of other things. There was great entertainment and just incredible food, but also incredible culture. It was really lovely to see so many people come together, both the Malaysian community and also the community more broadly, to celebrate not only the Malaysian culture and Malaysian food, but also our multicultural state and how great it is.

Finally, on Sunday we had our 'thank our first responders' barbecue, where we invited first responders from all over our community. The interchurch council had organised these little thankyou cards, and we presented them to our first responders. It was a lovely thing to be a part of, to make sure we show how much we appreciate our first responders and that we thank them. I cannot thank the interchurch council enough for helping me organise that event.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (15:40): I want to draw attention to the desperate situation being faced by the oyster industry in Cowell/Franklin Harbour in my electorate at the moment. Due to the algal bloom and the associated toxins, oyster growers have now had months without being able to sell their oysters, which means they have not had any income at all. All these businesses are in dire straits.

There is growing frustration with what seems to be a lack of urgency and the slow response of the government. They want more than just words; they need real action. I am specifically talking about Franklin Harbour oysters, but we know that there has been brevetoxin in oysters on Yorke Peninsula since May. Oyster growers are waiting over 10 days for brevetoxin testing results, as there is not the capacity within Australia and the testing needs to occur in New Zealand. This means there are weeks in between knowing if the toxins are at safe levels or not and that means more and more time without income. It is not sustainable.

Franklin Harbour oyster growers need the government to do better, so what can be done? Can we fast track the approval of some of the existing technology for comparable testing for on-the-spot testing kits for the brevetoxin?

Cowell also plays a key role as an oyster nursery, so this is having significant flow-on effects on the whole industry. Eyre Shellfish, for instance, a vital oyster hatchery at Cowell, has not been able to sell its spat and is under significant financial pressure. They need government support in the short term, financial support to ensure that regional jobs are not lost. Cowell oyster growers need the government to not just talk but to fast track some action.

Mr FULBROOK (Playford) (15:42): It is my pleasure to announce that for one night only, on 9 October, our community will host something very special: the proud tour of the Sheffield Shield and One Day Cup trophies. This is a massive coup, and I could not be more excited to share the details.

The tour will begin at the North Pines Sports and Social Club from 5.30 to 6.20pm, and will then move to the Salisbury Downs Sports and Community Club from 6.30 to 7.20pm, finally concluding at the Parafield Gardens Soccer and Sports Club, where the trophies will be on display from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

I want to sincerely thank Jassmine Wood from SACA, whose assistance has been instrumental in making this happen. This is a wonderful opportunity for locals to come along, have a photo taken with the trophies, enjoy a drink, and perhaps even consider becoming a member of one of these fantastic community clubs. I warmly encourage everyone across the community to join us for what will be a fantastic evening.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (15:43): Last week I had the great pleasure of attending the Barossa Regional Residents Association community meeting. They put on a great community meeting at the Tanunda CWA Hall, and we were blessed with the presence of a number of fantastic people from across the community. We had Alex Bradley, Max McCulloch, Mary Morris and Mark Mader, who all spoke really passionately about a number of issues that are impacting our local community, whether that be the preservation of the iconic Seppeltsfield palms right along Seppeltsfield Road or the proposed expansion of the Penrice Quarry or other developments in my local community, including a wind farm that has been proposed at Twin Creek.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to speak on a couple of issues that are impacting my local area, and first of all was the Sturt Highway. I was pleased to advise everyone that the petition that was launched by my community has now reached more than 4,000 signatures calling for action to improve this. Secondly, speaking about the new Barossa hospital in question time today, I asked the minister whether the \$5 million, which has been sitting in the budget to purchase the land, had been utilised, with an EOI having closed at the start of this year. Disappointingly, the answer was no. There is no time to waste when it comes to securing this piece of land. Our local doctors support it, my community supports it. It is time to get on with it.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:45): On Friday 5 September, I had the pleasure to represent the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Clare Scriven, at the National Rural Ambassador Award presentation hosted by the SA Country Shows association and Agricultural Shows Australia. The Rural Ambassador Award is a national competition that highlights and celebrates young people who have a genuine interest in rural and regional Australia or New Zealand.

The award aims to provide an opportunity for young people to promote rural communities and industries, as well as to be involved in promoting the importance of agriculture and food production. Finalists came from every state, with Grace Collins from New South Wales taking the crown. Thea Walker from WA was the runner-up. Kayla Starkey was an South Australian finalist. Kayla is a sixth-generation sheep farmer and ag science teacher from Mount Pleasant. Of the seven finalists, six were women, with Tasmania represented by the only male, Dylan Bellchambers.

All the finalists were worthy of being declared rural ambassador. Not only are they involved in agriculture in some capacity but their contribution to their local show society and their communities is just outstanding. These young adults will certainly be the leaders of our rural communities in the future, and show societies will benefit enormously from their contribution. South Australia Country Shows represents 48 country shows and their societies across the state. The autumn show season is held between February and April, and the spring show season is held between August and November. Country shows are more than the sum of various competitions. They are a celebration of rural life at the heart of Australia.

*Bills***STATUTES AMENDMENT (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS REVIEW) BILL***Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (15:46): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999, the Local Government Act 1999 and the City of Adelaide Act 1998. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (15:47): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The bill I introduce today, the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Elections Review) Bill 2025, will amend the Local Government Act 1999, the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999 and the City of Adelaide Act 1998 to make a range of improvements to local government elections and participation in councils.

This bill is the culmination of a significant amount of public consultation both with the local government sector and the broader South Australian community. At the then minister's request, the Office of Local Government conducted statewide consultation to give the community an opportunity to provide feedback on a series of ideas and suggestions about how communities can better engage with their local councils through a council term, particularly at election time.

During this consultation period, 92 submissions were received directly, including submissions from 32 of South Australia's 68 councils and a sector-wide submission from the Local Government Association, and a further 406 surveys were completed on YourSAy, containing individual 54,000 comments.

Can I take this moment to thank my predecessor, the previous Minister for Local Government, the member for Stuart, for his leadership and particularly for his passion for the sector in bringing forth this important community-wide consultation. I also commend the member for Stuart, a former mayor himself, for his ongoing commitment and particularly for his advice and passion for the sector.

This bill and the culmination of the consultation that has been undertaken demonstrate the significant interest that communities have in their local governments. This bill is a result of the rich information provided from across South Australian communities. I thank all those who took the time to turn their minds to how community engagement with their local council could be improved.

A real challenge in the context of council elections is the ability for voters to understand who is running for council, what they stand for and even what kind of people they are. In the context of an election where 1,256 candidates stood for 184 contested positions in 2022, it can be difficult for information about candidates to reach voters. Voters are very dependent on the candidate profiles that are included in every ballot pack to help them make the important decision about who will represent them at the local government level for the next four years. I have subsequently consulted with the sector on the draft bill that I table today.

Additionally, recent findings from the Court of Disputed Returns in relation to the Central Ward of the City of Adelaide focused on activities relating to non-citizen voters exercising their entitlements as residents of an area. It appeared that these city residents were targeted for both enrolment and for the use of their ballot papers. Ultimately, these illegal practices resulted in the removal of four members of the City of Adelaide but also eroded the confidence that voters have in the integrity of these elections. This must be addressed.

This bill therefore proposes that all voters in South Australian council elections must be enrolled on the House of Assembly roll for South Australia. This is a change that reflects wider community expectations of who should vote in elections for all Australian governments, namely

Australian citizens. It will also be delivered in a way that allows for the retention of the property franchise.

Voters in federal and state elections are Australian citizens. Simply to be a resident in the area, as is the current requirement for enrolment on a council's voter roll, is not enough. Elections for councils should be consistent with this approach. Voters who wish to use their property franchise entitlements must either apply to be placed onto the roll or, in the case of the City of Adelaide, are enrolled by the council. This creation of the supplementary roll is a separate process to the automatic enrolment of all residential voters on the Australian electoral roll. Groups and bodies corporate that express their voting rights in the local government election will be required to do so via the nomination of a natural person who is on the House of Assembly roll—that is, an Australian citizen.

Another critical matter for voters' information is the disclosure of campaign gifts and donations received by candidates. This bill includes significant changes to the current system for campaign donation returns and disclosures that will both be simpler for candidates to manage and require more active disclosure by:

- applying the same system to all candidates, rather than making a distinction between incumbent and new candidates;
- requiring all candidates to disclose donations received four months before the announcement of their candidacy or their nomination, whichever is sooner;
- requiring all donations of \$500 or more between nomination and the close of voting to be disclosed within five days;
- removing the obligation for all candidates to lodge a nil return during the election period, to simplify the administration of the system for both candidates and the Electoral Commission of South Australia;
- requiring all candidates to lodge a summary return, including a nil return, 21 days after close of voting, as a final declaration of what they have, or have not, received; and
- changing the consequences of members' noncompliance with these requirements to a suspension, rather than a loss of office, to ensure that members of councils have made this information available without burdening their community with an expensive supplementary election where they have failed with their administrative tasks.

A system that is both easier to comply with, and that provides more information to voters when they need it the most, is a much needed improvement on an important part of elections.

The bill also includes a requirement for councils to hold a public meeting to which all candidates for contested elections in the area are invited to attend and speak, unless a council makes a resolution not to do so in the context of their mandatory caretaker policies, and their principal member publishes the reasons why they have not made this decision. This makes it clear that councils can hold these events in the interests of providing good information to voters, and they should at least seriously consider doing so.

This bill includes an amendment to require councils to make a prescribed amount of funding available for reimbursement to all members who claim for expenditure on printing materials that are necessary to support members' community engagement but which cannot include election campaign activities. This will mean that people can nominate to stand for their council with confidence that their ongoing engagement with their communities will be supported and necessary if they are elected.

The bill also includes the ability to trial an additional method of voting, the establishment of pre-poll locations where voters could be issued ballot papers and vote in person at these locations during the last week of the voting period for a supplementary election over the next term of council. While this would require significant implementation if introduced for all councils, a trial will allow for the benefits of expanding methods of voting to be fully tested and evaluated. I also intend to amend the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 2025 to extend assisted telephone voting to all people with a disability, noting the successful use of this method to support voters with impaired vision.

Engaging people both as candidates and voters in elections is critical. However, ensuring the integrity of election processes is equally important, particularly at a time when there is greater focus on the security and integrity of our elections than ever before. A loss of trust in elections is very difficult, if not impossible, to restore once gone. That is why our government is acting now to give assurance that elections for South Australian councils will continue to run fairly and with the right framework in place.

Other measures to improve confidence in our local government elections in the bill include the introduction of standards of conduct for scrutineers, and offences with penalties for obstructing the exercising of electoral duties. The need to provide greater powers for electoral staff to manage the behaviour of scrutineers and other people who may interfere with election activities became apparent in the 2022 periodic elections, particularly in relation to the count for the elections for the City of Onkaparinga where the behaviour of scrutineers and associated people required police attendance. There is no room for abuse of staff and every worker, particularly those who work in our electoral system, deserves the right to be safe and feel safe in their workplace.

This is a recommendation from the Electoral Commissioner who has noted in the 2022 Council Election Report that currently South Australia is the only jurisdiction that does not have prescriptive provisions around the behaviour of scrutineers or the ability for electoral officers to remove scrutineers for disorderly behaviour. The clauses in the bill that deliver this important change have been modelled on provisions in the Electoral (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2024, as the Electoral Commissioner has also recommended.

The bill would also prohibit people and groups from misleading or deceiving electors in relation to how they should mark their ballot papers and/or exercise their vote, to bring council elections in line with similar rules in the Electoral Act 1985 and other election legislation across Australian jurisdictions.

Along with the improvements proposed in this bill, I intend to make regulations that will require all candidates for council declare if they have been the subject of an adverse finding from an independent integrity body, including the Behavioural Standards Panel, in relation to their time as a council member. These findings speak directly to the way in which that person has discharged their duties as a council member to date and should be brought to voters' attention. I also commit to undertaking significant consultation with the sector before these regulations are put forth.

The bill also includes a number of measures to improve the efficient delivery of local government elections. These include a requirement for the Electoral Commissioner to publish nominations for the election as soon as practicable to reduce instances of insufficient nominations in council elections. This bill will also ensure the roll is brought up to date three weeks after the roll close date, and therefore prior to nominations opening, to ensure the eligibility of people who nominate for elections can be assessed efficiently. I commend this bill to the house and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*

3—Amendment of section 4—Preliminary

A definition of *State elector* (meaning a person who is enrolled as an elector for the House of Assembly) is inserted for the purposes of changing to voting provisions.

Another amendment is consequential.

4—Amendment of section 5—Periodic elections

Polling day is changed to the third to last business day before the second Saturday November in each periodic election year.

5—Amendment of section 6—Supplementary elections

These amendments are technical.

6—Amendment of section 7—Failure of election in certain cases

Provision is made in relation to the failure of an election in certain cases.

7—Amendment of section 8—Failure or avoidance of supplementary election

This amendment is technical.

8—Amendment of section 10—The returning officer and deputy returning officer

Provisions relating to nomination of deputy returning officers by councils are deleted.

9—Amendment of section 14—Qualifications for enrolment

These amendments relate to the addition of the requirement to be a State elector in respect of the entitlement to enrolment for certain persons or bodies.

10—Amendment of section 15—Voters roll

One amendment lengthens the timeframe for bringing the voters roll up to date after the closing date for an election. The other amendment relates to the provision of copies of the voters roll to nominated candidates.

11—Amendment of section 17—Entitlement to stand for election

This amendment is consequential on the insertion of section 55B into the *Local Government Act 1999*.

12—Amendment of section 21—Publication etc of valid nominations

The number of valid nominations received for an election must be kept up to date on the Internet.

13—Amendment of section 25—Uncontested elections

Provision is made in relation to the time for a declaration in relation to an uncontested election to be made.

14—Amendment of section 29—Ballot papers

Provision is made in relation to the time for the drawing of lots for the purposes of ballot papers.

15—Amendment of section 39—Issue of postal voting papers

This amendment is related to the addition of the requirement to be a State elector in respect of the entitlement to enrolment for certain persons or bodies.

16—Insertion of section 41B

New section 41B is inserted:

41B—Trial of in person voting before polling day for supplementary elections

The regulations may provide for 'pre-poll voting' for supplementary elections during a trial period.

17—Amendment of section 47—Arranging postal papers

This amendment is related to the addition of the requirement to be a State elector in respect of the entitlement to enrolment for certain persons or bodies.

18—Insertion of section 62A

New section 62A is inserted:

62A—Maintenance of order at and near certain places

A provision substantially similar to the equivalent provision in the *Electoral Act 1985* is proposed to be inserted.

19—Insertion of section 66A

New section 66A is inserted:

66A—Prohibition of advocacy of forms of voting inconsistent with Act

2 provisions that are substantially similar to the equivalent provisions in the *Electoral Act 1985* are proposed to be inserted.

20—Amendment of section 69A—Electoral Commissioner may lodge petition

This amendment is technical.

21—Substitution of sections 80 to 81B

Certain sections relating to campaign donation returns are substituted.

80—Preliminary

This section provides for interpretative matters.

81—Special returns for gifts during certain period

Candidates for election are required to lodge returns for gifts received during the special disclosure period.

81A—Return for all gifts received during disclosure period

Candidates for election are required to lodge a return by no later than 28 days after polling day for an election for all gifts received during the disclosure period.

22—Amendment of section 86—Failure to comply with Division

These amendments are related to the amendments concerning campaign donation returns.

23—Amendment of section 87—Public inspection of returns

This amendment is consequential.

24—Amendment of section 91A—Conduct of council during election period

This amendment deletes a spent provision.

25—Insertion of section 91B

New section 91B is inserted:

91B—Council to hold public meeting for general election except in certain circumstances

Councils are required to hold at least 1 meeting involving any candidates who wish to participate and members of the public prior to polling day for a general election, unless the council's caretaker policy provides otherwise in accordance with section 91B.

26—Amendment of section 93—Regulations

This amendment provides for the regulations to prescribe provisions of a savings or transitional nature.

Part 3—Amendment of *Local Government Act 1999*

27—Amendment of section 54—Casual vacancies

The amendments to section 54 are consequential on proposed new section 55B, which provides for a suspension for a member of a council who fails to submit a campaign donations return for all gifts received during the disclosure period for an election (if the failure continues for more than 1 months after the return is due).

28—Insertion of section 55B

New section 55B is inserted:

55B—Suspension of member for failure to submit certain returns

This section provides for a suspension for a member of a council who fails to submit a campaign donations return for all gifts received during the disclosure period for an election (if the failure continues for more than 1 months after the return is due).

29—Amendment of section 68—Register of Interests

Subsection (1b) is substituted for consistency with the equivalent provision in proposed section 55B.

30—Amendment of section 75—Material conflicts of interest

This amendment is consequential on the amendments relating to campaign donation returns.

31—Amendment of section 77—Reimbursement of expenses

This amendment provides for a member of a council to be reimbursed for expenses (not exceeding the amount prescribed by the regulations) incurred by the member in producing printed material (other than electoral material) necessary for engaging with the community in relation to local government matters.

32—Amendment of section 79—Register of allowances and benefits

This amendment is consequential.

33—Amendment of section 125A—Internal audit functions

This amendment is technical.

34—Amendment of section 226—Moveable signs

These amendments align the provisions relating to exhibiting a poster, notice or sign displaying electoral material relating to a local government election with the equivalent provisions for State elections.

35—Amendment of section 302B—Public health emergency

These amendments extend the provision to emergencies under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* (in addition to public health emergencies).

36—Amendment of Schedule 4—Material to be included in annual report of council

This amendment is technical.

37—Amendment of Schedule 9—Suspension of members

This amendment is consequential.

Part 4—Amendment of *City of Adelaide Act 1998*

38—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

The definitions of *default person* and *eligible person* are amended in connection with amendments to Schedule 1 that include the requirement to be a State elector in respect of the entitlement to enrolment for certain persons or bodies.

39—Amendment of section 25—Reimbursement of expenses

Section 25(1)—after paragraph (b) insert:

and

- (c) reimbursement of expenses (not exceeding the amount prescribed by the regulations) incurred by the member in producing printed material (other than electoral material within the meaning of the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999*) necessary for engaging with the community in relation to local government matters.

40—Amendment of section 38—Regulations

This amendment provides for the regulations to prescribe provisions of a savings or transitional nature.

41—Amendment of Schedule 1—Special provisions for elections and polls

The special provisions for elections and polls in Schedule 1 are amended so that they are consistent with the amendments to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* effected by the measure.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Telfer.

NURSE AND MIDWIFE TO PATIENT RATIOS BILL*Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 16 September 2025.)

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (16:01): I will continue my remarks. The legislation is another example of the Malinauskas government's continued commitment to ensuring the safety of our nurses and midwifery workforce within the Public Service.

Some of the benefits of having ratios include that mandated ratios help to ensure that our nurses are not overburdened, allowing them to provide timely and attentive care. The ratios also help to reduce nurse workloads and prevent burnout and stress fatigue, which are major contributors to staff turnover. A more manageable workload improves job satisfaction, helping to retain experienced nurses and attract new ones.

The ratios will help to achieve consistency in our health system by creating clear, enforceable standards across all public hospitals, ensuring equity and care regardless of the location. Ratios are tailored to different settings—general wards, coronary care and antenatal units—ensuring there is context-appropriate staffing. The ratios will also support planning and workforce development and will include a two-year rollout period, allowing local health networks to recruit and restructure as

needed. It will also encourage long-term workforce planning and investment in nurse education and training.

Nurses and midwives are critical to the South Australian public health system and collectively comprise nearly 50 per cent of the state's healthcare workforce. They play a vital role in promoting health, preventing illness and delivering care across acute and chronic settings. The bill provides an important opportunity to pay tribute to the nurses and midwives in our community, and more broadly in our society, who provide such an important service.

My sister and brother-in-law, Danni and David, are both nurses and they live in my electorate as well; they are both constituents. Their dedication to their profession is so important. David, in particular, is an emergency services nurse and will often regale me with the challenges of working in our emergency departments. I have seen firsthand the impact their profession can have on them in terms of illness, in terms of being away from their family and in terms of working through shiftwork and managing the complex needs of their patients, and so I want to pay tribute to them and the many nurses in my electorate who do fantastic work.

I also want to take the opportunity to reflect on and again acknowledge the nurses and midwives, in particular, who have helped bring my two children into the world and helped care for them and for my wife Claire. As I spoke about in my very first speech, my family spent more time in a hospital than we would want for anyone, particularly through the birth, life and death of my son Clancy. There was a high level of care that Clancy received, and that we as parents received, both from the midwives who brought him into the world and the nurses who cared for him in the special care unit at Flinders and from the PICU team at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Whilst losing Clancy was and is a devastation for our family, we feel so blessed that we had the opportunity to spend time with him. That was due to the amazing and wonderful work of the nurses who kept him alive so that doctors and specialists could try to determine the cause of his illness. Our experience demonstrated why it is so important that we have a well-funded healthcare system that includes ratios for the appropriate minimum number of nurses and midwives for the needs of our patients.

I want to emphasise that, over the past three years, the state government has already recruited more than 1,460 additional nurses and midwives. These additional nurses and midwives will help to ensure that there is the additional staff required to meet the ratios as provided in this legislation. I want to acknowledge the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation for their work in advocating for these ratios and this legislation. This bill complements the significant commitment that the Malinauskas government is making to our public hospital system. I commend this bill to the house and thank all our fantastic nurses and midwives.

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (16:06): I rise today to speak on the Nurse and Midwife to Patient Ratios Bill and to highlight how its implementation may affect health services in the southern Fleurieu. There is no question that nurses and midwives are the backbone of our health system. They work long hours under immense pressure and provide compassionate care to our communities.

The intent of this bill to ensure safe and sustainable workloads is commendable. However, we must carefully consider what it means for regional services like the Southern Fleurieu Health Service. Victor Harbor and Goolwa, along with the surrounding communities, are experiencing rapid growth. Many retirees are moving into the region, adding to the demand placed on the hospital and aged-care services. The Southern Fleurieu Health Service is already stretched in meeting this demand, with recruitment and retention of nurses being a constant challenge.

The mandated ratios in this bill may have unintended consequences. If we cannot recruit enough nurses to meet the legislated minimums, the only option available to management may be to reduce the number of available beds. In practice, that would mean fewer patients can be treated locally and more families would be forced to travel long distances to Adelaide for care. For an older population, often without transport, that is not just inconvenient, it is unsafe.

We have already seen this story play out in aged care. When federal mandates required a registered nurse to be on duty 24/7 in residential facilities, many small regional homes struggled to comply. In some cases, beds were closed, services scaled back or facilities placed under financial

stress because the staff were simply not available. Rather than improving care, those mandates sometimes left vulnerable residents worse off, forced to move away from their communities or waiting longer for a replacement. That is exactly the risk we run if hospital ratios are imposed without a workable plan to grow the workforce.

We must also remember that regional hospitals require flexibility. A smaller hospital like Victor Harbor does not operate in the same way as a major metropolitan hospital. Patient flows are different, staffing pools are smaller and there are far fewer options to bring in agency staff at short notice. Imposing the same rigid ratios across facilities risks tying the hands of local managers who know their communities best. Instead of a one-size-fits-all mandate, what the Southern Fleurieu Health Service needs is support to grow its workforce, to invest in training, for incentives to attract nurses to the regions, and for housing solutions to help staff live close to where they work. Safe workloads are essential, but we cannot legislate them into existence if the workforce simply does not exist to deliver them.

I urge the government to ensure this bill does not unintentionally reduce the health services in the Fleurieu. The people of Victor Harbor, Goolwa and the wider region deserve safe staffing levels, yes, but they also deserve accessibility care close to home. Let us make sure that this bill supports our nurses without compromising the services our communities rely on.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (16:10): I want to thank all of the speakers who have contributed to the second reading debate. As I said in my second reading speech, this is a landmark piece of legislation that we have introduced here in South Australia for the first time. While we have previously had nursing hours per patient day, which in some regards could be regarded as a ratio, it has not been exactly a ratio, it has not been as clear as that and it certainly also has not been legislated. So with the passage of this bill, hopefully through this house and the other place, we will be making this the law—the law of the land—that these ratios are in effect. This all comes back to patients, this all comes back to making sure that we have the appropriate care for our patients in our acute care system.

There is a lot of evidence that, having safe staff ratios, having the appropriate number of nurses per patient per bed helps to ensure safety, helps to ensure that we are delivering better care, helps to reduce the number of people who are readmitted to hospital, therefore reducing pressure on the system overall. This is a timely moment for us, as many speakers in this debate have done, to thank our nurses and midwives for the incredible work that they do caring for the patients of South Australia day in, day out, around the clock in our busy public health system.

This bill ensures that we as the parliament are saying that we support you, that we know the pressure that you are under and that we want to make sure that we have safe staffing—ultimately for patients, but also to make sure that we can manage the pressure on our nurses and midwives across the state as well. Ultimately, we need to make sure that we have a well-supported workforce so that they can care for their patients as well.

I mentioned a number of people in the beginning of this debate in the second reading stage. I would like to reiterate that in terms of thanking the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, particularly the Secretary/CEO Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars for her very strong advocacy to get us to this point, as well as the many other officers who work in the ANMF, and one who has within the past year or so left the ANMF, Mr Rob Bonner, who was a particular advocate of this to the now government before the last election. He has even been coming out of retirement to be part of several meetings, to make sure that we could get to this day of having this debate in the parliament.

I want to thank, in particular, a number of people in my department who have worked very hard to ensure that we could get to this stage including, obviously, all the nursing and midwifery team led by Jenny Hurley. I also really want to give a shout-out to the workforce team, led by Judith Formston and Gabrielle Starr, who have put in a huge amount of work to solve the puzzle of making sure that we can get this to this point where we have addressed the concerns of the ANMF, and also that we can make sure this is a workable legislation for SA Health. This has been successfully rolled out in Victoria and Queensland for some years. There are other states in a non-legislative way who are implementing ratios, and I am confident that it will be successful here in South Australia as well.

I would also thank Georgia Phillips in my office, senior adviser, who has done a lot of work on this legislation to get it to this stage. Just as we left here after the second reading stage, I had the opportunity to thank Kath Thomas who worked on this legislation in the Department for Health and Wellbeing. This is her final piece of work after a very long career in the public sector. She was joined by her niece who is just starting and has just got a job as a TPPP, as we call it—a Transition to Professional Practice Program nurse—next year in SALHN. It was particularly exciting to have her, as part of the future of our profession in South Australia, hear the debate and hear that this legislation is going forth.

This has been something that so many nurses and midwives in this state have fought a very long time for, and we are delighted that this will be a situation where for nurses in the future this will be part of standard practice of operation. I thank the opposition for indicating their support—of course, with their usual reservations, to put it mildly.

Mrs Hurn interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I heard some of the contribution from the member for Finnis, which raised a few concerns, but we thank the opposition for their support for this. I understand we are going to have some committee stage discussion about this, and I am hopeful that we achieve passage through this house. I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 passed.

Clause 7.

Mrs HURN: Minister, in relation to the application of ratios more broadly, how many additional nurses are required to meet the ratios?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We have done some detailed work looking at where this applies across the system, and that modelling has come out at 86 nurses and midwives.

Mrs HURN: As part of this proposed bill, is there any associated plan to put in more money to recruit nurses to meet the ratios?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Yes. We have a very significant budget for SA Health that increases every year. Obviously, in the context of the 50,000 people who work for SA Health, 86, while being significant, is also not an overbearing percentage of the 50,000 people who work for SA Health, so we are confident that we have the funding provisions to enable us to acquire those 86 extra people. Let's also bear in mind that over the past three years we have recruited over 1,400 additional nurses and midwives above attrition, full-time equivalent, so in that context as well that is a very small percentage of the nurses and midwives we have already recruited.

Mrs HURN: If the minister could clarify: is that 86 additional nurses and midwives who would be required now to meet the ratios, or is that at the end of the two-year moratorium?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As per the legislation, the aim is to achieve that full compliance at the end of the two years.

Mrs HURN: Clause 7(2)(c) provides that a ratio may be applied in a flexible way. Can you explain or give a practical example of what that means?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Very helpfully we have been able to sneak into the drafting some examples. Parliamentary counsel are no doubt listening and I know that they hate these being in here, so kudos to us for getting them through the legislation. If you look at the examples, they provide:

1. In a ward with 20 patients and a 1:4 ratio, plus a required nurse or midwife in charge, a total of 6 nurses or midwives (as the case requires) are required for the shift to comply with the relevant ratio.
2. For the purposes of paragraph (c) [which is what the member is referring to], in a ward with 8 patients and a 1:4 ratio, if 3 patients require a higher level of care and 5 patients require a lower

level care then one nurse may be assigned to care for the 3 patients requiring the higher level of care and the other nurse to the other 5 patients.

What this is saying is that within a ward, while meeting that overall ratio, it is up to the trained clinical staff to make sure that there is the appropriate allocation of those resources for the patients who are in that ward—so meet the ratio overall but also make sure that we have the best deployment of those resources to meet the clinical needs that there are.

Mr ELLIS: I refer back to the answer to the first question that referenced modelling that had been done to uncover the fact that there would be 86 extra nurses. Does that extend to a hospital-by-hospital basis and could you answer what the net impact will be on nurse numbers at Wallaroo, Maitland and Yorketown hospitals?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We will have to take that on notice, member for Narungga.

Mr PEDERICK: In regard to the patient-nurse ratios, minister, does that mean with fewer nurses for patients in country areas we expect a lower level of care in country areas?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: No, I certainly would argue not. What it reflects is a change in acuity. Obviously the member would be aware of the fact that our tertiary and quaternary sites are based in the metropolitan area and obviously, as has been the case for many, many years under successive governments, they have had a higher level of nursing hours per patient day and that translates to a higher ratio, or a lower ratio, I guess, if you put it that way, in terms of the number of patients per nurse. That is obviously based on the acuity of patients.

As the member knows, people who require a higher level of care do need to be transferred to those major tertiary settings and that is why obviously, as has been the case forever, there will be country people who are in metropolitan hospitals because they need that higher level of care.

Mr PEDERICK: So out of the 1,460-plus nurses that you have hired since the last election, how many of them are placed across country hospitals?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: We have those figures, and if we are able to get those figures for you before the end of the debate I will be very keen to do so. I am looking at my team and we will try to get those exact figures for you.

Mr PEDERICK: Obviously, agency nurses make up some of that mix. I would be interested in that breakdown as well, unless it is specifically to nurses you have hired. A specific question in regard to Murray Bridge hospital is: how many houses does SA Health rent to agency nurses from New South Wales?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Firstly, I can reassure the member for Hammond that, as part of the 1,400 staff, they are not agency staff. These are people who are employed by SA Health. They are on our payroll as SA Health employees, not as agency employees. In terms of how many homes we rent for agency staff, I will have to take that question on notice.

The CHAIR: You have had your three questions. Is it a supplementary maybe?

Mr PEDERICK: Thank you, sir, I will run with a supplementary. Is the minister able to give us a ratio across the state of how many agency staff are required to back up the nurses that are in place by SA Health?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I will see what we can find, but there is certainly not a ratio. It is where there are gaps that need to be filled. Obviously, part of the intent of the fact that we have been trying to increase our workforce and recruit record numbers of graduate nurses over the past three years, not to mention other recruitment activities that we have got underway, is because we would like to have staff working for SA Health rather than agency staff.

Mr ELLIS: Following on from my previous question, obviously my concern lies in the fact that we will be left with fewer nurses than are there currently. While I have asked for the net increase or decrease of nurses, how does the ratio that is planned for the Wallaroo hospital, for example, compare to the ratio that would be in place under the enterprise bargaining agreement that currently exists?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The first thing to say is that I understand they are specified as a category 4 hospital in the legislation, so that has requisite ratios that are in place there. The other thing to say is that there is essentially a savings provision here whereby, if there are any higher levels of requirements under the existing enterprise bargaining agreement in place for nurses and midwives, then they are retained. So no-one will be worse off because of this legislation. I think there will be a much clearer scenario for staff in Wallaroo hospital, as per other hospitals, in terms of what that actual ratio looks like, as opposed to what can be a very complicated arrangement of the nursing hours per patient day.

I will quickly use this opportunity as well to answer the member for Hammond's previous question, which is, as part of our recruitment and part of our over 1,400 additional nurses and midwives above attrition full-time equivalent that we have recruited in three years, 210 of those are in country areas. That is 210 more country nurses and midwives than was the case three years ago full-time equivalent. Obviously, we would have recruited a lot more than that to deal with attrition as well, but there are 210 extra nurses working for SA Health, not agency nurses, in the country full-time equivalent than was the case three years ago.

Mr ELLIS: This is my last question, I believe. The savings provision that you just referenced that would prevent lower numbers of nurses being replaced under the ratio than currently exists under the enterprise bargaining agreement, is that in perpetuity or is there an end date on which that will lapse?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: In perpetuity. Well, as long as parliament deems that to be the case.

Clause passed.

Clause 8.

Mrs HURN: Clause 8(2)(b) makes reference to any known or anticipated factors. Can you talk the parliament through what an anticipated factor is? For instance, is it the Winter Demand Plan, etc.?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The emphasis here is to try to make sure that we are protecting nurses and midwives, to try to protect and to better plan. In terms of a short answer to the member's question, no, it is not trying to suggest a particular type of winter demand, etc., here. It is more about if we anticipate that we are going to be changing the service profile of what is happening in a mixed ward, that we are giving appropriate notice for that, that there is appropriate planning for that.

There could be any number of reasons why that is the case, but this protects the nurses and midwives, and then ultimately the patients, in terms of the provision of this clause. The emphasis, the pressure, is then on hospital management to make sure they are planning for those changes well in advance.

Mrs HURN: Just for further clarification on the winter demand, it is broadly known that there tends to be a bit of an uptick in demand on the system. So that is not an anticipated factor? If there are additional beds, additional patients that come in to wards, etc., surely that is something SA Health and the hospitals would be predicting that would therefore require more nurses.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: No-one is suggesting that there is not pressure in terms of winter—and we are certainly seeing that with our record flu season around the country at the moment—but this is about mixed wards. This whole section is about mixed wards, where you have a different variety of patients within the one ward. I think what the member is referring to is where we may be adding additional wards or additional capacity.

This is in terms of what the cohorts of patients are within the one ward. I would not necessarily expect that it would be a winter demand reason why there would be proposed changes in terms of the cohort of patients that would be in a mixed ward. However, for whatever reason, as I said, this obviously puts the finger on hospital management to make sure they are appropriately planning for that, rather than if this clause were not there it would be last-minute decisions.

Clause passed.

Clause 9.

Mrs HURN: Clause 9(1)(a) makes reference to an emergency situation that could not reasonably have been anticipated. Can the minister just confirm that an emergency is only as per the definition at the start of the bill; that is, under the Emergency Management Act or the Public Health Act, and does not extend to an internal Code Yellow or ED dashboards on Code Red or Code White, etc.?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I refer the member to the definitional section that she has alluded to and that we have already passed, which makes it clear that this is either that statewide emergency, as was put in place under the Emergency Management Act during COVID, or a public health emergency, which I think was in place for three days at the start of COVID before the state emergency was declared.

Mrs HURN: Clause 9(1)(b) makes mention of staff. It says, 'the hospital has determined that the staffing level is safe'. Can you explain who is it within the hospital who determines that the staffing levels are safe? Who has that responsibility?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This is a clinical decision that happens on a case-by-case basis. If we are talking about one ward, it may well be the local clinical leadership involved there. However, given the context of this section, where we are talking about either a public health emergency or a state emergency being declared, it is likely to be quite a serious emergency that the state is confronting, in which case, if you look at what was put in place during the COVID pandemic as an example, there was quite a high cadence in terms of the decision-making around our allocation of resources. That would be at quite a senior level within emergency operations, if not of the state then certainly of that particular local health network. Through COVID, all the local health network sites had emergency coordination and decision-making protocols to manage such a serious incident.

Mr BASHAM: I have a question in relation to breach. If there happened to be a sudden illness within the nursing cohort of a particular hospital, particularly in a country hospital where numbers are smaller, would they be in breach under those circumstances, where a shift may not have enough nurses, particularly at the start of a shift?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I am not sure that is of relevance to clause 9 that we are talking about. I am happy to answer that later when we get to other sections. This is only in relation to a state emergency or a state public health emergency. The circumstances outlined by the member in his question are certainly not provisions that would apply here.

Clause passed.

Clauses 10 to 16 passed.

Clause 17.

Mrs HURN: Clause 17 is in relation to the civil penalty for breaching a ratio. It mentions that the civil penalty must not exceed \$10,000. Can you talk us through how that figure was arrived at, and is that comparable to what is in place in Victoria?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: This was not exactly the same, but similar to the Victorian provision, and therefore that was what was adopted here and proposed to the parliament.

Mrs HURN: On the same clause, subclause (7), that civil penalty needs to be paid to the Treasurer and credited to the Consolidated Account. Has the minister given any consideration to ensuring that Treasury ring fences the \$10,000 fines (or up to \$10,000 fines) for the purposes of health recruitment campaigns, given that any breach would probably speak to a lack of nurses or a problem within the system somewhere—so ring fencing that money for the purposes of health recruitment, not just in the general Treasury realms?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: I do not want to speak on behalf of the Treasurer, but he probably regards health as ring fencing a fair amount of his state budget, as the case is already. Health is almost now \$10 billion of the state budget, so in that context a \$10,000 penalty is not a significant variance to the budget. What we are attempting to do here is to make sure there is a penalty, make sure that a breach does not go without appropriate penalty. I do not think anyone would regard this

as being an exercise that is going to lead to an overall detriment to the health system. It certainly will put pressure on us to make sure that we achieve improvements in the healthcare system.

I am not sure that doing what the member is suggesting would be beneficial either, given that we are hoping that none of these penalties occur. We are hoping, similar to what has happened in Victoria, we are able to make sure that we meet this legislation. We certainly would not want to make our budgets for health recruitment dependent upon civil penalties taking place. No doubt the process of prosecution in itself would probably cost more than what the penalty is, so I think this is to be avoided at all costs. It is not something that I want to plan for being part of our system, where we rely on this for the recruitment of staff, and therefore I am not supportive of what the member is suggesting.

Mrs HURN: To clarify, it is not about the workforce package being reliant on any fines being paid to the Treasury. Surely the minister would recognise that if there is such a penalty that is being paid it is because of a failure in having enough nurses, and it is a failure of the system somewhere, so ring fencing this for further investment is a good idea—but clearly not. Can you just confirm: have you had that conversation with the Treasurer about ring fencing?

The Hon. A. Koutsantonis interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: As the Minister for Infrastructure says, we speak as one. This is not something that we are considering. As I said in my previous answer, this is very small in the context of our \$10 billion budget and also something where we are hopeful that we are not going to have any of these penalties. Certainly, that has been the experience in Victoria, where there have not been any of those penalties that have taken place.

Mr TEAGUE: The minister has answered perhaps a couple of aspects. There is no example interstate of this being applied, and it is a minimal amount in the context. I think the minister has given the example of the court proceedings themselves. I would perhaps go further and say that the deliberate course of conduct that is required to be proved to establish the \$10,000 offence would itself be an extraordinary kind of endeavour. It is really a sort of naming and shaming potential, is it not? The minister is going to be in receipt of advocacy from the union much more effectively than the results of this process. Is there actually any worked example of it doing some sort of actual work beyond what might be actually much larger consequences of other associated action if the sort of conduct that is required to be proved was actually going on?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: Far be it from me to speak on behalf of the ANMF, but I think one of the reasons they are advocating for ratios and for ratios to be legislated is because it is clear. It is clear whether you have that many people on the ward at the same time, whereas it is not clear when there is a mathematical calculation of nursing hours per patient day, because that is a variance that happens averaged over the course of a week or a month, etc. Hence, this is actually sort of a prevention mechanism in the first place in having this legislation in place.

Secondly, I kind of agree with the member for Heysen—I find myself worried—in terms of having an action under this has a sort of name and shame aspect. I suspect the media coverage that would ensue from something like this happening would be disincentive enough for everybody to try to prevent that from happening to begin with.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps just to bookend that, and in all seriousness, this is not unlike the sorts of civil penalties that we have seen ordered in recent times that run to the millions or the tens of millions, and we can have the same sort of analogy to where those moneys get paid. You might think, 'Hang on, there's a government windfall coming out of a penalty order.' Is there not—to go the shadow minister's point—a case for saying, 'Well, why not actually beef it up, and then have it going back to the minister's budget to be able to remedy this egregious, deliberate conduct that's been proved as a result of this process'?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: It is open for you to advocate what you like. I guess the argument would be that it is coming from the minister's budget to begin with, so if it is then sort of going back to the minister's budget we should have sorted it out to begin with. I think this is a step towards making sure that we put in place preventative measures rather than a cure, and I think this will set the standard by which the system will be incentivised to try to avoid us heading down this path.

Mr PEDERICK: In regard to the civil penalties, what leeway does a hospital have in filling ratios if, for whatever reason, the nurses hired full-time under the SA Health banner or agency nurses cannot fill shifts? I am thinking of hospitals like Murray Bridge or Strathalbyn. If they have exhausted every avenue they can to fill shifts—it may be at short notice, there may have been illness, as the member for Finnis was indicating—how much leeway do they have so that they do not end up with a penalty and being named and shamed when they have exhausted every avenue to make sure they can staff all the shifts at the appropriate ratio level?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: The provision in terms of the civil penalties is 'systemic and deliberate,' so the circumstances that you are describing I do not think would fit in that regard. Obviously, we have, as I have described, nursing hours per patient day at the moment. We do work incredibly hard to make sure that we can fill those shifts right across the state, and that is something that our staff are very used to doing and make sure that they can pull every lever to ensure that we can provide care for the patients who need it.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

Parliamentary Procedure

STANDING ORDERS SUSPENSION

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:47): I move without notice:

That standing and sessional orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable Private Members Business, Other Motions, Notice of Motion No. 7 set down for 17 September, to take precedence over government business forthwith.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: An absolute majority is required and, as there is not, ring the bells.

An absolute majority of the whole number of members being present:

Motion carried.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:48): I move:

That the time allotted to the debate be no more than 25 minutes.

Motion carried.

Motions

REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (16:49): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes that September 2025 marks the fifth anniversary since the start of the 2020 Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) war of aggression by Azerbaijan and reaffirms the South Australian Parliament's decision to recognise the self-determination of the Republic of Artsakh;
- (b) notes that 19 September 2025 marks two years since the ethnic cleansing of 100,000 Armenians from the Republic of Artsakh by Azerbaijan after 10 months of siege, blockading the population from food, energy, medical supplies and humanitarian assistance;
- (c) calls for the immediate release of 23 Armenian hostages, including leaders of the Republic of Artsakh, currently detained by the Azerbaijani regime, in contradiction to international law;
- (d) calls on Azerbaijan to abide by the International Court of Justice's provisional measures handed down on 17 November 2023 and allow for the right of return for all Armenians forcibly displaced from Artsakh under enforceable international guarantees of their security and rights.
- (e) calls on Azerbaijan to cease the deliberate destruction of the Armenian Christian and cultural heritage of Artsakh and take transparent steps to ensure the protection of all ancient Armenian cultural and historical sites; and

- (f) calls on Azerbaijan immediately to withdraw its troops from, and respect, the internationally recognised borders of the Republic of Armenia.

I rise today on the fifth anniversary since Azerbaijan launched its war of aggression against the Republic of Artsakh and the second anniversary since the forced displacement of peace-loving Armenians.

Two years ago, on 19 September, the Republic of Artsakh, a region whose people had maintained their Armenian identity, faith and way of life for centuries, was emptied of its indigenous Armenian population. Over 100,000 Armenians were forced to flee their ancestral homeland in the face of a brutal military operation by the Azerbaijani.

This followed a deliberate, systematic and inhumane 10-month blockade, cutting off access to food, medicine, power, fuel and humanitarian assistance. Let us call this what it was: not a military victory, not a diplomatic resolution, but an act of ethnic cleansing carried out in broad daylight, with the world watching, and with devastating consequences for an entire population.

As an Australian of Greek heritage, I feel this tragedy deeply. Greeks and Armenians have a shared history, not only of cultural richness and civilization but also of suffering, often at the hands of the same empires and the same ideologies of ethnic supremacy, and the same silence from the rest of the world. Our peoples have endured genocide, the Armenians in 1915, the Greeks of Pontus and Asia Minor not long after.

We remember the forced marches, the destroyed and desecrated churches, the cultural erasure and the world's indifference. That shared trauma is part of a bond between our communities. We know what it means to be uprooted from lands that are ours by history, by spirit, and by blood. We know the scars that silence can leave, and we know that when these warning signs emerge, when sieges are laid, when churches are desecrated, when history is denied, we cannot look away.

This parliament, proudly, was one of the first in Australia to recognise the Republic of Artsakh and the right of its people to self-determination. We did so because we believe that small nations have the same rights as large ones, that ethnic and religious minorities have the same rights to live in peace, that the Armenian people who survived the genocide in the 20th century should not be subjected and forced and displaced in the 21st. Today I hope this parliament reaffirms that recognition and I hope that every member of this house will stand by that decision, not as a gesture of sentiment but as an expression of moral clarity.

The ethnic cleansing of Artsakh was not an isolated act of violence. It was the result of a sustained calculated campaign: a 10-month siege of the Lachin Corridor; the starvation of civilians; the silencing of journalists and human rights observers; the erasing of homes and churches; and now, the continued imprisonment of political prisoners.

Twenty-three hostages, including political and civil leadership of the republic, remain in Azerbaijani custody today. Their crime? Serving their people and exercising the right of democratic self-governance. Their detention is in clear violation of international law, and I call on Azerbaijan, in the strongest possible terms, to release them immediately. I call on other governments to raise this issue forcefully and persistently on the international stage.

Justice does not end with freedom for the imprisoned. True justice means the right of return. The Armenians of Artsakh must be allowed to return to their homeland, not as refugees, not as guests but as rightful citizens under international protection. The International Court of Justice ruled on 17 November 2023 that Azerbaijan must take all measures to protect the rights of displaced Armenians. These provisional measures must be enforced. We cannot allow international law to become a set of empty words.

Let me speak plainly about Azerbaijan's ongoing destruction of Armenian, Christian and cultural heritage in Artsakh: ancient churches, cemeteries, monasteries and monuments, some older than modern Azerbaijan itself, are being destroyed. This is cultural cleansing, a war not just on people but on memory, faith and identity. I cannot help but recall the desecration of Orthodox sites in Cyprus, in Asia Minor and in northern Syria, where Christian civilisation was wiped away to serve political

ends. These acts are not simply crimes against history, they are preludes to crimes against humanity. We cannot allow this to happen again in silence. We cannot allow history to repeat itself.

I call on Azerbaijan to cease all its acts of cultural destruction and to permit unfettered international access to the heritage sites across the region. This parliament must also be clear in its opposition to any further Azerbaijani aggression against the Republic of Armenia itself. Over the past two years, troops have repeatedly violated Armenia's internationally recognised borders, establishing a legal outpost and advancing into sovereign Armenian territory. These provocations are not just regional matters, they are violations of the UN Charter and threats to international peace and security. I call on Azerbaijan to immediately withdraw its troops and to respect the territorial integrity of the Republic of Armenia, and I call on the international community to take meaningful steps to deter further aggression.

We must remember the mothers who carried their children through mountain roads, away from burning villages. We must remember the elderly who died waiting in line for bread that never came. We must remember the people of Artsakh who only wanted to live in peace and whose lives were shattered because of who they were and where they lived. My speech could be substituted for many people, even today. That is why it is important—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It did cross my mind.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes. That is why it is important that we call out this behaviour, sir. Today, let this parliament be clear and stand with the people of Artsakh. We stand with the Armenian community. We stand with all the people who refuse to let history's darkest chapters repeat themselves. I thank Koryun and Anna for being here today to hear this message, and I thank the Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC for her similar motion in the Legislative Council. I commend the motion to the house.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (16:58): I rise today, as we observe a significant anniversary, to express my support for the motion. September 2025 will mark five years since the onset of the 2020 conflict in Artsakh and the circumstances that led to it. This house has previously affirmed its recognition of the self-determination of the Republic of Artsakh, and it is appropriate that we affirm that position today, in line with our commitment to the principles of self-determination and stability in the region. On 19 September we will also observe the second anniversary of the events that resulted in the displacement of approximately 100,000 Armenians. Following a period of blockade, lasting 10 months, which restricted access to essential supplies, including food, energy, medical aid and humanitarian assistance, this displacement has had profound human consequences.

As we gather in this chamber we stand on the cusp of two significant and sobering anniversaries which this motion seeks to address with clarity and purpose. So I rise to support this motion on behalf of the opposition as it reflects our shared commitment to justice, human rights and the principles that underpin a stable international order.

These events compel us to reflect, to reaffirm our values and to call for meaningful action. The first point of the motion notes that, five years ago, the people of Artsakh faced a devastating conflict that disrupted lives and challenged the region's stability. The house in its wisdom recognised the right to self-determination, a decision grounded in the principle that communities should have a say in their governance and future.

Reaffirming this recognition today is not merely symbolic: it is a reminder that South Australia stands for the dignity of all peoples, including those who continue to seek peace and security, and our state has a proud history of embracing diversity, and our Armenian community, with its rich contributions to our culture, economy and civic life, embodies that legacy. By standing firm on this principle, we honour their presence and we honour their aspirations. This motion acknowledges the experiences of those who have suffered and underscores our responsibility to speak out when such events occur, wherever they may be.

The minister also mentioned detentions. These detentions also raise questions about compliance with global norms and standards. The release of these individuals will be a constructive step toward de-escalation and dialogue. It is not enough to simply note their plight: we must call for

their immediate release, as this motion rightly does, to demonstrate that arbitrary detention has no place in a rule-based world. South Australia can lend its voice to this cause, urging accountability and fairness.

Furthermore, the motion also draws attention to the International Court of Justice's provisional measures, issued on 17 of November 2023, which address the right of return for those displaced from Artsakh. These measures call for enforceable international guarantees to ensure the safety and the rights of returning Armenians. Compliance with such rulings is fundamental to maintaining trust in global institutions. We must encourage all parties to respect these obligations as they form the foundation of any meaningful resolution.

Another critical aspect of the motion concerns the preservation of Armenian cultural and historical heritage in Artsakh. Reports of damage to ancient monasteries, churches and other cultural sites is appalling and deeply concerning. These sites are testaments to a person's faith, identity and history, and the deliberate destruction of such heritage must be called out as a loss not only for Armenians but for humanity as a whole.

Finally, the motion addresses the sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia, urging Azerbaijan to withdraw any forces from its internationally recognised borders. Respect for territorial integrity is a cornerstone of international law, and violations undermine the prospects for lasting peace. By calling for this withdrawal, we advocate for stability and mutual respect between the nations. South Australia may be a small player on a global stage, but our voice carries weight when we speak with principle. Our state has long been a place of refuge and opportunity for those fleeing conflict or hardship. The families of many members in this house have migrant stories that took shape in the shadow of the Second World War, for example.

The Armenian community, like many others, has woven itself into our social fabric, contributing to our schools, businesses and cultural life. I think of the Armenian Cultural Centre in Adelaide, where families gather to celebrate their heritage. There are small businesses run by Armenian South Australians who embody the spirit of hard work, aspiration and resilience. When we speak to this motion we speak for them, for their history, for their hope for a just future. As we consider the motion, we must also recognise the broader context.

This place has a tradition of engaging with global issues, from human rights to peacebuilding. By supporting the motion, we align ourselves with values of fairness, accountability and respect for international norms. We send a message that South Australia is not silent when confronted with injustice, whether it occurs in our backyard or halfway across the world. So I reaffirm my support for this motion to affirm South Australia's commitment to justice, peace and the dignity of all people.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Energy and Mining) (17:03): I want to thank the opposition, and the leader in particular for his bipartisan support for this important motion. It is difficult for us in state parliaments to move motions like this, although we have done it quite well. In fact, what we really are are witnesses, and we put on the public record our civilised outrage at what occurs. Whether it is about hostages in Palestine and Israel, whether it is about families being forced to leave their homes, whether it is in Asia Minor a century ago, whether it is in Armenia, whether it is Assyrians—whichever race—ethnic cleansing and genocide should be condemned wherever it occurs. As witnesses, this parliament has done its job, and today I suspect we will do it again. To be a witness for the international community does carry weight. This will not please the Azerbaijani government. They will not like this level of scrutiny.

I thank members for their tolerance and for their time. I especially thank the opposition for their support and I thank my colleagues in the Australian Labor Party for allowing me to do this today during government time. It is an honour and I appreciate their solidarity in standing with the people of Armenia and the Christian minorities that are being treated so appallingly. I want to finish by thanking our Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Zoe Bettison, who does an exceptional job with ethnic minorities in this state not only as a witness but as a supporter. I think we do our very best to do all we can for ethnic minorities—me being one of them. I commend the motion to the house.

Motion carried.

*Bills***EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (INCLUSIVE EDUCATION) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 September 2025.)

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (17:06): I rise to speak on the Education and Children's Services (Inclusive Education) Amendment Bill. The bill implements part of the government's response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

In particular, the bill responds to recommendation 7.1—Provide equal access to mainstream education and enrolment, and recommendation 7.2—Prevent the inappropriate use of exclusionary discipline against students with disability. The disability royal commission found that students with a disability face multiple barriers to inclusive education, including gatekeeping practices that informally discourage their enrolment and the inappropriate use of exclusionary responses.

It was pleasing to hear that the bill was subject to significant public consultation and that the response to the royal commission reforms was announced jointly by the Department for Education, Catholic Education South Australia and the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia. I think the collaboration between our three sectors is really important in ensuring that for all students and all students with a disability, human dignity is supported. The main changes in this legislation are:

- inserting a new object of the act to ensure that the provision of education and children's services in the state is inclusive by enabling the participation of children and students with a disability and supporting them to reach their full potential;
- providing that schools must not refuse enrolment on the basis of a disability unless this would impose an unjustifiable hardship on the school—this obligation is already set out in the commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act and including it in state legislation affirms that important spirit and intent;
- requiring all government and non-government schools to report annually on the number of children with a disability who had their enrolment refused on the basis of unjustifiable hardship, the number of children with a disability whose enrolments were cancelled, measures taken to reduce refusals or cancellations, and the number of students with a disability who were suspended or excluded and for what reason and for how long; and
- requiring the minister to publish a report on the information provided that aggregates the data for government schools and non-government schools—this means that individual schools will not be identified and neither will individual students be identified.

There is a provision that applies to the non-government sector, and that is that the policy regarding exclusions and discipline must be a published policy. This does not apply to government schools because that information is already published online. In my experience, it is pretty standard certainly across Catholic schools—and, I would assume, most independent schools—that the suspension and exclusion policy is already published, but it is really important that it is, so that families have that sense of transparency and understanding about the school's approach in that regard. Again, in my experience, it is absolutely the aim of schools to support students not to exclude them, but it is important that there are processes identified.

While these changes are modest, they are very important and I want to talk about why that is, and I want to talk a bit about the importance of providing more inclusive education for students with disability in South Australian schools. The Disability Royal Commission's final report makes it clear that inclusive education is a human right. It is not a privilege to be granted, it is a right to be upheld. Every child, regardless of ability, deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive in a school environment that welcomes and supports them.

According to the commission's report, students with a disability achieve better academic, social and emotional outcomes when educated alongside their peers, and their peers benefit too, learning empathy, collaboration and respect for diversity. It was certainly my experience, both as a student and educator, that there were benefits to students and the school community having students with a disability attend that school.

I attended Cabra Dominican College and I formed an appreciation and understanding for the dignity of all through my interaction with students who were part of the St Mary's Unit. Cabra has a long history of embracing a diversity of learning and teaching with an inclusive education environment, which reaches back to the inception of the St Mary's Unit in the 1980s. The St Mary's Unit provides specific support and education for students with an intellectual disability through an individualised timetable and a range of general and specialist subjects.

The interactions that I had with students from the St Mary's Unit helped to provide me with a greater understanding that though different and challenged by their disability, they were my fellow students, fellow humans, and they had a right to dignity and respect.

More recently, through my work at Sacred Heart College, there were a number of students who attended with intellectual and physical disabilities. These students and their families continually made it clear to me how beneficial it was to be part of a school environment, to be part of a community, to be part of a family (as it has been described at Sacred Heart College), and the benefits of the mainstream environment. The same was true for the community, for the students within that community who were able to develop that sense of empathy and that opportunity to form a greater respect for human dignity.

It is important that we recognise the increase in the number of students with a disability. According to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), in 2024, 25.7 per cent of school students received educational adjustment due to disability. This is up from 18 per cent in 2015. As a former teacher and educator, I certainly noticed those increases and the changes that it had on the teaching and on the learning of our students. It was significant, so more and more teachers provided adjustments and differentiated curriculum to support students with a disability.

It is very important work and remains really crucial work for our teachers and for our schools, but we should recognise that it does create a greater workload for our teachers; that that is an impact that we need to be aware of, and schools and our system need to be able to support it. Again, my experience is that schools were changing their structures to better support students with a disability. In my experience, we went from having no specialist leader in inclusive education to having a model where we had a senior leader, a team of middle leaders and then lead teachers to support the needs of students with a disability. It is really important that we are catering and making sure that students with a disability have that access to education and to a school community.

I want to highlight a key initiative of the Malinauskas government, and that is the implementation of autism inclusion teachers in every public primary school. It is a great example of the importance of having well-trained lead teachers who can support the practice of our teachers and the improvements in the practice of teachers. I have already seen that in the primary schools in my electorate that I have visited, and I have asked the question, 'What difference has it made?'

I want to particularly highlight the work that I have seen go on at Hallett Cove South Primary School. They are providing really high-quality education to a significantly large number of students with disabilities, and they are doing it whilst creating a very nurturing and a very inclusive school environment. This bill provides a modest but important change to help all our schools in South Australia to be inclusive and supportive and uphold the right to human dignity of all South Australian students, particularly those with a disability.

The Hon. N.F. COOK (Hurtle Vale—Minister for Human Services, Minister for Seniors and Ageing Well) (17:15): I rise to speak in support of the Education and Children's Services (Inclusive Education) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill represents a really meaningful step, ensuring our children and young people in South Australia, especially and particularly those with disability, have access to inclusive, safe and supportive education.

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability in recommendation 7.1 calls for equal access to mainstream education and enrolment, and recommendation 7.2 seeks to prevent the inappropriate use of exclusionary discipline against students with disability, so these are quite prescriptive. In our government's response to the royal commission we accepted these recommendations and this legislation is the first step towards delivering them.

The disability royal commission found that students with disability continue to face multiple and compounding barriers to inclusive education. If I get the chance near the end, because I have some comprehensive notes, I will talk about how important that word 'barrier' is when we discuss disability. Rather than diagnosis and impairment in the medical model, we talk about barriers to social inclusion, and that is very important.

Some of these barriers include gatekeeping practices, discouraging or preventing enrolment, the misuse of exclusionary discipline and a lack of appropriate adjustments and supports to enable students full participation in school life. Sadly, we know such barriers can be underpinned by negative attitude, low expectations and systemic practices that exclude students with disability from classrooms and the broader school community.

The disability royal commission made clear that a safe, quality and inclusive education system must be grounded in a rights-based approach where all students are supported to achieve their individual education goals, also positive social outcomes both during and beyond their school years. The commission also highlighted the increasing number and proportion of students with disability in our schools and the growing demand for higher levels of adjustment. These must be met with improved procedures, stronger oversight and a transformation in school culture, capability and practice.

The State Disability Inclusion Plan intersects with these findings. Education is critical not only to a child's economic future but also to their social and emotional development, their sense of identity and their place in the world. The state plan affirms that all people with disability have the right to inclusive education and meaningful employment. Too many are still not experiencing the full benefits of these opportunities due to persistent barriers at every stage of the education and employment journey, but we also know change must occur, with the perspectives of those with lived experience at the heart of that change. That is why this bill underwent extensive public consultation via YourSAY and engagement with key stakeholders, and we know from this feedback that there has been strong support for increased transparency and accountability in how schools support students with disability.

It is also important to acknowledge the work of my colleague, Minister Blair Boyer, in bringing Catholic Education South Australia and the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia to the table on this bill. The bill introduces a new object into the Education and Children's Services Act to ensure that education and children's services in South Australia are inclusive, enabling the participation of children and students with disability and supporting them to reach their fullest potential.

It affirms schools must not refuse enrolment on the basis of disability unless doing so would impose an unjustifiable hardship on the school, aligning with the commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and reinforcing its intent within state legislation. These are really important things.

It also introduces new annual reporting requirements for all government and non-government schools, requiring them to report on the number of children with disability who were refused enrolment due to unjustifiable hardship, the number whose enrolments were cancelled, the measures taken to reduce such refusals or cancellations, and the number of students with disability who were suspended or excluded (this must also include the reasons for and the duration of). This is really transparent, really informative data that drive these decisions.

The minister will be required to publish an annual report aggregating this data for government and non-government schools, ensuring transparency while protecting the privacy of individual students and schools. Look, we know the challenges of data collection, de-identified data publishing, and when I was having a conversation with a mum who had a child who had been subject to such exclusion she said to me, 'You know, this is no different than having your NAPLAN scores published.

This, for me, provides me with a way to look at how schools are going and make those informed choices about what community I want my child to be part of.' I think that is really important.

This reporting framework will help track progress across all education sectors and support continuous improvement in inclusive education practises. The bill also introduces a requirement for non-government schools to publish a policy on the use of exclusionary discipline, ensuring consistency and clarity across the education system while recognising that government schools are already subject to detailed procedures under the act and under departmental guidelines.

These changes, while modest in scope, represent a significant cultural shift in how we approach inclusive education, and lay the groundwork for broader reform by embedding transparency, accountability, and a commitment to equity in the legislative framework. The intent of this bill and the broader work surrounding it also responds directly to the royal commission's call for legislative policy reform, improved data collection and use, enhanced workforce training, and a coordinated approach to embedding inclusive practises in schools.

This bill is a step toward a future where students with disability are no longer excluded. It is a really coordinated approach to embedding inclusive practises in schools, and is a step towards a future where students with disability are no longer excluded or marginalised but are welcomed, supported and celebrated as full members of their school communities. It supports broader work to change attitudes and not let a diagnosis or ability define what you should and should not have access to. The barrier is not the diagnosis but instead the environment, and our government continues to take action to remove barriers. We are doing that through so many pathways.

This work is reflected in our State Disability Inclusion Plan under Domain 1, education and employment, where we have established six priority areas and 14 measures, some of which include the following: proportion of teachers and educators who have completed training for supporting students with disability, including disability standards for education training; total number of children with disability accessing early intervention services, including children's out-of-home care; proportion of government school students receiving an adjustment to access education; total number of initiatives taken to improve transition support from secondary school to tertiary education and/or employment for people with disability; and proportion of state government agencies enhancing data collection and reporting systems. All of this provides some assurance and some transparency.

The state Autism Strategy has also been a driver to supporting positive educational experiences for autistic and autism communities, including commitments to improve environments to support the inclusion of autistic children and young people in our preschools, primary and secondary school settings. I think it is really important that we consider the preschool environment. Ever since I was elected as a member of parliament, early childhood educators have been saying to me that it is a gap, it is an area where there is limited education, limited resources, and it is a barrier for success for children entering the school system. Well, by golly, we have three-year-old preschool coming and we are on it.

We are focused on ensuring that we make the most inclusive environment but also the most educated and aware environment that we have ever had. It also includes: improving the knowledge and understanding of autism amongst our educators; supporting support staff and those connected to our education and care settings; identifying ways to improve transition pathways between educational settings and beyond school; and implementing neurodiversity affirming supports and strategies tailored to individuals to ensure autistic children and students receive the right supports for them—the child at the centre of everything we do.

We have already acted on some of these commitments, including \$28.8 million for autism inclusion teachers in public primary schools, and \$50 million for 100 mental health and learning support specialists in schools and trialling autism inclusion teachers in nine secondary schools, a natural progression on a successful rollout of primary school teachers. Again, we know we have to be agile, and every environment is different. We will be watching that pilot closely to see where we go in the future and how that rollout looks. We also are establishing a unit on autism to be delivered to all students undertaking the Certificate III in School Based Education Support at TAFE SA, an Australian first, and that is because we believe in TAFE. TAFE is the learning environment for these advanced practices; it is so good.

These tangible actions show the intent of this bill and that this bill does not sit in isolation. It is backed by our government's commitment to a South Australia where no-one is left behind. With a laser focus now on our thinking and our language around making sure that people are aware of the social framework and diagnosis or social definition of disability, we know that we can make a difference. We removed the focus on the medical model of barriers that are being put in place through diagnosis, and we know that we can make huge steps into the future improving what is available and what is offered for people with disability in our community.

This bill spells this out. It sits along alongside our state Disability Inclusion Act, it sits alongside the state plan, it sits alongside the work we are doing with our Autism Strategy. We are bringing people with lived experience to the table. We have ministerial advisory councils across a number of our ministerial portfolios doing different things. We have our Disability Minister's Advisory Council, we have the autism advisory councils, we have the autism strategy team advising us. They work hand in hand with the Office for Autism and the inclusion unit in the Department of Human Services. It is absolutely work that we are so proud of as a government. It is enabling us to move forward in our community in a way that is positive. This bill is setting a standard. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Odenwalder.

FAIR WORK (WORKER ENTITLEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Received from the Legislative Council and read a first time.

At 17:31 the house adjourned until Thursday 18 September 2025 at 11:00.

*Estimates Replies***BUSINESS GRANTS**

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The average grant value was between \$5,000 and \$14,999. Thirty-nine per cent of approved grants were within this range.

The most common equipment and services funded included:

- power supply and generation—including solar panels, battery storage and control equipment
- energy efficient appliances for heating, cooling and refrigeration
- motors, pumps and compressors; and
- building upgrades which included replacing existing windows and doors with energy efficient variants such as double or triple glazing).

Combined, these grants are estimated to provide an energy cost savings of more than \$24.24 million, representing 58,872 MWh as determined by the applicant at the time of submission.

ROADWORKS DISRUPTION

In reply to **the Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The Small Business Commission SA does not collect data on disputes and inquiries specific to the category of roadworks disruption.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for the Department of State Development:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants and contractors in 2025-26 is \$9.934 million.

The following is a summary of external consultants for the small and family business portfolio that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2025-26 for contracts disclosed in accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular 27. Consultancy commitment data is subject to change (pending the provision of commitment data to the Auditor-General on 11 August 2025).

Consultancies	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
2XE Pty Ltd	Delivery of workshops, consultations, and sustainability assessments to assist South Australian small businesses develop strategies to improve their environmental sustainability and build skills and capability to implement sustainable business practices.	\$182,706

The following is a summary of external contractors for the small and family business portfolio that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2025-26 for contracts disclosed in accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular 27. Contractor commitment data is subject to change (pending the provision of commitment data to the Auditor-General on 11 August 2025).

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Rural Business Support	Provision of financial support and counselling services to drought affected business in South Australia.	\$612,000

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for the Department of State Development:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years—Controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000	2027-28 Estimate \$000
Office for Small and Family Business				
Small Business Strategy	The small business strategy seeks to increase the skills, capability and capacity of small business owners, and support them to create jobs and build the economy.	1,370	1,802	1,815
Women in Business	The funding provides a suite of programs to South Australian female-owned businesses and boost our economy, creating jobs and supporting local entrepreneurs.	918	930	1,013
Drought Support Package	To offer direct, practical support, easing short-term financial pressure and helping regional businesses continue their operations during difficult seasonal conditions.	462	—	—
Growth Accelerator Program	To help high growth potential small and medium businesses in metropolitan and regional South Australia improve their business practices, management capabilities and networks through the provision of expert business advice and facilitated workshops.	450	450	450
Business Growth Fund Round 2 – Small Business Energy Efficiency Grants*	To assist business and industry in key areas to grow secure, well-paid jobs, improve productivity, deliver efficiencies, increase exports and support innovative, value adding technologies in South Australia.	9,100	—	—
Business Growth Fund Round 3 – Powering Business Grants*	To support eligible South Australian small and medium businesses and not-for-profit organisations to invest in energy efficient equipment or improvements to reduce and manage energy use and costs.	20,000	—	—

*Business Growth Fund grant funding is also reported in the Department of Treasury and Finance omnibus response.

The following table provides details, including the value and beneficiary, for any commitments relating to contracts (excluding MOAAs) executed on or before 30 June 2025 and funded from the program or funds mentioned in the previous answer for contracts with a total value of \$200,000 (inclusive GST) and above.

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Office for Small and Family Business			
Small Business Strategy	Collab4Good Ltd	Refer purpose of grant program above.	142,000
Small Business Strategy	Polaris Business Development Centre	Refer purpose of grant program above.	200,000
Small Business Strategy	Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	Refer purpose of grant program above.	180,000
Small Business Strategy	South Australian Business Chamber	Refer purpose of grant program above.	100,000
Small Business Strategy	South Australian Tourism Industry Council trading as TICSA	Refer purpose of grant program above.	100,000
Small Business Strategy	South Australian Wine Industry Association Incorporated	Refer purpose of grant program above.	100,000
Small Business Strategy	Australian Hotels Association – South Australian Branch	Refer purpose of grant program above.	100,000
Small Business Strategy	Creative Plus Business Group	Refer purpose of grant program above.	142,000
Small Business Strategy	Be Well Co	Refer purpose of grant program above.	5,000
Small Business Strategy	RAW Mind Training Pty Ltd	Refer purpose of grant program above.	5,000
Small Business Strategy	Master Builders Association of South Australia Inc	Refer purpose of grant program above.	5,000
Centre for Business Growth	University of South Australia	Support the creation of a new position, the Playford Professor of Business Growth, and provide continued support for outreach activities included in the centre's Growing South Australian Companies program.	25,000
Women in Business	Adelaide Business Hub	Refer purpose of grant program above.	445,249
Women in Business	DW Behind Closed Doors Pty Ltd	Refer purpose of grant program above.	125,000

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

Since 1 July 2024, the following executive appointments were made. This includes appointments made to existing vacant positions.

Role Title	Classification
Commissioner, Consumer & Business Services	SAES2
Director, Business Services & Transformation	SAES1
Director, Reform & Specialty Compliance	SAES1
Director, Operational Reform	SAES1

The total annual employment cost for these appointments is \$0.99 million (excluding on costs). Individual executive total remuneration package values (TRPV) as detailed in Schedule 2 of an executive employee's contract will not be disclosed as it is deemed to be unreasonable disclosure of personal affairs.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

Since 1 July 2024, there have been no executive positions abolished. The Director Customer Service and Business Transformation position is currently vacant and will be abolished in 2025-26.

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

There have been no executive terminations made since 1 July 2024.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

As required by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013—Annual Reporting Requirements for 2024-25 information relating to expenditure on consultants and contractors including the vendor, total cost and nature of work undertaken, will be detailed in annual reports published by agencies.

CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACTORS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

The estimated total cost for engagement of consultants and contractors in 2025-26 is \$0.1 million. The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2025-26.

Consultancies	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
Nil		

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged at a total estimated cost above \$10,000, the nature of work undertaken, and the estimated cost for 2025-26.

Contractors	Purpose	Total Estimated Cost
John Dunnery	Project Management	\$70,000
Riverbourne	Project Management	\$20,000

GOODS AND SERVICES

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for units under my responsibility within the Attorney-General's Department:

The budgeted expenditure on goods and services for the financial year 2025-26 and each of the years of the forward estimates period is as follows:

Goods and services	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Consumer and Business Services	5,165	5,485	5,521	5,269
Office of the Small Business Commissioner	734	751	770	788

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) Strategic Communications Unit undertakes communication and promotion activities for all AGD business units.

As the business units under my responsibility (Consumer and Business Services and the Office of the Small Business Commissioner) are within AGD, they receive support for communication and promotion activities from the AGD Strategic Communications Unit where needed.

Table 1 shows the total budgeted FTE to provide communication and promotion activities for AGD for 2025-26 and the forward estimates:

Table 1: FTE employed in communication and promotion activities

Unit/Branch		2025-26 Budget	2026-27 Budget	2027-28 Budget	2028-29 Budget
AGD	FTE	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.45
	\$m	1.007	1.012	1.022	1.032

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for the Attorney-General's Department:

As an open and transparent Government, Marketing Communications Activity Reports and Annual Media Expenditure details are proactively disclosed. The reports list all marketing campaigns over the cost of \$55,000 (ex GST) and budgeted expenditure for approved campaigns and are disclosed on the DPC website: <https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/about-the-department/accountability/government-marketing-advertising-expenditure>

GRANT PROGRAMS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 financial years—Controlled:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000	2027-28 Estimate \$000
Consumer and Business Affairs				
Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service	Establish and provide a tenant advice and advocacy service to tenants (as defined in the <i>Residential Tenancies Act 1995</i>) and residential park residents (as defined in the <i>Residential Parks Act 2007</i>).	318	318	318
Harm Minimisation Fund	The Harm Minimisation Fund provides resources for programs that support health and safety education and rehabilitation services for intoxicated persons.	252	258	225

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

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Consumer and Business Affairs			

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service	SYC Ltd	Educating and informing tenants. Advising and supporting tenants to resolve tenancy issues. Assisting tenants with completing tenancy forms or drafting tenancy related letters. Supporting tenants at tribunal hearings. Policy development and advocacy.	318
Harm Minimisation Fund	Encounter Hindley Youth Street Program	Support volunteers in patrolling the Hindley Street area offering a safe presence.	148

The following table provides the requested information on grant program/funds under my responsibility for the 2025-26, 2026-27 & 2027-28 financial years – Administered:

Grant program/fund name	Purpose of grant program/fund	2025-26 Estimate \$000	2026-27 Estimate \$000	2027-28 Estimate \$000
Consumer and Business Affairs				
Australian Institute of Conveyancers (SA) – Professional Development Program and Public Advisory Service	Provide an advice service and educate conveyancers or members of the public about conveyancing matters or issues.	410	421	431
Real Estate Institute of SA – Professional Development Program and Public Advisory Service	Provide an educational program and advisory service for the benefit of agents, sales representatives, and members of the public.	529	542	556

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

Grant program/ fund name	Beneficiary/ Recipient	Purpose	Value \$
Consumer and Business Affairs			
Australian Institute of Conveyancers (SA) – Professional Development Program and Public Advisory Service	Australian Institute of Conveyancers (SA)	Provide an advice service and educate conveyancers or members of the public about conveyancing matters or issues.	410
Real Estate Institute of SA – Professional Development Program and Public Advisory Service	Real Estate Institute of SA	Provide an educational program and advisory service for the benefit of agents, sales representatives, and members of the public.	529

REMOTE WORK

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised that for the Attorney-General's Department:

The department does not segregate remote work infrastructure costs from general business costs for digital tools, cybersecurity, and support services. It is estimated that the percentage of the total AGD budget allocated specifically to the management of remote work infrastructure is less than 0.1 per cent, which is in line with previous years estimates.

BUSINESS COMPLIANCE

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised of the following:

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) notes that a number of these inspections have taken place at repeat locations, and that this figure does not represent 500 individual premises. Of the inspections conducted, noncompliance was detected on 74 occasions.

CLOSED BUSINESSES

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

Consumer and Business Services (CBS) maintains visibility on stores that have previously been subject to closure orders through observation activities and reports from members of the public. A number of stores that were served with closure orders have since been subject to further compliance action or are being considered for future enforcement.

ILLEGAL TOBACCO TRADE

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

1,375 complaints were received in relation to the suspected sale or supply of illicit tobacco and/or e-cigarettes.

OPERATING GRANTS

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

OPERATING GRANTS						
2021-22			2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
State Library of South Australia	Base	15,645	14,474	14,536	14,348	14,549
	Variations	2,418	1,794	985	806	-
	Total	18,063	16,268	15,521	15,154	14,549
Art Gallery of South Australia	Base	8,707	8,389	8,544	8,370	8,352
	Variations	369	1,435	768	7,463	-
	Total	9,076	9,824	9,312	15,833	8,352
South Australia Museum	Base	11,052	10,738	10,795	10,347	10,154
	Variations	23	1,075	344	3,223	1,300
	Total	11,075	11,813	11,139	13,570	11,454
Carrick Hill	Base	1,036	994	994	981	976
	Variations	99	676	1,702	31	-
	Total	1,135	1,670	2,696	1,012	976
Adelaide Festival Centre Trust	Base	12,619	14,515	14,665	14,925	14,895
	Variations	12,979	590	605	1,527	609
	Total	25,598	15,105	15,270	16,452	15,504
Adelaide Festival Corporation	Base	8,892	8,784	8,806	8,863	8,882
	Variations	183	-	-	-	-
	Total	9,075	8,784	8,806	8,863	8,882
State Theatre Company of South Australia	Base	2,469	2,447	2,447	2,415	2,411
	Variations	-	100	100	-	-
	Total	2,469	2,547	2,547	2,415	2,411
State Opera of South Australia	Base	1,535	1,531	1,529	1,505	1,501
	Variations	-	100	-	-	-
	Total	1,535	1,631	1,529	1,505	1,501
Country Arts South Australia	Base	4,592	4,431	4,424	4,391	4,364
	Variations	-	436	449	3,236	2,430
	Total	4,592	4,867	4,873	7,627	6,794
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	Base	2,582	2,646	2,764	2,829	2,861
	Variations	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	2,582	2,646	2,764	2,829	2,861
Australian Dance Theatre	Base	1,231	1,261	1,306	1,339	1,356
	Variations	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1,231	1,261	1,306	1,339	1,356
Adelaide Fringe	Base	2,333	4,333	4,333	4,477	4,482
	Variations					
	Total	2,333	4,333	4,333	4,477	4,482
Tandanya	Base	770	845	856	867	877
	Variations	-	-	802	920	-

OPERATING GRANTS						
	Total	770	845	1,658	1,787	877

The total operating grants paid in previous years may appear larger for some organisations when compared to the budgeted operating grant amounts in 2025-26. Variations are paid from time to time for various reasons, such as facilities maintenance works at the cultural institutions. The final 2025-26 amounts are likely to be higher by year end, subject to any variations that are paid throughout the year.

Additional funding to organisations, such as through the Arts Investment Fund including the \$2 million funding over two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) to the State Library of South Australia for its words Grow Minds early childhood initiative, or the Art Gallery of South Australia's \$5 million over two years (2024-25 and 2025-26) to support audience experiences, strategic business development and master planning for infrastructure and the visitor experience, are managed under separate funding agreements and are not reflected in the operating grant funding figures.

CREATESA

In reply to **Mr BATTY (Bragg)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The costs of the rebrand for CreateSA are approximately \$64 000 and include the development of the brand and logo, brand guidelines, digital assets, templates, website creative, and Vision Australia testing of website accessibility. The following breakdown itemises these costs:

	Amount
Arts SA Brand Development	\$10,000
Policy Brand Development	\$6,000
CreateSA Brand Guidelines	\$7,000
CreateSA Digital Assets	\$6,500
Create SA Website Design	\$4,730
Trademark for CreateSA Brand	\$7,253
Vision Australia—Digital Access Services – colour palette review	\$1,200
Vision Australia—Digital Access Services – accessibility audit	\$11,450
Website platform and hosting	\$10,300
Total	\$64,433

LIQUOR INDUSTRY

In reply to **Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** (23 June 2025). (Estimates Committee B)

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts): I have been advised:

The actual number of liquor licence applications for 2024-25 was 6,488. The categories of applications are summarised in the table below:

Liquor Licence Application Category	Amount
Responsible person	2,869
Variation	2,127
New application	621
Surrender	472
Transfer	399
Total	6,488

The standard timeframe for determining liquor licence applications is 28 days from the date of advertising. Delays in determining an application can result from interventions lodged by SAPOL in relation to individual person approvals for the prospective licence, as well as the consideration of submissions received from the public or surrounding businesses regarding the impact on the locality.