

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 29 October 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 past and present.

The SPEAKER read prayers.

Bills

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES (ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 10 April 2024.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:32): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion:

Ayes23
Noes.....11
Majority12

AYES

Andrews, S.E.
Champion, N.D.
Cook, N.F.
Hood, L.P.
Koutsantonis, A.
O'Hanlon, C.C.
Picton, C.J.
Thompson, E.L.

Bettison, Z.L.
Clancy, N.P.
Dighton, A.E.
Hughes, E.J.
Mullighan, S.C.
Pearce, R.K.
Savvas, O.M.
Wortley, D.J.

Boyer, B.I.
Close, S.E.
Hildyard, K.A.
Hutchesson, C.L.
Odenwalder, L.K. (teller)
Piccolo, A.
Szakacs, J.K.

NOES

Basham, D.K.B. (teller)
Cowdrey, M.J.
Pederick, A.S.
Telfer, S.J.

Batty, J.A.
Gardner, J.A.W.
Pratt, P.K.
Whetstone, T.J.

Brock, G.G.
Patterson, S.J.R.
Teague, J.B.

PAIRS

Fulbrook, J.P.
Michaels, A.
Brown, M.E.
Malinauskas, P.B.

Tarzia, V.A.
Hurn, A.M.
Pisoni, D.G.
Cregan, D.R.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

The SPEAKER: While everyone is here, I remind you that on sitting days we are not allowed to bring groups of people in here and into the corridors out the back and down the side. In the past few weeks, and again this morning, members have been leading groups through those areas, and that is not permissible on sitting days—so, just a friendly reminder to everyone.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 5 March 2025.)

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (10:40): I move:

That this order of the day be postponed.

The house divided on the motion.

Ayes	24
Noes.....	11
Majority	13

AYES

Andrews, S.E.	Bettison, Z.L.	Boyer, B.I.
Champion, N.D.	Clancy, N.P.	Close, S.E.
Cook, N.F.	Dighton, A.E.	Hildyard, K.A.
Hood, L.P.	Hughes, E.J.	Hutchesson, C.L.
Koutsantonis, 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. (teller)	Brock, G.G.
Cowdrey, M.J.	Gardner, J.A.W.	Patterson, S.J.R.
Pederick, A.S.	Pratt, P.K.	Teague, J.B.
Telfer, S.J.	Whetstone, T.J.	

PAIRS

Fulbrook, J.P.	Tarzia, V.A.
Michaels, A.	Hurn, A.M.
Brown, M.E.	Pisoni, D.G.
Malinauskas, P.B.	Cregan, D.R.

Motion thus carried; order of the day postponed.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before we move to the next one, I would like to welcome guests who are with us this week from the New South Wales Legislative Council and New South Wales Legislative Assembly, staff members from both houses in New South Wales. Great to have you here with us this week. You are not probably seeing our most productive half-hour of the week, when we are dealing with private members' time. You hear a lot of our bells which sound good for about 30 seconds and then after that they kind of wear out their welcome, but have a good time. I hope you have some good learning experiences, and you are in good hands there with our Clerk and Deputy Clerk in the gallery as well.

*Bills***PREVENTIVE HEALTH SA (COUNCIL GOVERNANCE) AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (10:51): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This private member's bill was introduced by the Hon. Sarah Game in the other place and passed last sitting week, proposing to amend the Preventive Health SA Act 2024 in relation to the Preventive Health SA Council, including strengthening transparency and accountability.

In February 2024, the Malinauskas government delivered on our election commitment to establish an independent preventive health agency, Preventive Health SA. Preventive Health SA leads evidence-informed, innovative and integrated action to prevent and reduce the burden of non-communicable health conditions and improve health equity across South Australia and future generations.

In September last year, I was proud to introduce legislation into this parliament to secure the long-term future of Preventive Health SA as an independent health agency. Legislation was passed by the parliament last year. It was the first of its kind in South Australia and has generated interest locally and nationally as a way of recognising and embedding preventive health policy and action as a crucial area of health policy with a permanent place in the health system in South Australia.

Part 3 of the Preventive Health SA Act 2024 establishes the Preventive Health SA Council as a statutory body to provide strategic advice and assist the chief executive in relation to the performance of the chief executive's functions under the legislation. The council will advise the chief executive on matters relating to the objects of the act and functions of the chief executive, as well as on existing and emerging data and research on population health and health equity and opportunities for innovation in preventive health action.

Additionally, the council will advise the chief executive in relation to the development of the strategic plan under the act and on the development and publication of reports designed to raise awareness and promote action in relation to preventive health priorities. When established, the council will consist of the chief executive and at least eight other members appointed by me on the recommendation of the chief executive, of whom at least two must be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons. The level of skills and expertise of council members will add a degree of prestige to the prevention agenda in South Australia, ensuring a renewed interest and focus on this portfolio.

The bill proposes amendments to the membership of the council, with the addition of a member with the knowledge, expertise or experience in clinical translation and implementation. Whilst, under the act, a member with knowledge, expertise or experience in clinical translation and implementation could be recommended and appointed to the council, the bill makes this explicit as an additional requirement. The bill also proposes amendments that aim to strengthen provisions in relation to the declaration of interests for members on the council, both in the recommendation of members and also in the ongoing operation of the council.

Whilst the Public Sector (Honesty and Accountability) Act 1995 (and other government policies and circulars governing government boards and committees) covers these requirements for advisory bodies such as the council, with associated penalties and fines, the bill defines designated interest, direct interest and relevant industries relevant to the act and is explicit in stating that a person who has a designated interest, as defined in the bill, cannot be appointed as a member of the council.

The bill is also explicit about declaration processes and timing. The provisions and intent of the bill will be further strengthened under regulations that will be developed under section 21(3) of the act, which specifies that regulations may provide for a code of conduct to be observed by members of the council. It is anticipated that the code of conduct under regulations will:

- establish standards of conduct, behaviour and professionalism to be observed by council members;

- outline processes to ensure the integrity of, and public confidence in, the council are promoted and maintained;
- ensure that the performance of the functions of the council is not affected by pecuniary or personal interests or associations of members; and
- promote ethical conduct and prevent unethical conduct.

The council will also develop procedures, via a charter, to ensure compliance and audit against the requirements of the code. In line with the bill's intent to strengthen the governance of this agency that is doing this important work across priority areas of prevention, including obesity, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, mental health and suicide prevention, the government supports this bill. I commend the bill to the chamber.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (10:55): I rise very briefly as the lead speaker on this bill. Historically, we want to signal our intention to support this bill. I would note, during this time of private members' business, that it is refreshing to see something concluded in a positive way for a change.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (10:56): I thank the opposition for their support for the legislation, and I thank the Hon. Sarah Game in the other place for putting forward this proposal. The government has obviously worked constructively with her and her team to make sure that this is something which can receive bipartisan or multipartisan support in the parliament.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (10:57): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Motions

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (10:57): I move:

That this house—

- acknowledges the importance of World Teachers' Day on 25 October and the crucial role South Australian teachers play in educating future generations;
- recognises the Malinauskas Labor government has invested record funding to support our teachers, including through the enterprise agreement that delivers higher pay, more support for early-career teachers and gives teachers more time to prepare classes;
- celebrates that the Malinauskas Labor government has delivered on its election commitment to make the Country Incentive Zone Allowance ongoing, including bringing it back for teachers who previously lost it; and
- notes the Malinauskas Labor government will always back our teachers.

World Teachers' Day is one of those moments in the year when we pause not just to say thank you but to truly reflect on what our teachers mean to us, to our families and to our communities, because behind every confident young person, ready to take on the world, there is a teacher or, more often, a whole team of teachers who help them find their voice, discover their talents and believe in themselves. Every one of us in this chamber can probably name a teacher who made that difference in our own lives: the one who stayed back after class to help us when we were struggling, the one who saw potential when we did not see it in ourselves, and the one who sparked a lifelong love of learning, of science, of music and of art.

Here in South Australia, our teachers have faced enormous challenges in recent years, yet they continue to step up with professionalism, dedication and compassion. That is why the Malinauskas Labor government has worked hard to back them with the support that they deserve. Our government has delivered the largest enterprise agreement in South Australian history. It means

higher pay for our teachers, more support for early-career teachers who are just finding their feet and, importantly, more time to prepare the lessons and classes that set up our young people for success, because we know that investing in teachers is investing in students.

We have also kept our word to teachers working in regional and remote areas, making the Country Incentive Zone Allowance ongoing and restoring it for teachers who had unfairly lost it. That allowance might sound like a simple policy line, but for teachers working hundreds of kilometres away from their families, often in communities with housing challenges and higher costs of living, it means a great deal. It helps us to keep great teachers where they are most needed: in our country schools.

But beyond policy and pay, today is about people. It is about celebrating the teachers who make our communities stronger every single day. In my electorate of Davenport, I see their impact firsthand in teachers like Emma Harrison and Melinda James from the School of the Nativity in Aberfoyle Park. Earlier this year, Emma was recognised as a highly accomplished teacher by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership, one of just 40 Catholic Education SA teachers to receive national certification this year. Emma joins Nativity's Assistant Principal Learning and Teaching, Melinda, who holds lead teacher certification, a testament to her years of excellence and leadership in education.

Recognition like this does not come easily. It reflects hundreds of hours of work, mentoring and professional learning, and a genuine love of helping students to grow. Principal Erika Dixon tells me she could not be prouder to have Emma and Melinda on her team, and I think their students are very lucky to have them, too.

But, of course, they are just two examples among thousands across my electorate. I have met extraordinary educators in every school who go above and beyond to make every child feel seen and supported. I have seen teachers give up their weekends to coach school sports days, to run robotics clubs, supervise excursions and camps, or simply make sure that a child has breakfast before class. These quiet, unseen acts of care are what hold our communities together.

While we celebrate World Teachers' Day, we must also recognise the pressures that they face. Teaching has become more complex, balancing diverse needs, administrative demands and the increasing expectations of parents and society. That is why our government will keep working to reduce red tape, strengthen wellbeing support and make teaching a profession that attracts and retains the very best people. The future of South Australia depends on it.

When we talk about building a strong economy, a healthy democracy and a fair society, it all starts in the classroom. It starts with the teacher who helped a child to learn to read, to ask questions, to think critically, to care about others. This week, on World Teachers' Day, I want every teacher in South Australia to hear this loud and clear: we value you, we respect you, we are grateful for you, and as a government and as a parliament, we will always back you. To the teachers who have shaped my community and who continue to shape our future, thank you. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr TELFER (Flinders) (11:02): I rise on this motion and in doing so move to amend the motion by the member for Davenport as follows:

Amend paragraph (a) to delete '25 October' and replace with '31 October 2025';

Delete paragraph (b) and replace with:

- (b) recognises the dedication and professionalism of teachers across South Australia and notes the importance of continued investment and practical support to help them manage increasing workloads and deliver the best outcomes for students;

Delete paragraph (c) and replace with:

- (c) acknowledges the valuable contribution of teachers working in regional and remote communities and the importance of providing fair incentives and ongoing support to attract and retain staff in these areas; and

Delete paragraph (d) and replace with:

- (d) expresses its appreciation for all teachers and school leaders across South Australia for their commitment to students, families and the wider community.

This is an important opportunity for us in this place to take the time to stop and recognise the incredible efforts that are put in by teachers all around our state, but I especially want to highlight the extra challenge, obligation and workload that is faced by teachers in regional and remote South Australia. There is a line in my amended motion that especially expresses the gratitude of this place to those teachers and recognises that it is indeed a different task to teach in regional and remote South Australia.

As I often say, my electorate is a large one. It has 29 different schools all the way from Port Lincoln up to Cowell and all the way west. There is some incredible work done out in some of the Aboriginal communities in my electorate by teachers who are dedicated to the future of the students they are in charge of and help develop. I endeavour to regularly meet with those 29 schools around my electorate. I have a bit of a list in my mind and on my desk in my Port Lincoln office to make sure I try to work my way through to meet with those principals and those teachers who are doing the incredible work across regional South Australia.

It is a challenge when you are dealing with relatively smaller numbers in classrooms compared to some of the city cousins, but that means that the classes themselves are much more diverse. You have young students who are just learning different aspects of the class all the way up to students who have gone through it already and are learning more and more. The range that some of our country teachers have to teach is pretty significant.

I always love to visit the schools in my electorate. The 29 schools are all different, but can I highlight that just because you go to school in a regional area does not mean that your aspirations are limited at all. The work that is done within our regional schools, and particularly in my electorate, is incredible. I consistently see the schools from my electorate at the top of achievement when it comes to some of the measures that are used for academic output and for attendance. I want to talk through a few of the schools that I have recently met with and spoken to that are really punching above their weight when it comes to the output of the students in their schools.

I want to especially highlight the work of the Kimba Area School. I congratulate and thank the team who put so much work into that school: the principal, Tash Rayson, and the teachers at Kimba Area School. They were right up the top in not only the recent measures about attendance at school but also the academic output of the school. They are consistently near the top of the pile when it comes to school output.

When you compare Kimba Area School to specialist schools like Glenunga International High School, to have this school competing so well is really special for my community. It really does highlight the extra effort, the time, the thought and the care that teachers put in to our regional schools. To have Kimba Area School near the top of the results for some of those academic measures is a really special thing, so congratulations to Tash. We see the work that you do and we know the challenge of it.

In the last 18 months, I think it was, I welcomed the education minister on a visit to Kimba Area School and we had a walk around. We saw the challenges that are faced when it comes to infrastructure and the areas that need further investment, but to see the interactions with the kids on the day was a really special thing.

Another school that I am always amazed at the output of is the Karcultaby Area School. Karcultaby is one of the unique schools in my area, because it was one that was made up of the amalgam of several schools, and it is basically its own little community. Karcultaby was strategically placed 30-odd years ago in the middle of a number of different communities. If you are going up the Eyre Highway and you do not know it is there, you could blink and you could miss it. Once again, the Karcultaby school is one of those schools that is always at the top end of the academic output.

For a school that services the townships of Minnipa, Poochera and the surrounds, to have that sort of high-level output is really special. I congratulate the team there: I know the principal, Neil Seaman, has put an incredible amount of work in, as have the principals who have gone before; the teachers who are there; and the SSOs. I always love to visit and drop in on a school like Karcultaby, because it is one of those unique schools. Like I said, it is the only facility in that area. There are no houses nearby. There is nothing else except this school, which is the central part of the community. Whenever I visit, whether it is a school graduation or whether it is a drop-in to meet with the principal,

the teachers and the students, they are always so welcoming and so warm and always provide me with the opportunity to understand the challenges and nuances but also the opportunities of schooling in an area like that.

Another one which is very similar is the Miltaburra Area School. Once again, it is the amalgamation of a number of different schools. It is placed basically in a paddock: a school built in the middle of a paddock in the middle of a bunch of different communities but also in the middle of nowhere. But people come from all over to have their kids go to these schools. That school has such a great community spirit about it. It is always one which is so welcoming and it is built on generations of community input and cooperation. I give a shout-out to the principal, Karen Stokes, and the incredible culture that is built within that school. When you are isolated in regional and remote communities and the school becomes such a central part of community, it is all hands on deck.

I look forward to trying to get to as many of the 29 schools' graduations as I can over the next month or so—the end-of-year school concerts and the recognitions of kids moving on to the next year level. I do not get to all of the 29 schools, sadly, because they all seem to have their end of year in that two-week window.

In the life of the member for Flinders, in the likes of last year, in one day I started off down in the south of the electorate and drove 120 kilometres up to the Cleve Area School to get there for the 9.30 school end of year, then I drove two hundred and something kilometres back down to Port Lincoln for the next school which was at 11.30, and then I drove the 250 kilometres back north again to get to the Wudinna Area School. That night, I drove my 200 kilometres home and covered 800 kilometres in the day going to three different school graduations—then rinse and repeat the next day.

It is special, because as local members of parliament we have that really intimate connection to those teachers and those principals who are doing that amazing work in our community. It is one of the real privileges as local members of parliament to provide support, leadership, guidance and that moral encouragement to principals and teachers who are doing amazing work.

As part of supporting my amended motion, I really want to recognise that on World Teachers' Day we take the time to stop to thank teachers and recognise the incredible workload which is on their shoulders—especially within regional and remote communities—and the tremendous outputs that are borne by the efforts that are put in for that next generation.

Ms CLANCY (Elder) (11:12): I rise today in support of this motion to recognise and celebrate World Teachers' Day and thank my very good friend the member for Davenport for bringing this motion to the house. World Teachers' Day is a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise and celebrate the crucial role that teachers play in our community.

One of my favourite traditions since being elected is to celebrate World Teachers' Day by dropping off delicious cakes from the bakery The Cake Hut in Melrose Park on South Road, just opposite Castle Plaza if anyone needs to know. I feel like Father Christmas: I fill up the boot with cakes and then go and spend the morning delivering them off to schools. It is really lovely getting to connect with school staff and being able to celebrate them and tell them how valued they are.

This week I am hosting Angus, a year 10 student from Unley High School who I recognise is in the gallery, who wrote the following to share his experience with teachers at Westbourne Park Primary School and Unley High School. In Angus's words:

Schooling isn't just a process that children must go through in order for them to enter the workforce and develop into independent adults, it's the period in which students develop their interests, passions, and overall identity.

Teachers are what form the crucial backbone in this stage of both childhood and adulthood development and often don't receive the amount of acknowledgement or even treatment they deserve.

Students don't normally make this realisation until they are well out of school, and their opportunity to say thank you to those teachers who only want the best out of them, has passed.

Throughout my journey in primary and high school, I have had various teachers that I like more than others, but regardless of personal opinions, every single one has made me strive for my best.

It didn't matter whether it was subjects I was interested in, or subjects that I only took because they were compulsory, my teachers always brought the best out of my skills, which is crucial in every single workplace.

This aspect of the education system is often left in the dark, whether teachers don't seek recognition or appreciation.

Instead, what drives their continual effort is their passion and trust in young people, alongside their optimism on a prosperous future for South Australia, Australia and the world.

I am lucky to have [had] this realisation while still in school, and instead of pushing away my teachers, I can seek advice and feedback from them with the knowledge they do what they do to see all students prosper.

Teachers also prove as necessary role models for all children, and don't just develop student knowledge, but student behaviour. During my primary school education in particular, all of my teachers embodied significant values such as respect, integrity, [honesty] and diversity.

In leading by example, these teachers have set the standard for me to develop these values as I look forward to university and beyond. I will be forever grateful for the pivotal role that teachers have played throughout my education, and hope that all students across our state and country will be as well.

So, for this World Teachers' Day, let's open closed doors, and give thanks, recognition and gratitude to all teachers for much of the work that they do for students in the dark.

A big thankyou to Angus for your thoughtful, insightful message on World Teachers' Day. Special shout-out to all my wonderful teachers at Paringa Park Primary School and Brighton Secondary School; my favourite teacher of all, my brother Ryan, who is a teacher at Unley High School; and my second favourite teacher, the member for Black.

In closing, I join Angus in thanking each and every single teacher in South Australia, particularly those at our schools in Elder, for their work in shaping the next generation. I commend the motion.

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (11:16): It is fantastic to have the opportunity to reflect on the amazing work of teachers right across South Australia and to particularly highlight all the amazing teachers in our own local communities. I would like to acknowledge the amendments put forward by the member for Flinders and indicate that that is the motion I am speaking to.

This Friday is World Teachers' Day and it really is a fantastic opportunity to go around to all our schools and say a big personal thankyou to all of our fantastic teachers. Similar to what members in this place do, I make an effort and make it my business to visit as many schools as I can. I am fortunate enough to have 24 schools in the electorate of Schubert, including four high schools and 20 primary schools, so my team and I divide and conquer and head out with Sunrise Bakery goodies. This year we have some honey biscuits that have been made by James and Angie Nagel from Sunrise Bakery in Angaston, and we also give some apples because I feel that an apple is symbolic, if you like, of the work that a teacher does in some ways.

We pack up our cars and we head across the electorate, and it is a nice opportunity, I think, to connect to the principals, teachers, SSOs and everyone involved in educating the next generation to thank them for the work that they do. I went to a few last week—noting of course that this week was parliament—and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to have some general conversations with all the teachers from many schools, including Gumeracha that I can think of off the top of my head, and to hear about all the priorities they have for the year ahead and the graduations they have coming up. I really enjoy speaking to as many teachers and principals as I can.

I think it is important that we recognise World Teachers' Day not only for the dedication that the teachers themselves show but for the work that they do in helping to educate and support the next generation of students in our local communities. Many of them were having big morning teas to come together and celebrate, and I know that they will be reflecting on all the incredible work that they have been doing, their journey of becoming a teacher and all the important lessons that they themselves have learned along the way.

As we are celebrating World Teachers' Day, not only have we been able to see on display the incredible passion that our teachers have but I have been fortunate to have two high school graduations in my community already. The first was at Faith Lutheran College, where we came together to celebrate all the amazing year 12s. When you hear such passion that the teachers have for each individual student, I think it really underscores the personal pride that they have and the responsibility that they themselves have in trying to shape each student as they are learning more

about the things that they enjoy in life and the careers that they want to pursue. It was really wonderful to see that on display at Faith Lutheran College.

As part of their graduation process, I sponsor an award called the Schubert Quiet Achiever Award. At Faith Lutheran College, there were actually two recipients: Thomas Ashmore and Jenna Habermann, so I would like to give them a big shout-out. They are fantastic students in their own right. The teachers who chose them really did speak very highly about the work that they put in. One of the key areas of the Schubert Quiet Achiever Award really is about selecting a student who just goes above and beyond, and really focuses on being the best person that they can be, that they are reliable and they have a really strong sense of service and respect for their peers. So I give a big-shout out to Thomas Ashmore and Jenna Habermann. I am looking forward to seeing the pathways that they take.

Secondly, Nuri High School is my old high school—in Nuriootpa, obviously. I graduated from there in 2008. Every time I go back to that graduation I am hit with a sense of nostalgia. The school has grown more and more. In fact, when I graduated in 2008, we were small enough to have it in the big gymnasium at Nuri, but not so anymore. In fact, there were 222 year 12s who graduated from Nuri High this year. All the students, all the parents, all the carers and all those supporting the year 12 students were jam-packed into the big Tanunda Show Hall—it was absolutely jam-packed.

One reason I particularly love going to the Nuri High graduation is that each of the home group teachers bring out every individual student on stage, and they talk a little bit about the type of person that they are and what they are hoping to achieve into the future. I find it really amazing that the teachers have such personal connections with every student, some of whom they have been teaching all the way since year 7. So that was a really wonderful reflection.

At Nuri High School, I also sponsor the Schubert Quiet Achiever Award, and this year that went to Jaimee Hudson. So I give a big shout-out to Jaimee. Well done on your award. It was really fantastic to be up on stage and formally congratulate you with this award. I also sponsor at Nuri High School the Ashton Hurn Public Speaking Award, and this year it went to the SRC Vice President Makayla Litchfield, and Makayla is an absolute star. I have hosted her here in parliament previously. I host all the school leaders in parliament over the course of the year just to hear a little bit about the things that they are passionate about in our local community, the things that they would like to see in our region and also just to learn a little bit more about what they are going to do with the rest of their lives. Makayla, in particular, was fantastic, so I congratulate her on receiving the public speaking award. Well done to you, Makayla.

Similar to other members, it is a jam-packed run to the end of the year with graduations of primary schools and things like that. I try my best to be in two places at once but I have not quite mastered that yet. I do not think I will be able to get to all 24 graduations. I wish all students, and particularly all teachers, all the best for the remainder of the year. I thank you for all the work you do, the passion that you show and the support that you provide when it comes to educating the next generation. So happy World Teachers' Day to each and every teacher in my local community and thank you for all your work.

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (11:23): I rise to add my voice to the motion on World Teachers' Day, moved by the member for Davenport, and I do so in this place as the member for Torrens and also as a former teacher. I want to acknowledge the incredible and important role of our teachers, and the leadership teams in our schools, in delivering the next generation of South Australians.

I want to place on record my thanks both to the leadership teams who would have started off as teachers (and I think that is definitely the way to go in our schools) and to the teachers across all our schools—our state, Independent and Catholic schools in Torrens, including Hillcrest Primary School; Klemzig Primary School; Hampstead Primary School; Vale Park Primary School; Wandana Primary School; Avenues College, where just this week, with the minister, we opened up their new and refurbished classrooms and study areas; Kildare College; St Paul's College; St Pius X School; St Martin's Catholic Primary School; Pinnacle College; and Heritage College.

We know that teachers do not finish at the end of the day when the bell or the siren goes. They take home with them the work to support their students. Very often a teacher goes home and

they may have one or two students in particular they have concerns about. This is something that they take on, look into and do what they can to find additional support, which is so important.

Our government has done a marvellous job, particularly in relation to addressing autism in our schools and in relation to the training of teachers in autism so that they can actually provide additional information to all of the teachers in that school. I know that my schools in Torrens have been very thankful for that.

Teachers play a significant role in everyone's life here. Most people here could think back and there will be one, two or maybe three teachers that stand out. There were some teachers that stood out and really did make a difference in my education and one of those was a first-year teacher, John Pederick, and Ms Klein, my high school English teacher.

I went to Enfield High School, which amalgamated and became Roma Mitchell Secondary College, which is not in my electorate but it borders it, and many of the students from the seat of Torrens attend that school. Over the next few weeks I will be attending many graduations and, like the member for Schubert, presenting awards to students who have excelled. Very often the awards that are presented are school spirit awards, which recognise the spirit of the school, so they do not necessarily have to be academic or sporting awards.

Just to finish, teachers play such a significant role and for those of us who are parents, we know each day when we drop our child off at school or when they arrive at school that they are in the hands of those teachers and we trust them to deliver the best education possible. I want to thank all of the teachers from my son's schooling years and all of the teachers today who go above and beyond and wish all of them a very happy World Teachers' Day.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11:27): I am so proud to rise to support the motion in its amended form by the member for Flinders, who rightly draws attention, in particular, to the wonderful dedication that is deployed day by day, term by term, year by year by those teachers in our regional areas.

While the hills in Heysen are not quite so far from the centre of town as perhaps parts of Flinders, it is worth my really highlighting that particular aspect because in the hills of Heysen there are more than 20 primary schools, many of which are very small public primary schools. They are two and three-teacher primary schools, very much dependent upon not only the dedication to the work in the classroom but the dedication to leadership in terms of the school, the community and all of the fabric of what goes on from start to finish in any given year.

There could not be a better and more timely stand-out example of exactly that than the recent celebration at Kangarilla of Kangarilla Primary School's 150th anniversary. That was a many days' celebration as it turned out. It provided an opportunity on the Friday of the school week, in the presence of all of the current students—and many of the current parents and carers—to celebrate a whole lot of old scholars who had come back to the school and could share time together and some formal recognition of the support that is provided by the state to public schools being up and running. The executive director from Education was there on the Friday, and it is well that we recognise that our public schools are underpinned by the resources of the state. It was good to have some words of congratulation from the minister, and I recognise that.

But what it really provided an opportunity for was to celebrate a shining example of just what this motion is all about, and that is the dedication of Principal Donna Lean to Kangarilla Primary School, and to the town and to the community. Now, as a teacher and principal at Kangarilla Primary School for many years, Donna has at times ensured that the school's very existence remains viable.

That means doing everything from being present and driving the breakfast club so that the children whose parents need to leave at the crack of dawn in order to get to where they need to go through the day, can drop off students first thing. They are then able to have breakfast at school, get together, start the day and then carry on through, through to the homework club in the afternoon and the late collections and whatever is required. Donna has been heart and soul for Kangarilla and everybody who is even remotely within the orbit of the town, let alone the school, knows that loud and clear. I will be in trouble for having really shone the light on it, but she deserves it.

Now, Kangarilla is a town that—whether it is in war memorials, town achievements or in the list of old scholars in the school—still has all of those core old names in town. And there again, as was clear in the sun on the Saturday and later at the dinner on the Saturday night: the Thorpes, the Smarts, the Prices, I could go on.

On Saturday, alongside Principal Donna Lean, just one of the many contributions that was made by old scholars coming back came from Dr Jamie Smart. Dr Smart, of very modest and humble bearing, a tall man—I had the opportunity to meet him—part of the famous Smart family, is the Deputy Director of Surgical Services at the Albert in Melbourne. He is an accomplished senior anaesthetist and leads research and a surgical team at the highest level in Melbourne. He was not going to set that out chapter and verse but what he did say to the community and to everybody at the school, all assembled that afternoon, was that he mixes in a crowd in Melbourne, many of whom attended from the get-go prestigious schools and went to the most shining of the institutions and all the rest.

When the question turned to, 'How were your school days?', he would tell the story of his having attended Kangarilla Primary School, and they would say, 'Gee, you've come a long way from those humble starting circumstances.' He reflected it was in some ways quite the opposite, because the sorts of values that he had the good fortune to acquire in the course of his time at that small country school, cared for by people who were at the heart and soul of everything that goes on in that region, are things that he has taken through his entire life. He says, 'Well, I have the richness of that starting point that I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have.' So it was wonderful to hear from Jamie Smart among many others on that very happy occasion.

So, at the risk of being in more trouble with Donna Lean, perhaps can I say what she would be quick to say, and that is that of course the success of any one school is not down to an individual alone, let alone the 150-year legacy of a school, but it takes that important leadership. Donna Lean is a shining-light example of what we see so much, far and wide, through the Hills and through the rest of South Australia.

It is well that we are hearing from so many contributors around the chamber today because the vocation that is teaching is so fundamentally important to so much of what we can enjoy and benefit from. It is often unheralded, it is often uncelebrated in a day-to-day way, but take a chance. If this World Teachers' Day presents that chance, make that special effort to say thanks to an outstanding teacher in the service now, to an outstanding teacher who set you on your way and to those who are really underpinning that day-to-day system of education for all our children in this state. I commend the motion in its amended form and I commend the motion otherwise to the chamber.

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (11:35): I rise to support the motion of the member for Davenport and thank her for moving this motion to honour our teachers on World Teachers' Day 2025. The day reminds our society what a profound impact our teachers have.

I want to start by talking briefly about why I became a teacher, and I mentioned this a little bit in my very first speech. I studied a Bachelor of Secondary Education whilst working for a federal senator and then whilst working at the SDA union. It was after a stint working for a government relations and PR company with Cathy King that I decided I needed to go and save my soul. Hence, I thought I had better use my degree and become a teacher.

It was the best decision I ever made because whilst, yes, I certainly did save my soul—many times over, I would argue, in terms of that work—it was the satisfaction I got from seeing the impact every day of being a teacher. There is something incredibly rewarding about being able to teach to support students with their learning and see that outcome.

Often, in this job—a very important role—the decisions we make and the effort we make in here are not often seen for some period of time to come. We do not always see that microlevel change. What we are doing is often about the macro. That is what is very satisfying about being a teacher, seeing that microlevel change, seeing the impact every day. I feel so blessed to have had that opportunity.

I would argue teaching is one of the most important professions in our community. It is the foundation that all other professions are arguably built on—they are—because without teachers we would not have those. Teachers do more than deliver lessons: they inspire, they guide, they support, they help young people with their strengths, and they overcome challenges.

As the newest member of parliament, I often get asked, and I am sure lots of people get asked: are you enjoying it? What do you miss? What is great about this new job? We could go on about lots of things that are good and bad about this particular role. I put on the record that it is a great honour to be standing here as the member for Black, so that is number one. What I do miss about my previous career is being part of a school community, working with a team of dedicated educators, working with families, working with students in that community, in learning communities. It was very rewarding.

As I spoke about in my first speech, I was lucky to be part of the Sacred Heart College community. I want to pay tribute to the hundreds of different educators I worked with in my time at Sacred Heart College. It was a fantastic school community that really supported students to have a sense of belonging and to have excellent wellbeing and academic achievement.

In the last year I have had the great privilege of being in this role and then being able to go to visit school communities within my electorate, and I do want to acknowledge those schools. Apologies to the member for Flinders and the member for Schubert: I only have seven school communities, so I manage to get to all of them, and I am going to every graduation—how about that? That includes Hallett Cove School R-12, Hallett Cove East Primary School, Hallett Cove South Primary School, Seaview Downs Primary School, Seacliff Primary School, Sheidow Park Primary School and Woodend Primary School. Seaview High School is not in my electorate—it is in the member for Davenport's—but a number of my residents within Black are zoned for that.

It has been terrific to go to those schools to see the teaching and learning that is taking place there. They are fantastic examples of really effective teaching and learning that is taking place in schools. In my last year at Sacred Heart we were doing some particular things around literacy and making some really important changes, and I remember thinking, 'Look at this. We are so revolutionary at Sacred Heart, and we've got these new ideas.'

Then I go to Hallett Cove East Primary School, and they have been doing these literacy techniques for five years. So I thought, 'I might tone down how good I think I am with those particular ones.' This demonstrates the great efforts that have been going on in our schools. I have mentioned all the public schools and I want to also mention that I have one Catholic school, Saint Martin de Porres Catholic School, which is another fantastic school community.

I have had an opportunity to visit all the governing councils of my schools and again see the way that the parents of my community really feel so proud of their schools and so proud of the effort that the teachers within those schools put in. I think that is what we need: when everyone is working together we see great outcomes. But ultimately it is the teachers who are in charge of the learning programs within our schools, and the effort they put in to ensure that those learning programs are effective is fantastic.

I think it is important—and the member for Davenport mentioned this briefly—when talking about World Teachers' Day that we acknowledge that teaching has become more complex. Certainly in my time as an educator I saw the complexity change, in a couple of areas in particular, I would say. Certainly the wellbeing of our students and the complexity of the wellbeing needs of our students has placed more responsibility on teachers to assist with that, almost as counsellors in many ways, in that landscape.

I would say that another aspect is probably the curriculum changes that take place. There is important emphasis on supporting better learning, but it certainly creates administrative tasks and, as the member for Davenport mentioned, we are looking at ways that we can remove some of the red tape. So that is a greater focus, and I know this government is trying to look at different ways we can do that.

Given that complexity, it is important to highlight the Malinauskas Labor government's support of teachers through the enterprise agreement, which not only provided a pay rise but, I would

argue, more importantly provided teachers with more time for preparation. That is critical for our teachers, who are often working well after hours to plan their lessons and to do their marking and such things.

We know the strength of our education system lies in the strength of our teachers, and on World Teachers' Day we must do more than thank them: we must support them. Having said that, I will be going, like others, to all of my seven schools, to visit them on Friday with a box of goodies, just so the teachers do feel supported. To every teacher in South Australia: your work matters. You are shaping the future of our state, one student, one lesson, one moment at a time, so let's honour you not just on World Teachers' Day but every day.

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (11:44): I rise to speak extremely briefly on this motion, and in doing so, obviously, I support the spirit of the motion moved by the member for Davenport, and I know it is something she believes in very passionately. I do just want to take issue with the amendments raised by the member for Flinders and, in doing so, I move to amend the amendment moved by the member for Flinders as follows:

Delete the proposed deletions and insertions of words in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d).

And obviously, by implication, accepting the deletions and insertions in paragraph (a) of the amendment—but I am sure at the end of this debate I will commend to the house a very important motion.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (11:45): I rise to speak in support of this motion and thank my good friend the member for Davenport for bringing it to this house and giving all of us an opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work teachers do in our community. As the member for Black said, they really are the foundation of our community.

I acknowledge that we are all in the middle of graduation season at the moment, and what I have found over the years is it actually gives a really good insight into how the schools are run and the feeling in the community at each of the schools. What I have witnessed over and over again is the incredible relationships teachers have built with their students over a long period of time and the absolute pride they see in them on graduation night, when they send them on their way after spending so many years supporting them and educating them.

I would like to acknowledge all of the teachers in the electorate of Gibson, in 11 schools as we are counting today, and thank them so much. I thank the teachers in Gibson for their commitment, for the many, many hours they bring to delivering world-class education to our young people and also the real passion that they show in their relationships with children. We know that if we want young people to succeed, it really is the relationship that matters, and I thank them for giving it their all in developing those relationships.

As I stand here recognising World Teachers' Day, I must acknowledge the teachers in my family. My grandpa Frank Andrews was a teacher at Gulnare; in fact, he taught all of the classes at Gulnare Primary School before moving to the city and teaching at Sturt Street Primary School. After finishing university, my dad, Tony Andrews' first job was teaching at Sacred Heart College, which is in my electorate. That meant that he got to live for a year with my mum in the small cottage on the corner of Brighton Road and Walkers Road in Somerton Park, which is still there today, and they even got married in the chapel at Sacred Heart College.

My dad, after a year at Sacred Heart, ended up at Sturt Teachers College and he spent many years there teaching young people how to become maths teachers, a really crucial role that my dad played that I am super proud of. I will also acknowledge his role at Sturt college as a union delegate and making sure that all of the professionals at Sturt Teachers College were able to fight for and improve their wages and conditions. So it is a real honour for me to stand here and acknowledge not only all of the teachers in our community but particularly my dad and my grandpa.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (11:49): I rise to speak on this amended motion, and a very good amendment that it is, particularly getting the date right. I think the date is really important for World Teachers' Day, just to kick it off. As one of the more experienced MPs in this chamber, I often reflect on what used to be and what is today within our teaching institutions, particularly with the style of education programs that are being implemented.

Back in yesteryear when I attended Paringa Park down at Somerton, it was renowned as one of the great primary schools in South Australia, no more so than by having some of AFL's greats attending in my class, in the year below me and the year above me. Today, they are still recognised as some of the great sporting stars of modern-day sport. There were also athletes. I remember back in the day when we used to play red rover across the oval that it was a breeding ground for runners. It was a breeding ground for those who could get away and not get branded. It was also a hotbed for teaching kids how to run really fast and keep away from the school bullies, as you might say.

I still reflect on some of my teachers way back and some of those memories that those teachers and principals instilled in me. They are still the guidelines that I use today, whether it is in my business or in the way I am a father, a husband, a farmer or a general part of today's society. I will really show my age now, but I remember I was the drummer at school assembly back in those days. I would take turns with my best mate. One day I would be on the—what is the small drum?

The SPEAKER: Snare drum.

Mr WHETSTONE: Yes, that will do.

Mrs Hurn: Bongos.

Mr WHETSTONE: No, not the bongo drum. There was the large chest drum, the big job out in front.

The SPEAKER: The bass drum.

Mr WHETSTONE: The bass drum, that will do. The siren used to go and we used to play the drums, and that was a march to assembly. That might really show my age. I am not quite as old as the member for Light, but pretty close. What it also showed us back in those days was that there was a level of discipline that has dissipated today, but I accept modern techniques. Obviously, having children who have been through the education system at primary, secondary and university, I have had to curb my ways and thinking because of modern-day practices.

Back in those days we would go to school and the first thing we would do is we would have the milk monitors come around and deliver milk to the classrooms. They were the days where it was part of our health program to make sure that every school child had a container of milk to start the day to help with sustenance. Back in those days it was not really reported about children, parents or families having the hardship of not being able to provide a level of breakfast, so that was just a given back in those days to start a day at school.

There were many practices that we used to undertake that makes me reflect. I bet there would not be too many MPs in here who played marbles at school. How many MPs had yo-yo championships come to their school?

Members interjecting:

Mr WHETSTONE: Yes, they are still going. That is great to see, because I remember in grade 6 I was the school yo-yo champion. That was a bit of a claim to fame back then. Moving along out of the aged history, I did move away from Somerton up to Henley and attended Henley High School. It was a rough and tough school. You had to fight your way past the gate when entering school of a morning. It really did teach you how to look after yourself down in the western suburbs. Again, it also gave me a great opportunity to learn the values of what secondary school meant: how to look after yourself, how to protect your friends and your younger siblings, if need be.

One thing that was quite unique for me is that 45 years after leaving school I had a tap on the shoulder as a minister. My tech teacher gave me that tap on the shoulder. Roger Rowe was his name and he was a great teacher. He used to take us fishing on school holidays. We used to do all sorts of after-hours curricular activities that probably do not happen today. Today, he has moved out of the education system: he is a property developer, he is a professional fisherman and he is a farmer. We shared great stories and memories, because he was the teacher who tapped me on the shoulder 50 years earlier to give me my letter to say, 'It's time for you to go and get a job,' which I did and that put me into an apprenticeship at GMH.

But enough of me and enough of yesteryear: it is all about today's education system and how our teachers are great for not only instilling principles and teaching but the takeaway, which is really what I remember about school. It is about certain things that teachers would install into our brains that are still there, indelibly, today. These are the things that really matter to me, and that is why I think it is so important that we have good teaching principles no matter what era we are in and no matter what millennium we are in.

I want to thank every teacher, whether they were my favourite or they were my least favourite through my education period. I got the cane for good reason. I got reprimanded for good reason. But I got—

Members interjecting:

Mr WHETSTONE: Nothing has changed, has it, really? What I must say is that our teachers install a lot of things into us—into our kids, into our students—and I thank them for that every day.

I do want to quickly whizz through and acknowledge the schools in my electorate, because I think it is very important. I do have a reasonably large electorate—not as big as the member for Flinders or the member for Giles, but I do have about 30 schools. At Renmark we have Renmark High School, Renmark Primary School, Renmark North Primary School, Renmark West Primary School, St Joseph's School and St Francis of Assisi College.

At Berri we have the Berri Regional Secondary College, and I thank the minister for working with me and with the school to not only transition away from Glossop but also iron out some of the wrinkles in the road to get it to where it is today. There is the Berri Primary School and the Riverland Special School. It is very, very important that the Riverland Special School is acknowledged for its great work. Those teachers go above and beyond to educate, support and install a level of confidence into those who are less fortunate than the mainstream. Our Lady of the River is also another school in Berri.

In Barmera we have Barmera Primary School. In Glossop we have a primary school as well as St Josephs School in Barmera. At Loxton, Loxton High School is a renowned sporting school but also has excellent academic credentials. It is a travelling school that wins many, many competitions academically and in sport, and that cannot be overstated. There is Loxton Primary School, Loxton Lutheran School, St Albert's Catholic School and Loxton North School. At Waikerie we have Waikerie High School, which has also produced some outstanding sporting greats in South Australia, as well as Waikerie Primary School and Waikerie Lutheran Primary School.

But we also have some schools that are a little bit more isolated. We look at Rivergum Christian College, we look at Kingston-on-Murray Primary School, we look at the Swan Reach Area School, we look at Cambrai Primary School, we look at Blanchetown Primary School, we look at Morgan Primary School, we look at Monash as a community school, and we also look at Ramco Primary School. They are doing an outstanding job as little outreach posts or outreach schools.

A lot of these schools are in soldier-settlement communities and they have stood the test of time. I want to thank the teachers, the support staff and the principals who have been at those schools over a period of time and kept them functioning and up to modern-day practices and made sure that they are a great part of our society.

I do not have much time left, but I just want to acknowledge the after-hours services that those teachers and staff give to our sporting community. I thank all of them for their coaching and their support efforts after hours.

The SPEAKER (11:59): Before I call the Minister for Education, I just want to put on the record, too, my thanks to all the teachers in South Australia, particularly at the 15 schools within the electorate of Mawson. We really appreciate everything that you do. This Friday, I will be down at Yankalilla Area School for their awards day, which I am really looking forward to.

I want to give a special shout-out to the teachers down at Rapid Bay Primary School, one of the smallest schools in the state, not that dissimilar to the school where I started out down at Glencoe West. Rapid Bay is a very small school, led very well by principal Jen McArdle. The students from there came into parliament about six or seven weeks ago and I took them on a tour, and then on that

Friday I went down to the school and they did a quiz all about the Parliament of South Australia. You would reckon someone who has been in here for 20 years, the Speaker of the house, might have done alright—I came second to a very fast eleven year old whose nom de plume on the game we were playing was Bob the Piggy. Bob got 26,541 points to my 25,672. It just showed the retention that these students had.

We take a lot of tours in here, but I have never actually been involved in a follow-up quiz. I got all the answers right, including 'Who is the Premier of South Australia?'—I knew that it was not Leon Bignell, Tex Walker or Donald Duck, so I got that one right—but Bob the Piggy was so quick on the buzzer, I just could not get in front of him. To Jan and to all the teachers at Rapid Bay, and to everyone across all the schools in Mawson, thank you very much. We appreciate everything you do.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (12:01): It is my pleasure to rise and speak in support of the motion from the member for Davenport. Of course, as Minister for Education, I put on the record my thanks to all those members in this place from both sides of the chamber who have already spoken and said some very generous and I think very heartfelt words about the schools in their own electorates and the work that they are doing now but also their own memories from their time at school. I agree with a lot of those sentiments, including those from the member for Chaffey talking about some of the things that, when you get older, you think back on that were instilled in you by teachers. You might not—

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I was being generous there. There were things that at the time you might not have understood the importance or the wisdom of, and as you get older you think back on roles that teachers played in your life and you realise they were so important. I say that as the son of a public high school teacher. My father taught in a public high school for 40 years or more. He was my teacher on three occasions at the public high school I went to, which was an interesting experience.

Again, as I look back on that time, I felt very lucky because he was an excellent teacher. It was a special thing to actually share that time with my own dad in the classroom and really see up close the challenges of his job and also the things that really inspired him to stay in the classroom for 40 years. I have drawn on that a lot in the three and a bit years that I have done this job, thinking back on the observations he has shared with me across his time teaching.

There are a couple of anecdotes I will quickly share before speaking more specifically to what we are doing in South Australia. One of those is recollections of my father, my brother and I travelling in the farm ute from the farm to school and then back again at the end of the day. My brother and I would normally wait around outside the staffroom until dad finished—sometimes I would help him with the footy tipping when it was done the old-fashioned way—and we would stop by Woolworths on the way home to get a few supplies before heading back to the farm.

I used to absolutely dread going into Woolworths with dad, who had gone to the school at which he taught and I was then a student, because by this stage he had taught three generations of the same family, in some cases, in a small country town. You would be wandering through the aisles of Woolworths with him, and everyone he met he either went to school with, taught them, taught their children or taught their grandchild, and you would be stuck there like a shag on a rock as he had these long conversations with people and caught up with them. At the time, you wanted nothing more than to jump back in the ute and go home.

I can remember on a few occasions there would be people who would run across the road to grab dad and bail him up and tell him about what they were doing in their lives now. I remember that on almost all of those occasions, we would hop back in the ute and the first thing dad would say was, 'That was one of the most difficult kids I ever taught.' It was disproportionately those who had had a tough time at school—and dad had spent more time with them; he believed in them or had given them a bit of advice that had led to them getting their life back on track, and they had gone on to do really well for themselves in terms of employment—who were always the ones who later in life—they might have been 30 or 40—wanted to find dad to say, 'Thanks for that. I just want to you let you know I'm doing well now.'

At the time, I dreaded having to listen to those conversations, but I think now how affirming that must have been for dad and for other teachers who would get that as well, because teaching is one of the very few jobs in the world that is a genuine calling. People feel they are called to do the job. They do not do it for money: they do it because they feel that was what they were put on the earth to do. I am sure for people who feel that, when they get that feedback from students they have had in years gone past about the life-changing support they were able to give, which is what they went into the job for in the first place, it must make all the difference. It must get them through those hard times, and I know there are lots of those for our teachers.

The other observation made by my father that I share with our current teaching workforce is his own perception of how the job changed between the time of him starting in 1972 and finishing in about 2012. I know it is a trend that has continued in the 13 or 14 years since he has been out of the teaching workforce. He felt that he spent a lot less time teaching by the end of his career, which was of course what he was passionate about doing. He stayed in the classroom and spent much more time managing the behaviour of students and also managing the behaviour of parents.

He always said that when people asked him, 'Ivan, what changed in your time of teaching?', he would say, 'Well, when I called a parent in 1972 to say Johnny is not behaving himself, they would say, "I'm sorry, we will work on that and he won't do it again."' When he made the same phone call in 2012, he would normally get an earful of abuse from someone who would say that Mr Boyer was the problem and 'you are victimising my kid'. I hear this from our teachers all the time.

I know that when someone feels like they have been called to a profession to do something—to change lives, to work with kids, to stay in the classroom—if there are things that are getting in the way of you doing that, you are not going to stay in the job. You are going to go and lend your services and your skills and your passion to another career where you feel you can better do the things that originally called you to teaching.

So on World Teachers' Day—this motion is about World Teachers' Day—I want to just acknowledge all the teachers in South Australia, who work under what I think are more complex circumstances than we have seen before in the classroom and probably in terms of out of the classroom, too. There have been a whole heap of societal changes that have occurred in the last 10, 20 or 30 years that have made the job harder, and we value incredibly what you do.

My message to them always at events, where we might be welcoming graduate teachers or new staff, is that if you are indeed one of those people who feel like you are called to be a teacher because you want to change young people's lives and support them, I can tell you that given the kind of challenges that society faces now, and those additional challenges that have been brought to bear by societal change, technological change and the state of young people's mental health, then more than ever before, absolutely, teaching is the place where you are needed.

Those young people might not be getting that support in their home life or outside of school. In many cases, the only place they are going to get that support and the help they desperately need is from the teacher and from their school. My message is: although I know the job is tough, it is life-changing work almost more than it has ever been because of the things we see young people present to school with. They need that committed, dedicated teacher who is willing to go above and beyond for that individual. Hopefully, when they bump into them in the street 10 or 20 years later, they will get the same kind of feedback that my dad got. They will say, 'Those things you did for me changed my life.'

I just want to touch upon some of the things that we have focused on as a government, which are all in the spirit of the kinds of changes I just mentioned that I think we have seen in the workforce not just in South Australia but absolutely globally. I had the pleasure of representing Jason Clare earlier this year at an international education conference. I was taken aback by the fact that all the things raised by ministers from France, Germany, Finland and Canada were exactly the same things that we are grappling with here in Australia. It really is a global shift in terms of what educators are dealing with.

The things that we have done are around trying to address workload where we can, which is hard, and then the enterprise bargaining agreement, which was hard fought. We had strong pay rises in there of 4, 3, 3 and 3 per cent, but we also sought to try to give an extra hour of

non-instructional time, which comes at a great cost to the budget, but we did that in recognition of the fact that we know workload has increased and we are trying to find ways to reduce that for our workforce.

We made a commitment around permanency. I can say that in 2022 we converted 200 staff to permanency and in the last two years we have converted more than 650 staff to permanency, getting them off contracts. I think it is a really important time for us to be doing that. We need to keep young teachers. They need job security, particularly at a time when it is hard to save a deposit to buy a house and pay down a mortgage. Having that job security is important for them and important in terms of making a decision to stay at our schools.

There are a lot of different things that we have sought to do, including trying to address those changes in the classroom, in the first place to introduce autism inclusion teachers, which I think has been a big success in primary schools. We are running a trial in secondary schools as well. We have also added that layer of extra permanency to our preschool staff, which is not something the department has really done in the past. We are acknowledging the important role that preschool plays by also making sure that we increase those permanency levels in preschool as well.

I want to commend the member for Davenport for this motion and thank all those who have spoken so genuinely and authentically about the importance of schools in their electorate. I commend the motion to the house.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (12:11): I also rise to support this important motion and acknowledge all the teachers in the vast electorate of Giles and the hard and conscientious work that they do. When it comes to schools in my electorate, they range from the big to the very small. There is Whyalla Secondary College, which has well over 1,000 students. There is a reasonable-sized high school in Port Augusta, the one public high school in Port Augusta, and, of course, Roxby Downs has a reasonable-sized school as well.

Then you have the very remote areas, the APY lands with an area the size of England with small communities scattered over the vast distances connected by dirt roads. The teachers who work in those very remote areas often face some serious challenges. They do an amazing job and it is a real commitment.

Indeed, throughout the school system, both the public education system and the private system—I do not have all that many private schools in my electorate; it is primarily the Catholic system, one or two private schools—all the teachers I come across do an amazing job and they are dedicated to their students.

We all have opinions about our education because we all were exposed at one time to the good, the bad and the indifferent when we went to school. One of my real memories is back in England before coming out here. We went to a Catholic school, but they were lay schools in England. My memory is of a whole bunch of kids out on the lawn on a warm, sunny day, which is unusual in the north of England. We were on the grass and apparently we were not allowed to be on the grass. So people had to admit if they were on the grass. A whole bunch of kids did—I had the good sense not to—and then, at an assembly, all the kids who admitted to being on the grass (about 60 kids) were flogged. They were all caned, and the headmaster went through a number of canes in those beatings.

That has always stuck in my mind, and it has especially stuck in my mind because after we moved to Australia we used to get the papers for a while and we saw that that headmaster was done for embezzling the dinner money at the school. And there he was, flogging all these kids for being on the grass. That was one of the memories that stuck in my mind.

When we came out to Australia, I had the good fortune, if you want to put it that way, to be exposed to the tender mercies of the Christian Brothers. The Christian Brothers in the school that I went to had a real propensity also to flog people. They had a very specialised instrument that they used to use. It was layers of leather stitched together that they would give you a good whacking with.

They had a propensity to use corporal punishment, and I had a propensity to resist, so eventually I led a rebellion in the school. I led a protest against the use of corporal punishment—I was ahead of my time—and as a result of leading that protest and refusing to apologise, I was

expelled, which then led me to the public education system in Whyalla at Eyre High. I would have to say that Eyre High was good and there was one teacher in particular who stood out. His name was Peter Francis. I think he ended up being a principal down Victor Harbor way, but he was my history teacher plus English teacher.

He took me aside just before a public exam to give me a big lecture to pull my finger out, and I did. That made, years later, a difference to my life because I also managed to get expelled from that school, but I like to say they invited me back to do the graduation speech. They invited me back to do the graduation speech and I could open that speech with, 'I've been expelled from two schools, one for being a rebel and from Eyre High for being a ratbag,' and I was a ratbag.

Anyway, I went and did 10 years of labouring. But the thing about it is that in that first public exam I sat for, and in those days it was two, that first leaving exam that I sat for, because of Peter Francis pulling me aside and giving me that lecture, I did incredibly well. Ten years later, after doing this labouring work and the rest of it, I thought, 'No, I've got the capacity to do something else,' and so I went to uni.

Now it was that teacher doing what he did, at that time, that made a difference to my life. I would have to add, of course, so did my dad with his massive propensity as a working-class man to read heavy-duty literature and be across everything that was going on in the world through non-fiction. It was that combination of the school and the family background in a home with lots of books in it, which was unusual. No-one else around us in that area where I grew up had that. You would go into their houses and there were no books there, there were no current affairs magazines. My dad was a little bit different in that sense. So school can make a massive difference to a person's life. Even though I got expelled from two schools and, like I said, Peter Francis took me aside, you do acquire so much that helps to equip you for the world.

It is good that these days—and some people are critical of the lack of corporal punishment, and you see especially baby boomers on social media, 'Dah, dah, dah, dah, bring it back,' and all the evidence indicates it is not a good thing, not a good thing for kids. Some kids do okay, but it is definitely not a good thing and I wish those baby boomers who go on about reintroducing corporal punishment would just shut up.

When I look at the challenges in my electorate, obviously with some schools it is that remoteness. The challenges of when teachers need professional development in country schools mean often going down to Adelaide, and they have to be backfilled which is often very challenging. It is very difficult to backfill positions when teachers go to Adelaide to do that work. You can imagine the distance from the APY lands to Adelaide but even from other communities in my electorate. Our schools often get the new graduates in greater proportion than in the city schools. It is good to have new blood but it is also good to have continuity.

One of the important things about this motion is recognising what used to happen. There was the country allowance for about a five-year period and then it would come to an end. I remember having this discussion with the principal at the Roxy Downs school. What often happened when that allowance came to an end was a whole bunch of teachers wanting to move out. This was constant in country schools—not all country schools, but a fair number of them—so extending that country allowance is an important initiative that has helped a number of schools and especially the more remote schools.

I want to acknowledge what was done in Whyalla with the new high school. In the one year, there were students from 10 different schools starting full bore, the whole lot. It should have been staggered, but it was not. All those year seven kids from seven primary schools, from the two junior high schools and the senior high schools, and it came during COVID. It was a nightmare and the difficulties and the challenges were profound. We have come through that and it has settled down, but I want to acknowledge the teachers at that school and, indeed, the teachers throughout my electorate who do an amazing job.

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (12:21): I rise to support the motion. In particular, I would like to focus on paragraph (a) of the motion: 'the crucial role South Australian teachers play in educating future generations'. I think that is probably one of the things a lot of speakers have already mentioned, how teachers actually influence the futures of their students, the children in their care.

Irrespective of whether the children are in the public system or the non-government sector, my comments apply to teachers in both those sectors.

As the minister has already outlined, teachers these days face increasing challenges in trying to be the best they can. Some of those challenges are from societal demands, where parents expect teachers to not only teach but also be de facto parents for their children and teach them a whole range of skills, which should be taught in the home. Therefore, often teachers are required to teach their students basic social skills in addition to the curriculum content.

Teachers are now also required to deal with an increasing number of behavioural issues in schools. I see it when I take school groups for tours of parliament. After an hour of being with some groups I think, 'Oh my God, how do the teachers do this all day, every day?' I have enormous sympathy and empathy for the teachers. Sometimes I think teachers would feel disempowered by the whole system too, in their capacity and their ability to actually do the best they can and do more. They are things I know the current minister has been very active in trying to address through a range of policy changes but also in terms of funding, enterprise agreements, etc. I commend him for that.

In terms of students who are neurodivergent, teachers are professionally trained but their students have increasing demands and also there are special classes that we have at schools. I am certainly not suggesting we should separate children—we should not—but it does pose additional demands on our teachers.

I would particularly like to mention the special education unit at Gawler & District College who do an outstanding job with those children in that area. I am sure others do as well but this is the one I am most familiar with. I have seen children when they are in years 7 or 8 but when they are in year 12 they are different human beings in the sense that they have learnt so much. That is because of the work these teachers have done with those students.

As the minister said, teaching is not only a profession, it is a calling, and those people who do become teachers obviously see that calling. When you talk to teachers about what motivated them they will often talk about a teacher who influenced them when they were students and who inspired them to become teachers. That speaks to the important role of teachers and the influence they have on their students, which is the important element of paragraph (a) of this motion, which I fully support.

In addition to the societal demands placed on teachers, I think we often see that teachers are not fairly represented in the media. I have never done teaching, and I am not sure that I am keen to do it—spend a day or two in a classroom with a number of kids of varying abilities and varying demands and with behavioural issues, etc. But we expect teachers to do all that and more. It is not only between 9.00 and 3.00 or 3.30 but also after hours in a whole range of other activities.

This is not a criticism of government, as we do the best we can to fund schools, but often schools do have limited resources and have to then make judgements about how they spend those resources. Particularly in some of the country schools and smaller schools it does get a bit more difficult. As the member for Giles talked about, it is particularly to get opportunities to access professional development, etc., on an ongoing basis. It is tougher for those schools to get a relief teacher or to access the resources for that to happen.

There are huge benefits in working in country schools, but there are also challenges. Small communities are very strong, but also the worst bit about them can be that they are small communities. A teacher can actually face challenges in small communities that they do not face in metropolitan Adelaide. So the demands are greater, and teachers are much more accountable in country towns. Teachers are much more accountable, hugely more accountable, and exposed in country towns; we have to acknowledge that. But also, if they have really good relationships, a country town is a great place to teach.

I am sure everybody in this chamber today can think of a teacher who has inspired them in some way or who has had a really positive influence on their lives—and also perhaps there were some who had less of an influence. I can remember my own teachers when I started primary school in 1964. I had newly arrived from Italy with not a word of English, and so I think of my poor teacher; I am not sure how she coped. I still remember her fondly: Miss Boucher. She obviously got me across

the line, because I did eventually pick up some words and learnt. Then, for my sins, I had to become a translator for my parents when we went to places—so I interpreted for my parents as a result. Languages were an issue for me, but I do not have a recollection of not speaking English at school, so I must have learnt pretty quickly.

In the northern areas of metro Adelaide, in parts of my electorate and also the member for Elizabeth's electorate, there is an increasing number of students from multicultural backgrounds, and that does pose a challenge. It is not necessarily a language issue, because often these students have come from countries where English is a second language or the first language, but a cultural issue. There is a whole range of cultural changes and things which teachers need to be aware of, such as how students dress and how they relate to students. So there are increasing demands.

While I think multiculturalism is a good thing, it does pose challenges for teachers in those classes. Some of the classes in those areas have up to 30 per cent of students who themselves or whose parents have come from overseas. That does provide opportunities for growth but also challenges for them.

It is interesting how times have changed for teachers. Going back to 11 November 1975, I can remember quite vividly where I was and what I was doing when the teacher announced to our classroom that Gough Whitlam had been sacked by the Governor-General. I can remember that time, that date and that event as if it were yesterday, and in a few weeks' time it will be 50 years ago. It was a reasonably conservative school I went to, and teachers were not often able to actually express their views.

For many years I had this misapprehension that my teacher was happy that Gough Whitlam was sacked, so I disliked him for many years. I then found out otherwise from another teacher at Gawler high, who was a student when I was a student, and who was now his principal at another school. I will mention the teacher's name and I will explain why. She said, 'No, John Fielding was a strong Labor man, a strong union person, etc.' I had him all wrong, but he was unable to say it: he just announced it. When he retired, I went to a school event and apologised to him and gave a book on Whitlam as a gift.

It is interesting now how the dynamics of schooling have changed, but teaching has always been important. I think it is very important—and this motion does this—that we acknowledge and honour teachers' professionalism and also their resilience and determination to do the best they can for their pupils. On this year's World Teachers' Day, I say thank you and I hope you have a great day.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:30): Thank you to all of those who have contributed to the debate today, and there were many, including the members for Flinders, Elder, Schubert, Torrens, Heyesen, Black, Elizabeth, Gibson, Chaffey, Mawson, the Minister for Education and the members for Giles and Light. We also had a special contribution from a student from the member for Elder's electorate, young Angus from Unley High School: thank you for your contribution to this debate also.

I certainly do not envy the country members' drive times between visiting schools. That is a real commitment there and having so many schools in your electorates also. But it has been fantastic to hear about the great outcomes that all of the members who have contributed have seen from their schools and their teachers and their students in their electorates.

Obviously, everybody agrees that teachers have a huge influence on our students but ultimately then a huge influence on the future of our state also. It is a really important day for us to celebrate this Friday. It is great to hear that so many members will be getting out in their communities and thanking their teachers for the good work they do, and I think many local bakeries will be benefiting from that also. Teachers in the electorate of Davenport will be receiving South Australian Kytos Bakery lamingtons, as they do each year. Thank you so much to all those who contributed. I commend the original motion that was amended and then amended again.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question before the Chair is that the amendment to the amendment, moved by the member for Elizabeth, be agreed to. So what we will vote on first is the member for Elizabeth's amendment, which seeks to amend the amendment moved by the member for Flinders.

Amendment carried.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move to the question before the Chair that the amendment put by the member for Flinders, as amended by the member for Elizabeth, be agreed to.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

ADELAIDE HILLS DEMENTIA CARERS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:33): I move:

That this house—

- (a) acknowledges the vital role of the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group in providing peer-led support, guidance, and social connection for current and former carers of people living with dementia across the Adelaide Hills region;
- (b) recognises the importance of lived experience in helping carers navigate the emotional and practical challenges of dementia care, and the value of regular gatherings that reduce isolation and foster community resilience;
- (c) commends the group's inclusive approach, welcoming new members and offering flexible meeting options across various Hills locations, including coffee mornings and meal-based gatherings; and
- (d) encourages ongoing community and local government support for grassroots initiatives like this, which strengthen the wellbeing of carers and contribute meaningfully to dementia-friendly communities.

The characteristics that are the subject of the motion are all central to the excellent work of the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group. As is appropriate when recognising the leading work of a group, that comes with important leadership, and Vern Marshall should be recognised for his important leadership in that group. Among other things, the group has come along to be present at ageing well forums that I have hosted in Heysen, which are always well attended, covering a whole range of practical and useful subject matter over the years.

What has been quite telling and moving is that the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group has been at the centre of increasing interest from those who are otherwise quietly coming along to attend a wideranging forum. I think what is still underappreciated is that, in a world in which we have evermore sophisticated formal and clinical means of addressing chronic clinical matters, which is tremendous, and medical science continues to advance, in this area we so often need to reflect on the personal, the private, the informal and unheralded loving and caring support that is provided by those closest to those who find themselves suffering with dementia, and that is exactly what this group sets out to do.

The Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group is an exemplar of so many group efforts in this regard. I want to make very clear that this work that is provided by carers is not always and perhaps rarely something that finds its way into the public spotlight, so finding ways to provide support can be more complex than it might appear, just looking out to find those who are in need.

To provide an indication of how the group goes about its work, as well as all the ordinary ways, it is working towards making more relatable the challenges that dementia sufferers and those who care for them are going through. They make sure to provide a social and supportive opportunity to meet in a whole variety of different places, to tell stories, to share a laugh and to provide the opportunity for people to be in company with others who are going through similar circumstances. Carers can bring along those they are caring for. They meet regularly. They have opportunities for people to drop in, as well as organised opportunities for meals and sharing of food and drink in that way.

There is a group that meets at Strathalbyn and there is a group that meets at the community centre at Mount Barker as well. That perhaps gives an indication of how far and wide throughout the Hills this support group is having an impact. In the course of doing this, there is a real learning and appreciation of the developments on the clinical side and also the practical and complex challenges that are being faced by those who find themselves with someone important in their life suffering with dementia.

By meeting and providing support in this way, the group's intent is to reduce what is otherwise perhaps a natural tendency towards isolation and going it alone in terms of the challenges that are being felt. While the group is certainly one of many such informal endeavours, it might provide a means by which the house can appreciate what is necessarily going along, in an allied way, with the formal and clinical investments and work that are being made on the health side.

Having mentioned the meeting point at Strathalbyn, it is important to highlight that one of those formal measures of public investment in the health side that serves as an exemplar—and one that both I and the member for Hammond are extremely proud of—is the investment of the Marshall Liberal government, under the leadership of minister the Hon. Stephen Wade MLC as Minister for Health, and the commitment to the expansion of the aged-care facility at Strathalbyn. This was a generational extension/expansion investment in health and wellbeing at Strathalbyn.

The memory support unit that is part of that expanded facility is world-leading. It is deliberately recognising that chronic suffering of dementia and dealing with the means by which to best address the day to day, maximise wellbeing, and ensure that all can be done to assist and support people in the clinical environment are front and centre in terms of aged care. It is demonstrated there by the aged-care facility at Strathalbyn. There were significant improvements that took place in 2021 and, of course, there was the expansion—an additional 24 beds—that was completed right at the beginning of 2022. In a motion that is recognising the informal support that the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group provides, it is important to reflect on that necessary and important investment that takes place in terms of state support.

It is perhaps a moment as well, talking about the aged-care facility at Strath, to mention one of the more famous residents, a dear friend to many in this place, the stalwart of Strathalbyn, the living legend of South Australia and indeed the nation: the celebrated artist David Dridan. Every day he is just full of joy and colour and life. It is with a real sense of humility and pride for me to these days not be dropping in to see him at his home of decades just down the road but at his home now at the aged-care facility at Strath. That is something that I am sure, as he is proud of Steven Marshall's achievements in government, Steven Marshall and Minister Wade, along with me and many, are proud to see that this is a facility that has found its way supporting David in the way that it does.

In bringing the house's attention to the work of just one group that works throughout the Adelaide Hills to support those living with dementia and, alongside that, to remind us of the need to invest on the clinical and aged-care support side, the motion is really highlighting what hopefully can be a model that is useful broadly throughout the state. We know that dementia is a condition that is going to be well and truly at the forefront of our response to health needs over the time ahead, so I congratulate the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group on that important work and certainly encourage others to look out for using it as a model for what might be further extended throughout our community. I commend the motion.

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (12:46): I move to amend the motion as follows:

After paragraph (d) insert new paragraphs (e) and (f):

- (e) notes that the Malinauskas government has introduced the Carers Recognition (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025, aimed at modernising and expanding the scope of the recognition framework to ensure it is more inclusive and accountable; and
- (f) recognises the South Australian government's ongoing commitment to supporting grassroots and community groups through grant rounds, enabling them to continue their valuable and impactful work across the state.

The government supports recognition of the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group for the vital role it plays in our community. Carers are the quiet backbone of our society, providing essential support to loved ones, friends and community members, often at great personal cost and without the recognition they deserve. It is essential that carers have opportunities to connect with others who understand their experiences, offer meaningful social connection and share knowledge and insights across the spectrum of caring.

The government recognises that the act of caring can have significant impacts on a person's health and wellbeing, employment, financial security and social connection. That is why we have

introduced the Carers Recognition (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025, a reform designed to modernise and strengthen the existing act. This legislation improves carers' ability to self-identify and ensures that they are better supported, acknowledged and empowered in their roles. We also recognise the critical role grassroots community groups play in responding to local and place-based needs. These groups are often the first to offer support, connection and practical help. To ensure their sustainability, the government offers a range of grant programs designed to support initiatives just like this.

I commend the member for Heysen for bringing forward this motion and for the recognition of the Adelaide Hills Dementia Carers Social Support Group. It is through efforts like these that we continue to build a more inclusive, supportive and resilient South Australia.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12:48): I rise, therefore, to close the debate. I welcome the government's support for the motion. While paragraphs (e) and (f) as just set out by the member for Davenport are news to me—and I have endeavoured to note them as I have heard them, as it were—I did not hear anything that I would have any particular difficulty with. It might have been helpful to have some notice of that, but I otherwise appreciate the member for Davenport's contribution to the debate and support for the contents of the motion. I thank the house for the opportunity for that to be heard and I commend the motion.

Amendment carried; motion as amended carried.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (12:49): I move:

That this house—

- (a) notes 1 October 2025 is International Day of Older Persons and is an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution to our community of the thousands of South Australians aged over 65;
- (b) notes that these South Australians continue to contribute to our community through millions of hours of volunteer service and as grandparents and carers;
- (c) acknowledges the increase in the number of older South Australians and that the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is projected to more than double, rising from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050;
- (d) celebrates that the Malinauskas Labor government has expanded free public transport and other benefits to thank our seniors and assist with their cost of living;
- (e) notes that older women are one of the fastest growing populations experiencing homelessness in Australia and the state government is addressing housing insecurity; and
- (f) affirms that no older person should ever be subjected to abuse, deception or scams, and encourages all South Australians to respect our seniors, especially our veterans.

On 1 October 2025, we celebrated the International Day of Older Persons—an important opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions that older South Australians make to our community. Across our state, thousands of people aged 65 and over enrich our lives every single day. They are our volunteers, our mentors, our grandparents, our carers and our community leaders.

Together, older South Australians contribute millions of hours of volunteer service each year supporting charities, community groups, sporting clubs and local initiatives. Their experience, dedication and generosity are part of the very fabric that holds our communities together. As we celebrate, we also recognise that our population is ageing. Here in South Australia, the number of people aged 65 and over continues to rise, reflecting a global trend. This demographic shift presents both challenges and opportunities, and it calls for thoughtful policies that support ageing well. That is why the Malinauskas Labor government is proud to be taking meaningful action.

We have expanded free public transport for seniors, making it easier for older South Australians to stay connected, independent and active in their communities. We have also introduced and strengthened cost-of-living supports, recognising the real pressures faced by retirees and pensioners.

We also acknowledge that older women are one of the fastest growing groups experiencing homelessness in Australia. This is unacceptable, and our government is taking decisive action to

address housing insecurity through investment in social housing, targeted support services and partnerships with community organisations, to ensure that every older South Australian has a safe place to call home.

Importantly, we must continue to affirm that no older person should ever be subject to abuse, deception or scams. Elder abuse in any form is a violation of trust and dignity. As a community, we have a responsibility to protect our seniors, to remain vigilant against exploitation and to ensure that respect and care are at the heart of how we treat every older person, especially our veterans who have given so much in service to our country.

On International Day of Older Persons, let us celebrate the strength, wisdom and generosity of older South Australians, and commit to policies that promote dignity, security and inclusion, and may we all show our respect and gratitude to the older people who continue to shape our state for the better. I commend this motion to the house.

Ms PRATT (Frome) (12:54): I wish to speak on the motion on behalf of the opposition, where today the house notes that 1 October 2025 is International Day of Older Persons, and it is an opportunity to acknowledge the contribution to our community of the thousands of South Australians aged over 65. We will also note that these South Australians continue to contribute to our community through millions of hours of volunteer service and as grandparents and carers.

We will also acknowledge the increase in the number of older South Australians and that the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is projected to more than double, rising from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050. We know, when we reflect just on statistics that come from the Retirement Living Council, that in fact what Australia is facing is a silver tsunami. We should embrace that because there is so much wisdom and expertise and maturity that comes with those in our population whom we recognise as seniors.

I think it is certainly very important that as we reflect on those people—and there are many of us in that category, or approaching that demographic—we know that a friendly phrase to capture some people still in that category is the 'sandwich generation', where you may still be raising children at home but you have an eye on your elderly parents and you may have responsibilities there for them.

We note in the motion that has been brought by the member for Gibson that volunteering is a very big component for a population that has in many ways earned its stripes, served their term, if you like, and yet are the bulk of the population who continue to put their hand up or stay in their role as volunteers because there is no-one obviously coming behind them.

I think country MPs are no different from our city counterparts and that is we, as local MPs, are connected closely and embedded in our community, connected to those progress associations, charity groups and volunteer committees where we see time and time again it is the same people. It is the same people who have taken on the role of president or chair, presiding member, secretary/treasurer and formed those executive bodies.

I am really pleased that in speaking to this motion I can take an opportunity to reflect on a state and a national body that really does the heavy lifting when it comes to advocacy for our ageing, elderly population, and that is the Council on the Ageing. I want to offer a special shout-out to President Anne Edwards AO of the Council on the Ageing, and especially Miranda Starkey, the CEO, whom I have had the pleasure to interact with on many occasions.

I see the work that she does in advocating for a generation of people who do not always have a voice. They may be rural and remote, they may be part of the LGBTQI community, they may be First Nations, or they may be in a position of vulnerability and really not be able to advocate for themselves, and COTA, as it is affectionately known, certainly goes above and beyond. I see the role that they play in the regions that I represent and how it is connected to older persons ageing well in place and living well.

As we come to the end of our session this afternoon on this topic, I want to also reflect on a service that I am seeing offered in my electorate of Frome—soon to be called Ngadjuri—and that is residential aged-care homes. I reference, in particular, Walara and the reform that has come in offering accommodation because of the work that they have done under Malcolm May and Robert

Veitch. We are particularly lucky to see Hamley Bridge, Balaklava, Riverton, and possibly more communities, benefiting from this service.

I note also in Freeing the Wheatfields residential care services under the guidance of CEO Pam Charnock. We need to see more of these services and facilities available in regional South Australia so that those people, as we want them to, age well in place and do not have to be dislocated from where they have always lived to find that suitable care. I thank the member for bringing this motion and I support it.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (13:00): I would simply like to thank the member for Frome for her contribution, particularly acknowledging the breadth of commitment that older people show in our community. I commend the motion.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 13:00 to 14:00.

Parliamentary Procedure

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

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

Remuneration Tribunal—

2025 Review of Remuneration for Official Visitors of Correctional Institutions
Determination No. 7 of 2025

2025 Review of Remuneration for Official Visitors of Correctional Institutions
Report No. 7 of 2025

Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance International Association for
Court Administration Conference—Chief Justice Kourakis
Determination No. 6 of 2025

Overseas Accommodation and Daily Allowance International Association for
Court Administration Conference—Chief Justice Kourakis
Report No. 6 of 2025

By the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Hon. L.P. Hood)—

South Australian—Victoria Border Groundwaters Agreement Review Committee—
Annual Report 2024-25

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Welcome to parliament today students from Adelaide High School who are guests of the member for Adelaide. Our Treasurer is a former old scholar, one of the best products ever to come out of Adelaide High. You will see today someone who is very well-behaved in class. We also have St Michael's students in the house. Good to see the St Mick's kids who are guests of the member for Colton. The trade minister and I are former students of St Michael's, so always good to have you in.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Alright, we are going to go through this again. I went to seven schools, got kicked out of six of them, didn't finish year 12. If you don't behave yourselves you end up in here. Those Pennington Primary kids will be in tomorrow, I suppose. We will say g'day to them. I was there for three weeks. The list goes on and on.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:03): I bring up the 72nd report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the 73rd report of the committee, entitled Subordinate Legislation.

Report received and read.

SELECT COMMITTEE INTO STILLBIRTH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ms SAVVAS (Newland) (14:06): I bring up the report of the committee, together with the minutes of proceedings and evidence.

Report received.

Question Time

POWER PRICES

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:07): My question is to the Premier. How much have power prices in South Australia risen during the term of this state government?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:07): The Leader of the Opposition knows that the gas crisis that was initially caused by the invasion by Russia into Ukraine had a dramatic impact on power prices. There were vast interventions by the commonwealth and state governments. The former Treasurer and the commonwealth Treasurer underwrote vast amounts of money to help offset these dramatic increases.

Anyone who stands up in this place, or in any other parliament of Australia, and says that they simply can have an impact on gas prices, which set the price of electricity in this state, is lying to the public. When politicians lie to the public and tell them, 'The reason your power prices have gone up is because of X, Y and Z,' but not the actual cause, should be held with contempt.

The people of South Australia are sick and tired of politicians getting up and telling people, 'We can lower your power prices,' while simultaneously banning gas development, while simultaneously stopping gas extraction out of our second largest basin and then saying, 'The shortage of gas is not our problem.'

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And the interjections from members opposite are symbols of their guilt. If anyone wants to know who the guilty party is, look no further than to members opposite—the guilty party. When we had 200 megawatts of generation, who sold it? Members opposite. When we had transmission and distribution lines, who sold them? Members opposite. When we had generation in this state, who sold it? Members opposite. And when they put us at the mercy of market forces, who do they want to blame? Everyone else but themselves—everyone else but themselves.

Members opposite who yell out interjections—just yell out numbers and dates and years in an incoherent rant—show you exactly how disconnected they are from reality. Let's have a look at the confusion of members opposite—and this will be instructive.

Mr TEAGUE: Point of order: standing order 98(a). The question was very straightforward.

The SPEAKER: Yes, I was going to say, what took you?

Mr TEAGUE: Well—

The SPEAKER: Yes, I know. I think it's a fair point of order. Maybe if the Minister for Energy might address the question.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you very much, sir. ESCOSA do retail price comparisons, and they do one annually. They compare financial year to financial year. What the previous government used to do was commission reports, changing the dates to try to maximise what they thought could be a better outcome for them, rather than doing financial year to financial

year. Members opposite are looking blank because they don't know what this all means. I will explain it to them.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Loud noises, yes.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Are you on the phone again? I would have thought that the one person who would have kept quiet this week, the one person who would maybe have hidden his light under a bushel, would have been you. But not you, hey? You are out there on the phone again. Yes, that's right; you're on the phone again.

They do price comparison reports, and ultimately retail pricing in South Australia has had an impact because of the impact that gas pricing has. The last bit of megawatt to firm the system sets the price. So when you are negotiating with AGL or Origin for your power bills, and you are looking at comparisons and reports, what you do get is obviously a forward plan, and that forward plan is influenced heavily by gas pricing. I have run out of time, but I will get back to it in the next question.

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:12): My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier accept the Auditor-General's statement on the shelved hydrogen project? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: The Auditor-General's Report says:

...Following the SA Government's deferral of the project, OHPSA wrote off (expensed) \$85.7 million of this amount that related to costs incurred under the Hydrogen Jobs Plan Early Contractor Involvement contracts. This accounting treatment recognises that there is insufficient certainty that economic benefits will flow to the State

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:12): The state government commissioned a series of consultancies that make up that \$85 million. A lot of that was about the operation and management of a turbine, specifically 200 megawatts of turbine. Members opposite have announced a policy to purchase a 200-megawatt generator, and I will be interested to see their costings when they release their costings in the lead-up to the election, about what they say this will cost the people of South Australia and how it will be operated. Importantly, if they are elected in March and they purchase 200 megawatts of generator, do you know which reports they are going to go to the shelf for and dust off and have a look at? Reports that they are now saying are a waste of money. Because these reports—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: No, that is not what the Auditor-General said. Yelling and interjecting doesn't make it true. Yelling across doesn't make something accurate. Yelling across the chamber is not a substitute for policy.

The Auditor-General is operating within a framework. These costs that we incurred in the operation of how to operate generators and how they will impact in the system—this is information that would be useful when you are operating a generation scheme. When we've got generators in the system, if members opposite are elected they will use these reports and then they will say that they were full of value.

So this is the contradiction we've got right now: buying generators they say is a waste of money, but they are promising that, if they are elected, they are going to buy generators. They will commission consultants' reports about which they are now saying what? They are saying that they are a waste of money. These reports that you say are now impaired are the exact same reports that you would be using to operate generation in the system.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, the member for Chaffey should sit quietly and just scroll through his phone to amuse himself rather than try to intervene in the debate because he does

himself no favours. While the Auditor-General was looking at a discrete section of the way this operates, the government does not believe that this is a waste of money. We believe this is a good investment. It is a good investment to invest in generators. Those generators will recover their value in full.

Members opposite are pretending somehow that the generators have no value. They are pretending that the money we have invested in the generators has no value to the people of South Australia. That is not true; that is inaccurate. They do have a value. They will—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Members say, 'How much?' You are the ones who have announced you are buying 200 megawatts of generators and you don't know what it's worth? How can you yell out, 'How much?' if you don't know what it costs? I have to say, this entire debate by members opposite about the generators and about the hydrogen plan reveals their lack of investment in Whyalla. The entire reason we deferred this project to start with was to save the jobs that we had in place now. It was about making sovereign steelmaking in this country remain.

Members opposite who voted with us to protect Whyalla are now bemoaning the fact that we have moved that money into Whyalla and are attempting to say that the money that we have now moved to Whyalla is a waste. It is not a waste. In fact, their only policy on Whyalla was just to hand Sanjeev Gupta more money—just give him more money. In fact, the only policy we have heard from members opposite on Whyalla was the Leader of the Opposition, who had a quick coffee with Sanjeev Gupta and wanted to give him \$50 million. That's not a policy.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, the member for Flinders and the member for Morphett, maybe just tone it down a little bit. You were getting a little rowdy there towards the end. The Leader of the Opposition.

OFFICE OF HYDROGEN POWER

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:16): My question is to the Premier. Who is the executive from the Office of Hydrogen Power who received a payout of between \$831,000 and \$851,000?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:17): No public servant received a payout of \$850,000. They received their wages for the year served, and then their termination clauses within their contract. So while the opposition, who know this, are out there telling people that some public servant got, without working, \$800,000, that is simply not true.

Mr Telfer: It is. That's what was left.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And there it is again. When people earn a wage and are paid for a financial period, that's their wage, and when their contract is terminated at the end of that financial year, the contract that's in place, which is public, is paid out. So the payout was not \$800,000. The Leader of the Opposition knows this. The shadow treasurer might or might not know this—who knows? The shadow energy minister knows this. But what they are attempting to try to tell the people of South Australia is that some public servant, when they got sacked, received \$800,000. That's not true. That is simply not true. They earned a wage for their labour. They got paid their wages, and their wages are included in that amount.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Again, yelling is not a substitute for substance and policy. Attempting to demonise this one individual, the Hydrogen Jobs Plan and our investment in Whyalla speaks volumes about what their industry policy will be at the next election. For a party that's also promising to buy 200 megawatts worth of generation to criticise us for buying 200 megawatts of generation is rich—it is very rich indeed.

You have to ask yourself, Mr Speaker, why are members opposite, almost in every aspect of their energy policy, mirroring exactly what we are doing? The first part of their policy is keep AGL's

Torrens Island open—tick: we have done that through an agreement. Buy 200 megawatts of working generation—tick: we have done that. And members opposite still complain.

No public servant received any such payout. They received their wages and for that period of time, including their payout, it equated to the amount of money that the Leader of the Opposition is talking about, but it was not a payout, and the Leader of the Opposition knows that. The idea that the Leader of the Opposition wants to make this a political point, I think is unbecoming.

OFFICE OF HYDROGEN POWER

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA (Hartley—Leader of the Opposition) (14:19): My question is to the Premier. How many other employees were terminated from the Office of Hydrogen Power and what was the total cost of their payouts?

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (14:19): My understanding is no others were terminated. Either contracts ended and people left or almost everyone else was redeployed back to the public sector, which shows you the calibre of the people who were working on the Hydrogen Jobs Plan program. They were exceptional public servants who worked very, very hard for the state. They were bitterly disappointed that the project could not proceed, as was the government, but Whyalla is too important to fail—far too important to fail.

When you are looking at Whyalla and thinking about the interventions the government has made into Whyalla, think of the counterfactual. Let's say we pressed ahead and let Sanjeev Gupta run that blast furnace into the ground, send it cold and have hundreds if not thousands of jobs in Whyalla on the scrap heap, where would Whyalla be today? And what would the questions be from members opposite? What would the questions of members opposite be today? They would be: why proceed with a Hydrogen Jobs Plan and let Whyalla fail?

But because we did the orthodox thing, we did the right thing, we did the moral thing, we moved the money appropriately to where it should be to protect sovereign steelmaking, because the idea of a Hydrogen Jobs Plan in Whyalla was always about sovereign steelmaking and it was always about decarbonising steel.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: And members opposite yelling and interjecting in an incoherent way again describes the policy paralysis by members opposite. What is their policy on Whyalla? What is their policy on sovereign steelmaking? We have nothing from them. I have to say, when we made the decision to defer this project the public servants who were working on it were bitterly disappointed, and they were exceptional public servants who did exceptional work.

I won't have their name tarnished by members opposite, because they are public servants who served the previous government as well and served them loyally, including the former chief executive, Sam Crafter, who members opposite have been crossing the street to try to disparage and make accusations about him that are completely unfair and unfounded. Let me give you an example of the high regard in which this young man was held by members opposite.

When the change of government occurred in 2018, I was convinced that they were going to get rid of Sam because of his close cooperation with the government, but of course they realised that he was a good public servant.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Yes, I will keep going. And still what did they do? They kept him on. They kept him on because he worked closely with the government and he worked closely with the new government. He was a loyal public servant. He served the government of the day regardless of his political persuasion. That is what we want from our public servants. We want fearless advice regardless of political prejudice, and that is what happened. They got good service out of Sam Crafter and they kept him on. They did not ask him to leave. In fact, they asked him to stay.

But don't believe me, ask the former Deputy Premier Dan van Holst Pellekaan what he says about Sam Crafter and the devotion he had to the public sector and to the Marshall government's aspirations in the energy sector.

The Hon. P.B. Malinauskas: Including on hydrogen.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Including on hydrogen. But to turn around and now disparage him is dishonest and unbecoming, and it says a lot about members opposite and how they treat employees, how they treat public servants and how they treat people who can't fight back.

HAMMILL HOUSE

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:23): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update my community on the reason why patients at the aged-care facility at Hammill House in Port Pirie were left with no power for several hours on Friday 24 October? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain further.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: There was a planned power outage, the first of two to enable the new A&E building to be connected in the future to the hospital power system. The hospital wards were unaffected, with Hammill House and some other offices affected by the outage. There is no backup power for those areas. This resulted in discomfort for the residents and the alarm bells were ringing continuously. There was no air conditioning and elderly patients were in electric beds that were unable to be operated. If oxygen was needed by a resident, this was not operational. There are five or six bedridden residents there. If planned power outages are planned in the future and the general wards are accounted for by using generators, why was due diligence not done for the aged-care facility at Hammill House?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:24): Thank you to the member for Stuart for his question and his advocacy in relation to Hammill House at Port Pirie. As the member has said, we are building a new emergency department at the Port Pirie Regional Health Service, which is obviously very significantly needed by the community to make sure we can improve healthcare offerings to people in the Port Pirie region.

In relation to the power outage that occurred at Hammill House, I am going to follow up with the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network in terms of what occurred there and what provisions were put in place, to make sure that if there are going to be any future power outages we have contingency plans in place to make sure we can care for the residents of Hammill House, because obviously that needs to be the number one priority. I will keep in contact with the member for Stuart either in this place or privately in terms of what we are going to do to address that.

POLICE RECRUITMENT

Mr ODENWALDER (Elizabeth) (14:25): My question is to the Minister for Police. Can the minister update the house on the recruitment of South Australian police officers?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (14:25): I thank the member for Elizabeth for this excellent question and note, of course, that as a former sworn officer himself he has taken a huge interest in his parliamentary career in all matters to do with SAPOL and law enforcement and knows very well, too, what we need to do to make sure policing remains a career of choice in South Australia.

It is a pleasure to be on my feet today to be able to give the house an update on how those recruitment efforts are going. The most recent budget handed down by the former Treasurer saw a record amount of money allocated to SA Police: more than \$260 million in initiatives to better protect and serve the community across a whole range of different areas, including the funding of additional officers, which is a very important commitment for our state and one that is ongoing, the improvement of amenity at police stations and the modernising of equipment.

Just last week I had the pleasure of going to Netley and speaking with officers from STAR Group and the SRS. I have to say, it was very useful for me to actually hear firsthand from those police officers who will be using the new firearms and the new equipment about why it is important

to them and why this investment by the Malinauskas Labor government has been so important and is so welcomed by SAPOL.

We have allocated \$172 million over six years for the 326 new sworn officers, which will reach a target of 5,000 sworn officers in South Australia. This will give SAPOL the ability to respond more quickly. When we put that side-by-side with the commitment we have made around getting sworn officers out from behind desks where we can have the civilianisation of the workforce, that also improves the ability of SAPOL to respond. It improves SAPOL's reach into the regions as well, which I know everyone in this place and many opposite would agree is a very, very important initiative that the government is pursuing.

But today I thought I would give an update on how we are going specifically in terms of that big commitment we have made to grow sworn police numbers in South Australia by 326. I have some very useful data which I will be very pleased to share with the house. I am sure the shadow minister and the Leader of the Opposition, the former police minister in this state, will be very interested to hear how our efforts are going and growing in terms of actually having those applications for SAPOL, which we have seen in years gone past have been quite stagnant.

In fact, in 2018-19 the number of applications for SAPOL was 922. There were 922 applications back in 2018-19. Just last week I was able to release data that showed what our application numbers have risen to across the last three years. I am sure this will be of great interest to everyone in this place. In 2022-23 there were 2,250 applications, up from 922 in 2018-19. I have broken this down for Patto. I have broken it down into small—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will come to order. I can't hear the minister's response.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: In 2023-24 it jumped again to 2,394 applications and then most pleasingly, in 2024-25 there were 3,050 applications to SAPOL. Let's compare 922, back when those opposite were in government and the Leader of the Opposition was the police minister, to applications now at 3,050.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: They don't like it, of course, because it shows how little they did in their time in government, but I am proud to be the minister in a government that is delivering on its commitment when it comes to law and order.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:29): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the new Women's and Children's Hospital be delivered according to the timeline and cost outlined in the 2025-26 state budget? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The 2025-26 budget has outlined that the project will be delivered by 2031 at a cost of \$3.2 billion, yet Department for Health and Wellbeing officials told the Budget and Finance Committee recently:

We are only in the concept design stage at the moment, which means basically we are at 20 per cent design for the project. So there is a long way to go to actually finalise costs...

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:30): I thank the member for Schubert for her question. This is a project that this government is exceptionally proud of, because we made a strategic decision to act to build a bigger and better Women's and Children's Hospital than what was originally planned: more beds, more services, more scope into the future to grow as our population and the needs of our women and children in this state grow.

What we inherited was a situation where this hospital had been kicking along for years and years under successive governments with no action underway because the site was too small, and that was nobody's fault. The site was too small to fit the hospital on, so nothing had been done, no construction had started and the needs of the clinicians were not going to be met—and, importantly, the Royal Adelaide Hospital would have lost its expansion space if we had built it on that site.

So the government made what was a courageous decision—there was a lot of controversy at the time, as people will recall—to take over the police barracks site and enable the hospital to be built on a bigger and better site. It enables the RAH to expand in the future. It enables the Women's and Children's to expand in the future. You only have to drive down Port Road right now to see the cranes up and work underway on this project, which has been talked about since 2013.

Work is now underway and we are very confident in terms of the timeline to complete this project by the end of 2031. That's still six years away. There is a long time between now and then. Work is underway. There is a lot of very detailed work in terms of other elements of the design of the internals of the hospital, which is underway at the moment, but we are very confident in terms of those timelines for the end of 2031.

In terms of the budget, we have allocated \$3.2 billion. We have made clear in many media interviews over the past year or so, and in this place as well, that we know construction budgets are under pressure all over the world. We know that during the course of mid to late next year is when the construction procurement and contracts will be done for that project. We will, of course, be making sure that we are getting the best possible outcome for the future of women and children in this state and, of course, balancing that with the needs of taxpayers as well.

We need this to be a hospital that is going to last and deliver for this state into the long term, and that is our priority with this project. We are delighted with the stage 2 architects that we have on board, who have been working really well with clinicians. We have an excellent team who are working on this project. The works that you can see in terms of the car park, and also the initial infrastructure works, are proceeding really well on that site. There is going to be a lot more work happening on that site through the course of next year as well, and this is ultimately going to deliver a hospital that will serve women and children in this state well into the future.

That compares to a hospital that was originally going to be built with just one extra overnight bed. The original proposal that we inherited from those opposite was one extra overnight bed. That would not have delivered the capacity that we need. It would have been full by the day it opened, it would have taken away the Royal Adelaide's expansion space and it would have meant we simply would not have been able to deliver for women and children and the needs they will have into the future. That's why we have taken this strategic decision, that's why we have got on with the project, that's why you can see that construction work underway and that's why we are confident in terms of that timeline for six years' time.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:34): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Will the minister publicly release the final design for the new Women's and Children's Hospital before the state election? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The Auditor-General stated:

...the design concept for the main hospital expected to be finalised later [this year].

Dr Robyn Lawrence told Budget and Finance:

...we do concept design and schematic design, we will inform government as those costs firm up and then...government will answer as to when they will inform the South Australian population.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:34): The member doesn't quite understand the different terms involved here. The detail of a significant hospital of this level—there's a huge amount of design work that will be taking place for years into the future on this hospital. Even after construction has started, design work will still be continuing as we do very detailed design on elements of the building.

In terms of the concept design works, of course as elements are prepared we will be releasing them, because we will be consulting with clinicians on each element of those works as and when they are due. There is a detailed timeline of when all of those elements will be happening in terms of both design and construction over the course of the next six years, and at each point where there are works that have been prepared and are ready to consult with clinicians and our consumer

groups as well, that will of course happen because that's a critical part to making sure that we deliver the hospital with the outcome that we need.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:35): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Has formal clinical consultation started since the new design team for the Women's and Children's Hospital was put in place and, if so, who is leading that process and who has been consulted?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:36): Yes, absolutely, consultation is well underway with clinicians in terms of all elements of this hospital. We have been recently talking to clinicians in relation to the block and stack, and updating that based on feedback from clinicians. Detailed work groups are looking at various elements of the hospital design.

There is, of course, a huge project team to make sure that we can deliver a project of this scope and part of that team, critically, is a team dedicated to making sure that that consultation can happen. There is a dedicated executive from the Women's and Children's Health Network who is embedded in the new hospital construction team leading that work, making sure that we are engaged with our clinicians and as well with our consumer groups as part of that design process.

YORKE AND NORTHERN LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:37): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update my community as to whether we have any mental health beds or drug and alcohol units in our health network in the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network? With your leave and that of the house, sir, I will explain.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: In a recent media coverage, it was stated the government is getting 600 new hospital beds across the state and more than 130 of these will be specifically for mental health, and that Mount Gambier is doubling their mental health beds plus adding a two-bed drug and alcohol medically managed withdrawal facility. Can the minister update my community if there are any plans or requirements for these sorts of beds in our health network?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:37): I thank the member for his question and his strong interest and advocacy in terms of mental health and drug and alcohol rehabilitation services in his region—and he's right: we are investing in a number of different mental health projects right across the state. That does include in Mount Gambier, where we are soon to open another excellent piece of construction, which is our new mental health step-down unit at Mount Gambier hospital, which will provide six extra mental health beds, doubling the capacity of mental health at that hospital.

We are, of course, also investing in mental health care right across the state and, whether it's beds or additional resources, there are additional resources going into mental health to make sure that we've got the capacity for patients who have those needs. Particularly, in terms of the member's own region, there is a number of very innovative centres which have opened in recent years, which are providing mental health care to the community: one is that the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network themselves have opened a Mental Health Alternative Care Service. That opened two years ago. It's providing an ability for people to come and receive care for mental health conditions at that service without having to go to the emergency department.

In addition to that the federal government have invested, in cooperation with us through our bilateral arrangements on mental health and suicide prevention, in a new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Port Pirie. I was pleased to join the member for the opening of that service last year. That is a free drop-in mental health centre available for the community.

There is also, of course, a Lifeline Connect centre in Port Pirie as well and the government has provided Lifeline with a quarter of a million dollars to support both the Port Pirie and the Clare centres that they have opened as well.

In addition to that, in terms of our regional mental health services across the state, we have been investing in additional staffing. We have recruited additional psychiatrists for regional mental

health care to provide services to all regional areas across the state. We have added additional services to help people in terms of older mental health in particular.

I am advised eight mental health nurses have been recruited across our regional local health networks to deliver specialised mental health services for older people, and I am advised that includes two additional nurses working in the Yorke and Northern local region as well. So there are a variety of different mental health services that are being provided.

Another thing that is important is we have been doing a lot of work in terms of trying to improve the pathway for people from country regions to metropolitan regions when they need to have a higher level of that mental health care provided. The member may be aware that there are dedicated resources at Glenside for regional and remote mental health services providing those services right across the state.

What we are seeing, through some of the reforms that have been underway in SA Health, is that we have been able to significantly increase the number of people who have been able to keep their mental health care journey within the country mental health care services, either by getting supported to stay in place close to their family or, secondly, by being able to get that care directly by going to the regional site at Glenside, without obviously impacting on metropolitan hospital emergency departments.

Not only is this important for those people themselves, because obviously that is a significant difficulty for people having to face that queue in a metro emergency department, but it is important for the system overall. That pathway of improvement that is happening for regional people to get access to care is also helping to improve regional mental health care services, including in the member's region.

BELAIR NATIONAL PARK

Ms HUTCHESSON (Waite) (14:41): My question is to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Can the minister outline to the house the benefits of a new nature playground at Belair National Park?

The Hon. L.P. HOOD (Adelaide—Minister for Climate, Environment and Water) (14:42): I thank the member for Waite for her question and just acknowledge what an incredible advocate she is for her community, how incredibly hard she works and how she very much loves many of the community hubs in her electorate.

The Belair National Park is one of the most beloved spaces for children and families in the state, annually attracting 250,000 visitors. For generations, South Australians have enjoyed its wide open spaces and its connection to nature. Work has now started to make the Belair experience even better through the upgrade of its iconic adventure playground. The existing metal frame structure is being replaced with a new playground, improving visitor experience, decreasing safety risks and minimising ongoing maintenance.

The new playground includes three slides, a climbing rope, a pyramid, monkey bars, three swings, a rock-climbing wall and an emu rocker. It also features a range of accessible equipment to ensure children of all ages can enjoy the space. This includes play elements such as a trampoline, a nest swing, storyboards, a xylophone and a non-verbal communications board.

The playground's design includes natural colours and timber to fit the stunning natural surrounds and the new structure will be located in the middle of the picnic area and centred around the iconic existing tree. This location was selected to better align with the contours of the land to allow for better accessibility.

These works are due to be completed in time for the December school holidays and are the first stage of planned upgrades at the site. The much-loved play tunnels and fort section are remaining unchanged but have been identified for potential future upgrades. The Department for Environment and Water will engage with the community on any future upgrades to the much-loved tunnel and fort.

In addition to the playground upgrade, new toilets and a new car park are also being installed at Playford Lake. This follows last year's completion of an \$800,000 upgrade to the Wood Duck Walk

around the lake to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and prams. This project also included the construction of stairs, boardwalks, bridges and a viewing platform. This upgrade will help to futureproof the playground, which has been much loved for decades.

The Malinauskas Labor government is very committed to ensuring children are as active as possible. We believe exposure to the outdoors and nature play is good for their mental and physical wellbeing. It is very much one of the motivations behind our world-leading ban, first led by our Premier, of social media access for children under the age of 16. We want to see as many kids as possible off their screens, enjoying the natural environment, playing in parks with their friends and starting on a healthy lifestyle that will see them develop habits that will last a lifetime. I am very much looking forward to Belair National Park being a space in which they can do that.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:45): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What outpatient services will be provided at the new Women's and Children's Hospital, and will that categorically include antenatal services?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:45): Obviously, there is a huge variety of different outpatient services that are provided at the Women's and Children's Health Network. I do not have an exhaustive list of all of those different services before me at the moment. I am very happy to take that question on notice. I would fully expect that antenatal services would be provided at the Women's and Children's Health Network.

One thing I would say is that, in fact, long before we open the new hospital, what we are wanting to do is try to provide more of these services closer to people's homes as well, because one of the things that we hear a lot of feedback on is how difficult it is for people across metropolitan Adelaide, let alone peri-urban and regional areas, to all be able to come in to access the Women's and Children's Hospital site: car parking, transport, etc. So if we can provide a number of those services, where it is appropriate and safe to do so, in locations closer to people's homes as well, then that is something that certainly we think will provide benefit for patients, families and ultimately the broader health system as well.

NEW MOUNT BARKER HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:46): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. How does the minister explain the change in project cost for the Mount Barker hospital? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: The health minister has stated that the 2025-26 budget blowout for this project was 'because of the uplift in construction, trade and material costs happening here and around the world'. This is the second time that the project has changed this term.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:47): I think the member just answered her own question in the explanation.

NEW WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mrs HURN (Schubert) (14:47): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Is the new Women's and Children's Hospital subject to similar cost pressures faced by the Mount Barker hospital? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mrs HURN: According to the government, there has been no change to the project cost of \$3.2 billion since the 2023-24 budget, despite other health infrastructure projects blowing out due to an 'uplift in construction, trade and material costs happening here and around the world'.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:47): I know the member just sort of gets given the list and reads them all out, but if she goes back—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: —10 minutes ago, I gave a very detailed explanation to the exact point that she has just asked me in the question, so I refer to 10 minutes ago in question time.

The SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Stuart: Minister for Human Services, I was having trouble hearing the answer then.

AGED-CARE REGULATIONS

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (14:48): My question again is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Can the minister update my communities with regard to the new aged-care regulations that are proposed to be introduced by the federal government on 1 November this year? With your leave and that of the house, I will explain further, sir.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G.G. BROCK: It has been reported that the federal government will be bringing in more regulations relating to aged-care facilities. The state government has some aged-care operations, including Hammill House, attached to our hospitals. We are having a bit of trouble at the current moment filling some of the positions in Hammill House. Will this affect our facilities in our hospitals?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:49): I thank the member for Stuart for his question and again for his advocacy in relation to his local health and aged-care services. He absolutely is a member of this parliament who cares. As he has outlined, the federal government has implemented some very significant changes to aged-care regulations, which are coming in from 1 November. Of course, that's a delay from the original implementation date of 1 July when they were expected to be coming in. These create new fee structures, increased quality standards, new provider regulation standards—a whole range of different changes that are happening to the aged-care regulation. I think the vast majority of those are welcome and will be an improvement in terms of aged-care regulation in this country but I think it is fair to say that there are certainly risks as well.

We are in very regular dialogue with aged-care providers here in South Australia about some of those risks. We originally were particularly concerned in terms of what some of the financial and prudential standards were going to mean in terms of aged care in this state, and across the country whether that would be an inhibiting factor as part of driving down a lack of capacity, which is obviously one of the key areas of pressure on our healthcare system, is that lack of capacity in aged care.

The federal government has listened to that. They have addressed that and I think that that issue is largely resolved now. That was part of the 10-point plan that we put forward to the commonwealth government some months ago to try to address some of the blockages that we are seeing here in South Australia.

The member will be aware that not only here in South Australia have we got some roughly 290 people stuck in our hospital system waiting for aged care, but across the country that figure is about 2,500 people stuck in hospitals waiting for aged care. So we were putting forward a whole range of positive proposals to try to address that, to try to encourage people to open up additional capacity and to take people from hospital into aged care.

What the federal government has cited as the key element of where this will seek to drive improvements is that financial improvements will be in place for providers to open additional capacity, particularly where people have the capacity to pay. We see some interest from aged-care providers in now starting to build additional capacity where we know that that's needed. The federal government's own figures point to the fact that, just on the population ageing alone, we need across the country 10,000 extra aged-care beds every year just to keep up with demand. Nowhere near that number are being built across the country, so that is a significant concern.

So anything that can be done to encourage providers to build is obviously welcome. However, one thing that I am particularly concerned about and met with one of our big providers here in South Australia last week about is what this will mean for concessional payments because this is now going to set up a discrepancy between those who have the ability to pay more and those people who will be relying on those concessional places which are not going to be as financially rewarded.

Of course, there are a lot of areas of our state, including regional areas of course, where there are a lot of people who don't have the capacity to pay. We can't be in a situation where we see that pressure lead to more pressure on hospitals and more pressure on families, etc., as well. So this is another issue that we're raising with the federal government. We need to address that concessional patient issue. If that becomes a problem then these reforms, even though they're meant to be taking us forward, potentially could set us back as well.

Just in the last few seconds, the other big thing, of course, is additional home-care packages, which are very welcome.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAFFIC TO ADELAIDE

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (14:53): My question is to the Minister for Trade and Investment. Can the minister advise the house how an increase in flights and airline connectivity into Adelaide is helping grow South Australia's economy and export sector?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:53): I thank the member for Black for his question, and I certainly can. This government is singularly focused on growing our economy but not just growing our economy for its own sake but growing the economy to ensure that prosperity is shared by all South Australians. As we open Adelaide to the world, and continue to open Adelaide to the world, it's local businesses, it's local farmers, it's local exporters who continue to see the real benefits of those things.

Since coming to office, our government has overseen an over-50 per cent increase in the number of direct flights coming to Adelaide. What that means is that the best of our city, the best of our state, the best of regional South Australia and their primary producers is now making its way to the world more easily.

Last October, we saw the resumption of direct Emirates airline services between Adelaide and Dubai. That is generating \$100 million in additional airfreight value every single year. We saw the return of direct mainland China flights with China Southern Airlines resuming to Guangzhou and connecting our state with our largest trading partner, a two-way trade, worth more than six and a half billion dollars and growing every single year.

Hong Kong, one of Asia's most dynamic commercial capitals, in fact one of the most important sources of FDI for our state, sees exports growing to more than \$230 million annually. I am pleased to advise that there has been in the vicinity of a 2,000 per cent increase in spirits exports, including from Never Never Distillery, going into Hong Kong thanks to our specific efforts there.

Just this week, I was delighted to represent the Minister for Tourism as we saw more flights, this time to a destination that has never been connected to Adelaide, and that is Christchurch: not just our cousins across the ditch, not just our state's longest and most important ally, but a half a billion dollar trading partner with New Zealand.

These flights are putting us on the global stage, they are boosting trade, they are boosting tourism and they will, of course, provide more options for our exporters.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: A lot of interest from those opposite. For a bunch of members who represent regional communities, they should—

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Members on my left will come to order!

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: —be really pleased about our premium produce, the fruit, the vegetables—

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

The SPEAKER: The member for Morialta is warned for the final time.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: —and the rock lobster, as the member for MacKillop so diligently asked about yesterday, all getting off, all getting out of South Australia quicker, faster and with higher value. And there is high-end medical equipment, lamb and beef, perfumes and, of course, wines. There might even be a bit of Riverland wine under that belly there as well.

For the second year in a row that figure has grown. Almost 5,000 tonnes, worth \$310 million, have left our state in the last 12 months, including, the love of many people in this house, the good old RM Williams. As I joined the Premier at Salisbury to open up their new facility and celebrate five years, they are seeing their global expansion supported by the increase in airfreight.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Ms PRATT (Frome) (14:57): My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. What is the cause of any delays to the use of regional hospital helipads and when will they be ready for patient retrieval? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Ms PRATT: Currently helipads in Clare, Berri, Loxton, Mannum, Murray Bridge, Port Broughton, Port Pirie and Victor Harbor remain non-operational.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Karna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (14:58): I thank the member for Frome for her question. As members will know, this government inherited a situation where helipads were significantly out of date and were not compliant with CASA regulations and we needed to make an investment in terms of upgrading helipads across the state.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Member for Hammond, you are on your final warning.

Mr Pederick: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: You're welcome.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON: So we made a decision to invest \$23 million in upgrading those helipads across the state. Of those 13 helipads, I am delighted to report that we have now opened, as of today, the seventh of those helipads across the state with the opening of the Berri helipad at the Riverland General Hospital. That's in addition to Wallaroo, Kingscote (in the Speaker's electorate), Meningie, Balaklava, Kapunda and Port Broughton. That's half of the project that has been delivered and opened.

What has to happen in relation to these helipads is not only the construction of the helipad, but we have to get the helicopter operator to certify its use. At the moment, the helicopter operator is Babcock. They are the helicopter operator up until the time at which, in a year or so's time, Toll will be taking over as the helicopter operator. They have won the new contract and will be bringing in new helicopters. Up until that time we are still operating with Babcock, and we need them to sign-off on each of those helipads. So it's not a matter in which I can declare that these helipads are open; we need Babcock to do so. We are working with Babcock in a very detailed manner on each of those remaining six helipads to make sure that we can get those helipads open as soon as possible.

I have met with the CEO of Babcock and the Babcock team, and they have agreed to work with us very closely to address issues in terms of CASA regulations. Part of the issue has been that CASA regulations have kept changing and have kept updating through this process, so we are seeking to make sure that we can meet those new regulations that are currently in place for those helicopters and meet the requirements of the Babcock helicopter pilots, and their safety requirements as well.

I have asked Wayne Champion, who is the CEO of the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network, to coordinate this effort on behalf of all of the local health networks. That work has been going well, and we are hopeful that we will see further progress, on top of these seven helipads that we have already opened, in the coming weeks and months.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:00): My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, will the government expedite making regional helipads operational, following the death in the Riverland? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr WHETSTONE: On 20 September at 9pm, Mrs Jane Logos suffered a heart attack and was taken to the Berri regional hospital. An air ambulance was called to transfer her to the Flinders Medical Centre, but this wasn't upgraded to an emergency retrieval until 1.27am. Ms Logos wasn't transferred to the Renmark Airport until after 4am and tragically passed away on the tarmac. The Berri regional hospital helipad is still undergoing upgrades and testing that were announced in March of last year.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:01): I thank the member for his question, and obviously I express my condolences to Mrs Logos's family on her passing, which is obviously deeply disturbing and concerning for everyone in their family and, no doubt, the broader community. The first thing to say, in addition to that, and as I have just outlined in the previous answer, is that as of today we have now opened the Berri helipad. That helipad is open, it is operational, and the Riverland General Hospital was able to use it. So that is welcome news for people in the local community.

The second thing to say is that, in terms of what happened with Mrs Logos's care, I can provide some information. Mrs Logos, I am advised, presented to the hospital. When she presented to the hospital, cardiac issues were identified and we used our iCCnet capability, which is how we connect our regional health services across the state with our cardiology teams in Adelaide to make sure that we can get proper assessments and care for people with cardiac issues, no matter where they are in the state. People may be familiar with it. This was the legacy of Phil Tideman and his work across the state to improve care outcomes.

As part of that work and the care that Mrs Logos was receiving, there was a decision made that a non-emergency transfer should be issued. That request was put in to MedSTAR to enable it to be put into the system. A couple of hours later, I am advised, the clinicians then decided that her condition had become such that that request was escalated to an emergency MedSTAR retrieval decision, and therefore that request was put in to MedSTAR at an emergency level. I am advised that originally 11.04pm was when the non-urgent request was made, and that then, at 1.50am, due to deterioration in the condition, it was then again contacted to MedSTAR to enable a emergency request. That was a fixed-wing retrieval that was being put in place, to the airport. Obviously you can't land planes at any helipad, even though at that stage it was still under construction anyway.

The SAAS crew arrived at the hospital to transport the patient at 3.34, and at 3.56 an intensive care paramedic arrived at the hospital to assist with the administration of an infusion during the transport. SAAS then transferred Mrs Logos to the airport to meet the plane and unfortunately she passed away at that time.

I know SAAS and MedSTAR and the hospital have reached out to her family to offer support but also to enable further discussion of the family's concerns and answer any questions and address any issues that they have, and certainly I would be happy to do so as well. But my understanding is that her condition was very serious at the stage that she was being transported, but I think that that's something which would be best for our clinicians to discuss with the family one on one and do so in a very sensitive way.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Mr BASHAM (Finniss) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Health. When will the minister respond to my letter dated 16 July 2025 in relation to concerns around the non-operational status of the Southern Fleurieu Health Service helipad?

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurana—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:05): Again, this goes to the helipad issue across the state. We have upgraded and made operational seven of those helipads. There are six of those helipads which we are still working between. Some of those are still

under construction and there are some of those where the major construction works have been completed. We are working with Babcock to try to address issues to make sure that Babcock are comfortable that they can be declared operational.

The Southern Fleurieu Health Service at Victor Harbor is one of those ones which is still in that six, where we are working with Babcock, which is the current helicopter operator. I should say as well, we are also working with Toll, who will soon become the helicopter operator for the state for MedSTAR. We are working very constructively with Toll because it won't be long before Toll take over that contract and will become the helicopter operator in this state. We will continue that work.

Wayne Champion, as I said, has been designated to coordinate this issue on behalf of SA Health. We are making sure every possible resource is available for him to do so and we have seen some progress recently in terms of a number of helipads that have opened in recent weeks. We are expecting some more very shortly, but we are also, as I mentioned before, dealing with some of those changes that have happened to CASA regulations recently, as I am advised, in particular in terms of some of the down draft provisions which are less about the design of the helipad and more about their locality next to hospitals and other buildings that we are trying to work through with Babcock to make sure that they are satisfied that they can be operated safely.

REGIONAL HOSPITAL HELIPADS

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (15:07): My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise if there are any impediments to the helipads at the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital and Mannum hospital being operational? With your leave, sir, and that of the house, I will explain.

Leave granted.

Mr PEDERICK: Both helipads have not been used since September last year and the opposition believes all upgrades were completed in April this year.

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kurna—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:07): At the risk of repeating myself from previous answers, those two helipads are in the cohort of the six out of the 13 that we haven't yet opened. We have now opened seven out of the 13. We are continuing to work with Babcock, who are the helicopter operator who need to sanction the opening of those helipads.

These are not decisions that the government or SA Health can make; these are up to helicopter operators themselves to certify that they can open. We are working with them. I have appointed Wayne Champion, who is in fact also the local health network CEO for Riverland Mallee Coorong where the member's electorate is based, to coordinate that work. We are providing as much support to him as possible to make sure that can happen. I have also met with the CEO of Babcock as well and expressed the government's desire to see this issue addressed as soon as possible and to make sure that we can get these helipads open for the community.

Of course, it's worth noting as well, in relation to those helipads and all other helipads across the state, while those construction works have been undertaken, all the commissioning works are still being undertaken, there are contingencies in place to make sure that helicopter retrievals can still occur to and from those hospitals, and that's certainly the case in terms of those two hospitals that have been mentioned.

Grievance Debate

HYDROGEN POWER PLANT

Mr PATTERSON (Morphett) (15:09): Nearly half a billion dollars, that is the combined total of spending and liabilities that South Australian taxpayers could be on the hook for, from the Malinauskas Labor government's failed hydrogen plant. That is what the independent Auditor-General has confirmed, and it just reinforces why the Liberal opposition has been calling out the Premier's hydrogen fantasy for years.

The Malinauskas Labor government has gambled and lost on their hydrogen fantasy. The Auditor-General's Report has shown that \$285.2 million was spent in just three years on a hydrogen project that is now on the scrap heap, and most of that money will never be recovered. More than

\$63 million has been blown on wages and general expenses, and another \$85.7 million has been written off in costs that, in the Auditor-General's own words, provide no immediate future economic benefit.

But, unfortunately, the pain is not over for taxpayers. South Australian taxpayers could still be on the hook for another \$212 million in contracted commitments and contingent liabilities. This all means that the combined total of spending and future commitments and liabilities is nearly half a billion dollars for the now-shelved hydrogen power plant, a once in a generation waste of money. Remember that this was a project that was meant to deliver cheaper power and jobs, but instead it has delivered nothing but debt, disappointment and deception.

Let us cast our minds back to 2021. The Premier promised a hydrogen power plant to produce electricity that would bring down wholesale power prices by 8 per cent, for a total cost of \$593 million. Instead, 3½ years later household power bills have skyrocketed by 43 per cent. Under this state Labor government, South Australians have paid record high power bills. The Premier loves to say that the hydrogen power plant had to be shelved because the Whyalla Steelworks was not going to be a customer, but in early 2024 he stood in front of the cameras claiming, 'We've got our own customer for the hydrogen we produce and that will be the power plant itself.'

Now we find out that there was never going to be any hydrogen to sell to the steelworks because there were no hydrogen electrolyzers and no storage infrastructure even ordered. That was confirmed by the Auditor-General. There was no plan and there was no customer. What a complete and utter shambles. The state Labor government rushed headlong into early contractor involvement rather than conducting a proper front-end engineering design. This reckless decision cost taxpayers \$85.7 million alone, again, the Auditor-General made it clear, for no future economic benefit.

Perhaps, if the state Labor government had followed a traditional staged approach, the highly energy intensive and inefficient process and the flaws in their hydrogen power plant would have been obvious before hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer money was spent. Instead, spinning as hard as the turbines he is privatising, Turbine Tom tried to hide this disaster from South Australians for the last three years, pretending the project was on track and claiming the budget remained at \$593 million in the budget papers, when in reality we know that costs were skyrocketing past \$1 billion.

Of course, when the Whyalla Steelworks fell into crisis, the Premier used that as a scapegoat to kill his failing project. If that was not all bad enough, as one final goodbye, the Office of Hydrogen Power SA gave a massive golden handshake to one of their executives once the project was officially shelved. The Auditor-General revealed that one mystery executive pocketed over \$830,000 last financial year. That is an eye-watering amount to pay an executive on a project that is going nowhere fast.

This amount could have paid for 10 nurses or teachers or police officers. It is an absolutely shameful waste of South Australian taxpayer money, all while under Labor South Australians have paid the highest power prices on record. It is no wonder that hundreds of millions of dollars have been sunk into the Premier's hydrogen fantasy when the people running it were paid exorbitant amounts for a project that went nowhere.

Of course, the government is now trying to spin this away with tricky accounting and creative language, claiming that the privatisation of their own turbines will fix it, but the Auditor-General identified a large amount of money that will never be recovered. That money should have been invested into building infrastructure that delivers reliable and affordable electricity. The state Liberal team has a policy focused on securing gas-fired power generation into the future to keep South Australia's lights on and stop Labor's power price spiral.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

Ms THOMPSON (Davenport) (15:14): A bit of a change of pace: do you remember when we were kids, when you would come home from school or during school holidays and you would be encouraged to be outside? You would not be spending your afternoons and your weekends on a laptop or an iPad or a gaming console—maybe a SEGA Master System for a little while there.

It is now harder than ever for parents to encourage their kids to be outdoors and be active in the afternoons and during school holidays, but there are some incredible kids in my community—Rowan, Fraser, Aren, Akash and Cody—who have been doing exactly this. They have been living like we did when we were kids. They go outside as soon as they get home from school and they do not come home until the street lights come on or until dinner is ready.

They have been really busy. Over the last six to eight weeks they have been out in their local pine forest with their own shovels and they have been digging these little mounds. They have created some very cool one to two-foot high BMX jumps. Just as they finished building these incredible jumps, they came out with their bikes ready to use them only to find that the council had brought in the diggers and cleared up all of their hard work.

Instantly, their response was to go home and jump on their gaming consoles or jump on their iPads. Their parents were devastated by this. They are doing everything they can to keep their kids off their screens and outdoors and active and healthy. The parents in this community started to make a bit of a fuss. I went out and spoke with them and with the kids. The boys took me down through the pine forest to have a look at these very modest jumps that they had created.

The boys have become quite popular in the community now for what they have been trying to achieve and they are known to be extremely respectful and extremely well behaved. They are conscious of the impact they might be having on the environment or the surrounding trails or other park users. They were extremely heartbroken and gutted to find that these jumps were taken away and that council ultimately sent the message that if they were to rebuild these jumps they would also be taken away.

These boys and their parents have come together and, together with me, are calling on the council to work with these local families: to come out and speak to the kids, assess the sites as to whether they are safe, and work with them to be able to continue doing this activity, not just shut them down. There are examples in other councils. This is not unique to Aberfoyle Park or to my electorate of Davenport. I know many other MPs in this place have had similar issues in their own electorates, and we see it right across the country.

There are examples of councils that are managing this well: Tweed Shire Council, Sutherland Shire Council and Nillumbik Shire Council have all shown that basically if you work with your community you can pull together some guidelines and work with those young kids so that they understand what they can and cannot do, to ensure that what they are building in their community is safe and not going to impact other park users. That is what we are calling on the City of Onkaparinga to do now.

Fortunately, the great news is that the council have responded and have already had one of three sessions they will be holding with the young kids in Aberfoyle Park, where the youth team will come out and talk to the kids about what it is they are trying to create in this space and how they can do it safely. I thank the City of Onkaparinga for listening to their community and working with us on this.

Outside of these community-built jumps, there is a fantastic BMX culture in the City of Onkaparinga area. There is one particular park, Serpentine Reserve at O'Halloran Hill, where again the local BMX kids have advocated for the ability to either improve their jumps themselves or to work with council to improve those jumps. They have been successful there in that there will be a dig day coming up in the next month or two, where council will come down with some diggers and with some soil and some shovels and the kids will be able to get involved and help to build these jumps so that they can keep being outdoors and keep being active.

I think it is so important, now more than ever, that we are working with our communities to help parents and help kids, to let our kids be kids and let them be outdoors and as active as they can be. I thank the council for working with the community on this project.

RECREATIONAL FISHERS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:19): I had the privilege of not only attending but also hosting a booth at the Adelaide 4WD and Adventure Show and the Club Marine SA Boat and Fishing Show over the weekend at the Wayville Showground. There were thousands who came through, but the

mood was quite sombre. The reflections that came through my booth were that rec fishers and boaties were absolutely gobsmacked that the day before a national boating and fishing event, this government had made an announcement on restrictions particularly on the rec fishing sector. It is already impacting small businesses. Tackle shops are seeing about a 20 per cent to 30 per cent decline in their business. Rec fishers have very limited options now when it comes to getting out.

What it really shows is that we have a government giving out vouchers with one hand and placing restrictions with the other hand. They are giving out vouchers to restricted boating and fishing access on faraway coastlines. What are people going to do? The message I got loud and clear was that they are going to leave their boat in the shed, or if they are going to get the boat out of the shed they are going to Victoria. They are sick of the way that the recreational sector has been treated unfairly. It really does smack of political interference and it should have been a decision made by the MAC, the advisory committee that was set up by me as a minister as an independent body, an independent voice, to make sure that governments act without political interference.

The rec sector feels unfairly targeted. Many hundreds of comments on social media have come from a lot of the 350,000 rec fishers here in South Australia, and they have said that they are fed up. They are absolutely fed up with the way that they are being treated and the lopsided decision-making affecting their opportunities to catch fish. That is why the South Australian Liberal Party have a plan to create more opportunities for our rec fishers, stimulate the fishing economy and regional tourism during the algal bloom, protect our environment and teach the next generation to be custodians of our natural environment.

The South Australian fishing sector has become a serious contender on the national stage. We look across the border to Victoria and the great things that they have done for their rec fishing sector, and I think that we will see more to come. Our plan is called Go Fish SA and is about four pillars: getting 500,000 South Australians out fishing by 2030, building South Australia's first commercial freshwater hatchery to breed native freshwater fish, resnagging the River Murray and restoring habitat with fish hotels, and exploring opening more reservoirs and stocking them to boost fishing and give the opportunity for our young to be able to go out and catch a fish close to home, as well as boosting tourism.

The hatchery would be built at the Loxton Research Centre, breeding Murray cod, golden and silver perch, and freshwater catfish. It would reduce the cost of and reliance on purchasing fish from interstate hatcheries like Snobs Creek that send over very small fingerlings that we are beholden to—when they deliver them is when we release them. We would have autonomy over when we release those fish at a certain size. It would incentivise local stocking programs and create tourism opportunities and unique opportunities for scientists to practise on site.

Restoring habitat is the only way to naturally replenish our native stocks and sustain populations into the future. Studies show two to three times increased populations in resnagged areas, creating places to breed, feed, seek refuge and rest in fish hotels. Restocking reservoirs would create more fishing spots, more fish in our waterways and reservoirs, and scientific interest in reintroducing other iconic native species. We are already seeing that they are secretly releasing Murray crayfish and reinstating trout cod and Macquarie perch. Most importantly, this would get South Australians out fishing in our natural environment.

What we have seen over the last six months or more is a government that have sat on their hands. The Premier has been caught asleep at the wheel with this algal bloom. The Liberal Party of South Australia are putting good alternative policies on the table to allow people to experience our natural environment and take the pressure off our marine environment so that people can get out into our freshwater environment, catch a fish and make sure that we have a sustainable natural environment for all to enjoy.

PORT PIRIE WEST INTEGRATED HUB

The Hon. G.G. BROCK (Stuart) (15:24): Today, it is my great privilege to talk about an event that I attended recently. This event was the launch of the Port Pirie West integrated hub, located at the Port Pirie West Children's Centre. This is South Australia's first integrated demonstration hub, which is a great milestone not only for Port Pirie but also for regional South Australia. It is the first hub to be established by the education department in all of South Australia.

This new hub will build on the existing great work taking place at the centre in education and health and family services, with those involved being able to better connect to preschool, child health, allied health, parenting programs and community support. This hub is about reducing barriers for families, giving children the very best possible start in life by providing improved support when and where it is needed.

This hub is a practical community hub, reflecting on Port Pirie's strengths and connectedness. What will happen at this hub will guide other hubs across all of South Australia when they are established, so this will be a pilot for those other places. This hub, at its heart, is about: belonging, feeling welcome, being known by name, services working alongside each other and not in isolation, giving every child the very best possible start, and parents having confidence and support and community best interests at heart for their young children when they attend these childminding centres.

I would like to mention a couple of people who have given everything to get this to where it is at this moment: Kellie Bails, director of the integrated hub, and Jess Arbon, local education leader of early childhood. Together with other dedicated staff, they have shown what is possible when systems and local leadership pull together with the very dedicated Port Pirie West hub staff and others for this great opportunity for our existing youth and future generations.

I would also like to pay compliments to Robert Knight, the regional director of education. I first came across Robert in Clare when he was principal at the high school there. It is absolutely fantastic to see him and his dedication to regional South Australia. His commitment to these young kids has to be seen to be believed.

As I said a bit earlier, this is a site that has many young children from the northern sector of Port Pirie. It has received great support from TLAP with regard to cleanliness and hygiene across the whole site. As I said earlier, the staff are very, very dedicated. They are committed, they are loyal and they are very, very compassionate.

I have had the opportunity to visit this particular site over the last 17 years as the local member for not only Frome but also for Stuart, and also as the Mayor of the Port Pirie Regional Council. It is great to see these opportunities out there for our young children, and I talk from experience as I have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson. This gives those young ones the ability to have the best opportunity in life and gets them out onto the play equipment.

The site at Port Pirie West Primary School and the childminding centre there has climbing activities, giving the kids that opportunity out there. Parents and grandparents are always scared or very hesitant about letting them do something that might cause them to hurt themselves, but they need to get out there and get their hands dirty and enjoy the outdoors at this centre, and other centres across all of South Australia.

In closing, I would like to again thank Rob Knight for his dedication and commitment to regional education. I know he is going to leave that position and go back to Clare. I would also like to sincerely thank the parents and the staff at the centre. The staff are very patient, very dedicated and very, very compassionate. To see them relate to those young kids, and to have those young kids have full confidence in the staff, is very gratifying. As I say, as a grandparent and a great-grandparent, I have great trust in the people there and I thank them very much for the opportunity to be there at the launch.

MEMBER FOR MORIALTA, STAFF

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:29): I wish to take this opportunity to thank the staff who have helped me throughout my time as the member for Morialta and recognise their efforts and achievements. Our electorate office opened after the March 2010 election, with Lyn Byrne and Reuben Bolaffi helping me get set-up, but they had jobs to go to and could not stay. Our first team therefore included the administrative efficiency genius Jenny Richardson and lifelong local CFS volunteer firefighter and general hero Scott Kennedy. They were joined a little later by the wonderful Raelene Zanetti.

In our first summit, we were very fortunate to have the dux of Norwood Morialta High School Gia-Yen Luong join our team. Unfortunately, she left us at the end of that summer, choosing instead

to accept the lure of full scholarships in the eastern top universities and then a Rhodes Scholarship too. Happily, Gia-Yen returned to Adelaide recently with her awards, her degrees and her family as the first South Australian manager for the Teach For Australia program.

Our first trainee, Andrew Smolilo, is now in Poland and I hope that his time with us will be helpful should he be elected to serve his community in the years ahead in Warsaw. We had some wonderful trainees over the years and I am very pleased a good number of them have stayed in touch and that they are doing well. They included Bonnie Sleeman, Kahlia Aunger, Ibrahim Musiliza, Patricia Foresto, Leah Markwick and Sarah Margitich. There was Bailey Park, who went on to join staff, eventually as office manager and then when I became deputy leader as my senior adviser—senior adviser also known as office manager, of course, in opposition. There was Karen Dematera, Grace Moriarty, Ernestine Perkins and Caitlin Organ, who is now providing outstanding service in this building in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

The traineeship program has been a good one, providing opportunities for many young South Australians to indeed get straight into the workforce after school, getting paid while they gain a qualification. Some have done other studies and were looking for a new path as well. All of my trainees added value in our office and added significant value in our community, and with significant workforce shortages around our state right now I understand the program is in a bit of a lull, but I hope it will continue to be available in the future.

Permanent staff grew and retired and made life choices, and sometimes life just moves on. Since the early team of the first couple of years, other regular staff who came in and helped serve our community in different ways included: Helen Dwyer, Sarah Hennessy, Sam Mitchell, Priya Pavri, Almira De Vera and her sister Abigail De Vera, Delia Obst, Louise Mathwin, Luke Vagenas, Nadine Rasheed, Gurtej Sohal, Brad Warner and George Belperio. Some stayed for a season, a summer or a maternity leave and some for several years. Some were full time and some were students who worked one or two days a week while completing their degrees. I am grateful to all of them for their unique skills and personalities, for the assistance they gave me and the service they offered our constituents.

A number of other very good people also helped us with casual relief projects and volunteer work. I cannot possibly name them all so instead I ask their forgiveness if I have inadvertently missed them, although I do still have seven days left in which to make it up to you. I hope those staff each found their time to be a positive one and an opportunity to learn new skills and make a contribution. They helped vulnerable people and contributed to policy development and advocacy for our area.

As a minister in the Marshall government a new team supported those endeavours and I am grateful to them. They served our children and young people, perhaps never more than during the unprecedented complexity and disruption of COVID. We had a big reform agenda, we got a lot done and had much to be proud of.

To the public servants who worked in the previous minister's office and stayed for a little while, I extend my thanks to Erin O'Brien, Paj Sandhu and Leah Christopoulos, and also to the public servants who joined our team and served for a significant time, including Lucy Midwinder, the best office manager ever to serve in government, and her excellent team including Elizabeth Virgara, Andy Martin, Mejlín Skrzypiec, Karen Dematera, Danielle Said, Amber Stone and Hayley Brewer.

My ministerial office advisers were led by Cheryl Bauer and then by Bec Lynas when Cheryl retired as Chief of Staff. It was my privilege to work with both of them as chiefs of staff and I could not have asked for better. I had my senior adviser Garry Costello, who I am sure the current minister will agree knows more about public schools than anyone in South Australia. I had early childhood and education advisers Sarah Hennessy and Louise Mathwin, who always challenged me to think outside the square and consider every perspective in service of our children and young people.

As to my TAFE and higher education advisers, there were the outstanding Hannah Treloar and then Dr Samuel Murison, deep thinkers with oceans of knowledge about their portfolio areas as well as so much more. There were my media advisers Todd Clappis and Elise Baker, terrific people who squeezed every ounce of potential out of me, as well as Steve Bley and most recently Derek Rust, outstanding public servants who maximised my productivity as minister and deputy leader. When I was deputy opposition leader, Derek became part of our family and our kids would be sending

him Christmas cards. I will talk more about my current team next week, but it goes without saying that we would be nothing without our office staff and I am so grateful. The mistakes were mine, the achievements were only available to be done with their support.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light) (15:34): Over the years, I have stood in this place and in our communities to raise a concern that cuts to the heart of democratic planning: the erosion of meaningful community engagement in the code amendment process. Across my electorate of Light and the duty electorate of Frome, I have seen firsthand how residents feel sidelined and disempowered by the processes that should centre their voices. Whether it is a weekday consultation window that excludes working families or councils claiming they have no role due to legal advice given behind closed doors, the result is the same: communities are left out of decisions that shape their future.

Let me be clear: this is not about opposing development. It is about ensuring development is done with communities, not to them. That is why I have written to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Nick Champion, requesting a formal review of the standing process required for community engagement in the code amendment framework, because what we have seen is a pattern, one that cannot be ignored. In Dublin, residents were blindsided by a proposed rezoning for an employment zone. Many remember the legacy of the Integrated Waste Services proposal under the Olsen Liberal government, a proposal that left a lasting scar on that community.

When the Adelaide Plains Council declined to undertake its own consultation, residents felt abandoned. The developer claimed their engagement was robust, but residents have told a different story: too much jargon, too little time and no real opportunity to shape the outcome. The consultation forums were held on a single weekday afternoon, hardly accessible for working families. The council, meanwhile, supported the amendment without even considering the infrastructure cost to ratepayers. That decision has set a dangerous precedent.

In Evanston Park, the Town of Gawler initially claimed it had no role in a proponent-led code amendment to rezone a residential area to commercial use. Councillors were reportedly told they could not engage with their own communities and, worse, that doing so might expose them to legal action. This legal advice was considered behind closed doors, leaving the public in the dark. It took a grievance in this chamber and a response from the minister to clarify that councils do, in fact, have a role to play. To its credit, the council reversed its position, but the damage in public trust had already been done.

Another example is the Stanley Flat code amendment, where 30 hectares of farmland were rezoned despite clear concerns from residents and the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council. I offered a survey to every household in the area. Only three supported the proposal outright, while most wanted larger allotments to preserve local character. I also appeared as the sole elected witness at the Environment, Resources and Development Committee's public hearing to voice their concerns. The final decision ignored both council and community feedback, a missed opportunity for collaborative, thoughtful growth.

These are not isolated incidents. They point to a systemic issue: a planning system that has become too developer led, too opaque and too dismissive of the people it is meant to serve. Under the current rules, code amendments can be initiated and managed by private developers. Councils are not required to consult their communities. In some cases, they are actively discouraged from doing so. Once a proposal is lodged, the process becomes very defensive. Developers are locked in to their positions, and communities are left reacting rather than shaping.

This is not how we build trust. This is not how we build good public policy. This proposal to improve community engagement is not about adding red tape: it is about restoring confidence in the system. It is about ensuring that any amendment to the Planning and Design Code carries not just technical merit but social licence, because when communities are heard early, issues surface sooner. Developers can adjust their proposals before investing heavily. Councils can advocate for infrastructure needs, and residents can feel that their voices matter.

If a proposal has merit, it should welcome scrutiny. If a council is elected to represent its people, it should never be gagged from doing so. We need to move from consultation to engagement and collaboration, from secrecy to transparency, from disengagement to dialogue. Developers may come and go, but the impact of their work is felt by locals for generations. We owe it to these communities to do better. This is not just about planning, it is about trust, and it is about time we rebuilt it.

Private Members' Statements

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (15:39): I rise to update the house on a couple of issues affecting the community of Greenhill. The first of those issues that I have been working on recently is one to do with Australia Post deliveries and parcels, and particularly some issues that arise through Greenhill's designation as a roadside delivery zone, meaning it is very difficult for residents in Greenhill to be able to get their parcels delivered.

I have been working and engaging with Australia Post on this issue on behalf of constituents in Greenhill. They cite a couple of reasons for this designation. The first is: 'difficult terrain'—which I do not really accept because, once you are up the hill it is relatively easy to get around Greenhill, and access letterboxes—and secondly, 'population density', and I do not accept that either because the population in Greenhill has in fact steadily grown.

So I am continuing to work with Australia Post on that issue and have formally requested that the RSD zone designation be reconsidered because I think the community of Greenhill deserves the same level of service as anyone else.

The other main issue I have been working on in the Greenhill area has been Greenhill Road. I have been calling for urgent road maintenance on the stretch of Greenhill Road between Glynburn Road and Mount Lofty Summit Road. This is something that I have been dealing with, with the previous minister and am following up now with the new minister, and hope we can get some fixes for the community of Greenhill.

S.E. ANDREWS (Gibson) (15:41): I rise today to speak with deep sadness on the recent and sudden passing of John Baker AM ESM, President of Surf Life Saving Australia, and to pay tribute to his life and contribution to the surf lifesaving community. I firstly extend my heartfelt condolences to John's wife, Jo, his family and friends and the entire surf lifesaving community. This is a loss not just felt in South Australia but across our nation.

John's service to surf lifesaving spanned more than 40 years. He began his journey in 1977 with the Brighton Surf Life Saving club, a place that would remain his home base for the rest of his life. He was a life member, an active patrolling volunteer, and a steadfast supporter of the values that underpin the movement.

He was a leader of extraordinary calibre. John served as President of Surf Life Saving South Australia for 10 years and, since 2021, as President of Surf Life Saving Australia. Across 15 years on the South Australian board and 14 years on the national board, his vision helped guide the organisation through change, growth and the challenges of a constantly evolving coastal environment.

John was also deeply committed on the frontline. For over three decades he served as one of the longest standing volunteer crew members of the South Australia Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter Service taking part in countless rescues and patrols to protect our coastline. John understood that surf lifesaving is not just about sport or service but safety in our community.

The Hon. J.A.W. GARDNER (Morialta) (15:42): I earlier offered my gratitude to all of the staff who have served during my 16 years in the parliament. I now particularly wish to express my thanks to my current team, who continue to serve our community. I hope they know how much I value them. I brought them in here for dinner last sitting week and it was a delightful evening.

It is my privilege to continue to call them my colleagues for a little time more, so I say thank you to Lachlan Skinner, Darinka Jovicevic, Di Clarke, Pat Gobell and Natasha Weggery. Finally, to Kahlia Aunger, who first came into our office for an interview as a trainee nearly 14 years ago. From

trainee to office manager with a wedding and three babies in between, we are looking forward to your final return from maternity leave in January, Kahlia, just in time for us all to start our next adventures.

To the public servants who supported our office and who worked in this building, I also extend my thanks and recognise their immense contribution. I had a good understanding of that service as a minister. Since I have become a regular listener to *The Westminster Tradition*, not all episodes but most, I have particularly increased my understanding of the value of that service.

None of us would be able to achieve anything without our teams, our staff and the public servants who support them. None of us in politics would be able to do that without that support. Any mistakes have been mine, anything I have built I have built with them, and I thank them all.

Bills

HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:44): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to adopt specified provisions of the Help to Buy Act 2024 of the commonwealth for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth, to refer legislative power of the state in the form of an amendment reference to the parliament of the commonwealth to make amendments to the Help to Buy Act 2024 of the commonwealth for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the constitution of the commonwealth, to make related amendments to various acts, and for other purposes. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:45): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

This bill seeks to adopt specific provisions of the commonwealth's Help to Buy Act 2024 to enable the delivery of the commonwealth government's Help to Buy shared equity homebuyer scheme in South Australia. The Help to Buy scheme will provide eligible homebuyers with a commonwealth government-funded shared equity contribution of up to 40 per cent of the purchase price for a new home or 30 per cent for an established home.

Support will be provided to a maximum of 40,000 applicants nationally over four years. If South Australia signs up to the scheme, around 2,700 of these places will be available to South Australian applicants. Signing up to the Help to Buy scheme will support a number of housing assistance initiatives currently being rolled out by the Malinauskas government.

Since coming to office, this government has committed \$3 billion in budget funding for housing related projects. The 2025-26 budget committed \$552 million to directly support the construction of around 2,935 new homes and help vulnerable South Australians find secure housing. This builds on the 2024-25 budget, which saw the removal of the property value thresholds for first home stamp duty relief as well as the property value cap for the First Home Owner Grant. This means an eligible first-home buyer can now access stamp duty relief and the First Home Owner Grant irrespective of the property value.

The South Australian government is also delivering the Housing Roadmap, a consolidated plan that includes initiatives aimed at supporting significant land rezonings, investing in the required water and wastewater infrastructure and reforming the state's planning system to fast-track development approvals. The Help to Buy scheme will complement this work. The scheme is expected to open for applications later this financial year and will be administered by Housing Australia on behalf of the commonwealth government.

Among other eligibility criteria, applicants will need to provide a minimum deposit of just 2 per cent, be purchasing a new or established home priced at up to \$900,000 in the Adelaide metropolitan area or up to \$500,000 in the rest of the state, and have a gross income of not more than \$100,000 for single applicants and \$160,000 for joint applicants.

This bill supports the implementation of the Help to Buy scheme in South Australia by referring legislative powers relating to the operation of the scheme to the commonwealth parliament. The bill also includes:

- amendments to relevant state legislation to ensure South Australian participants in the Help to Buy scheme are treated consistently with other homebuyers for taxation and homebuyer assistance purposes; and
- provisions allowing for South Australia to withdraw from the scheme at any time.

Participating in Help to Buy will not prevent South Australia from implementing new state-based assistance schemes in the future, nor will it affect the operation of existing homebuyer assistance schemes such as the Shared Equity Option administered by HomeStart Finance or the Rent to Buy scheme administered by the South Australian Housing Trust. This scheme, combined with our state-based initiatives, will support home ownership for low and middle income earners, helping South Australians and the economy to thrive. I commend this bill to the house.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines certain words and expressions used in the Bill.

Part 2—Adoption of versions of the Commonwealth Help to Buy Act

4—Adoption

This clause provides for the primary version and residual version of the Commonwealth Act to be adopted under section 51 (xxxvii) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth. Subclause (1) provides for the separate and independent adoptions of the primary version and residual version of the Commonwealth Act. Subclause (2) provides that the operation of each paragraph in subclause (1) does not affect the operation of the other paragraph. Subclause (3) provides for the period of operation of any adoption under subclause (1). The Bill has been structured with 2 separate adoptions to provide flexibility to choose how the State participates in the Help to Buy program in the future and to align with the drafting of the Commonwealth Act. In particular, the Governor may choose to terminate the adoption of the primary version and retain the operation in the State of the adoption of the residual version as set out in clause 7 of the Bill. In this circumstance, Housing Australia can continue to administer existing shared equity arrangements but cannot enter into any new such arrangements in SA.

5—Commonwealth laws not otherwise affected

This clause provides that the State Parliament intends that the Commonwealth Act may be expressly amended or have its operation otherwise affected at any time after commencement of clause 4 by either or both—

- a provision of a Commonwealth Act the operation of which is based on a legislative power of the Commonwealth Parliament other than as provided under the amendment reference; and
- a provision of an instrument made under the Commonwealth Act, or a Commonwealth Act the operation of which is based on a legislative power of the Commonwealth Parliament other than as provided under the amendment reference.

6—Amendment reference

This clause refers limited and specific power to the Commonwealth Parliament to enact the matters to which the amendment matters (as defined in clause 3 of the Bill) apply only to the extent of making laws with respect to those matters by making express amendments (as defined in clauses 34(4) and 34(5) of the Commonwealth Act) (*amendment reference*). This is to ensure there is a limited and specific flexibility for the Commonwealth Parliament to make amendments to the Commonwealth Act.

Subclause (2) provides that the amendment reference does not include the making of a law that would have the effect of—

- giving Housing Australia, after a State stops being a participating State, the function of entering into, or the power to enter into, shared equity arrangements that relate to residential property located in the State. This is so a State can choose to stop new participants entering into the Help to Buy program within the State if it were to terminate its adoption of the primary version of the Commonwealth Act for any reason;
- substantively removing or overriding a provision of the Commonwealth Act that requires approval of the State before certain things are done, or sections 41, 41A or 42 of the Commonwealth Act. This is so that the Commonwealth Parliament cannot make amendments to the Commonwealth Act that undermine key protections for a State as set out in those provisions.

Subclause (3) limits the extent to which the references under subclause (1) apply to only—

- where the matter is not included in the legislative powers of the Parliament of the Commonwealth (otherwise than by a reference for the purposes of section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth); and
- the matter is included in the legislative powers of the Parliament of the State.

Subclause (4) provides for the period of operation of any reference under subclause (1).

7—Termination of adoption and amendment reference

This clause deals with the termination of the adoptions specified under clause 4 and amendment reference specified under clause 6 (namely, the period ending on a day fixed by the Governor by proclamation).

Subclause (1) enables the Governor, at any time, by proclamation published in the Gazette, to fix a day on which any or all of the adoptions specified in clause 4, or the amendment reference in clause 6 is to terminate. There are not intended to be any limits on the reasons for the exercise of this power by the Governor.

Subclause (2) sets out that the Governor may repeal a proclamation in the Gazette published under subclause (1), and it is to be taken to have never been made and published. There are not intended to be any limits on the reasons for the exercise of this power by the Governor.

Subclause (3) provides that a repealing proclamation made under subclause (2) must be made and published before the day fixed by the Governor under subclause (1) for the repeal to be effective.

Subclause (4) sets out that the repeal of a proclamation does not prevent the making and publication of further proclamations under subclause (1).

The intent of this clause is to provide a mechanism to protect the State's interests in the event that the State no longer wishes the Commonwealth to have the power to legislate with respect to any of the adoptions or the reference.

8—Effect of termination of amendment reference before termination of adoption of primary version or residual version

This clause deals with the effect of termination of the amendment reference before the termination of the adoption of the primary version or the residual version of the Commonwealth Act.

Subclause (1) provides that if the amendment reference terminates before the adoption of the primary version is terminated, the termination does not affect laws made by the Commonwealth Parliament prior to the termination, or the continued operation in the State of the Commonwealth Act as in force before the termination (subject to any amendments that had been enacted but were not yet in operation, or any amendments permitted as described in clause 5).

Subclause (2) provides that if the amendment reference terminates, it continues to have effect as set out in subclause (1), unless the adoption of the primary version is terminated.

Subclause (3) provides that if the amendment reference terminates before the adoption of the residual version is terminated, the termination of the amendment reference does not affect laws made by the Commonwealth Parliament prior to the termination, or the continued operation in the State of the Commonwealth Act as in force before the termination (subject to any amendments that had been enacted but were not yet in operation, or any amendments permitted as described in clause 5).

Subclause (4) provides that if the amendment reference terminates, it continues to have effect as set out in subclause (3), unless the adoption of the residual version is terminated.

Part 3—Miscellaneous

9—Declaring certain matters to be excluded matters

This clause provides that the listed matters are declared to be excluded matters for the purposes of section 41A of the Commonwealth Act in relation to the Help to Buy program. The intent of this provision is to ensure that in the event of an inconsistency between a State scheme and the Help to Buy program, the State scheme will take precedence over the Help to Buy program except to the extent prescribed by any regulations made under the Commonwealth Act. This declaration of the excluded matters will only apply to the extent—

- necessary to ensure that no inconsistency arises between the Help to Buy program and the excluded matter; and
- that it is not possible for there to be concurrent operation between the Help to Buy program and the State scheme.

10—State's objection to matters

This clause provides for the Minister's power to object to regulations or legislative instruments being made under the Commonwealth Act.

Subclause (1) provides that for the purposes of section 46(1) of the Commonwealth Act, the Minister may object to a matter for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act by notice given to the Commonwealth Minister during either the minimum consultation period or the extended consultation period. Subclause (2) requires the Minister to publish a notice referred to in subclause (1) in the Gazette.

Subclause (3) provides a notice under subclause (1) is intended to constitute the State's objection to a matter for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act.

Subclause (4) provides the Minister may withdraw an objection to a matter given under subclause (1) by notice to the Commonwealth Minister and subclause (5) requires the Minister to publish a notice referred to in subclause (4) in the Gazette as soon as practicable. Subclause (6) provides a notice under subclause (4) is taken as constituting the State's withdrawal of an objection to a matter for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act.

Subclause (7) provides that for the purposes of section 46(4) of the Commonwealth Act, the Minister may give notice to the Commonwealth Minister during the minimum consultation period that the State requires an additional 15 business days to consider a matter for the purposes of the Commonwealth Act. The intent of this provision is to clarify how the power given to the State in relation to the process for States to object to proposed regulations and other legislative instruments in section 46 of the Commonwealth Act should be exercised by the State. After giving notice to the Commonwealth Minister under subclause (7), subclause (8) provides that the Minister must publish a notice referred to in subclause (7) in the Gazette and provides the extended consultation period applies for the purposes of giving the notice to the Commonwealth Minister under subclause (1).

Subclause (9) provides that failure to publish a notice given to the Commonwealth Minister under subclause (1), (4) or (7) in the Gazette does not affect the validity of the notice.

Subclause (10) defines Commonwealth Minister for the purposes of this clause to mean the Minister referred to in section 46 of the Commonwealth Act.

11—Regulations

This is a regulation making power.

Schedule 1—Related amendments

The Schedule makes related amendments to the following Acts:

- *Emergency Services Funding Act 1998*
- *First Home and Housing Construction Grants Act 2000*
- *Land Tax Act 1936*
- *Stamp Duties Act 1923*
- *Taxation Administration Act 1996*.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (ENERGY AND MINING REFORMS) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:46): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Energy Resources Act 2000, the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 and the Mining Act 1971. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Mining) (15:47): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

The state's resources endowment and the opportunities for economic participation in the development of our resources is managed in the community's interests through best practice regulatory frameworks in South Australia. The government of South Australia is committed to the principles of effective and efficient regulation of our energy and mineral resources sectors and frameworks underpinned by transparency, fairness, predictability and reasonableness.

To ensure that we keep to that path, this government continues to review the performance of the Mining Act 1971, the Energy Resources Act 2000 and the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023 and associated

Regulations with the aim of ensuring they remain fit for purpose. This bill has been developed to deliver four key objectives:

- drive productive exploration and mining activity to increase the potential for mineral discoveries and investment in the state;
- promote industry competition, compliance and efficiency;
- assure that only fit and proper persons who meet the standards expected from our community have control of developing our resources; and
- deliver further consistencies across our energy and mining regulatory and licencing frameworks.

The most pressing amendment included in the bill relates to exploration tenure and the maximum 18-year period for mining exploration licences. This maximum period is included in the Mining Act and aims to balance tenure certainty and exploration investment with ground turnover. The first mandatory exploration licence expirations under this policy will come into force in 2027. Whilst the policy rationale for the maximum 18-year period remains valid, the absence of a ministerial discretion to extend the maximum period beyond 18 years does not enable the consideration of special circumstances, where it may be in the best interests of the community to provide an extension.

The bill enables an application for an extension to be made to the minister in two main categories of special circumstance. The first circumstance is where the tenement holder has met their commitments, performed satisfactorily and has the means to continue to do so, and has either made a discovery of minerals, has a new exploration model or is future developing a mineral deposit. The second circumstance is where the tenement holder has been unable to meet the requirements of the expenditure commitment, work program or other requirements under the exploration licence due to circumstances beyond their control and that could not reasonably have been foreseen.

The bill enables the minister to prescribe such other categories of special circumstance as may be required by the regulations. Upon receiving an application, the minister is provided with the discretion under the bill to extend an exploration lease for up to five years. An application for an extension can be made more than once. The minister retains absolute discretion to refuse an application for a special circumstances extension. This modification will provide greater certainty to explorers and their investors while still maintaining the original aims of the maximum 18-year policy, that is to incentivise exploration activity on those tenements in a reasonable timeframe.

Another key matter included in the bill is to provide greater consistency across the three acts for ministerial oversight of changes to the controlling interest of existing tenement holders and licensees. The amendments seek to ensure that the state is equipped to provide the necessary scrutiny of significant proposed acquisitions. The Energy Resources Act and the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act already contain change in control provisions, requiring ministerial approval for transactions that constitute a change in control of 20% or more of the voting rights of the licence or an interest in 20% or more of the issued securities of the licence.

The bill amends the Mining Act to introduce a similar change in control provision. The primary difference in the Mining Act change of control provision is that it only requires ministerial approval for transactions that constitute control of 50% or more of the voting rights of the licence or an interest in 50% or more of the issued securities of the licence. Whilst a lower percentage could be prescribed in the regulations, 50% was selected as the threshold for the Mining Act due to the significantly higher number of tenement holders under this act and the potential for a significant processing administrative burden if the 20% threshold was included due to common capital raising practices for small enterprises involved in mining activities.

The change in control provisions being introduced in the Mining Act provide, consistent with the other two acts, that the minister must have regard to the technical capability and financial resources available to the incoming tenement holder and may have regard to any other matters the minister thinks relevant when considering an application for a change in control.

The bill amends all three acts to provide greater clarity on the broad range of matters that may be considered, including whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such control, whether the change in control would be in the public interest; the social, economic and environmental effect of the change in control; the appropriateness of any foreign influence on Australia's energy and mineral resources industry (as relevant) consequent on the change in control; and the extent to which the change in control may affect continued investment in the energy and mineral resources and related industries and infrastructure (as relevant) in Australia.

Importantly, the bill will provide the ability for the minister under all three acts to impose conditions on any approval of a change in control. The Energy Resources Act and the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act already include offences associated with failing to obtain approval for a change in control and this bill introduces consistent offences in the Mining Act. To strengthen the enforcement provisions associated with change of control, the bill increases the maximum associated penalty amount from \$250,000 to \$16.5 million. This reflects the necessity for the penalty to be commensurate with the significance of these acquisitions and is consistent with the minimum penalties available to ASIC under the Corporations Act for contravention of civil penalty provisions. The relevant court retains the discretion to impose a penalty at a level appropriate to the circumstances of the offence up to this maximum amount.

Another significant matter that is dealt with in the bill is addressing inefficient turn-over of ground in the event of material non-compliance by the tenement or licence holders under the three acts. The current remedy is the suspension or cancellation of the tenement or licence. A new forfeiture to the Crown process is introduced where the state is entitled to terminate or suspend a tenement or licence. This process enables the minister to efficiently transfer the tenement or licence to a suitable person to continue energy resource and mining activity. This would predominantly be available for a material breach of the act, licence or tenement, where the minister is satisfied that the matter is of sufficient gravity to justify the forfeiture. This may include, but is not limited to, situations where a breach of the change in control provisions has occurred.

Consistent with the existing cancellation and suspension provisions in the Mining Act, the bill includes a right of appeal to the ERD Court (and to SACAT in the case of the ER Act). The South Australian government is responsible for ensuring that the financial cost of rehabilitating mines does not fall to the state alone. The financial assurance framework under the Mining Act attempts to secure sufficient funds from tenement holders to cover the costs of rehabilitating disturbed land. Unfortunately, even with best endeavours, it is not always possible to accurately estimate the cost of managing a rehabilitation liability throughout the life of a mine.

To mitigate these costs, the Mining Act established a Mining Rehabilitation Fund that draws its revenue from a limited scope of fines and penalties paid for breaches of the Act. The bill enables the regulations to prescribe a scheme which will enable broader use of the fund as a financial assurance mechanism, by allowing voluntary payment of amounts into the fund and expanded use of the funds for land rehabilitation including legacy mines throughout the state. This mechanism will operate alongside the existing financial assurance framework which requires a mineral tenement holder to lodge a bond as security for rehabilitating land disturbed by mining operations. These reforms are intended to provide the government and regulators with the option of an additional tool to ensure financial assurance across the life cycle on resource development.

This bill and its tightly targeted amendments aim to address pressing issues that will ensure South Australia maintains an international reputation for adhering to leading practice for contemporary energy and mining resource regulation. These amendments will also provide the minister the discretion necessary to further drive productive exploration and mining activity to realise the potential for mineral discoveries and investment in this state. I commend this bill to members.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Energy Resources Act 2000*

3—Amendment of section 86AAB—Approval of change in control of holder of licence

This clause amends section 86AAB of the principal Act to insert a list of matters that the Minister may, in considering an application for approval for a change in control under the section, have regard to (so far as they may be relevant) and expressly provides for the imposition of terms and conditions on an approval.

4—Amendment of section 86AAC—Offences

This clause amends section 86AAC of the principal Act to substantially increase penalties for offences against the section, and also inserts a new offence relating to a contravention of approval conditions.

5—Insertion of Part 11 Division 12AA

This clause inserts new Division 12AA into Part 11 of the principal Act as follows:

Division 12AA—Forfeiture and transfer of licence

91AB—Forfeiture of licence

This section provides a scheme for the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to cause the forfeiture of a licence to the Crown. In addition the Minister may direct the former licensee to take, or cease, specified actions and activities, with failure to comply with a direction constituting a criminal offence.

91AC—Transfer of forfeited licence

This section enables the Minister to approve the transfer of a licence forfeited under proposed section 91AB to a person, and makes procedural provisions accordingly.

91AD—Exclusion of compensation

This section provides that no compensation is payable as a result of the transfer or forfeiture of a licence under the proposed Division, or the expropriation or diminution of rights of the holder of licence as a result of the forfeiture or transfer.

6—Amendment of section 124—Decisions etc subject to review

This clause consequentially amends section 124 of the principal Act to add forfeiture decisions to those that may be the subject of a review.

Part 3—Amendment of *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*

7—Amendment of section 52—Approval of change in control of holder of licence

This clause amends section 52 of the principal Act, setting out matters to which the Minister may have regard when determining an application under the section.

8—Amendment of section 53—Offences

This clause amends section 53 of the principal Act to substantially increase penalties for offences against the section, and also inserts a new offence relating to a contravention of approval conditions.

9—Insertion of Part 4 Division 3 Subdivision 15A

This clause inserts new Subdivision 15A into Part 4 Division 3 of the principal Act as follows:

Subdivision 15A—Forfeiture and transfer of licence

55A—Forfeiture of licence

This section provides a scheme for the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to cause the forfeiture of a licence to the Crown. In addition the Minister may direct the former licensee to take, or cease, specified actions and activities, with failure to comply with a direction constituting a criminal offence.

55B—Transfer of forfeited licence

This section enables the Minister to approve the transfer of a licence forfeited under proposed section 55A to a person, and makes procedural provisions accordingly.

55C—Exclusion of compensation

This section provides that no compensation is payable as a result of the transfer or forfeiture of a licence under the proposed Subdivision, or the expropriation or diminution of rights of the holder of licence as a result of the forfeiture or transfer.

10—Amendment of section 107—Appeals to ERD Court

This clause consequentially amends section 107 of the principal Act to add forfeiture decisions to those that may be the subject of an appeal.

Part 4—Amendment of *Mining Act 1971*

11—Amendment of section 15AL—Release of material

This clause amends section 15AL of the principal Act by deleting subsection (2) of the section.

12—Amendment of section 28—Preliminary

This clause amends section 28 of the principal Act by amending terms and phrases used in that section.

13—Amendment of section 29A—Application for exploration licence

This clause amends section 29A of the principal Act by deleting subsection (8) of the section.

14—Amendment of section 30AAA—Expenditure

This clause amends section 30AAA(12) of the principal Act to change the mandatory 'will' to a permissive 'may'.

15—Amendment of section 30A—Term and renewals of licence

This clause makes a consequential amendment to section 30A(7)(c) of the principal Act.

16—Insertion of sections 30AAB and 30AAC

This clause inserts new sections 30AAB And 30AAC into the principal Act as follows:

30AAB—Special circumstances extension

This section establishes a scheme whereby a holder of an exploration licence can be granted an extension of the licence for up to 5 years, including by imposing limits on when such an extension may be granted.

30AAC—Minister may refuse certain applications

This section sets out circumstances in which the Minister may refuse an application for an exploration licence, or an extension of an exploration licence.

17—Insertion of Part 8B Division 6A

This clause inserts new Division 6A into Part 8B of the principal Act as follows:

Division 6A—Change in control of tenement holder

56PA—Interpretation

This section defines terms and phrases used in the proposed Division.

56PB—Approval of change in control of holder of tenement

This section provides a scheme in respect of applications for a change in control of the registered holder of a mineral tenement, including by setting out matters to which the Minister must have regard when determining such applications.

56PC—Offences

This section creates a number of offences relating to changes in control of the registered holder of a mineral tenement under the proposed Division.

18—Insertion of Part 8B Division 8A

This clause inserts new Division 8A into Part 8B of the principal Act as follows:

Division 8A—Forfeiture and transfer of mineral tenement

56XA—Forfeiture of mineral tenement

This section provides a scheme for the Minister, by notice in the Gazette, to cause the forfeiture of certain mineral tenements to the Crown. In addition the Minister may direct the former tenement holder to take, or cease, specified actions and activities, with failure to comply with a direction constituting a criminal offence

56XB—Transfer of forfeited mineral tenement

This section enables the Minister to approve the transfer of a mineral tenement forfeited under proposed section 56XA to a person, and makes procedural provisions accordingly.

56XC—Exclusion of compensation

This section provides that no compensation is payable as a result of the transfer or forfeiture of a mineral tenement under the proposed Division, or the expropriation or diminution of rights of the holder of mineral tenement as a result of the forfeiture or transfer.

56XD—Appeal to ERD Court against forfeiture

This section provides a right of appeal to the ERD Court in respect of a forfeiture decision.

19—Amendment of section 56Y—Extension of term of tenement

This clause amends section 56Y(1) of the principal Act to include exploration licences in the scope of that subsection.

20—Amendment of section 62AA—Mining Rehabilitation Fund

This clause amends section 62AA of the principal Act by inserting new subsections (4a) and (4b) which provide a regulation making power to establish a scheme setting out the manner and circumstances in which the holder of a mineral tenement may pay a prescribed amount into the fund. The clause also makes consequential amendments to the section.

21—Amendment of section 70—Forfeiture and transfer of mineral tenement

This clause amends section 70 of the principal Act to remove a regulation making power, and to add miscellaneous purposes licences to the list in subsection (1).

22—Amendment of section 70C—Review of programs

This clause amends section 70C of the principal Act to enable the Minister to seek further information from persons who have submitted revised program, and to provide an additional ground relating to the rejection of a proposed revised program.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (HEALTH AND WELLBEING) BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:47): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Advance Care Directives Act 2013, the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988, the Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022, the Blood Contaminants Act 1985, the Controlled Substances Act 1984, the Food Act 2001, the Guardianship and Administration Act 1993, the Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004, the Health Care Act 2008, the Mental Health Act 2009, the Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2003, the Suicide Prevention Act 2021 and the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. C.J. PICTON (Kaurua—Minister for Health and Wellbeing) (15:49): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading explanation and the explanation of clauses inserted in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

This portfolio Bill provides an opportunity for the Parliament to efficiently make an array of amendments to update, modernise and enhance 13 pieces of legislation in the Health and Wellbeing portfolio.

Regarding the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988*, the Bill makes minor amendments to the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988* to clarify that the register of assisted reproductive treatment providers maintained by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing is a register of applicants approved by the Minister and not merely a register of persons who hold a licence issued by the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee of the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Regarding the *Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022*, the Bill makes a technical amendment to the heading of section 9 of the *Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022* to ensure it accurately reflects the content of the section.

Regarding the *Blood Contaminants Act 1985*, the Bill makes a technical amendment to the *Blood Contaminants Act 1985* to modernise the scientific nomenclature used in respect of prescribed contaminants.

Regarding the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*, the Bill makes sensible amendments to enhance regulatory practices under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984*, allowing suspension or revocation of a licence, authority or permit in circumstances of voluntary surrender by a holder or where the holder ceases to undertake the activity for which the licence, authority or permit was granted. Additional minor amendments will allow for notices of suspension, revocation or prohibitions to be served electronically, reflecting modern methods of communication.

Regarding the *Food Act 2001*, the Bill removes an unnecessary approval requirement on food analysts via the Minister, given approved laboratories employing food analysts are required to be approved and hold independent accreditation from the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia. This change removes an unnecessary duplication of approvals, removing the administrative burden on all parties.

Regarding the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004*, the Bill includes amendments to clarify that in assisting the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner to resolve a complaint, a conciliator can request information from the relevant parties to assist the conciliation.

Regarding the *Health Care Act 2008*, the Bill makes amendments to allow for the transfer of restricted ambulance service licences and for standards to be prescribed to apply to licence holders.

Amendments are also provided to empower the Minister to exempt a person from being required to obtain a private hospital licence to provide health services, which may be appropriate in limited circumstances.

Administrative amendments are provided to expand the grounds on which personal information may be disclosed without breaching confidentiality obligations under the Act. These amendments will codify current practices and authorisations already in place to permit disclosure in specified circumstances, such as for the purposes of law enforcement, Coronial investigations, legal advice, or the Minister's handling of complaints about the provision of health services.

Additionally, the Bill will amend the *Health Care Act 2008* to include new offences prohibiting the impersonation of SA Ambulance Service employees or volunteer ambulance officers and preventing the unlawful possession of SA Ambulance Service property. These new offences will address the absence of offences for impersonation and unlawful retention of property in relation to SA Ambulance, bringing the operation of the Act in this regard into line with similar offences existing in relation to police and police security officers under section 74 of the

Police Act 1998 and other emergency services officers under section 126 of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

Regarding the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2003*, the Bill implements a recommendation of the Social Development Committee of Parliament to remove the requirement for amendments of guidelines issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council to be referred to the Committee for review and reporting.

Regarding the *Suicide Prevention Act 2021*, the Bill makes administrative amendments reflecting the change of name of Wellbeing SA to Preventive Health SA. The renaming reflects the establishment of an agency focused on strengthening the health prevention agenda in South Australia. The Bill also replaces the membership of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement (a position which no longer exists) with an additional member to be appointed by the Minister who has experience in a leadership position in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Regarding the *Advance Care Directives Act 2013*, the Bill expands the current powers of substitute decision-makers to allow them to make decisions in relation to transferring admitted patients to regulated federal residential aged care facilities, including where additional support such as a Memory Support Unit is required to ensure that person's safety.

Similarly regarding the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*, the Bill clarifies the powers of a guardian to allow them to make decisions for transfer of patients who are admitted to hospital and need to be placed at a residential aged care facility and may need additional support such as a Memory Support Unit or Locked Ward for that person's safety.

In regard to both Acts, these changes are intended to increase consistency with other jurisdictions and alleviate any delays associated with administrative processes related to authorising a person to move to a federal residential aged care facility and avoid as much as possible the adverse effects associated with prolonged hospitalisations. Federal aged care facilities are regulated by the Australian Government's Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, and facilities must adhere to the Aged Care Quality Standards.

Regarding the *Health Care Act 2008*, the Bill provides a new mechanism for entities to be established and designated to provide health services or health support services under the entity's own governance structure, rather than these services being required to be connected to an incorporated hospital (i.e. a Local Health Network). This model would allow, for example, health support services to be delivered statewide by a designated 'incorporated health service', rather than being assigned to one Local Health Network. While there is no immediate intent to utilise this governance mechanism, this amendment helps future-proof health system governance options and increases consistency with governance practices in other states.

Regarding the *Mental Health Act 2009*, the Bill makes amendments consequential to the amendment of the *Health Care Act 2008* in respect of the new 'incorporated health service' entity provision and the codification of certain exceptions to confidentiality obligations.

Regarding the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021*, the Bill makes administrative amendments consequential to the amendment of the *Health Care Act 2008* in respect of the new 'incorporated health service' entity provision.

This Bill provides a mix of amendments that will modernise health legislation and facilitate a smoother patient journey for South Australians and their families.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Advance Care Directives Act 2013*

3—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause inserts definitions for the purposes of proposed new Part 5A.

4—Insertion of Part 5A

This clause inserts new Part 5A as follows:

Part 5A—Powers of substitute decision-makers to place certain persons in residential aged care facility

39A—Persons to whom this Part applies

The proposed section provides that new Part 5A will apply to a person who—

- has given an advance care directive; and
- has impaired decision-making capacity; and
- is admitted as an inpatient of an incorporated hospital.

39B—Powers of substitute decision-makers to place certain persons in residential aged care facility

The proposed section provides that a substitute decision-maker for a person may determine that the person, on being discharged from the incorporated hospital at which they are admitted, is to reside in a residential aged care facility determined by the substitute decision-maker.

The substitute decision-maker may authorise the detention of the person in the residential aged care facility if—

- a guardian, being a guardian who has power to detain, or to authorise the detention of, the person in a residential aged care facility under section 31 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*, has not been appointed for the person under that Act; and
- the detention is reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce a significant risk of serious harm that the person presents to themselves or to others; and
- the advance care directive given by the person does not expressly exclude the operation of this proposed section in relation to the person.

An advance care directive given by a person may expressly exclude the operation of this proposed section in relation to the person.

39C—Review by Tribunal

The proposed section provides for review of a substitute decision-maker's detention authorisation by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal within 6 months of a referral by the incorporated hospital and thereafter at intervals of not more than 1 year.

5—Amendment of section 44—Application of Part

This clause amends section 44 of the *Advance Care Directives Act 2013* to provide that the detention, or proposed detention, of a person who has given an advance care directive at a residential aged care facility under section 39B is a matter to which Part 7 (dealing with dispute resolution, reviews and appeals) applies.

Part 3—Amendment of *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988*

6—Amendment of section 5—Authorisation and registration required to provide assisted reproductive treatment

This clause amends section 5 of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988* to remove the requirement that a person is authorised in accordance with the regulations as well as registered by the Minister under section 7 in order to provide assisted reproductive treatment.

7—Amendment of section 8—Registration

This clause amends section 8 of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988* to require the register to include persons determined by the Minister to be eligible for registration.

Part 4—Amendment of *Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022*

8—Amendment of section 9—Maintenance and testing

This clause amends the section of section 9 of the *Automated External Defibrillators (Public Access) Act 2022* to remove the reference to testing.

Part 5—Amendment of *Blood Contaminants Act 1985*

9—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause amends section 3 of the *Blood Contaminants Act 1985* to substitute a new definition of *prescribed contaminant* to mean an organism or substance declared by the Minister by notice in the Gazette to be a prescribed contaminant for the purposes of the Act.

Part 6—Amendment of *Controlled Substances Act 1984*

10—Amendment of section 55—Licences, authorities and permits

This clause amends section 55 of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* to expand the specified circumstances in which the Minister may suspend or revoke a licence, authority or permit under that section.

This clause also expands the manner in which service of a notice under section 55(4), to suspend or revoke a licence, authority or permit may be effected. The clause provides that the notice may be—

- given to the person personally; or
- posted in an envelope addressed to the person's last known place of residence or business; or
- transmitted by email to the person's email address (in which case the notice will be taken to have been given at the time of transmission); or
- transmitted by fax to the person's fax number (in which case the notice will be taken to have been served at the time of transmission); or
- left for the person at the person's place of residence or business with someone apparently over the age of 16 years.

11—Amendment of section 57—Power of Minister to prohibit certain activities

This clause amends section 57(3) of the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* to expand the manner in which service of a copy of an order under that section may be effected. A copy of the order may be served on the person to whom it applies—

- personally; or
- by post to the person's last known place of residence or business; or
- by email transmitted to the person's email address (in which case the notice will be taken to have been served at the time of transmission); or
- by fax transmitted to the person's fax number (in which case the notice will be taken to have been served at the time of transmission); or
- by being left for the person at the person's place of residence or business with someone apparently over the age of 16 years.

Part 7—Amendment of *Food Act 2001*

12—Amendment of section 4—Definitions

This clause updates definitions due to the change in name of Australia New Zealand Food Authority to Food Standards Australia New Zealand under the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* of the Commonwealth.

This clause also deletes the definition of *approved analyst* consequential on the amendments under clause 15.

13—Amendment of section 5—Meaning of food

This clause updates section 5 of the *Food Act 2001* consequential on changes to the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* of the Commonwealth.

14—Amendment of section 60—Certificate of analysis

This clause amends section 60 of the *Food Act 2001* to remove references to approved analysts and is consequential on the repeal of Part 6 Division 6 under clause 15.

15—Repeal of Part 6 Division 4

This clause repeals Part 6 Division 4 of the *Food Act 2001*.

16—Amendment of section 92—Exercise of functions by enforcement agencies

This clause updates section 92 of the *Food Act 2001* consequential on changes to the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* of the Commonwealth.

17—Amendment of section 102—Presumptions

This clause amends section 102 of the *Food Act 2001* to remove references to approved analysts and is consequential on the repeal of Part 6 Division 6 under clause 15.

18—Amendment of section 103—Certificate evidence and evidence of analysts

This clause substitutes section 103(3) of the *Food Act 2001* to remove references to approved analysts and is consequential on the repeal of Part 6 Division 6 under clause 15.

19—Amendment of section 111—Disclosure of certain confidential information

This clause updates section 111 of the *Food Act 2001* consequential on changes to the *Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991* of the Commonwealth.

Part 8—Amendment of *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993*

20—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause amends section 3 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* to insert definitions of *incorporated hospital* and *residential aged care facility* for the purposes of the amendments to section 31 by clause 21.

21—Amendment of section 31—Powers of guardian

This clause amends section 31 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* to provide that, if a protected person is admitted as an inpatient at an incorporated hospital, the guardian for the protected person may, subject to the terms of the guardianship order—

- determine that the protected person is, on being discharged from the incorporated hospital, to reside at a specified residential aged care facility; and
- authorise the detention of the protected person for the purposes of transporting the protected person between the incorporated hospital and that residential aged care facility; and
- authorise the detention of the protected person at that residential aged care facility.

22—Amendment of section 32—Special powers to place and detain etc protected persons

The amendment to the heading to section 32 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* in this clause is consequential on the grant of powers to a guardian under clause 21.

This clause also amends section 32 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1993* to provide that the section is in addition to, and does not limit or derogate from, section 31(2) (as inserted under clause 21) or Part 5A of the *Advance Care Directives Act 2013*.

Part 9—Amendment of *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004*

23—Amendment of section 9—Functions

This clause amends section 9 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004* to replace references to special needs groups with references to priority consumer groups.

24—Amendment of section 35—Function of conciliator

This clause amends section 35 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004* to provide that, for the purposes of undertaking a conciliation, a conciliator may request the parties to provide specified information or information of a specified kind that may be relevant for the settlement of the complaint to the conciliator. The clause further provides that a party to a conciliation may provide information in response to a request by a conciliator but is under no obligation to do so.

25—Amendment of section 40—Privilege and confidentiality

This clause amends section 40 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act 2004* to provide that information provided for the purposes of conciliation will be covered by the privilege and confidentiality provisions under that section.

Part 10—Amendment of *Health Care Act 2008*

26—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of *incorporated health service* which is consequential to the insertion of new Part 5AA under clause 40.

This clause inserts a definition of *public sector agency* to consolidate references throughout the Act under a single definition.

27—Amendment of section 4—Objects of Act

This clause amends the objects of the Act in section 4 to refer to incorporated health services which is consequential to the insertion of new Part 5AA under clause 40.

28—Amendment of section 7—Chief Executive

This clause amends the functions and powers of the Chief Executive of the Department under section 7 to refer to incorporated health services, thereby giving the Chief Executive the same functions and powers as the Chief Executive has in relation to incorporated hospitals.

29—Amendment of section 11—Functions of HPC

This clause amends section 11 to provide that the health Performance Council should, in the performance of its functions, seek to obtain, to such extent as is reasonable and relevant in the circumstances, the views of governing boards of incorporated health services.

This clause also amends section 11 to provide that the Health Performance Council cannot, in the performance of its functions, give directions to the governing boards of incorporated health services.

30—Amendment of section 15—Establishment of Councils

This clause amends section 15 to provide that a Health Advisory Council may be established in relation to an incorporated health service.

31—Amendment of section 18—Functions

This clause amends section 18 to provide that the functions of a Health Advisory Council may include to provide advice to the governing board for an incorporated health service about any matter referred to it by the board.

32—Amendment of section 20—Specific provisions in relation to property

This clause amends section 20 to provide that the assets, rights and liabilities of a Health Advisory Council may be transferred by the Minister to an incorporated health service.

33—Amendment of section 28B—Service agreement with Chief Executive

This clause amends section 28B to provide that the Chief Executive of the Department must enter into a service agreement relating to the provision of health services with each incorporated health service and that any such agreement is binding on the Chief Executive and the relevant incorporated health service.

34—Amendment of section 28C—General provisions about service agreements

This clause amends section 28C to provide that a service agreement is entered into by an incorporated health service by the chief executive officer of the incorporated health service signing the service agreement with the approval of the governing board for the incorporated health service.

35—Amendment of section 31—General powers of incorporated hospital

The amendment to section 31 is consequential to the insertion of the definition of *public sector agency* under clause 26.

36—Amendment of heading to Part 5 Division 1A

This clause amends the heading to Part 5 Division 1A consequential to the amendment to the Division under clause 37.

37—Amendment of section 32A—Transfer of functions etc between incorporated hospitals

This clause amends section 32A to provide that:

- the functions of an incorporated hospital may be transferred to an incorporated health service; and
- the assets, rights and liabilities of an incorporated hospital may be transferred to an incorporated health service,

by proclamation made by the Governor under the section.

38—Amendment of section 34—Employed staff

This clause amends section 34 to:

- update reference to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; and
- include incorporated health services in the entities where an employing authority under the section may direct an incorporated hospital employee to undertake employment functions; and
- delete a definition of public sector agency consequential to the insertion of the definition of *public sector agency* under clause 26.

39—Amendment of section 45—Interpretation

This clause amends section 45 to include incorporated health services in the definition of *designated entity* for the purposes of Part 5 Division 9 of the *Health Care Act 2008*.

40—Insertion of Part 5AA

This clause inserts new Part 5AA relating to the establishment of incorporated health services.

Part 5AA—Incorporated Health Services

Division 1—Incorporation

48BA—Incorporation

This proposed section provides for the establishment and dissolution of incorporated health services by the Governor by proclamation.

48BB—General powers of incorporated health service

This proposed section provides for the general powers of incorporated health services as a body corporate.

This proposed section further provides a range of activities that an incorporated health service may provide in addition to providing health services.

An incorporated health service is an instrumentality of the Crown and holds its property on behalf of the Crown (other than property held on trust).

48BC—Common seal

This proposed section provides that where an apparently genuine document purports to bear the common seal of an incorporated health service, it will be presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, that the common seal of that incorporated health service was duly affixed to that document.

Division 2—Functions of incorporated health service

48BD—Functions

This proposed section provides for the functions of an incorporated health service, the main functions being—

- health services stated in the service agreements for the incorporated health service; and
- teaching, training and research that supports the provision of health services as agreed with the Chief Executive; and
- any other services agreed with the Chief Executive.

48BE—Transfer of functions etc

This proposed section provides that the Governor may, by proclamation—

- transfer all or some of the functions of an incorporated health service to another incorporated health service or to an incorporated hospital;
- transfer the assets, rights and liabilities of an incorporated health service to another incorporated health service or to an incorporated hospital;
- make other provisions that in the opinion of the Governor are necessary or expedient in connection with a transfer under this section.

Division 3—Management arrangements

48BF—Governance and management arrangements

This proposed section provides that each incorporated health service is to be governed by a governing board and provides for the functions of a governing board.

The governing board for an incorporated health service must comply with any directions of the Minister and any directions of the Chief Executive and must comply with any policies of the Department specified by the Minister or the Chief Executive to apply to a governing board in the performance of its functions.

48BG—Composition of governing boards for incorporated health services

This proposed section provides for the composition of governing boards for incorporated health services.

A governing board for an incorporated health service must consist of 6 or more members (but not more than 8) appointed by the Minister, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the Minister, knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enable the board to carry out its functions effectively. The proposed section provides details on requirements in respect of individual members of a governing board.

48BH—Members of governing boards for incorporated health services to act in public interest

This proposed clause provides that a member of a governing board for an incorporated health service is to act impartially and in the public interest in performing the member's duties.

48BI—Disclosure of pecuniary or personal interest

This proposed section provides for the disclosure and management of pecuniary and personal interests of governing board members and committee members where the interest is in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the board or the committee.

48BJ—Chief executive officer for incorporated health service

This proposed section provides for the appointment of the chief executive officer of an incorporated health service by reference to a specified person or a person occupying a specified office or position.

The section further provides that the chief executive officer of an incorporated health service is responsible for managing the operations and affairs of the health service and is accountable to, and subject to the direction of, the governing board for the health service. An act done or decision made by the chief executive officer of an incorporated health service in the course of official functions and duties is an act or decision of the incorporated health service.

48BK—Provisions relating to members, procedures, committees and subcommittees etc

This proposed section provides that Schedule 3 applies in respect of governing boards for incorporated health services.

Division 4—Employed staff

48BL—Employed staff

This proposed section provides that an employing authority may employ persons to perform functions in connection with the operations or activities of an incorporated health service. The terms and conditions of employment of a person under the section will be fixed by the Chief Executive and approved by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.

A person employed under this section will be taken to be employed by or on behalf of the Crown (but will not be employed in the Public Service of the State unless brought into an administrative unit under the *Public Sector Act 2009*).

A person employed under this section may be directed by the employing authority to perform functions in connection with the operations or activities of another incorporated health service, an incorporated hospital, or any other public sector agency, specified by the employing authority.

48BM—Superannuation and accrued rights etc

This proposed section provides that an employing authority may enter into arrangements contemplated by section 5 of the *Superannuation Act 1988* with respect to a person employed at an incorporated health service.

This proposed section also provides for the circumstances in which a person's existing and accruing rights in previous employment in respect of recreation leave, sick leave and long service leave carry over to their employment at an incorporated health service.

Division 5—Accounts, audits and reports

48BN—Accounts and audit

This proposed section provides that an incorporated health service must cause proper accounts to be kept of its financial affairs and financial statements to be prepared in respect of each financial year.

This proposed section also provides that the Auditor-General may at any time, and must in respect of each financial year, audit the accounts and financial statements of an incorporated health service.

48BO—Annual report

This proposed section provides that an incorporated health service must, within 3 months after the end of each financial year, deliver to the Minister a report on the operations of the incorporated health service during that financial year. The report must incorporate the audited accounts and financial statements of the incorporated health service for the financial year.

The Minister must, within 12 sitting days after the receipt of a report under this proposed section, cause a copy of the report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Division 6—Sites, facilities and property

48BP—Ability to operate at various sites

This proposed section provides that an incorporated health service may be established or undertake its activities—

- in relation to specified health services or a specified class, or classes, of health services;
- in relation to 1 or more sites or the State generally.

48BQ—Ability to provide a range of services and facilities

This proposed section provides for flexibility in the provision of health services and related services by an incorporated health services and the sites and facilities at which those services are provided. The Minister may establish guidelines about those services or facilities.

Division 7—Delegations

48BR—Delegations

This proposed section provides for delegations by an incorporated health service.

Division 8—Fees

48BS—Fees

This proposed section provides that the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, set fees (including differential fees) to be charged by any incorporated health service in respect of any service provided by it and also provides for the recovery of the fees that are payable to an incorporated health service.

Division 9—Inspectors

48BT—Inspectors

This proposed section provides for the appointment of inspectors for the purposes of inspecting, investigating and assessing the administration, operations and governance of incorporated health services.

A person must not refuse or fail to comply with a requirement made by an inspector under the proposed section and also must not hinder or obstruct an inspector, or a person assisting an inspector, in the exercise of the powers conferred by the proposed section. A maximum penalty of \$10,000 will apply in each case.

41—Amendment of section 52—Employed staff

This clause amends section 52 to:

- (a) update reference to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment; and
- (b) include incorporated health services in the entities where an employing authority under the section may direct an SA Ambulance Service employee to undertake employment functions; and
- (c) delete a definition of public sector agency consequential to the insertion of the definition of *public sector agency* under clause 26.

42—Amendment of section 58—Licence to provide non-emergency ambulance services

This clause amends section 58 to provide that the Minister may, on application and payment of the fee fixed by the Minister, transfer a restricted ambulance service licence to a proposed transferee if the Minister is satisfied (in such manner as the Minister may determine) as to the suitability of the person to hold the licence.

43—Amendment of section 60—Holding out etc

This clause amends section 60 to provide 2 additional offences in relation to SA Ambulance Service as follows:

- (a) a person must not falsely hold themselves out to be a member of the staff of SAAS;
- (b) a person must not, without lawful excuse, be in possession of—
 - (i) property of SAAS; or
 - (ii) an item that is, or is part of, an official uniform reserved for members of the staff of SAAS.

In each case a maximum penalty of \$10,000 applies.

44—Amendment of section 68—Preliminary

This clause amends section 68 to correct references to health services entity.

45—Amendment of section 78—Testamentary gifts and trusts

This clause amends section 78 to provide that the section applies in relation to incorporated health services in the same way it applies in relation to incorporated hospitals.

46—Amendment of section 79—Prohibition of operating private hospitals unless licensed

This clause amends section 79 to provide that the restriction on private hospitals providing health services under the section does not apply in relation to health services provided under an exemption granted by the Minister under Part 10.

47—Insertion of section 88A

This clause inserts proposed new section 88A which provides that the Minister may, on such conditions as the Minister thinks fit, grant exemptions from Part 10 or specified provisions of Part 10—

- (a) on specified persons or persons of a specified class; or

(b) in relation to specified services or services of a specified class.

It will be an offence for a person to contravene or fail to comply with a condition imposed under the section and a maximum penalty of \$20,000 will apply.

48—Amendment of section 89—Preliminary

This clause amends section 89 to provide that incorporated health services will be excluded from the definition of *declared day hospital* for the purposes of Part 10A.

49—Amendment of section 89B—Prohibition on providing prescribed health services unless licensed

This clause amends section 89B to provide that the prohibition in section 89B against providing prescribed health services does not apply in relation to an incorporated health service.

50—Amendment of section 89C—Private day procedure centre licence

This clause amends section 89C to correct a reference to a private day procedure centre licence.

51—Amendment of section 89D—Conditions of licence

This clause amends section 89D to correct a reference to a private day procedure centre licence.

52—Amendment of section 89L—

This clause amends section 89L to update reference to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment.

53—Amendment of section 90—Recognised organisations

This clause amends section 90 to provide that recognised organisations under the section has the right to make submissions to an incorporated health service on any matter arising out of, or in relation to, the performance or exercise of any of its functions or powers under the Act.

54—Amendment of section 90A—Acquisition of property

This clause amends section 90A to provide that the section does not limit or affect the power of an incorporated health service to acquire land, or an interest in land, by agreement.

55—Amendment of section 91—Duty of Registrar-General

This clause amends section 91 to provide that an incorporated health service, where an interest in land has vested in the incorporated health service, may apply to the Registrar-General for the issue of new certificates of title, or for entries and notations to be made on existing certificates of title, as may be necessary to evidence the vesting of the relevant interest.

56—Amendment of section 92—Conflict of interest

This clause amends section 92 to provide that a person employed at an incorporated health service will be a *health employee* for the purposes of section 92.

57—Amendment of section 93—Confidentiality

This clause amends section 93 as follows:

- section 93(1) is amended to provide that for the purposes of the section person is engaged in connection with the operation of this Act if the person is a member of the governing board for an incorporated health service or is engaged to work at an incorporated health service in a manner not otherwise listed in section 93(1);
- section 93(1) is amended to provide that it will be an exception to the offence of disclosure of information obtained in the course of administration of this Act while working at an incorporated health service where the incorporated health service has authorised or required the disclosure of the information;
- section 93(3)(d)(iii) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from disclosing information to such extent as is reasonably required in connection with the management or administration of an incorporated health service;
- section 93(3) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from—
- disclosing information to South Australia Police if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence has been, or may be, committed and the disclosure is reasonably required for the purpose of reporting the matter to South Australia Police; or
- disclosing information to the State Coroner, or to a person who is an investigator under the *Coroners Act 2003* investigating a death on behalf of the State Coroner; or
- disclosing information to a legal practitioner engaged by or on behalf of the Minister, the Department, an attached office to the Department, an incorporated hospital, an incorporated health service, SAAS or

the South Australian Government Financing Authority (acting in its function as insurer to an entity referred to in this paragraph) to provide legal representation or legal advice; or

- disclosing information to the Minister or persons employed or engaged to work for the Minister for the purposes of the Minister handling a complaint made by the person to whom the information relates (or by their personal representative) about mental health services the person has received.

58—Amendment of section 100—Regulations

This clause amends section 100 to provide that the regulation making power in the section will apply in relation to incorporated health services in the same way that it applies in relation to incorporated hospitals.

This clause also amends section 100 to provide that the regulations may prescribe standards to be observed by the holder of a restricted ambulance service licence in the provision of health services.

59—Amendment of Schedule 3—Governing boards for incorporated hospitals

This clause amends Schedule 3 consequential to the application of the Schedule in relation to incorporated health services under inserted new Part 5AA under clause 40.

Part 11—Amendment of *Mental Health Act 2009*

60—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause amends section 3 of the *Mental Health Act 2009* to insert definitions of *incorporated hospital* and *incorporated health service* both to be defined as having the same meaning as in the *Health Care Act 2008*.

61—Amendment of section 51—Community visitors' functions and powers

This clause amends section 51(3) of the *Mental Health Act 2009*—

- consequential to the insertion of the definition of *incorporated hospital*; and
- to provide that community visitors will have the authority to conduct inspections of the premises and operations of any incorporated health service.

62—Amendment of section 90—Chief Psychiatrist's functions

This clause amends section 90 of the *Mental Health Act 2009*—

- consequential to the insertion of the definition of *incorporated hospital*; and
- to provide that standards issued by the Chief Psychiatrist under the section will be binding on an incorporated health service; and
- provides that the Chief Psychiatrist will have the authority to conduct inspections of the premises and operations of any incorporated health service and for that purpose will have the powers specified in section 90(5).

63—Amendment of section 106—Confidentiality and disclosure of information

This clause amends section 106 of the *Mental Health Act 2009* as follows:

- section 106(1) is amended to provide that an exception to the offence of disclosure of information obtained in the course of administration of this Act while working at an incorporated health service where the incorporated health service has authorised or required the disclosure of the information;
- section 106(2)(a) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from disclosing information as authorised by law;
- section 106(2)(d)(iii) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from disclosing information to such extent as is reasonably required in connection with the management or administration of an incorporated health service;
- section 106(2) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from—
 - disclosing information to South Australia Police if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that an offence has been, or may be, committed and the disclosure is reasonably required for the purpose of reporting the matter to South Australia Police; or
 - disclosing information to the State Coroner, or to a person who is an investigator under the *Coroners Act 2003* investigating a death on behalf of the State Coroner; or
 - disclosing information to a legal practitioner engaged by or on behalf of the Minister, the Department, an attached office to the Department, an incorporated hospital, an incorporated health service, SAAS or the South Australian Government Financing Authority (acting in its function as insurer to an entity referred to in this paragraph) to provide legal representation or legal advice; or

- disclosing information to the Minister or persons employed or engaged to work for the Minister for the purposes of the Minister handling a complaint made by the person to whom the information relates (or by their personal representative) about mental health services the person has received.

Part 12—Amendment of *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2003*

64—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause amends section 3 of the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2003* to update a reference to The Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand in paragraph (a) of the definition of *accredited ART centre*.

65—Amendment of section 30—NHMRC guidelines

This clause repeals section 30(3) of the *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2003*.

Part 13—Amendment of *Suicide Prevention Act 2021*

66—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause substitutes a definition of *Preventive Health SA* in the place of the definition for *Wellbeing SA* given the change in name of the attached office. This clause also deletes the definition of Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement.

67—Amendment of section 9—Establishment of Suicide Prevention Council

This clause amends section 9 consequential on the change of the name of Wellbeing SA to Preventive Health SA. This clause also amends section 9 to remove the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement as an ex officio member of the Suicide Prevention Council and to instead include an additional member appointed by the Minister who must have experience in a leadership position in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Part 14—Amendment of *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021*

68—Amendment of section 3—Interpretation

This clause inserts a definition of *incorporated health service* to have the same meaning as in the *Health Care Act 2008*.

69—Amendment of section 19—Confidentiality

This clause amends section 19 of the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021* as follows:

- section 19(1)(b) is amended to provide that an exception to the offence of disclosure of information obtained in the course of administration of this Act while working at an incorporated health service where the incorporated health service has authorised or required the disclosure of the information;
- section 19(2)(c)(iii) is amended to provide that the offence in subsection (1) does not prevent a person from disclosing information to such extent as is reasonably required in connection with the management or administration of an incorporated health service.

70—Amendment of section 21—Regulations

This clause amends section 21(2)(a) of the *Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021* to include incorporated health services in the list of entities that the regulations may require to collect and provide the Minister, the Department, or an attached office attached to the Department with data and statistics in relation to services connected with the performance of terminations.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

LABOUR HIRE LICENSING (SCOPE OF ACT) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:49): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (15:50): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Labour Hire Licensing (Scope of Act) Amendment Bill 2025. This bill proposes to amend the Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017 to broaden the regulatory framework for the oversight of labour hire in South Australia. The amendments proposed in this bill will deliver on the

government's commitment to strengthen South Australia's labour hire licensing laws by ensuring that all labour hire firms and workers are covered by the same laws and regulations.

Labour hire licensing is a regulatory measure designed to protect labour hire workers and ensure that labour hire service providers operate within fair standards. South Australia's labour hire licensing laws set minimum standards for labour hire providers with the aim of protecting workers from being exploited. Currently, labour hire providers are only required to be licensed in five sectors: horticultural processing, meat processing, seafood processing, cleaning and trolley collection. There is concern that the current legislation leaves the other labour hire workers without important protections and labour hire providers free to operate without needing to meet licensing criteria, such as police checks and fit and proper requirements for those responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of labour hire businesses.

The bill proposes to return the industry to largely the same arrangements that were in place when labour hire licensing first commenced in South Australia before the law was amended in 2020 to limit its application. The 2020 amendments effectively narrowed the scheme to only apply to labour hire providers operating within certain industries where workers were at particular risk of exploitation. The expansion of labour hire licensing laws will address the potential for exploitation of vulnerable labour hire workers in other industries and inappropriate labour hire business practices across South Australia. The proposed changes will bring South Australia's labour hire licensing laws in line with corresponding labour hire licensing schemes in place in other jurisdictions, namely, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT.

The strengthening of South Australia's labour hire licensing laws addresses the potential for exploitation of vulnerable labour hire workers and inappropriate labour hire business practices, and establishes a broadened mandatory licensing scheme for all labour hire service providers operating in South Australia. The broadened scheme proposed within the bill has many benefits. It will ensure that all labour hire service providers and labour hire workers are covered by the same laws and regulations.

It will promote a level playing field so that all labour hire service providers do not face unfair competition from unscrupulous operators and labour hire workers are not subject to exploitation, whilst keeping administrative burdens to a minimum. It is likely to deter unscrupulous labour hire service providers from avoiding responsibilities by creating a new company to continue the business of the company that has deliberately closed to avoid paying its debts, including employee entitlements and taxation obligations, also known as 'phoenixing'.

Being licensed reassures hosts and labour hire workers that labour hire service providers are held to a high standard, reducing the risk of unethical practices. For labour hire workers it ensures fair wages, safe working conditions and legal recourse in case of disputes. It will reduce risks for labour hire workers who may experience job insecurity, poor working conditions and lower pay compared to staff who work directly for a business.

In addition to removing provisions that limit the application of the act to horticultural, meat, and seafood processing, cleaning and trolley collection, the bill proposes to retain section 46 of the act. Retaining section 46 of the act will continue to provide for the ability to exempt certain persons or classes of persons through the *Gazette*.

To keep the use of exemptions to a minimum and, ideally, avoid having to make use of exemption provisions at all, the bill revises the definitions of 'labour hire services', 'labour hire worker' and 'supplier' to ensure clarity regarding the scope and coverage of the legislation. The changes to the definitions of 'labour hire services', 'labour hire worker' and 'supplier' within the bill have been informed by detailed benchmarking analysis of related definitions contained in corresponding interstate labour hire legislation.

Overall, this bill proposes to strengthen South Australia's labour hire licensing laws by addressing the potential for exploitation of vulnerable labour hire workers and inappropriate labour hire business practices by broadening the scheme to cover all labour hire service providers operating in South Australia. I commend the 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 *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017*

3—Amendment of section 6—Interpretation

This clause inserts definitions for annual wages, director, remuneration and senior manager, and deletes definitions for aquatic animal, cleaning work, fishing, horticultural processing work, meat, meat processing work, prescribed work, seafood, seafood processing work and trolley work.

4—Amendment of section 7—Meaning of *labour hire services*

Subclause (1) amends the circumstances where a person does not provide labour hire services, adding the following circumstances:

- where an individual is supplied to a host to undertake work by a body corporate that has not more than 2 directors and the individual is a director or senior manager of the body corporate and is the only individual who is supplied by the body corporate to undertake work for another person;
- where an individual is supplied to a host to undertake work by a business carried on by a partnership comprised of no more than 2 persons and of which the individual is a partner;
- where an individual is supplied to a host to undertake work by a business carried on by the individual operating as a sole trader;
- where an individual is supplied to a host to undertake work for which the annual wages for the individual are equal to or more than the amount of the high income threshold within the meaning of the *Fair Work Act 2009* of the Commonwealth and the individual's employment is not subject to or covered by a modern award or enterprise agreement under that Act.

The amendment in subclause (2) provides that a person may provide labour hire services to a host regardless of whether an individual supplied by the person to undertake work is an employee of the person or a contract is entered into between the worker and the person or between the person and the host.

5—Amendment of section 8—Meaning of *labour hire worker*

This clause amends the circumstances where an individual is not a labour hire worker for another person, adding the following circumstances:

- the individual is an employee of the other person, where the other person is 1 of a group of entities that carry on business as a group, and the employee does work for another entity in that group;
- the individual is a public sector employee within the meaning of the *Public Sector Act 2009* who is seconded, transferred, provided or made available to do work for another person or entity pursuant to an Act.

6—Amendment of section 20—Duration of licence, periodic fee and report

This is a consequential amendment to the definition of *prescribed information* in section 20.

Schedule 1—Transitional provisions

1—Application of sections 11 and 12 of *Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017*

This clause sets out transitional provisions related to the application of sections 11 and 12 of the Act.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

WAITE TRUST (ACTIVITIES ON AND USE OF CERTAIN TRUST LAND) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (15:55): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to allow for certain activities on, and use of, portions of the land that is subject to the terms of the Peter Waite Trust. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (15:56): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce the Waite Trust (Activities on and Use of Certain Trust Land) Bill 2025. The bill will amend the terms of the Waite Trust to enable the upgrade of the Urrbrae Agricultural High School oval and supporting facilities by the Sturt Football Club and the establishment of a long-term shared use agreement between the Minister for Education, Training and Skills and the Sturt Football Club to make use of these facilities at specified times outside of school hours.

Urrbrae Agricultural High School is located on land that was gifted to the state by Mr Peter Waite in 1914 for the purposes of establishing an agricultural high school and is subject to a charitable trust, namely the Waite Trust, for these purposes. The school oval upgrade project is part of the Department for Education's commitment to unlocking school facilities and green spaces as valuable community assets.

Partnerships are being brokered between schools and state sporting organisations, clubs and local government authorities to realise improved engagement in schooling and curriculum-aligned learning, external investment in school infrastructure, and increased mutually beneficial access for community use of school facilities.

Where possible, the Department for Education is seeking partnerships where state sporting organisations and sporting clubs financially invest in and attract additional funding for capital infrastructure. These organisations then make contributions toward the usage and maintenance costs of school sports facilities in accordance with shared-use agreements, which allow clubs access to those facilities at specified times when not in use by the school. This approach is being taken in respect of the upgrade of the oval and facilities at Urrbrae Agricultural High School.

In addition to the funds, the Sturt Football Club and the South Australian National Football League are contributing to the project. They have secured funding commitments from the Australian government, the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing through The Power of Her—Infrastructure and Participation Program and the Australian Football League.

The total build budget will be almost \$4 million. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for Boothby for her commitment of \$3.5 million towards this project at the recent federal election. The project aims to transform the site into a high-quality sporting hub with modern fit-for-purpose facilities.

The upgrade is proposed to occur over two stages of development. Stage 1 would include the installation of sports lighting, goal posts and backing nets. Stage 2 would include the construction of a pavilion, featuring a multipurpose education room, change rooms, storage spaces, umpire and student amenities kiosk, coaching boxes, interchange shelters, an undercover spectator area, and an electronic scoreboard.

The project will directly enhance the teaching and learning outcomes of the students of Urrbrae Agricultural High School and will enable the Sturt Football Club to utilise the area as their second oval. The upgrade will also benefit local clubs, families and other community groups who will be able to access the improved space. The new facilities will be confined to the existing footprint of the oval. That is an important point. The upgrades will not result in the demolition of any existing buildings. In summary the bill:

- varies the terms of the Waite Trust to allow for the installation and construction of certain facilities and amenities, by or on behalf of the Sturt Football Club, on a portion of the Waite land comprising the site of the school oval and surrounding areas;
- allows for the minister to grant a long-term licence, on terms and conditions determined by the minister, to the Sturt Football Club to use the school oval, associated upgraded facilities and amenities and other areas when it is not in use by the school;

- provides for the land that is required during the construction phase, and the land that will then be the subject of the long-term usage agreement, to be identified in plans deposited in the General Registry Office at Adelaide;
- includes an immunity from liability provision, to ensure that no civil or criminal liability attaches to a person in respect of any act or omission done in good faith and without negligence under or in accordance with the new act or a licence granted under the new Act; and
- includes relevant regulation-making powers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, minister. Given the time, you may wish to seek leave to insert the rest of your comments on the bill.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I seek leave to insert the remainder of my comments and the explanation of clauses in *Hansard* without my reading them.

Leave granted.

It is clear that this project will provide significant educational, social and economic benefits to Urrbrae Agricultural High School students, Sturt Football Club and the wider community.

Student learning will be enhanced with the installation of facilities that support the delivery of curriculum aligned programs and extra-curricular activities. The project will directly enhance the teaching and learning outcomes for the school's students.

The project will secure a high quality second oval for Sturt Football Club, in addition to its home ground at Unley Oval, to support the growing number of football competitions and programs run by the club. The upgraded school oval will be used by the football club for training, junior development and women's home games.

The proposal will service multiple purposes and will benefit local clubs, families and other community groups who will be able to access the improved space.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Explanation of Clauses

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

3—Interpretation

This clause defines certain terms used in the measure.

4—Variation of Waite Trust

This clause varies the terms of the Peter Waite Trust to allow the following:

- specified activities to be undertaken on land that is subject to the terms of the trust by or on behalf of the Sturt Football Club Incorporated and such use of that land in connection with those activities as is approved by the Minister and is by or on behalf of that club;
- land that is subject to the terms of the trust to be used by the Sturt Football Club Incorporated when it is not in use by Urrbrae Agricultural High School and in accordance with a long-term licence granted by the Minister.

5—Immunity from liability

This clause provides an immunity from liability for any person who acts in good faith and without negligence under or in accordance with the measure or a licence granted under the measure.

6—Regulations

This clause provides a regulation-making power.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Batty.

Auditor-General's Report

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In committee.

(Continued from 28 October 2025.)

The CHAIR: I declare the examination of the report of the Auditor-General 2024-25 open. I remind members that the committee is in normal session. Any questions have to be asked by members on their feet and all questions must be directly referenced to the Auditor-General's Report 2024-25 and agency statements for the year ending 2024-25, as published on the Auditor-General's website. I welcome the Minister for Education and the member for Flinders for the opposition. We have 30 minutes allocated starting now.

Mr BATTY: I would like to start with police please.

The CHAIR: Okay. You call the shots so to speak. Sorry, that was a bad pun.

Mr BATTY: Turning to the audited financial statements of South Australia Police, pages 7 and 8, and particularly the employee-related expenditure in the crime and criminal justice section, my question is: was the CIB section understaffed in regional areas during the audited year? If so, did this lead to any delays in finalising SAPOL tier 2 Coroner's files?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Bragg for his question. I understand that is probably outside the terms of the Auditor-General's Report from what I can see. I can see the item you are referring to there but I do not think there is any available breakdown on the CIB or otherwise.

Mr BATTY: Well, I will try again on page 8, specifically referring to employee-related expenses in the crime and criminal justice section. Perhaps you can tell me what the CIB funding was, but particularly what I am trying to work out is how many overdue tier 2 Coroner's files there were in SAPOL during the audited year.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: No, I understand, but the Auditor-General's Report does not deal with that—unless you can find the place in the report, member for Bragg, where it does then I will happily either answer your question or take it on notice.

Mr BATTY: I will move on to some other questions if the minister does not want to answer these questions about overdue tier 2 Coroner's files.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Point of order.

The CHAIR: Member for Bragg, you will resume your seat while I take a point of order. I think I can guess where the point of order is going to go.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Insinuating that I was not willing to answer the question, which is not what I said. The member for Bragg already has, I have seen in the early days of doing his job, a proclivity to actually stretching the truth little bit, I think. He did it on radio yesterday.

Mr BATTY: Point of order.

The CHAIR: You can make your point of order but I will deal with this one first. Yours can be a contingent point of order. Minister, am I to understand that you took offence to those comments?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Yes, I did.

The CHAIR: Member for Bragg, the member has taken offence.

Mr BATTY: I have taken offence, sir.

The CHAIR: No, he is first. You will come second.

Mr BATTY: Offence at what?

The CHAIR: You implied he did not want to answer the question. Unless you can show me the direct reference in the Auditor-General's Report—

Mr BATTY: My reference is page 8 of the audited report and the employee expenditure in the crime and criminal justice section.

The CHAIR: Hold on. Page 8 of what?

Mr BATTY: Of the audited financial reports of SAPOL.

The CHAIR: There are three different reports. Which one are you referring to?

Mr BATTY: No, I am not referring to any of the Auditor-General's reports in front of you. On the website of the Auditor-General is the Independent Auditor's Report into the South Australia Police. It is the agency report, sir—page 8 of the associated agency report—which I would ask both you and the minister to turn up and make a ruling on.

The CHAIR: You wish to take it on notice, though?

Mr BATTY: If the minister has come without the audited report of SAPOL, that is really—

The CHAIR: Careful where you go.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Point of order.

The CHAIR: Can you guys just sit down, please? Calm down and stop taking pot shots at each other.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Member for Flinders! The next person who speaks out of turn will not get a chance to ask or answer questions. Given the circumstances, the minister will take that question on notice. We will proceed.

Mr BATTY: In the same line item, were there any overdue SAPOL tier 2 Coroner's files in the audited year? Can you please advise the number of days each file has been overdue and how many of them are in metropolitan versus regional areas?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: As we have agreed on the first one, because it appears that it is not dealt with in the audited statements that we are going through here we will have to take that on notice. But, of course, if the member for Bragg has any questions that actually pertain to this specifically here in the remaining 25 or 26 minutes that we have I am very willing to answer them.

Mr BATTY: Thank you, minister, for your cooperation. I turn to the Auditor-General's Report, Part C on page 289, where we have a number of sworn police officers and cadets at 4,947. Can the minister advise what the establishment number of sworn officers was as at 30 June?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am advised it was 4,674.

Mr BATTY: How many of those positions were actually filled as at the end of the audited year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I can say that as of today we are 115 below the establishment figure I gave. I can give some rolling data as well: in November 2024, 180 was the figure; in October 2024, it was 193; in September 2024, it was 184; and it is now 115. I think from memory the opposition leader used the figure of 200 this week, but that is not right.

Mr BATTY: I would ask the minister to try to confine his comments to the Auditor-General's Report and the year that was examined, which ended at 30 June 2025, so I am not sure what comments the—

The CHAIR: Member for Bragg!

Mr BATTY: —opposition leader made last week.

Mr Telfer: The end of June is the reporting period.

Mr BATTY: Yes, 30 June. So you do not have that figure, but we will take the figure of 115 below at the moment.

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Member for Bragg, you can take your seat. Member for Flinders—

Members interjecting:

The CHAIR: Minister! Have you boys finished? Member for Flinders, I politely ask you that when it is your turn to speak—

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The CHAIR: No, you interrupted when you did not need to. Member for Bragg, the floor is yours. Can you ask your colleague to keep his comments to himself?

Mr BATTY: I will leave that to you, Chair. The Auditor-General's Report finishes at 30 June 2025, which is the same date, of course, that was the target for returning to establishment numbers. The commissioner said on ABC radio on 2 October 2024 that SAPOL was 'planning to get back to establishment at or as close as possible by 30 June next year,' being the period that is the end of this report. For what reasons did SAPOL fail to meet this 30 June target for returning to establishment?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I do not accept your characterisation, of course, nor the opposition leader saying that we are 200 below—which is disappointing on a number of levels, but particularly as a former police minister you would think he would get that stuff right.

Mr Batty interjecting:

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is right—plus the 326 that we have committed to as well. You might recall the answer I gave to a question in question time today about applications. I am happy to go through that again today. You do not want to hear that, because it reflects very poorly on your time.

Mr Batty: It is not in the Auditor-General's Report.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: But do you remember the three questions you started with, because they were not in the report.

Mr Batty: Yes, they were.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Wow—amazing. All I can say is: applications soaring; sworn officer numbers going up; and vacancies dropping. There are 115 today, down from 193 in October.

Mr BATTY: I will repeat my question: for what reasons did SAPOL not reach a 30 June target for reaching establishment numbers?

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I cannot hear because I have the member for Flinders as well, so—

Mr BATTY: I repeat my previous question. I am after the reasons why SAPOL did not meet the 30 June target for a returning to establishment?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Bragg for his question. Obviously, recruiting remains challenging, and we know that, but we are doing a much better job of it than the last government did. There is no doubt about that; the statistics speak for themselves there.

We have dropped from vacancies of 193 in October of last year to just 115 now, and that trajectory is very, very promising. Of course, add to that the big increase in applications to join SAPOL—over 3,000 most recently—I am not sure we have ever topped that before. So, yes, it is still a very difficult environment to do that, but I think the things that this government has committed to doing that we are doing are clearly making a difference because we are seeing applications up, vacancies down and the number of officers sworn in also on the increase dramatically since the last government as well.

Mr BATTY: Is there a new target date for returning to establishment?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Of course, from my point of view, member for Bragg, as soon as we can.

Mr BATTY: How many sworn police officers joined the force during the audited year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for his question. Here is the information on applications and graduates across the last few years: in 2021-22, 1,825 applications and 111 graduates; in 2022-23, 2,250 applications and 167 graduates; in 2023-24, 2,394 applications

and 242 graduates; and in 2024-25, 3,050 applications—the figure I used before—and 264 graduates.

Mr BATTY: How many sworn police officers separated from the force during the audited year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for Bragg. I will take it on notice so I can get you the exact data in terms of separations from the force across the reporting period, but I can also go back a few years as I am sure some comparative data would be useful as well. I am reassured by those next to me that that figure, which includes resigned and retired for the 2024-25 reporting period, is thankfully lower than it was for the 2023-24 reporting period, but I will take the specific question on notice and bring you back data for this period and the periods before it as well.

Mr BATTY: I note you have the data for how many have joined the force in front of you. You do not have the data for how many separated from the force, or you cannot readily get that just in the most recent audited year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I just took that question on notice.

Mr BATTY: Have you taken it on notice because you do not want to tell me, or because you do not have the answer and you cannot tell me?

The CHAIR: The minister has answered your question, saying he has taken it on notice. The additional commentary was not warranted, member for Bragg. Continue.

Mr BATTY: I guess what I am trying to get to is what the net gain of police officers has been. Can you tell me what the net gain of police officers was during the audited year? So that would be the figure of 264 that you told me before, minus the figure you will not tell me.

The CHAIR: I think what he is trying to say is he is unable to tell you.

Mr Batty interjecting:

The CHAIR: I know; I went to a northern school, we are a bit different.

The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:

Mr BATTY: I would ask that the minister, who is interjecting, withdraw the statement that I have been misleading people on the radio.

The CHAIR: Take your seat; you know the process. He has not said you have misled parliament.

Mr BATTY: Sir, I am suggesting he has. I am saying he is interjecting and saying that I have misled people on the radio and I take offence at that and ask that he withdraw it and apologise to me.

The CHAIR: So you are saying he is interjecting?

Mr BATTY: With offensive comments, sir.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The CHAIR: I am taking advice, member for Flinders, and when you become the Clerk I will take your advice. Apparently, previous Speakers have ruled that a comment in the community is not the same as misleading the parliament and—let me finish; I know what you are about to say—anything that flows from that is also therefore not warranted. Can you go to the next question, please? And I would ask that both the member for Bragg and the minister stop throwing barbs at each other, please, and the member for Flinders not say anything.

Mr BATTY: During the audited year of the sworn police officers who separated from the force, what was the split between resignations versus retirements?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for Bragg, for the question. I can tell you that the split is more in favour of resigned over retired, but probably only marginally. I will get you the exact figure.

Mr BATTY: Is the minister concerned about a recent PASA report that shows one in two police officers are considering leaving the force in the next three years?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Bragg for the question. Of course, as is the case with all my portfolios, I would be concerned about people who want to leave the job. It is one of the reasons we are doing all the things that we are in policing to try to make the job more attractive. That includes, of course, the enterprise bargaining agreement that we struck with SAPOL. That has a four in front of it, which is a very considerable increase from the twos that the last government delivered to SAPOL. They were, of course, very low figures, and we have improved on that. Then there was another budget most recently that had a record funding commitment to police and law enforcement in South Australia and more commitments with PSOs. We know that is important as well.

In terms of the question that the member for Bragg asked about PASA's report about people who are saying they are going to leave the force, the short answer is yes. Of course, I am always concerned about that in policing—I am the same with teachers as well—but I think the things that we have committed to and put in place that are already rolling out show that there are things that we are doing that are really working. I think those application numbers I mentioned before, which are now over 3,000, point to us doing something right in terms of trying to make policing a more attractive career.

I understand the workload pressures that police are under. I joined the officer in charge of Eastern District, Scott Denny, and some of his team on Friday night for a bit of a walk down Hindley Street and had a chance to talk to them beforehand about the things they have seen change in policing and what they are seeing. I have no reason to think otherwise when they tell me the job is tough and they are under a lot of pressure. That is why the government is doing the things that the government should do. No, of course I do not want people to be leaving the force. I want them to stay, and I want us to find more recruits as well.

Mr BATTY: Minister, do you think that the shortfall in police officers is having an impact on community safety?

The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:

The CHAIR: I could not hear, either. Can you repeat, please?

Mr BATTY: Is the shortfall in police officers that the minister identified a moment ago—115 below establishment—having an impact on community safety?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: We have set a target to get to 5,000. Of course, we want more police officers and we think more police officers are good for community safety. There is no doubt about that. I do not want there to be any vacancies. I want us to reach the 326. I have said that time and time again. That is why we are putting a record spend from the budget into this.

Mr BATTY: How many international recruits commenced with SAPOL in the audited year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The figure is 86. I understand that includes interstate transfers though as well. If you would like a breakdown, I am sure I can ask the team to provide that.

Mr BATTY: What incentives were offered to those police officers to move to South Australia from other jurisdictions?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The pay to start with, of course, the enterprise bargaining agreement that we struck; the 4 per cents that we have given here compared to the 2 per cents they got under the last government I would say was probably one of the big ones. I understand the commitment that the opposition has made around police recruitment. I do not seek to criticise that but I would point out that one of the best things we can do in terms of an ongoing incentive for people who want to join the force or stay in the force, potentially move from interstate, potentially move from overseas, to come to serve in the South Australian police force here in South Australia is to have a really strong enterprise bargaining agreement that delivers real wage growth. We have done that with 4 per cents locked in. I am happy to get a bit of advice from those next to me about any other incentives we can speak to.

Just quickly—I am sure you have other questions—the existing things the agency already does in terms of relocation expenses included up to \$10,000 to move from some places as well, so there are things that we are already doing to encourage people to move from overseas and interstate. Again, I would just say that the best thing I think we can do here is come to an agreement with SAPOL, which we have done already, on a strong enterprise bargaining agreement that delivers real wage increases to our forces. We have certainly done that with those 4 per cents, which are basically double what the last government managed to deliver.

Mr TELFER: I will do a few minutes of education, if possible. I refer the minister to the Auditor-General's Report, Part C, on page 51. Is the department on track to release its asset management action plan by February 2026?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Yes.

Mr TELFER: When does the minister expect that asset management action plan to be completed and released?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am told before June at this stage in 2026 is the aim of the department, but depending on what happens at the election and a range of other things, once I have a more specific date I am very happy to provide that publicly around when that will be available.

Mr TELFER: But you just said that you expect it before February 2026, in the answer before, to my question.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I said in 2026 in my first answer, before June.

Mr TELFER: The question I asked, the first one, was, 'Do you expect it to be released by February 2026?' and you said, 'Yes'. Can I just get some clarity?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: My answer is the same. The advice from the department is, before June 2026.

Mr TELFER: The Auditor-General's Report found the department lacks a formal documented framework governing how asset data, whether that is age, risk or placement schedules, etc., is to be used in capital decision-making. His recommendation was made to update the existing asset management framework. I understand the department advised it would be able to develop an action plan to address this matter by February 2026 but now that is June 2026? That is pushed out. So it is beyond what has already been promised. It has been kicked out.

The Hon. B.I. Boyer interjecting:

Mr TELFER: Okay, sure. The South Australian Schools Investment Fund balances, minister, on pages 58 to 60: what is the government's position on what constitutes a high SASIF balance? Are you working with the department to define specific thresholds?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: We are working on that, yes, because there is obviously a lot of money sitting in SASIF. There is a reason, however—and I am happy to go into it in a bit of detail around why that number is rising. Part of the issue is around the fact that post the pandemic, we have seen an increase in the cost of builds, essentially I would be guessing for government and certainly for education, of about 40 per cent.

What that means for schools is that those who have been doing the right thing and tirelessly working to save up some money in their SASIF account in the hope that they will get a co-contribution perhaps from the government to finish a project that they want to do, it has got a lot harder because we are essentially getting 40 per cent less for our money.

So, yes, we are working with the department around the recommendations from the Auditor-General. We know that is really important. It is a lot of money that is sitting in SASIF at a time when we have a lot of pressure on our infrastructure. You would know that as the member for Flinders, and I am keen to utilise that as best we can, and we will work to have those thresholds and work with the principals' associations of course on deciding what they are. But I do give schools some slack, because before COVID it was 40 per cent less than it is now. So, if the school has saved up \$500,000, unfortunately now it is not getting them what it would have three or four years ago, which makes it

difficult. The short answer is, yes, we are working on that and we will have a plan as per the recommendation of the Auditor-General.

The CHAIR: Sadly, the time allocated for this has expired. Next please. I think it is the Minister for Human Services. I welcome the Minister for Human Services and I call on questions from the member for Chaffey.

Mr WHETSTONE: I would like to go to Part C, page 225, reference point 8. Does DHS currently have any policies or procedures for the disability service charging process?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Yes.

Mr WHETSTONE: Is DHS aiming to have these policies in place? Are they in place now or are they to be in place?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: There are policies and procedures in place and they are under constant review.

Mr WHETSTONE: The Auditor-General said that system improvements need to develop policies and procedures for the billing process, so why has it taken so long for DHS to start implementing those policies, given that the service started in October 2023?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Because of the complex nature of the billing process and for the first time having those individual billing procedures put in place per client.

Mr WHETSTONE: We are two years on from that and again the Auditor-General has questioned that the system does need improvements for the billing process. He also found roughly 100 expired client agreements and \$4.9 million in unpaid disability service debts. Why are so many overdue?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The Auditor-General actually noted improvements in controls and billing practices and really significant reductions in debtors. In the first full year of the NDIS it led to a high number of service agreements expiring and needing renewal all at once. That was what the large amount was. We have now had plan reviews so that they are going to be renewed at a staggered process throughout the year so that we do not get that occurring again.

Mr WHETSTONE: Of the 100 expired client service agreements in the DHS charging system, how many have now been renewed and how many are still unresolved?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: It is a rolling number but there are around 33 that are currently still being renewed and worked on. Under the new system we would expect, as it is fully implemented, that there would be no more than a couple of dozen at a time, when you work that out over 12 months.

Mr WHETSTONE: What is the value of those 33?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: All plans are different values. I cannot give you the value of those 33.

Mr WHETSTONE: Can you put it on notice?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I can tell you that the average plan is somewhere around 200,000 to 300,000, but, as you would be well aware, some plans are well north of that. Today it will be different than tomorrow and different than the day after, and it is different than last week. So this is a difficult question to give you a precise answer to, and I am not sure of what impact that would have, at all, in terms of the function and operations of the Department of Human Services.

Mr WHETSTONE: So you cannot tell me what the total value is of the services that were to be billed and that were part of those expired agreements. But has all of the revenue been recovered, or is there a portion that is now unrecoverable?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Once a value is in the plan and agreed on, we can have that payment backdated. So that is not how it happens.

Mr WHETSTONE: If there is a revenue loss, has the loss of revenue had any impact on DHS's budget forecast?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We do not have a loss of revenue related to delayed service agreements.

Mr WHETSTONE: How will DHS ensure agreements are updated in a timely manner in the future?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Through the reviewed processes.

Mr WHETSTONE: What is the total outstanding disability debt owed to DHS?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: As of what date?

Mr WHETSTONE: The Auditor-General said in April 2025 that 70 per cent of debts were at least 90 days overdue. How much of that has now been recovered, written off or is outstanding?

The CHAIR: The minister can only report up to 30 June 2025.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: As of last month, any debt has come down by \$1 million, and that continues to be worked on. As of 30 September, the disability debt over 90 days is \$3.9 million, and we are still working to recover that.

Mr WHETSTONE: What about the \$2.9 million at 180 days?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We are still working to recover that.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, how many debtor accounts make up the \$2.9 million overdue by more than 180 days?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The total amounts per debtor and for each account could range in a huge variance, but we are happy to take that one on notice.

Mr WHETSTONE: Thank you. Is there a concentrated portion in the top overdue accounts that are past 180 days?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Sorry, a concentrated portion of what?

Mr WHETSTONE: Is there a concentrated proportion of those debtors that are 180 days or more?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: My understanding and my advice is that if we provide you the answer to that question on notice that information would be revealed.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, how does DHS propose to improve the debt recovery process, and is there a target percentage that DHS is aiming to meet?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: There has been a rolling delivery on procedure and policy changes and advice taken from the Auditor-General and from our own internal auditing processes. We know that the planning to do this process was put in place previous to 2023, and as reviews and audits have come in place there have been changes to the process to ensure that it is working in a more responsive way.

With the establishment of the new systems and with the robust billing team that we have in place and the checks that they are doing and the follow-up they are doing, we know that it was a really huge change from in-kind to cash for both the department and for clients. We acknowledge the challenges that have been in place, but through these procedures and the processes and the audits we are confident that we are capturing everything we have to capture and we will continue to do so.

Mr WHETSTONE: Have any of the outstanding debts been escalated to legal recovery?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: No.

Mr WHETSTONE: I note the DHS is working to include a 15 per cent afternoon penalty rate in the award. How long has DHS maintained this arrangement and what is the cost to your department or to the taxpayer?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: This was raised first by the Auditor in 2021-22. The 15 per cent afternoon penalty rates are absolutely historical and common practice in the sector. It is difficult to

calculate, but there would be an absolute positive benefit in terms of staff attraction and retention because they are getting paid well and they know that they are respected for the work that they do.

Mr WHETSTONE: What is the status of negotiations to add the 15 per cent to the award?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We are at an in-principle position and we are awaiting the sign-off on all of the agreements that we are making with the sector.

Mr WHETSTONE: On to bank accounts, when was the last full review of bank signatories and system access completed?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The reviews are undertaken annually. The issue that was raised by the Auditor-General was not in fact about the reviews being done or not being done, it was about the documentation around that process.

Mr WHETSTONE: Are you able to give me any more advice on what that documentation is?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The focus on banking this year is appreciated and, as I understand it, it is probably due to the transition from the Commonwealth Bank to the ANZ Bank. Obviously, we welcome the findings that will help strengthen our controls. But as I understand it, that oversight is in place and has been, but we have strengthened the check on those documentation processes. So I would expect that will be now much stronger.

Mr WHETSTONE: So you are saying that it will be a better process. Does DHF have a standard that the bank signatory reviews are currently held to?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Can you repeat the question?

Mr WHETSTONE: Does DHS have a standard that the bank signatory reviews are currently held to? Do you have a standard or a set formula of what those signatories and the system access currently is, or what they are held to? What standard are they held to?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Yes, there is a whole process of authority and who has delegated authority and who has ultimate authority for various processes within banking and within the signing off of various payments, and that is adhered to. All departments would have the same type of process and that process is being followed. Again, as I say, I understand there was not any question that the process is happening, it is just how the documentation of that process was occurring. We have reviewed that and we expect that will be more fulsome.

Mr WHETSTONE: The Auditor has said that reviews of bank signatories and the banking system user access required better documentation. What documentation will DHS prepare moving forward to ensure that reviews do meet the required standard?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: As I said, there is a process for authorisation and there is a process for checking of payments and who is able to pay and who is able to access certain parts of the accounting system, and that is delegated within people's authorities. Then there is a mechanism now to ensure that we are checking that that is happening when it is supposed to happen and in the way that it is supposed to happen. That is pretty down in the weeds operational, but there is certainly a process and they are certainly being checked. I am happy to arrange a conversation if you want to have one afterwards if you are deeply interested in this particular thing.

Mr WHETSTONE: In the financial report, despite record income, DHS finished 2024-25 with a \$37 million deficit and a total loss of \$19 million. How did DHS overspend by so much?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We did not. It is misleading because the budgeted deficit associated with non-cash transaction is what we have. There was a \$15 million asset transfer in that of Jonal Drive to the department of corrections, which will do great goodness in our community, and that appears as an accounting deficit. That is all part of that as well.

Mr WHETSTONE: So you are saying that there was no overspend?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: No, your question was not, 'Was there an overspend?'

Mr WHETSTONE: 'How did DHS overspend by so much?' was the question.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: And you prefaced that with a figure.

Mr WHETSTONE: Yes, a \$37 million deficit and a total loss of \$19 million. How did DHS overspend by so much? And how are you going to address this in future budgets?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: There was not an overspend of so much.

Mr WHETSTONE: DHS's appropriation jumped \$222 million or 23 per cent in a single year, mostly to replace the lost commonwealth funding. Is there a structural pressure within DHS and, if so, how sustainable is this level of state funding going forward?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The Auditor-General himself points out the pressures, and there are pressures under all departments, households and businesses to deliver services. That is explained by the costs to deliver services, such as disability, and also the MoGs that have occurred through the Office for Ageing Well and Homelessness, but the appropriation amount is what is deemed satisfactory to deliver the services that we are delivering.

Mr WHETSTONE: Employee expenses rose 13 per cent to \$37 million, with FTE numbers up to 2,878. Why has DHS's staffing bill grown?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Because we have taken on Homelessness and the Office for Ageing Well, which combined has an increased number of staff, such as is stated in the report, which is somewhere around 50 something. It is in the report. It is a published amount.

Mr WHETSTONE: I am sure. Workers compensation costs have also spiked to \$16 million. What is driving the increase in injury liabilities?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: That is driven by an actuarial assessment of outstanding liabilities, noting there was an equivalent \$21 million reduction in 2023-24 which I do not believe I was asked a question about, but there you go. It is one way one year and one way the next.

Mr WHETSTONE: The NDIS contribution rose by \$73 million, with future increases of around 4 per cent annually to 2028. What measures are being put in place to contain the costs?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: It is a fixed payment according to the bilateral agreement with the federal government, with the indexation as documented. The reason it did jump so much was around the change from in-kind to full service delivery.

Mr WHETSTONE: I go to the significant events and transactions for the homelessness program. Following the transfer of the homelessness program from the Housing Trust, DHS spent \$59 million on new grants. What measurable outcomes have been achieved since that transfer?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: These are not new grants; previously they would have been found in the interrogation of the South Australian Housing Authority or the Housing Trust. These are the payments for the homelessness services, which include the alliances and the specialist homelessness services. They are not new.

Our team constantly looks at the outcomes and the delivery of services and the KPIs that are happening by the homelessness services through their regular meetings. We also have put an outcomes framework in place, which is new, which will again help us make sure we are delivering services at the best possible level we can.

Also, there is a review of homelessness services. We have two plus two plus two in our agreements for our alliance service provision. We are in the third lot of two years now. They are due to end in the middle of 2027. We are not waiting. We have started a review. The review team is a partnership between BetterStart and Jindawayni—I apologise for a mispronunciation if that is what I have done. They are already on the road reviewing the services, and we expect to have that report ready to talk about in the first half of next year.

Mr WHETSTONE: Obviously, I have asked you about these measurable outcomes within the department. As a proactive minister yourself, are there any initiatives to make the service better that you can share with us, other than adhering to KPIs or looking at achieving better outcomes?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I read the reports, I visit the places, I talk with the people, I listen to stakeholders, I listen to lived experience, I monitor the data, I look at the Zero projects that are

growing in number around the state, and I work with the partners to make sure that they are receiving adequate support to provide the services. There is a whole range of ever-present opportunities for us to review and support service delivery.

Mr WHETSTONE: For domestic violence funding, there is a \$17 million increase in domestic and family violence service grants. How is DHS ensuring this additional funding is delivering improved outcomes?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: This is not for me. This is Minister Hildyard's.

Mr WHETSTONE: So you do not have any involvement with family service grants?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: No. What page are you looking at, sorry?

Mr WHETSTONE: Page 227.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Under ministerial changes, I take responsibility for generic homelessness services, including young people; Minister Hildyard takes responsibility for the domestic and family violence alliance.

Mr WHETSTONE: Intra-government land transfers: DHS transferred \$15 million worth of property to Correctional Services. How was this land being utilised by DHS and how will it be utilised by Corrections?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am very happy that they swiped that from us. They are going to use it, as I understand, for housing, which would have to be a question for the Minister for Correctional Services. Previous to that, it was the old Cavan site for young people and children in custody, which has been fully closed and non-operational for a number of years now.

Mr WHETSTONE: Is that a bare site or does it still have all the buildings and infrastructure on it, just as a side question?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: When we handed it over, it had buildings in place.

Mr WHETSTONE: The Energy Bill Relief Fund provided \$127 million more to households while the state Cost of Living Concession payments fell \$37 million from the previous year. Is DHS measuring the effects of these changes, particularly on low-income households?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: The EBRF was new, hence it went up. We provided a one-off additional payment, hence the value of the normal regular concessions went down, but of course it did not halve because we increased the amount per household. How do we measure it? People are very satisfied and provide excellent feedback about the concessions they get. We are very happy to have done that. I am sure you have many hundreds or even thousands in your electorate who are getting that. It is a really great program.

Mr WHETSTONE: Are you able to give me an example of what some of those outcomes are, please?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: People are able to use concession payments for whatever they need to. Some of them buy an item of furniture or whitegoods or whatever for their home that they could not previously afford. Some people use it as a general cost-of-living payment. Some people use it to catch up on bills. That is a benefit. It relaxes people and takes people to a more calm place when they have extra money in their pocket. It is money they did not have.

Mr WHETSTONE: There is \$47 million remaining in the Home for the Incurables Trust, with no decision on its use. When will the government act to direct these funds and how will they be utilised?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am glad you asked. We managed to secure a \$42 million sale, which we held in the trust while we worked with the community. The grants were announced only in the last month. They are still open: either a \$20,000 one-off grant for an activity to promote access and improvement of quality of life for people with disability, or it can be over two years for \$100,000. Those grants are out. The decision has been made a long time ago.

Mr WHETSTONE: Are those grants still open?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Yes.

Mr WHETSTONE: How long are they open for?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: They close during November. I will happily provide you with the exact information as soon as I get it.

Mr WHETSTONE: I refer to the concession payments on page 230. There is \$49 million in liabilities, mainly comprising approved concessions that had not been paid as of 30 June 2025. How many of these concessions remain unpaid?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: To clarify, this is not about money out the door for us in the first stages. The actual amounts have been paid, but this is about the energy companies claiming money back from us. In that program, the energy providers pay and they claim the money back from us, but they are slow. We stand ready to pay the bills. It is 14 November for the grants.

Mr WHETSTONE: So the power companies pay you a retrospective payment; is that how you said it works?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: No, the power companies knock it off people's bills. If you, Tim Whetstone, have a bill—I do not think you would be eligible, by the way—of a hundred bucks, and that is what the amount was, they would knock the 100 bucks off, but then they have to claim the 100 from us and they have not done so.

Mr WHETSTONE: How many households waited more than 30 days for their payment and, if they did, how would you improve that processing time?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: Sorry, which payment are you talking about?

Mr WHETSTONE: I am talking about the concession payables. We have just talked about the concession payments. How many households waited more than 30 days for these concession payments?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: We do not pay out individuals. It is a quantity of repayments to the energy providers. They knock the money off the account—it is a quarterly account or whatever—and then they bill us for the money, but they have not. It is a bunch of them; we do not do it per household.

Mr WHETSTONE: Is that a retrospective payment to the department?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: No. The way a bill works is that someone sends the bill and a person pays the bill. The energy provider sends the bill and DHS pays the bill, so it is not a retrospective thing; they just have not billed us.

Mr WHETSTONE: How many households have waited more than 30 days to be paid?

The Hon. N.F. COOK: If they waited more than 30 days that meant that the energy provider was 30 days late with their bill.

Mr WHETSTONE: I have one final question regarding supplies and services. Total supplies to services are over \$110 million. How much was spent on consultants and temporary staff?

The CHAIR: This is the last question and answer.

The Hon. N.F. COOK: I am very happy to provide it on notice. We provided it at estimates to the end of 30 June. I am happy to provide you a quarter, to the end of September or thereabouts. If it is going to be any different I will discuss it with you, but we can provide you with that. The last financial year's consultancy bills have been provided. DHS is very small because they are smart, they are mighty and they do most of the things themselves. Thank you for your questions.

The CHAIR: The time allocated has expired. I thank the minister and I also thank the member for Chaffey. I welcome the Minister for Consumer and Business Services, and a range of other things, and I call on either the leader or the member for Heysen to start the questions.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: We will kick off on page 8, Agency audits, Attorney-General's Department, Part C of the annual report. I draw the minister's attention to the section on financial

statistics. Is the minister able to provide a breakdown on how many FTE work within Consumer and Business Services?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Sorry, are you asking small business questions or CBS? I just want my agency to sit here.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: We will probably traverse a few paths, so whatever is easier to do.

The CHAIR: Minister, are you trying to attract your departmental staff or ministerial staff, which one?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Sorry, I had my small business people here, so would you like me to bring some Consumer and Business Services people in to answer these questions?

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: DSD would be better and perhaps a more appropriate place to start.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Yes, DSD, that would be great.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: In the interests of expediting the process, I refer to Part C: Agency Audit Reports, the Department of State Development, 'Highlights of the financial report', page 354. As the Office for Small and Family Business sits within the Department of State Development, if I can refer you, minister, to Part C of the annual report at page 356 and draw your attention to the grants and subsidies section. Is the minister able to provide a complete list of the grants that are administered by the Office of Small and Family Business?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: For the 2024-25 financial year the grants were in relation to the Whyalla support package. The Business Growth Fund round 2 were our energy efficiency grants which got quite a significant update. The leader would be aware that we are now in round 3 of that, which is fantastic. We have the Small Business Strategy grants, Women in Business, in terms of programs, the Centre for Business Growth as well at University of South Australia, and financial counselling grants. That was 2024-25 for what grants were through that agency. There are obviously more in the current financial year.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Other than the \$30.6 million provided to small businesses by the Business Growth Fund energy efficiency grants round 2, can the minister provide a breakdown of the number of applications, the number of successful applicants and also the average value of those grants please?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: These are figures as at 27 October, because obviously some applicants are still getting their equipment installed and reimbursed. Those figures I can provide. We had 1,375 applications submitted. That was a total value of \$111.4 million for a proposed grant value of \$31.6 million. All of those grant applications have been reviewed. We approved 1,032 applications, so a total grant value of \$23.63 million has been approved, which is obviously more than the \$20 million initial envelope we announced due to the popularity of that particular grant program.

The really important thing about this grant program is the energy bill savings that small businesses will have year on year. For that particular grant round, we have energy bill savings estimated at \$24.24 million per annum. So \$24 million will be saved by businesses each and every year due to that grant program, which is fantastic, and it is why we have announced the third round, which I think is open until Friday from recollection.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Under audits for DSD under 'Further commentary on operations' regarding the Whyalla Steelworks support package on page 357, the report states that 122 applications for the grant program have been received and that 67 payments have been made. Is the minister able to advise, of the 55 applications not approved, how many of these are still under consideration and how many of these have been denied?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I am advised that they have all been processed. As it indicates there, 113 were submitted and 15 have been declined. Was there a balance of your question that I have forgotten?

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: No. How many have been denied?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Fifteen.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Why were they denied or declined?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: There is a variety of reasons, I am advised, for those that were declined. Most commonly, it was through the validation process with the administrator. The invoices that creditors had put in for under that grant program needed to be validated by the administrator, and often that was the point where they fell over in terms of being approved.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Moving on, the report states 'additional business and personal support' of \$761,000. Can you explain or provide detail on what that support is and who that has been provided to?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I think it was a combination, potentially, of some of the financial counselling support, free accredited training provided for workers and contractors from the steelworks impacted by loss of work, and an apprenticeship and guarantee scheme. It was a combination of those. There was a financial advisory service provided through Hood Sweeney through our small business program, and there were capability statement development workshops. I think it was the RDA, potentially, that ran that one for us.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I will move on to AGD, if it is easier for your logistics. I refer the minister to the Attorney-General's Department, page 8 of Part C of the annual report. Can I draw the minister's attention to the financial statistics section. Is the minister able to provide a breakdown on how many FTE work within CBS?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Of that total in AGD, there are 222 FTEs in Consumer and Business Services.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Furthermore, if possible, can the minister advise how many of those staff are dedicated to tobacco licensing and enforcement?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: There is in fact a team of 21 actual FTEs in the tobacco and vaping team. That is obviously off the back of the additional \$16 million investment. That team has been working incredibly hard in the work they have been doing since July last year. I just want to acknowledge the work that team has been doing.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Is the minister saying that is a sufficient number of FTE, or is that insufficient staff to conduct the enforcement?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: They have been working incredibly hard in that enforcement. In terms of some of the closure orders I think we are well over 120 in total in terms of closure orders. There are prosecutions; one has been successful. There are others in court. They obviously go through the process of the interim or short-term closures and then potentially long-term closures. That needs to go through the Magistrates Court. Two have been successful within the Magistrates Court and I think there are four before the courts at the moment.

We are at almost \$50 million of product taken off the streets now. We have been working really closely with our interstate colleagues, with SAPOL. The Eclipse team in SAPOL has obviously made a significant contribution as well. We have had federal agencies—the Illicit Tobacco and E-cigarette Commissioner has visited us to see the work that we have been doing within CBS and the assistant minister Julian Hill was here talking to us about the work that we have been doing.

What we are seeing around the country is the view on what SA is doing is as a nation leader. We have been ranked as a nation leader, independently. The team has done an incredible amount of work in terms of compliance and it is putting us in good stead on the national stage. Other jurisdictions are now copying amendments we have made to our legislation and copying our models for compliance. The close relationship between SAPOL and CBS I think has put us in very good stead for some of those closures and compliance and prosecutions.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Can the minister advise how many FTEs are dedicated to the task force established within CBS?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: The 21 that I advised.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: I refer to Agency audits, Attorney-General's Department, 'Highlights of the financial report—controlled items', under income on page 10. Does CBS receive any of the funds of penalties from the illegal tobacco?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: That goes into the Consolidated Account as with other fines imposed by CBS in other areas, building and other compliance areas.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: In November 2024, the government released new penalties tackling illicit tobacco and vapes and included high fines for advertising tobacco products, selling without a licence, sales to a minor, sales of illicit tobacco, possession for the purpose of sale, new offences for the sale or possession for the purpose of sale of e-cigarettes and other prohibited products. Is the minister able to provide a breakdown of fines and penalties received in each of those categories?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: From recollection in terms of fines, I have a figure of about \$400,000 in my mind. That is not the court-imposed fine for the successful prosecution. We will be able to take that on notice and come back to you on it.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Of the growth in income from 2024-25, how much is attributable to increases in fines and penalties for illegal tobacco and illegal vapes?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Again, we will take that on notice and come back to you.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: Part C: Agency Audit Reports, Auditor-General's Department, 'Highlights of the financial report—controlled items', expenses, page 10, how much did CBS spend last year tackling illegal tobacco and vapes?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: The budget allocation over the four years was \$16 million from the budget from last year. For the 2024-25 financial year the actual spend was \$2.936 million.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: How many illegal vapes and cigarettes have been seized?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: In total, we have seized over 35 million cigarettes, 12 tonnes of loose tobacco, 120,000 vape products, as well as other products prohibited under the act since 1 July 2024. As I said, I think we are at \$49 million worth of illicit tobacco seized by SAPOL and CBS since CBS took over on 1 July 2024. The success rate on that obviously is a national problem. It is a significant problem. The federal government is acknowledging that. There is a new disruption group that has been formed that has state regulators, groups like AUSTRAC and other federal regulators all involved. Border Force is obviously significantly involved. I think they actually chair that. We do need a national coordination but the work here on compliance has been significant and successful.

The Hon. V.A. TARZIA: In the minister's view, what portion of illegal tobacco and vapes has actually been captured, seized, compared with what is actually out there, as a percentage? Do you have any figures on that?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I do not have any figures and I could not give an opinion on that.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps to pick up on some of the—we are still on the CBS side. I turn to the tables in the notes and because it is a rather lengthy single section that is not numbered in terms of pages, I just flag my interest in table 1.2, table 3.2 and table 4.1. Are they all conveniently locatable?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I have 1.2 in front of me.

Mr TEAGUE: We will start with 1.2 then. In table 1.2 and the first line of expenses in CBS 2024-25, a bit over halfway down, we see employee-related expenses from 2024-25 jump from \$21.5 million to nearly \$26.5 million. Can you indicate how many additional FTEs that represents, presuming it does?

While you are looking for that information, we have heard reference to the 21 members of the task force and we can see the overall, so if there is any context that you would like to provide more particularly for the purposes of tobacco or anything else, feel free to go broad on it.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: In terms of the specific numbers, we do not have the end of 2023 figures here, so we will get you that comparison as to what the actual FTE number means in increases. We have invested substantially in not only the tobacco task force, which is the \$16 million, but this year's budget had an allocation of some \$10 million over the forwards for additional resources

for CBS, particularly around compliance and enforcement. For two years, there was additional funding for building-related work through CBS because that was a particular pressure point after the HomeBuilder debacle (COVID), so we provided additional funding for that. In fact I think, from memory, from 2018 to now, there has been about a 50 per cent increase, in my recollection, in funding for CBS—that is my understanding—largely all in this term of government.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps then one more question. I appreciate that those matters are being taken on notice. We basically have a \$5 million increase in employee-related expenses. It is fair to say that a substantial part of that relates to tobacco and a substantial part of that relates to the building side. Is it largely, materially, the result of additional FTEs as opposed to a significant uplift in the salaries of existing FTEs?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: No, those resources have been allocated from the budget for additional FTEs to assist CBS. They do an incredible job across a very broad range of areas—births, deaths and marriages. In fact, I think they get an extra two FTEs out of this year's budget. Regulatory services gets additional people, and compliance and enforcement is an extra 12 people out of that additional state budget funding. So additional people are helping CBS with significantly increasing workload and complexity. For example, in births, deaths and marriages, with the complexity of birth and death applications, we are seeing a significant rise in that work. Investigations are becoming more complex in certain areas, so it is to assist them with that.

Mr TEAGUE: If we get to it, I will flag a question in due course about the note in relation to a failure to reconcile the revenue in the births, deaths and marriages system (Promadis). I will hopefully get to it, but I will stick to these three tables. If I might jump to table 4.1 then: having asked the question about employee remuneration as opposed to additional FTEs, I think the answer is basically that the uplift in expenses for employees is accounted for by more FTEs. By reference to 4.1, of the employees that are the subject of that table, the higher income employees, how many and in what category are CBS employees in that table?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: We might take that one on notice because we do not have a breakdown in terms of those income categories for CBS. I will go back to an earlier answer: on 30 June 2024 there were 190 FTEs and on 30 June 2025 there were 222 FTEs, as we said, so an increase of 32. They are very much needed for all the work that CBS does.

Mr TEAGUE: Without holding you to it, do the 32 account for the bulk, if not all, of the \$5 million?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I am advised that that is correct.

Mr TEAGUE: The next one is 3.2, I think, as I mentioned earlier. We see there the fees and charges: revenues and licence and regulatory fees for 2025 are marginally up from 2024. Is there presently available, if not on notice, a breakdown of those licence and regulatory fees?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I am advised that the figure in that table is for all of AGD, so there are other SafeWork licences or other regulatory fees and other agencies that are in that. It is not just CBS. But we will take that on notice to come back to you, probably with broad categories—what is births, deaths and marriages, what is occupational licensing. If you are happy with that, we will do that for you.

Mr TEAGUE: Thank you, I appreciate that, and that would cover the field and I appreciate that that figure is not wholly CBS. Going then to the births, deaths and marriages question that I flagged a moment ago and now perhaps at page 9 of Part C: Agency Audit Reports, the first note for Consumer and Business Services is that the births, deaths and marriages system was not reconciled to the general ledger. The report states:

We found that the revenue recorded in the births, deaths and marriages system (Promadis) had not been reconciled to the general ledger since August 2024. This increases the risk of errors not being detected.

CBS advised us that Promadis reconciliations restarted after a new finance officer was appointed and would ensure other members of the finance team can perform these reconciliations.

How long has that circumstance of it all being unreconciled persisted, and what revenue are we talking about in terms of revenue for births, deaths and marriages for the relevant period?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: I can advise that, as was identified by the Auditor-General, it was from August 2024 and the reconciliations commenced after the new finance officer started in April 2025. CBS has already addressed that issue raised by the Auditor-General, with the CBS finance officer and the senior financial accountant having already been trained in Promadis to complete those reconciliations, and there will be a third finance member also trying to complete those reconciliations.

So, in terms of having that situation rectified now, that has been done. CBS is also updating the standard operating procedure to document the process that should be followed and the CBS team is playing a much more active role in the Promadis reconciliation, resulting in fewer variances. I am not able to advise on the revenue that it reflects at this point in time.

Mr TEAGUE: Just for ordinary understanding—because it might present itself on the page or there might be more to it—was it a problem of there only being one finance officer capable of undertaking that function and that the solution to that when you lose that person is to say, 'Alright, we have found out that we need more than one who can do this, and that is what we are going to do now.' Is it as simple as that?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: It is as simple as that, yes, and that has been rectified and documented appropriately.

Mr TEAGUE: In terms of business continuity resources, generally speaking, does that trigger a general sort of look over to see where else there might be reliance upon a single qualified or capable relevant officer?

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: Yes, absolutely, and CBS and the new commissioner, Mr Humphrey, have done a significant amount of work in terms of looking at the overall structure of CBS, looking at what roles are needed and what training is needed. There has been substantial investment in the training of senior leaders within CBS as well. So, certainly, a significant amount of work has been done looking at those particular individual roles, making sure some of these issues raised by the Auditor-General are dealt with. Many of those were identified by the new team that has been in CBS for almost ten months now. So that work has been done over the last 10 months. I am very happy to hear the Auditor-General's recommendations being addressed.

Mr TEAGUE: It can be taken on notice.

The CHAIR: Okay, you have caught me in a moment of weakness.

Mr TEAGUE: It will be really quick. Turning to pages 9 and 10, what is the current value of the Residential Tenancies Fund, bearing in mind the observations of the Auditor-General in relation to the return of bonds? But the question is what is the current value?

The CHAIR: The member said he was happy for you to take it on notice, minister.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS: We will provide it on notice.

The CHAIR: The allotted time having expired, I thank the minister and her advisers, as well as the member for Heysen and the leader.

Progress reported; committee to sit again.

Bills

FIREARMS (DIGITAL BLUEPRINTS FOR 3D PRINTING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (17:40): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Firearms Act 2015 and to make related amendments to the Summary Offences Act 1953. Read a first time.

Standing Orders Suspension

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (17:41): I move:

That standing orders be and remain so far suspended as to enable this bill to pass through all stages without delay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: An absolute majority not being present, please ring the bells.

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

Motion carried.

Second Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (17:43): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

Today, I introduce the Firearms (Digital Blueprints for 3D Printing) Amendment Bill, a vital step in ensuring our firearms legislation keeps pace with emerging technologies and continues to protect public safety in our state.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, just hold on a minute. Members in the chamber, I cannot hear the minister speak.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: This bill responds to a growing and deeply concerning trend: the proliferation of digitally distributed blueprints for 3D-printed firearms. These files, often obtained online, allow individuals to manufacture lethal weapons without serial numbers, without regulation and without accountability. This undermines our firearms licensing system and poses a serious threat to community safety.

Our government is committed to a safe, fair and modern society. We believe in the responsible regulation of firearms and we recognise that technology must not be allowed to outpace the law. This bill ensures that our legislation reflects the realities of the digital age. The key provisions of the bill are as follows:

- prohibition on possession and distribution of digital blueprints for 3D-printed firearms, firearm components and accessories, unless authorised;
- clear definitions of what constitutes a digital blueprint, including CAD files and other formats used in additive manufacturing;
- exemptions for legitimate research and development, including licensed manufacturers and approved educational institutions, under strict regulatory oversight; and
- penalties aligning with existing firearms offences, ensuring consistency and deterrence.

This bill does not target innovation or legitimate use of 3D printing technology; it targets the unregulated and dangerous use of that technology to produce weapons outside the law. We have consulted with law enforcement, legal experts and industry stakeholders. The message is clear: we must act now to close this loophole before it becomes a gateway for criminal activity and community harm.

This is a responsible, measured and necessary reform. It reflects our commitment to protecting communities, supporting law enforcement and ensuring our laws evolve with technology. I commend the 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 *Firearms Act 2015*

3—Insertion of section 37A

This clause inserts new section 37A as follows:

37A—Possession of digital blueprint for firearms etc

It is an offence under this section to possess a digital blueprint for a firearm, a firearm part, a sound moderator, a restricted firearm mechanism or a prohibited firearm accessory, with the maximum penalty determined by reference to the kind of item the digital blueprint is for. The offence does not apply to a person who is authorised or otherwise permitted under the Act to manufacture the item the digital blueprint relates to. Provision is made for a number of defences. Definitions are included for various terms used in the section, including what constitutes a digital blueprint, and what amounts to possession.

Schedule 1—Amendment of *Summary Offences Act 1953*

1—Amendment of section 74BN—Interpretation

2—Amendment of section 74BR—Order to provide information or assistance to access data held on computer etc

3—Amendment of section 74BS—Application for order

4—Amendment of section 74BT—Order required in urgent circumstances

5—Amendment of section 74BW—Effect and operation of order

6—Amendment of section 74BY—Reporting

These clauses together make amendments to Part 16A of the *Summary Offences Act 1953*, such that if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that data held on a computer or data storage device may afford evidence of an offence against section 37A of the *Firearms Act 2015*, a police officer may apply to a magistrate for an order requiring a person to provide assistance to the police officer in accessing that device or computer.

Mr BATTY (Bragg) (17:46): I rise to make a brief contribution on the Firearms (Digital Blueprints for 3D Printing) Amendment Bill 2025 and indicate that the opposition will be supporting this bill. I think it is important that we do everything we can to make sure the law is keeping up with evolving threats and, of course, we should be doing everything we can to make it more difficult for dangerous weapons and firearms—particularly ones that can be 3D printed and not traced and not have the usual serial numbers—to end up in people's hands. This is a reform that is sensible and that I understand SAPOL supports and has been requesting. I thank the minister and SAPOL for the opportunity to be briefed on the bill this morning.

It is a relatively discrete and simple reform, seeking to make it an offence to possess a digital blueprint for firearms and introducing fairly significant penalties for falling foul of that offence. I think it is responding to a clear and present need. We heard the minister say that there have been at least 14 cases in the last 12 months, and that is double what we saw in the previous 12 months. So we have a clear need for it, we have SAPOL telling us they want it and we have the minister introducing it today and suspending standing orders to pass it through this house with very little notice and with haste.

It does, of course, beg the question why it has taken so long for the government to introduce this bill. I think the minister said on radio yesterday that this bill was being introduced, and I quote, 'not a moment too soon'—damn right, because it is perhaps about 19 months too late. It was in February 2024 that not this police minister and not the police minister before that and not the police minister before that but the police minister before that announced that the Malinauskas Labor government would be introducing tougher penalties for possessing 3D-printed firearm blueprints under proposed laws.

I am looking at a media release from that time which went on to set out all the good reasons why we should be doing that and what the legislation would do, which of course is very similar to what has been introduced only today to the house and we have had the fairly extraordinary situation of suspending standing orders to try to pass it. I do query why it has taken so long and I do query what the cost of that delay has been. As we know, there has been an increased prevalence of 3D-printed guns, or at least 3D gun blueprints, being found by SAPOL in the intervening period. Why have we not acted sooner? Indeed, I return to the media release from February 2024 when the former, former, former police minister said:

We know how much damage a single person with a firearm can do.

We can't allow these weapons to fall into the wrong hands.

Well, I hope we have not for the last 19 months. He went on to say:

That is why we are criminalising the possession of 3D firearm blueprints, giving SAPOL an additional tool and introducing tough penalties to would-be manufacturers.

Yes, they are, but only 19 months later and with just a handful of sitting days left in the dying days of this parliament. The media release finished with quotes attributable to the then police minister, who said:

Our government is committed to staying ahead of the curve to protect community safety.

If this is what 'ahead of the curve' looks like—announcing something with great fanfare 19 months ago and seemingly forgetting to legislate it—then it is little wonder that this government has lost control of law and order in our streets and suburbs.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (17:50): I thank the opposition for their support of this bill. I am very pleased to be bringing it to the house on just my fifth sitting day as the Minister for Police. I look forward to the committee stage. I acknowledge the member for Bragg's contribution and I commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

Mr BATTY: Kicking off where we left off, I appreciate that the minister is only new to this portfolio, but I wonder if he can explain why it has taken so long between the announcement 19 months ago and the introduction of this bill today.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I can really only speak to my own time in the role, which, as the member for Bragg said, is a short period of time. This is my fifth sitting day as the Minister for Police, so I cannot offer much more insight into that. I have made it a priority and in a pretty short space of time I have brought it to the house. Thankfully with the opposition's support, hopefully we see it enacted as soon as possible.

Mr BATTY: What consultation occurred on this bill? I suppose I am more interested in: when did that consultation commence and then conclude?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The advice I have is that there were two lots of consultation and they both lasted approximately six weeks. I believe the first was characterised to me as a broad-ranging consultation and then, from that, there was further consultation, which was required, that ran for another six weeks with subject matter experts. I will have to come back to the member on when they finished. I am happy to do that, but do not have that on me now—but two lots of consultation is the answer to your question.

Mr BATTY: I am still interested in exploring what has been happening since February 2024. Were there particular issues that were raised after this was announced that gave rise to that delay and, if so, what were those issues and what are the certain complexities that are involved in this piece of legislation versus anything else that we consider here in the usual fashion?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I understand the themes of the feedback were twofold: one was around governance and I think the other, if I characterise this correctly, was around those who are exempt under what we are proposing in this bill. They had questions around whether or not the exemption went far enough. The advice from SAPOL was that they believed that exemption did go far enough and that is what finds its way into the bill before the house today.

Clause passed.

Clause 2.

Mr BATTY: Can the minister give any indication on when it is intended this bill would commence?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: In answer to the member for Bragg's question, the advice I have from SAPOL is that it is planned for commencement on 31 January. SAPOL have advised that is the appropriate date, because the permit system needs to be up and running. Of course, that work will happen once this bill ideally becomes law, and 31 January gives enough time for that permit system to be put in place, which I am sure, as those opposite would agree, would be very important unless you think otherwise.

Sitting suspended from 17:59 to 19:30.

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would just like to formally acknowledge in the gallery members of the Nepalese community who live in South Australia. Welcome to our parliament.

Bills

FIREARMS (DIGITAL BLUEPRINTS FOR 3D PRINTING) AMENDMENT BILL

Committee Stage

Debate resumed.

Mr BATTY: Just before the break, I think the minister indicated that commencement is intended to be around 31 January. In that context, is there any reason why we are sort of rushing this through the parliament this evening and suspending standing orders to pass a bill that has only been introduced today in a context of waiting some 19 months since it was first announced in the media?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Bragg. I understand it is because we want it through so police can do the work they need to do to get the permit system up and running.

Mr McBRIDE: Minister, in regard to commencement, my question really just goes back to the member for Bragg sort of insinuating this process of how we landed here today. The question I have is: who have the government or SAPOL consulted with from the public regarding these amendments around the electronic 3D printing of weaponry, and did SAPOL, or whoever did this consultation, have any feedback?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for MacKillop for the question. In answer to the previous question from the member for Bragg, I outlined a couple of tranches of consultation that were done. One I would characterise as a broad kind of consultation, and from that came the need for more targeted and specific consultation.

Specifically in terms of the targeted consultation, we have seen the Combined Firearms Council, the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia, Michael Swan, Graham Tweeddale, a member of the Antique and Historical Arms Association, the Department for Correctional Services and Jamie Clarke as well. I think I characterised earlier the kind of main themes of the feedback being around governance, but also those who are exempted under the bill that we have before the chamber now are asking questions around whether or not those exemptions went far enough. It was the decision of SAPOL, through that process, that those exemptions did go far enough, and that is what forms the bill that finds its way here today.

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you for the answer, and it is a good answer, too, minister. I am not here to be critical of your response. In regard to this process, if we have firearm manufacturers in South Australia that are licensed—I think they are referred to as either gunsmiths or weaponry specialists—do we know if they have been consulted widely in this space, knowing that this sort of new technology that is coming on board could be some of the tools that they will use as their tools of trade?

I just have a little bit of feedback, minister. I think there have been either individuals or manufacturers of weaponry in South Australia, be they very small, as they might be, still fully licensed and still operating perhaps Australia-wide but have not been consulted about the opportunity that they may be able to participate in the new technology that is coming and perhaps may also find it

really difficult to do their business and move with the times with these new amendments around the Firearms Act, 3D printing and the like. So the question to you, minister, is: do you believe that the consultation was very broad, wide, well-considered and covered every aspect of firearms manufacturers and legal licensed dealers that deal in firearms in South Australia?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I guess my general answer to your question, and I will try to give a more specific one after I say this, is that, yes, we think the consultation was broad and pretty all-encompassing in terms of different stakeholders and interest groups that would reasonably be expected to have a view on this and want to be consulted. I think the second, more targeted round of consultation is probably a sign that that was taken very seriously.

The example that you give of those who might be legitimately manufacturing components for a gun through the use of a 3D printer will be able to continue to do so if they have a licence because they will be exempted from that. That was one of the questions that the superintendent was asked at the press conference we did yesterday around circumstances in which that can be done, because there are legal circumstances in which a licensed gun manufacturer or a firearm owner could 3D print components for a gun. The difference is that the ones we are seeking to outlaw here, in terms of the blueprints that would make them, are the illicit, untraceable firearms that find their way onto the street or onto the black market.

Mr McBRIDE: Thank you for that answer, minister, and again I appreciate where you are coming from. I only have three questions, and this is my last one, which is about that consultation and recognition. I have been fortunate enough to be in politics and I go around to my schools. I see some of the technology that is rolling out in the tech studies area—3D printers. Most of it is only plastic. I do not see metal as I would think that firearms would require, so I do not suspect at this stage that I am going to see guns potentially being hijacked by year 12 or year 11 students, or patents, let's say, and them printing out their own metal guns. The question then, minister, is: will the universities' technology-driven campuses—it could be TAFE or universities or other types of technology centres—be allowed to be in this area of capturing weaponry, as I am going to call it, rather than just guns?

Think of what is going on between Romania and Russia and the use of drones. Technology is changing. I know what we are seeing here, and I can understand where the government is coming from with these amendments to protect citizens from ill thrift or ill behaviour that would not be good for our community. Will this amendment allow legal identities to be in this new technology space, not knowing what that might look like in five or 10 years' time, to develop either weaponry or gun-like products by 3D and computer-manufactured printing systems that would be seen as being able to take the life of any person or many people? Will this inhibit that type of technology and advances and science and perhaps stop or hinder that type of progress?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for MacKillop. Without foreshadowing any questions that you or the opposition might have on the next clause, I see where you are coming from in terms of: will an unintended consequence of what we pass here prohibit technological advancements in the manufacture of firearms that would be used for essentially legal purposes? Just to foreshadow, clause 3(4)(d) includes an exemption:

- (d) the possession of a digital blueprint by the defendant—
 - (i) was necessary for, or of assistance in, conducting scientific, medical, educational, military or law enforcement research that has been approved by the Registrar in writing for the purposes of this section;

So I think that is the intent of that around not preventing what would be legitimate technological advancement in the areas the members of this place would expect to be reasonable.

Mr BATTY: You have indicated that the intention is for this bill to commence on 31 January and that is because SAPOL has to undertake certain work over the coming three months, which is fair enough. We are trying to pass this bill urgently today to enable SAPOL to be able to get on with that work. My question is: why did we not introduce the bill three months ago and then the bill could have commenced today, and SAPOL could have been undertaking that work for the last three months? Was it something SAPOL wanted to introduce earlier and for whatever reason it has not been?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Bragg for his question. I can really only answer it in this way and I do not mean to seem tricky in my words at all. I have been the minister for a month. This is only my fifth sitting day as minister. It was put on my agenda very early in me becoming the minister. I identified it as something we needed to do and I have done everything I can to get it here as fast as I can, including the suspension of standing orders, to try to get it through. I note it will only get through with the support of the opposition, which has been indicated as well, and I thank you for that.

Mr TEAGUE: It is tempting to give that a mark to the member for MacKillop's profit. I would have said that was a good answer and credit to you, minister, for doing this on your fifth sitting day. This could be quite brief, but for the purposes of the record: we have mentioned two rounds of consultation. When did those occur? Presumably that was not in the last five sitting days.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I do not think they were in the last five sitting days. I would have to seek advice on when they completed. Was your question: were they in the last five sitting days?

Mr TEAGUE: No. I am presuming they were not conducted during your short time.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: No, they were not. I would have to get advice about when they started and when they finished but there were two six-week blocks, as I understand it, the general one and then a more specific one. It has also been indicated by SAPOL that further work around what they would need to do—I presume if it is to successfully pass this place and the other place and become law—around the permit system and how that will work, which I understand is quite a complicated piece of work, perhaps more complicated than any of us, including myself, on first blush would understand it to be.

Mr TEAGUE: As the member for Bragg said, and I join in that, one might understand the three months that have been sort of said as being required by SAPOL to put it into practice. As the committee stands at the moment, we know there was a government media release quite some long period of time ago and we have heard there have been two rounds of consultation that happened sometime, but the committee does not yet know when, presumably—well, not even presumably—after that media release. The media release might have been informed by some of the consultation, for all we know.

But if we go back to the time of the media release, we are now obviously objectively a long time after that—someone might have said 19 months—and we have no indication before the committee as to why it has taken until now, except, as the minister says, pronto upon the minister becoming minister it is presented as a priority and he gets on with it—top marks. But the conclusion has to be, from the perspective of South Australians, that we have just witnessed a travesty of process and the third minister ago, who authored the government media release way back in the day, and everyone since seem to have sort of sat on their hands and here we are.

On the face of it, until the minister comes back to the committee with the information about why it took time with the consultation, or some other reason for nothing having happened, South Australians are within their rights to say, 'The government has let the police down mightily here.' Now we are sort of at the point where we have three months of work to do ahead of what sounds like the earliest possible commencement.

If I might just add one further observation about what the committee has before it so far, it is that we also have no coherent explanation at all for the introduction today and the suspension of standing orders and the pressing on. That might be just a bit repetitive, but that seems to be the situation that South Australia finds itself in. We can all say that one of the unintended consequences, perhaps, of the necessity for the change of minister has been that this has come our way. I would certainly invite the minister to correct any of that summary.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I thank the member for Heysen. I will probably take a fair bit of that as a comment, to be perfectly honest. I am not criticising you. There are a couple of things I might say in response to that, over and above what I have already said in response to the question from the member for Bragg. One of those things is that, despite your characterisation—I think you described it as a travesty—we will be only the third place in Australia to have this legislation. Only New South Wales and Tasmania are before us. So I think it is bit of a long bow to say that we are

dragging the chain, given that there is a whole range of other states and territories that will not have this legislation in place and we have done two pretty thorough consultation rounds.

I was going to add to that as a final point that this legislation, as is so much legislation that deals with new and emerging technologies, is a lot more complicated than it sounds when you first explain it. Certainly, when it was explained to me, I thought this should be relatively straightforward, but it is not when it comes to operating a permit system and things like that and making sure the exemptions are right.

I have had the benefit of spending time with the superintendent and actually seeing some of these firearms that have been printed from a 3D printer and understanding what is happening out there. I also understand what the member for MacKillop got to the crux of in his question around those who are legitimately using 3D printers to print parts and components for firearms, and we do not want to infringe upon their right to do that.

Quite a bit of detailed work has been happening outside of the consultation period to make sure that what we are debating here today will actually work. As I said, I cannot speak really to what happened before me, other than to tell you about the consultations. In between houses, should we get there, I will seek to try to furnish you with more information. But, as I said, in a short period of time, since being fortunate enough to be given these extra portfolio duties, I have progressed this to this point, where I am hoping that even possibly tonight we will see it pass this place and go to the upper house and we will be a step closer to South Australia becoming just the third jurisdiction in Australia to have laws prohibiting digital blueprints for the 3D printing of firearms.

Mr TEAGUE: Minister, I might put it in the circumstances of coming just now to the role. Is it the case, on coming to the role, in first briefings and advice/request meetings with the commissioner you are presented with this as a priority of police that has not yet been done, perhaps handed the media release from back in the day and told, 'This needs to be done pronto,' and you have picked up and then got that done over the course of these few short weeks? Or is it something different to that or anywhere in between? Did the commissioner and the department have the draft all ready to go and there was nothing much more to do except press play and make it a priority for the government? Did you have substantial work to then respond to a level of priorities/urgency from the commissioner to say, 'This is our priority number one'?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am just conferring with my own staff member to try to recollect the very busy and unexpected few days after being lucky enough to score myself an extra portfolio duty. What I can say is that one of the first questions I asked of SAPOL upon being sworn in was, 'Given we have about 12'—at that stage—'sitting days left in the sitting calendar and we are approaching the state election, are there legislative imperatives or priorities that you need me to consider? If there are, let's move those on, because we don't have a great many sitting days left and I would like to get those through,' and this is one of those things. I think I have another two bills, not necessarily police ones, I am eager to progress as well. So I am trying to make sure we get all the things done that we need to get done and do the things we said we would do as a government before the sitting year is over.

Clause passed.

Clause 3.

Mr BATTY: This is the more substantive clause where we find the offence for a possession of a digital blueprint for firearms. I think the minister has spoken about these digital blueprints becoming more prevalent. You might have given this data before in the parliament or in the media, but how many digital blueprints for firearms have we found over the last year?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The figure I used publicly, which I am informed is correct, is in 2025, 14, and since 2020, 42.

Mr BATTY: In 2025, we found 14 digital blueprints for firearms. What has happened in those circumstances? In the absence of this legislation presumably nothing has happened and it has not been an offence and we have let these people carry on with holding digital blueprints for firearms.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I will have to take on notice individual cases, but I am reassured by the superintendent in terms of what action was taken in regard to those in 2025, it has been the same case since 2020 because we have had 42 of these since 2020.

Mr BATTY: Yes, except since February 2024 we have had a suggestion that we need new laws to target this very problem and since that time, in 2025 alone, we found 14 of them, and we have not acted until today. Do you think that has put community safety at risk?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is not what I am saying. What I am saying is that if there were indeed, as I have said, 14 in 2025 and, therefore, a need for legislation, then surely the same stands to be true from 2020 when you guys were in government as well, when the opposition were in government, if these blueprints were being found then as well.

Mr McBRIDE: In regard to the fact that technology is moving quickly, we are seeing our schools and universities pick up this technology and teach the next generation. The question I have is: if by chance some year 11 and year 12 students printed out a fake replica of a gun and it looked very much like the real deal, will these students face the full breadth of the law of these new amendments or would they face the old laws, the sitting laws at the moment, where if a replica gun is used in public and is threatening people, it has almost the same consequence as if it were a real gun? Could you please give us an example of what this might look like if a group of schoolchildren produced a replica gun with their 3D printer?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Setting aside the obvious issue here in terms of how I would like to think we would respond in the education system if we had kids printing off guns, even if they are replica ones or so-called toy ones, which would be a very serious matter indeed, what I can tell you is that, in that scenario that you have explained to the house, that person would be dealt with under existing provisions for possession of the firearm, but then if they are found to be in possession of the blueprint, they would also be dealt with under these provisions for possession, potential dissemination and/or creation of the blueprint used to print the firearm.

Mr McBRIDE: I thank the minister for the answer; believe me, it is a good answer, and I am not here trying to catch you out. The next question I ask relates to students—I am going to say year 12s and under. If we put that as a broad base, you as education minister know too well the breadth of student I am talking about, year 12 and under. If they find these sort of blueprints in curiosity, perhaps a brainwave of peer group pressure and curiosity, and go out there and do this, I am trying to get an understanding (and I hope you have as well, minister, in this space). You know, minister, the inquisitiveness and fascination of students as technology moves.

Does the minister have any precautions in the system that says, 'Mr Year 11 and Mr Year 12 student, you are looking at gun replicas and 3D images and 3D designs—this is a serious sort of offence. If you continue on in this vein and go down and put this through your printer, there could be some really severe consequences'? Maybe these students will not know what they are unless you have those sort of precautions out there to advise what is basically curiosity taking place amongst year 11s and year 12s.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for MacKillop. I understand your point and I have just raised that with the superintendent, who said one of the other things that will be occurring if this should pass this place and the other place between now and 31 January, when we are anticipating that it would be proclaimed and be in operation, is an education piece, which I think is three month's worth, to essentially address the issues that you raised, which are important because you are right: it is new and emerging technology, especially in terms of young people who might think it is a bit of fun or a bit silly to be printing off all sorts of stuff on 3D printers.

One of the things that most alarmed me in the conversations with SAPOL and the superintendent was that my understanding is that you do not necessarily need a very special 3D printer to do this or necessarily need very special material to go in the 3D printer to do it—you can print off something pretty crude that can still fire a projectile or even a traditional bullet from a stock 3D printer, which I think is obviously a concern. Short answer to the question is that there will be an education piece that will run between the bill passing, should that happen, and proclamation.

Mr McBRIDE: One last question, with these blueprints—and I see 37A(1)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) talks about firearm parts, accessories and the like. Minister, there are gun owners out in the state, they are gun collectors, the guns could be 100 years old plus because they are family heirlooms. Not everything lasts forever and I need a new part for that gun that I no longer can buy on the open market. I could go and buy or get possession of a 3D metal printer that could do me a new bolt, trigger, something for this gun. I am a licensed gun owner, I have licensed gun, it has historical value, so if I produce or go and get that one little part that I need for this gun that is worn out and no longer manufactured anywhere else, would I be breaking the law with these new amendments we have here and, if so, why?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thanks, member for MacKillop. Yes, that is a genuine scenario that has been considered, that exact scenario that you have just described. The existing licence held by that person who might own the heirloom or antique firearm would permit them, under this legislation, to print a component or part for their legally licensed weapon.

The CHAIR: Good answer, good.

Clause passed.

Schedule 1.

Mr BATTY: I do not have any further questions, Chair, but I want to take the opportunity to thank the minister's advisers and SAPOL for their work on this, not only for the last 19 months but in assisting us with it today as well, and for the briefing this morning. I am very grateful. We had a committee punctuated by the dinner break, so I much appreciate it.

Mr McBRIDE: I have one more question, if I may?

The CHAIR: Is it a question on the schedule?

Mr McBRIDE: It can be.

The CHAIR: Okay.

Mr McBRIDE: It definitely will be—I will try to make it that way. Minister, in regard to these amendments and changes that you put in place here, the community is very interested in the consultation that took place. Is there any way that the minister could divulge the consultation that took place and whom they consulted with, just to give confidence to what I am hearing is an element out there that feels like they have not been heard?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for MacKillop. That is often the thing, is it not, with government consultation. I must say that my own experience is that I sometimes feel, no matter how often or how many times I do it, there might be some who disagree with what the finished article is and who will feel like they have not been heard because their points have not been adopted.

In this case there were two lots of consultation, as I said. I did read out the names, including the Combined Firearms Council, the Sporting Shooters' Association, some individuals in there as well, and the Department for Correctional Services. There was the general consultation, and out of that SAPOL deemed there needed to be some targeted specific consultation that followed as well—I think two six-week blocks. In the scheme of consultation that we do on other legislation as a government, two six-week blocks is pretty significant. I am confident, as the minister, that SAPOL have dotted the i's and crossed the t's to get this right.

I think the last question that you asked in regard to that scenario is about an existing, lawfully licensed firearm that someone wants to produce a 3D-printed component for. Those real technicalities have been considered by SAPOL and taken into account and addressed in this bill to make sure there are not unintended consequences of curtailing someone's legal ability to potentially 3D print a part they cannot get anymore. I know it happens with classic cars and stuff all the time. I can understand the need for it, and it has been protected in here.

The CHAIR: Another good answer there.

Schedule passed.

Long title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (20:07): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Can I begin by thanking, first of all, the opposition for their support of this important bill. More specifically, can I thank the representatives from SAPOL who were here and stuck around through the dinner break to be able to provide me advice and answer the questions that were asked: Superintendent Lauren Leverington, who is the Officer in Charge of the Firearms Branch, and Sergeant First Class Peter Stephen as well. I want to thank them both for their expertise and the large amount of work they have done on this.

This is quite intricate stuff once you get down to some of the potential scenarios, as the member for MacKillop asked about. I understood it was those kinds of scenarios that took up a fair bit of time in the consultation, around people who were not seeking to do the wrong thing or do anything illegal, such as people who are legally licensed gun owners who might want to use amazing new technology to be able to print a part they could not get.

I want to thank both Superintendent Leverington and Sergeant First Class Stephen for the very thorough piece of work they have done. I thank the members for Bragg, MacKillop, Heysen and Flinders and those who asked questions. I am pleased to see that this will, I hope, progress now and soon find its way into law.

Bill read a third time and passed.

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE) AMENDMENT
BILL**

Committee Stage

In committee.

(Continued from 28 October 2025.)

Clause 1.

The CHAIR: Member for Flinders, this will be your first question.

Mr TELFER: Indeed, it has been a much-anticipated committee stage. I do not have a lot of questions on this one, just enough to create a bit of clarity and certainty, because there are some aspects—I have sort of covered it in my second reading contribution—that I think need clarity. I will start with the short title, because it comes down to the nub of enrolment and that is covered within the short title. This is specifically about homeschooling, the requirements that homeschooling families currently have and what these additional changes might mean for those families.

Only on the weekend, I was watching *60 Minutes*, I think it was, about the increase in the number of families that are choosing to homeschool in Australia. I know that South Australia is similar, and it is something that the education department, I am sure, has been very aware of. How do these new attendance and reporting requirements impact those students who are homeschooled? Will home educators be subject to the same reporting requirements as school principals?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is a very fair question. Your observations around the rise in homeschooling are correct. It is certainly something I am watching very closely. It is not just a South Australian or an Australian trend. It is a global trend, which is a concern to me, I must say. I think it is driven largely by people who feel that they cannot get what their family or their children need at a school, whether it is a public, Catholic or independent school, which is not something that any education minister wants to hear. In terms of what is in here, nothing will change from the current arrangements for families who choose to homeschool their children.

Mr TELFER: So, when it comes to accountability and reporting of families that choose to homeschool their children, within this legislation there are obviously requirements when it comes to enrolment and reporting, etc. What are the current arrangements then that homeschooling families

are required to conform with, and what measures are being put in place to protect those who are educating their children at home?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Currently, the requirement is that they are enrolled. Of course, a valid homeschool enrolment counts as that, and that is essentially where the requirement ends.

Mr TELFER: 'A valid homeschool enrolment.' Can you explain that to me, minister? That does not quite make sense.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The longstanding arrangement has been and continues to be in South Australia that to homeschool you need to be enrolled in a school, but then the education department through that school considers an application for homeschool and then if it is approved that is how people are homeschooled in the valid sense under the current arrangements, and that will not be changed by this.

Mr TELFER: Can I clarify that there is a requirement for a student to be enrolled in a school—are there homeschool families whose children are not enrolled in a school? With the shake of a head, an indication. So the ones within the system that the education department knows about, they are the ones who have enrolled in a school and they have an exemption to homeschool?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I will provide a bit more detail, but, just to reiterate, we are not seeking to change the arrangements on this at all. That is not the intention of the bill and these arrangements have stayed the same. In South Australia, all children of compulsory school age are required to be enrolled in a school. For the purposes of homeschooling, a parent may, by application to the department, then seek an exemption from the requirement that their child attend the school in which they are enrolled.

Relevant information about the child is collected through the application process and if it is granted—which I think is the same in every state and territory in Australia—on review of the exemption, which generally occurs once every 12 months, it is the responsibility of the parent of the child granted an exemption to provide a planned and regularly implemented education program that meets the goals of the Australian curriculum with appropriate resources and learning environment, including opportunities for the child's social interaction.

The welfare and safety of the child is a priority and the department may, where necessary, consult with the Department for Child Protection and other relevant agencies in relation to an application for exemption for homeschooling. Current arrangements for homeschooling in South Australia are considered as part of the review into non-mainstream schooling options, which is currently underway. The result of that review is anticipated to be reported back in 2026.

The CHAIR: Supplementary?

Mr TELFER: Supplementary to this one, thank you, sir. Just for clarification on that answer: so there is nothing within this Education and Children's Services (Enrolment and Attendance) Amendment Bill that changes the existing arrangements for homeschooling families?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That's correct.

Mr McBRIDE: It has got me inquisitive. My apologies, minister, that I never heard your second reading on this to describe why you are doing this. But one of the questions I have—because I have just glanced over the amendment that we are looking at—is straightaway the short title. Can I just say I am a big supporter of children engaging in education in any way, shape or form possible for that social skill of actual integration, which is so important beyond year 12.

What I was going to ask you then, minister, is it looks like this is a strengthening of attendance and enrolment of children through the education system, and what I cannot see, unless I am blind and I might be overlooking something is: minister, what are you going to do when parents say, 'I do not want to have my children educated through this process and I think the school is damaging my child.'?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: If I understand your question correctly, if there is a scenario where a child is not being homeschooled in the way that I set out in my answer to the question from the member for Flinders and is also either enrolled at a school in the traditional sense and not attending

that school, or not enrolled in a school at all, then the provisions that we are seeking to strengthen through this amendment bill will apply.

You mentioned that you had not heard the second reading speeches—that's fine. The crux of what I said in that was around these new, stronger, tougher provisions in this bill really being targeted at parents, grandparents, caregivers who are actively standing in the way of their child going to school, so not a case of parents doing absolutely everything they can who just cannot get their child to school because school refusal is a real thing. I have spoken to a number of parents who are constituents in the seat that I represent who, if you all had the opportunity to meet them, you would regard them as great parents who really care about the interests of their child and are doing everything they can to get them to school, but just cannot do it. So obviously these kinds of provisions are not going to help that situation because the parent is already doing everything they can.

This is really targeted at the pointy end. Sadly, some of these parents do exist who are actually actively stopping their kid from going to school. That is what these are there for—and to have some other steps in place like statutory warning letters and things like that as we build up to a process, which hopefully we get to avoid, where we go towards prosecuting that parent.

Sometimes when we go through what is a pretty torturous process to do that, fortunately I think once they see the whites of our eyes and realise that we are serious the child goes back to school, but not always. This is around having some other steps there. But it is certainly not about targeting parents or families who are really trying to get their child there and doing everything they can, because there would be no benefit in doing that.

Clause passed.

Clause 2 passed.

Clause 3.

Mr TELFER: This clause insures against the commencement of prosecution of a parent until a written notice is provided. Can you walk me through what, if any, impact this change will have on the process for commencing prosecution against a parent who has not enrolled their child in school? Do you envision this would result in any significant delay to commencing prosecution where it is deemed necessary?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thanks, member for Flinders. I think I understand your question correctly around warning letters. Currently, we can send warning letters but do not have to. In conferring with my colleague, I think the evidence we have shows that in some cases warning letters can actually work: in those cases where parents probably realise how seriously the matter is being taken and that we are willing to go further if the child or children do not attend school.

What we are doing here is seeking to have essentially a mandatory statutory warning letter as a step that we have to do before we head towards prosecution. I think that serves two purposes: it is probably the prudent thing to do to let families know that we are heading towards potentially a court process but of course, as you no doubt have worked out, hopefully it also might result in the behavioural response we want, which is for the kid to manage to go back to school because the parent has realised that we are not mucking around.

Mr TELFER: Do we know how many South Australian compulsory-age children are currently not enrolled in school?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: We will have to take it on notice. I will endeavour to find you an answer, but I do not know. If we look at attendance rates, with the exception of the dip from COVID—and we are now heading back to the pre-COVID levels—they have been pretty static. I think enrolment numbers, generally speaking, are fairly static as well, but I would have to go away and try to find an answer on whether we know the number of students who are actually not enrolled in a school. I understand the importance of the question.

Mr TELFER: I understand that it might be a hard number to get hard data on, but I appreciate you taking it on notice. When it comes to the nub of this aspect in particular, this is the size of the cohort that we are changing legislation to try to add that step in. It could be a small number and you

could have kids that are enrolled but are not attending, but this is specifically around that non-enrolment number. I do not know if it is a big one or a small one or whatever, so it is interesting.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I would suggest it is a growing number.

Mr TELFER: Yes, and this is the interesting aspect of why we are considering legislation like this. What is the range of penalties that could be imposed on parents for non-enrolment of a child at school?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I understand it is a maximum of \$5,000, but they would have to be prosecuted for that to happen and the court would then decide whether they apply the maximum or a lower figure beneath the \$5,000 maximum.

Mr TELFER: For clarification—and we appreciate your flexibility, Mr Chair—I am curious, minister, that there are more and more transient or travelling families in Australia and those who may not necessarily have a fixed address. How does the South Australian education department manage the full-time holiday-makers who may say their home base is South Australia or wherever else but they could be in our state and are choosing to school their children themselves on the road. How is that managed, or is that just a bit of a blind spot for the education department?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The short answer is it is difficult and there are lots of those scenarios, although some are very legitimate where people might pack the family up in the caravan and do the big lap or something like that. In that case, they need to be enrolled in a school but then can get the exemption—and this happens quite frequently—to do the homeschooling. So poor old mum and dad will be stuck in the caravan with the kids trying to teach them maths and stuff while they are travelling around Australia. There are ways of dealing with that.

However, I would say in cases that you identified where they might be moving from interstate to South Australia and are not enrolled, that can be more difficult to track. We actually have seen in some very rare cases people trying to use that as a bit of a loophole to try to avoid any repercussions for not having a child enrolled in any kind of school.

Mr McBRIDE: In clause 3, children of compulsory school age must enrol in school. What sort of numbers of students do you think you are going to capture by these new amendments, and then what changes do you suppose might show the success of these amendments in the years to come?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am trying, through these amendments, to be able to more swiftly deal with cases of parents who are actively preventing their children from going to school because, sadly, they do exist. They are not a huge number but, in my view, they are significant. My view of these things is that, if you lose three or four years of schooling, you do not get that back and you may never recover from that, from a learning or academic sense or even the ability to make friends, get a job and all those kind of things. So, in my view, it is very serious.

We currently have the ability to prosecute. I would describe that process as torturous, to be honest, and it has been of enormous frustration to me as minister in my 3½ years about how difficult that has been. Although I will say that I have really pushed this. I have really pushed it hard as minister. I get very regular updates on cases. I ask for a meeting and I say, 'What are we doing on this case and this case and this case?' I can say, pleasingly, that in a lot of those, because of the sheer effort and amount of work that the department has done and we have done, often the child does go back. But there is a big amount of effort to get to the point where that family realises that we are not backing down.

My view is there needs to be an easier way, because there is absolutely no question from the outset in our minds, in the school's mind or in the department's mind that these are people who fit the category of actively stopping their kids from going to school. The problem is often the burden of evidence, really, in terms of being able to make the case in court, and what we are seeking here is to find a swifter way of being able to deal with cases like that.

Mr McBRIDE: One that comes to mind that no doubt the minister would be aware of is the huge difficulty around Indigenous children and their truancy, where they are not attending school. I have even heard of cases where the local pool can be banned for students not attending school.

They say, 'No school, no pool.' Are any of these changes and amendments going to pick up and perhaps address Indigenous students' lack of attendance that we know exists today in remote communities and maybe not so remote communities?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The short answer is no, mostly because I do not think what we are proposing in this case would work in those scenarios. The example you gave about 'No pool, no school' has been something that has been done, and it works, because we have tried to find a way of encouraging Aboriginal kids, who are generally over-represented in some of these figures, to really have school as a place they love and want to be.

Particularly on the lands, where it can be so hot, the community pool is important. I have made a big effort as minister and the department has done brilliant work in actually getting all those pools open. It is a very difficult thing to do, but I am really proud we got that done, because not only is it something for the community to have when it is stinking hot but I know it is a real benefit for the school in terms of encouraging kids to be in there as often as they can. So it is not really the intent of this, but there are other things we are doing to focus on trying to lift Aboriginal student engagement and attendance as well.

Mr McBRIDE: I thank the minister for the two responses. This one is going to be a little bit out of left field, but I feel like I have to ask it. It is with respect to the questions that were coming from the member for Flinders; he was talking in a curious, interested way about homeschooling. I do not know a lot about the homeschooling model, nor do I know a lot about the successes of it or lack of success to suggest that even exists—I do not even have the answer there.

I do know there are students who go through School of the Air and who do all that they can with modern technology. It used to be the radio, now I would imagine it is computers, IT and Teams-type schooling and education, and still nothing beats the interaction in a classroom and school for that confidence and mixing and socialisation that students learn from early education right through to the end.

Does the minister have any data on the difference between students who are either homeschooled or in School of the Air and the academic outcomes from those types of models compared to any student who would attend primary school or area school and high school and finish year 12?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: It is actually a very good question, I have to say. I have thought about this myself in terms of the growth in homeschooling. I just worry about the quality of that. I know those parents would say, 'Well, we worry about the quality of what they are getting in a traditional school,' and I understand what they are saying, but I just worry for the kids in this case around what they get.

I cannot answer that here. I could seek information. I am sure the department does a fair bit of work—and nationally—around tracking academic achievement rates between School of the Air, traditional bricks and mortar schools or homeschooling or whatever it might be. So I will endeavour to get that, but I have to say it is something that has weighed on my mind, particularly in light of the growth of non-traditional schooling. I would like to think it is not going to have a deleterious effect on the children, but I think it is probably something we have to start doing a better job of tracking, given the way the trend is going.

Clause passed.

Clause 4.

Mr TELFER: Obviously, clause 4 is very similar to clause 3, just nuanced somewhat. It is effectively identical but talking about an approved learning program. I want to explore a bit more the written notices aspect. You mentioned in your second reading explanation—which I did review; it was very good—that there is a clear delineation between supportive and punitive approaches to non-enrolment and that would be outlined in the written notice. Can you provide us with an example of what that will look like? What sort of supports perhaps will be included in the written notification, and will they be tailored to the individual needs or will it be a proforma that is delivered to parents in that situation?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Again, that is a good question. What I can say is that the statutory letter itself will be a form letter, but up until then there will be what I would describe as a mountain of work done to try to get that child to school, which will be tailored directly to them. I am not exaggerating in terms of the amount of effort that goes in there starting probably from classroom teacher, then maybe a deputy principal and principal, and then an education director, all the way up as we go through our truancy officers and all that sort of thing. A big effort is made, but the direct answer to your question is that, once we get to the statutory warning letter, it will be a form letter.

Mr TELFER: In reviewing the second reading explanation, which I did with great interest, you spoke about recent trials of the process of a warning notice. I quote from your second reading explanation:

Recent trials of this process have demonstrated that receipt of a warning notice can also result in a parent taking steps to ensure their child is enrolled and avoids the need for commencement of prosecution.

You have touched on this a bit, but can you be more specific and expand perhaps on the results of those trials? Were they trials done in South Australia? Can you unpack the results of those trials with a bit more detail for us, please?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I am happy to give you some specific information about this. Since September last year, four families have received letters about the non-enrolment of their children. Following those communications, all children from the four families with non-enrolment issues were subsequently enrolled. It is only four cases, but I think we have shown that it can actually work, hence its inclusion in here.

Mr TELFER: Obviously, it has been proven that a concept could work—only a minor detail. What exactly do you envision will be included in a written notice, and how will it be delivered? Will it be an email, will it be a letter, will it be posted on the door of a house? What do you envision that process for that communication will be? In these circumstances, we could envision that there could be some pretty vulnerable children in some pretty challenging situations, whether they are housing challenges across different dwellings or otherwise. What will be the actual formal process of delivery, and what do you envision will be included within a written notice?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is a sensible and fair question. I have been informed it has to be delivered by registered mail, given the seriousness and importance of the letter. It will outline the person's obligations in respect of the child's enrolment and warn the person that if they are not in compliance with the act they may be prosecuted if the child is not enrolled as required by subsection (1).

Mr TELFER: I have a quick supplementary and just some clarification on that one. Registered mail is good in theory, but, like I say, we envision there could potentially be children in some pretty challenging situations and may not necessarily have a mailbox for registered mail to go to or that sort of thing. Even the department may not have an understanding or knowledge of what that address could be, even if they do have one. I do not see there is an easy answer. It is probably a challenge that will have to be developed as the written notice process goes through.

I could envision a situation where there would not be an address to send registered mail to. How will that be communicated in a situation where you have a kid who is not going to school and you do not have that direct connection or the enrolment information? How do you envision getting that process fine-tuned in some of those more precarious, vulnerable situations?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thanks member for Flinders. I acknowledge the issues you are raising and you are right. In cases like this where it has got to this really pointy end, we could be talking about some pretty pronounced dysfunction in the home—all sorts of stuff.

I would say that we are restricted somewhat by the requirement to be able to prove, if it proceeded to prosecution, that the parent in that case actually received the letter, and obviously registered mail ticks that box. I have also been informed that we could use a process server, which I know you will be familiar with. Do not take that the wrong way.

Mr Telfer interjecting:

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That's right. I did not mean it in any other way. We could use a process server if there were issues with the registered mail, so there are those two options. If we had to take that next step and if they said, 'We didn't get a letter,' we would be able to show, 'Well, actually you did get a letter.'

Mr McBRIDE: Just following on from the member for Flinders' question about certified mail, I was thinking of the Indigenous issues that may exist out there with a certified letter that cannot turn up to a letterbox and perhaps cannot even turn up to the town because they do not have a mailbox or a post office.

Would the government consider tougher penalties for parents not forcing their children into an education system when two or three issues might exist that I know the government would love to change, bringing an end to generational lack of jobs and work life and the like. We know that education breaks this cycle.

An idea might be that parents who are not going to engage in any education at all that is fit for children should be considered for the cashless card program that we tried to roll out in South Australia, in Ceduna and Port Augusta, or where you have a cycle, which could be more than one generation long, of parents who have never worked in the workforce or completed any education and just see the government process of living as a way of life. We know—I know and you know, minister—that education is the biggest barrier or perhaps stepping stone to break that cycle.

When the member for Flinders talks about a certified letter, (1) do the parents even have a mailbox, (2) can they read, (3) will they take notice of it if they do read? In the end you are trying to get these children educated. Do you have rules in place that are tough enough to change the issues that we are trying to raise here and I believe you are trying to change here, too, minister.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I think I understand what you are getting at in terms of the scenarios where it might be harder to communicate the things that we are trying to communicate through devices like a statutory warning letter. The advice I can give the house is when the department identifies that a family does not use English as their first language or, for instance, cannot read, which sadly is a real thing, appropriate measures would be taken to ensure that warning letters are provided in the family's preferred language or that there is support provided to explain the matter. The department's bilingual and cultural support team would assist with translation services for families who use English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D). So far it has not been required, but I would envisage there will be cases in the future where it is and, if that eventuates, then we are prepared.

Mr BASHAM: Just a follow-up to the question from the member for Flinders: in relation to the Australia Post registered mail scenario, I know that my 15 year old signs for registered mail at the door. Is it the intent that the mail will be sent person to person at that higher level of registered mail?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I understand the scenario, member for Finnis. What I am advised is that it would be directed specifically to the person who would potentially be facing prosecution if the behaviour does not change, so in this case it would be a specific parent I would imagine, and that person would have to sign for the registered mail. Or, in the case of us using a process server, the process server would have to serve the document on that named individual. You are right, I am sure there are lots of families where someone signs for it when they come. This would have to be signed by the person who is named in the letter or the person named in whatever is being served by the process server.

Mr McBRIDE: Minister, in regard to this clause 4—Children of compulsory education age: what do your amendments really do—and believe me, I support you—for children in early age learning coming to our education system, three and four year olds? I am not sure whether it covers those levels or ages. Where does it finish? Back in my day, when I finished school in 1986, some students could leave at the age of 15, in year 10 or year 11, and go into a trade. What sort of education are you suggesting that you are making compulsory and where is the starting point limit?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Clause 4, I think, deals with the provisions around needing to be enrolled in an approved learning program up until the age of, or when you are 16. So at the age of

17 you could essentially choose and be allowed to not be enrolled in an approved learning program. The words 'approved learning program' are used because it might not be school. They might be in a VET course or a range of other things. That is the current arrangement as dealt with by clause 4.

Mr McBRIDE: I was just going to ask the minister: in regard to these amendments, and comparing the South Australian education act, where do we sit with the other states of Australia with the compulsory attendance at school or some sort of education enrolment? Where do we sit not only in regard to legislation, and the way it is legalised or managed or written, but in regard to truancy? Are we a state that is lagging or are we a state that is in front of the other states by higher attendance rates and higher enrolments than other jurisdictions around Australia?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Good question and I have recent data to answer that. I might have foreshadowed it in an answer to an earlier question from the member for Flinders in terms of the attendance rates in South Australia. I released data only a few weeks ago to show that we have had our third consecutive increase heading up into the high 80 per cents for attendance, which is still below what it was pre-COVID but we are on our way to get back there. Actually, for one of the first times in a long time, South Australia is above the national average in terms of attendance. It took a big hit during COVID. Post-COVID, I would characterise it as recovering quicker than other jurisdictions and it puts us above the national average. We still have a fair way to go before we at least get back to those attendance levels before COVID hit, but we are on the right path.

Clause passed.

Clause 5.

Mr TELFER: Minister, could you please outline what sort of information may be required relating to a child in this aspect. This is around the clause where the chief executive may require further information. What sort of information do you envisage will be required relating to a child?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Perhaps I will give a couple of examples. If a parent we are in contact with to try to encourage them to get their kid to school and they are perhaps saying, 'My child is too ill and not attending school,' this gives the chief executive the power, if he or she sees fit, to ask, for instance, for a medical certificate.

If it is less around physical health and more around emotional social wellbeing or mental health, they can ask for reports from other medical experts just to substantiate that because, sadly, I have no doubt, there have been some examples where a parent might use that as an excuse when it might not actually be the truth. The chief executive might need the power to ask for something to substantiate a long period of absence, as actually being due to a medical condition or something like that. We are not trying to ask for anything that is really breaching privacy but we cannot have situations where parents are hiding behind that excuse and saying their child is not able to go to school when in actual fact they are perfectly well and capable of attending school.

Mr TELFER: Paragraph (d), minister, speaks about 'any other personal information relating to a child.' It is pretty broad. You have given a narrow expectation in your previous explanation. Paragraph (d) really does broaden out that possibility. What do you envision would be included in 'any other personal information relating to a child,' that is not already encapsulated within (a), (b) or (c)? What is acceptable for the chief executive to require and what is not?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is a good question and that is a live scenario as well. The provisions that we are debating here today do stipulate the nature of the information that the chief executive is able to request as additional information, as follows:

being information or documents in the possession of a person that is reasonably required in the administration, operation or enforcement of the Act.

So for 'reasonably required', it is best to answer with an example that was given to me. If the parent says they are enrolled in an interstate school, which sadly has been used as an excuse before, the chief executive might ask them to produce information that substantiates that they are actually enrolled in that school interstate.

Mr TELFER: So the wording that you just quoted is not included within the legislation as put, or am I missing it somewhere? Is this the intention, or might that sort of more specific wording

be included within a regulation? Once again, I say that paragraph (d) is pretty broad. It is even broader than what it was before, where it was 'or other personal information relating to a child'. This is 'any other personal information relating to a child'. It is pretty broad, so can you provide some clarification on that answer where that specificity is actually included?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The bit I read out about 'reasonably required' is already in the act. We are not seeking to amend that. That is staying the same. In subclause (2), the (a), (b), (c) and (d) go through those examples of information that might be sought. We have put that in there to be clearer and more transparent around what that is so people understand what the information that the chief executive may seek is. But the bit that requires it to be 'reasonably required', which of course is a test that the court could apply if need be and say, 'This information the chief executive asked for we do not believe is reasonably required,' is already in there and will remain.

Mr McBRIDE: I have a new helper in the parliament who has a really good question for the minister. Maybe he has a future in politics. Sam asks, 'How long do you have to be away from school to have to go to homeschool?' It is very pertinent in regard to clause 5, where it talks about what the limiting factors are around medical certificates, mental health and emotional and other issues that students go through. So, if a student was not at school and things turned sour or bad, how long can they be away from school before they have to start the homeschool program, or perhaps, may I say, they get the nasty certified letter in the mail?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: It is obviously a very learned young person who suggested that question to you, member for MacKillop. I am very impressed. An application for homeschooling can essentially be made at any time and, as I was reminded, there are staff within the department to help in that process of applying and then if it is approved it can start straight away.

In terms of when the provisions that we are looking to insert into the act that we are debating here this evening might kick in, I think it is best characterised by saying that, when all the other things we do—and as I have said, there are a lot—are exhausted and have not worked, we would turn to this, and that process is a pretty thorough one around all the things that might happen at school. I could talk for half an hour solely about the things a school might do to support a child and their family and then it might grow outside of the school site to those in the broader education partnership—education directors' involvement, truancy officers, statutory warning letter, all those kind of things. These things sort of kick in once the other things that we have done have failed.

Mr McBRIDE: May I just pick up on this brilliant question that came from Sam. No doubt, minister, with your passion for education and the changes I think you are looking for by these amendments, what is in place before these amendments roll out must be too cumbersome, too slow, not working for the students and not working for the families.

I really have a problem with rolling out more legislation or amendments—and no doubt you will too—that do not work. The intent here is to solve and fix. The question was brilliant, and it is a question that Sam just asked: for how long does a student have to sit on the sidelines and be held back from education? You used an example earlier of a student who misses four years of school, and do they ever recover?

No doubt you want to see a speedier process than the four years. Do you have anything in mind? If this process works, and you see a group of students miss education, lose education for a number of years, and then all of a sudden here we are—here is the golden print that takes it from that four years to 12 months, or four years to two years, or four years to six months. If this is a success and the processes are used correctly and accordingly, and you know that a student has suddenly fallen off the cliff of education enrolment, there are obviously these processes of, 'Where is Johnny? Why isn't Johnny at school?'

I do not know whether there are knocks on the door about truancy by the principal, the teacher or the education department, but I imagine you would like a change, which is why you are doing this, of speedier rectification of what I have just alluded to. As our guest in the Speaker's Gallery alluded to, how long do you have to wait before this sort of process kicks in and works?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: If I understand your question correctly, it is around when, in individual cases, the new provisions, if they would pass, are used. It will be at the discretion of the department,

but there is the need to go through all of the other steps first. I did not mention before family conferences, which is an important step which we have maintained. They have been shown to work as well, so that might be another step in there.

The experts that we have out in the field, like truancy officers, like the school that might have that relationship with the family, will have a pretty accurate idea early in the piece about whether or not those other supports are likely to succeed. Is the family genuinely engaging in it? Are they resistant? If it is the latter, perhaps we move to using some of these new provisions quicker than in a case where we think the parent who might be looking at prosecution is making a genuine attempt to change their ways and support their kid to go to school.

There is always a bit of judgement that has to be in there, because every case is different. One of the things I know well, having done this job for 3½ years, is that schools know their students, and schools know their families. No-one knows them better. I put lot of trust in the professional judgement of those staff around when it is the right time to ease back or when it might be needed to go full throttle on the new powers that this would give us.

Clause passed.

Clause 6.

Mr TELFER: Clause 6 is an amendment of section 68—Child of compulsory school age must attend school. I draw your attention to subclause (2), which reduces the notification period required for parents to inform principals of their child's non-attendance from five to three days, which obviously is significant. We have had concerns raised with us that that constrained notification period could potentially unfairly impact disadvantaged families. Can the minister address the concern about that change that we have heard and outline what, if any, proactive steps schools will be obliged to take prior to the chief executive issuing a written notice?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: A bit of consideration has been given to this and I think it is important to say from the outset that what we are requiring here is notification to the school or the principal. That is all we are requiring. We are not saying that absences from school beyond three days are not allowed; we are saying that within the three-day threshold you need to let the principal know.

It might be that Sam's loving great-great-aunt has passed away in Queensland and the family is going up there for the funeral and will be away for six days, or in this case let's say four days, then we now need to notify the principal. That is all it is. We are not seeking to curtail people's ability to travel or do all those kind of important things. It is just around bringing us in line with the policy expectation we already have in public schools from our staff about when they will follow up with family.

I do not want families to think this means we are preventing them doing some of those important family things that you do, it is just around us setting the expectation that we want kids at school as often as we can. As I said in an answer to the member for MacKillop's question before, I am very cognisant doing this job that if you lose a year of your schooling, it is a massive gap that you may not recover from. Even that cumulative effect of losing bunches of days here and there can be really detrimental to your learning.

Post-COVID it took a hit and it has been a slow return back to those pre-COVID numbers. It is about setting the expectation that you need to be at school and having schools do that proactive stuff which sends a message to families that if you are away for more than three days, you just have to let us know.

Mr TELFER: The comparison between the range of penalties that could be imposed for non-attendance versus the non-enrolment, the two aspects that we are sort of looking at, what are the range of penalties that could be imposed for the child's non-attendance as opposed to the non-enrolment? Do they differ?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The maximum penalty that could be issued for a child's failure to attend school is \$5,000. However, it will be up to the court to determine what any final penalty should be. This could be up to \$5,000 for each offence for which the person is found guilty. It might be a fine

of a lesser amount. A conviction may or may not be recorded depending on the offender's circumstances. The court has discretion to order community service in lieu of a monetary penalty.

Mr TELFER: The clarification of that is that it is the same range basically for the non-enrolment as for the non-attendance?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is correct.

Mr McBRIDE: Regarding this compulsory turning up to school, I was just thinking that if I were a student 40 or 50 years ago attending the Coomandook Area School and there were a couple of big burly characters there by the name of Mr Simmons and Mr Pederick, I might not want to turn up at that school because I was being bullied.

On a more serious note, I do have constituents in MacKillop, some families/children who are feeling very isolated and intimidated probably by teachers and student peers. Has the minister anything in place? I am with the minister: I know the value of education. I am actually talking about primary school students being intimidated by going to school in some cases. You can already see that the families that these children belong to have had a hard life and been to the school of hard knocks.

This is one of the areas in which it would be good to be proactive. If a student is going to avoid going to school because they get anxiety and they can be sick and they can be scared and the whole education process can be overwhelming, then mum and dad become concerned, the education does not work, and all of a sudden it goes from four days at school to three days at school per week, and then maybe even less and so forth as it drops off. This is such a young age.

Minister, the question to you is: I know that you are putting in some strong amendments to make sure that students turn up for all the right reasons, but sometimes already in the schoolyard it is not working for some students, and we have had letters like this. Is there anything in place that can give us some confidence that you have not only some good rules here that we are now looking at, and amendments to impose a stronger enforcement for parents to get their children to school, but there is something in the background to make it more enticing for students and family who are intimidated, feel scared or feel that the education system does not work for them?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Thank you, member for MacKillop. Your point really gets to the heart of the things that are driving growth in non-traditional education, whether it is homeschool or some non-traditional bricks-and-mortar schools, all of which are growing in popularity. We are seeing more of those right around the world, including here in South Australia. I touched upon earlier that a lot of the kinds of scenarios you just covered—including whatever the member for Hammond might have done at Coomandook Area School back in the day—where families feel like they are not dealt with properly, lead them to pull their kids out of school and choose homeschool or something else.

My brief response to that is that, if there is one single theme that I could point to that I have tried to build upon in my time as minister more than any other, it is the link between student wellbeing and academic achievement. For far too long we have thought these two things are totally separate. We think there is a wellbeing conversation that is airy-fairy, namby-pamby kind of stuff, or something that we should not talk about, and we think it is not at all linked to how kids will go when they sit down and do their NAPLAN test. That to me is insanity—it is insanity.

If you asked an adult who was amidst a bout of anxiety, depression or whatever it might be to sit down and do any kind of test and expect them to be their best, we would all laugh at that notion, but in schools we think that the collective wellbeing of the kids in it and the staff teaching them is on the decline like this—mental health amongst young people is in the toilet, essentially—but still we should see academic results going like this. It is nuts, it is just nuts. The two things are linked.

You want better results, you want us to lift in international PISA schools, you want South Australia to do better in NAPLAN? I will tell you that the metric that has gone down is their wellbeing, their engagement, their sense of belonging at school and their mental health, and it is a lot of that stuff that sits behind them sitting down at school and not being ready to learn, not being in a position to learn, and playing out as lack of attendance, lack of engagement, poor behaviour in the classroom—all those sorts of things that we always talk about.

We have to address it through these kinds of things, and the by-product of that will be those families, if we do it better—the ones you spoke about who might say, 'This is not for my kids. Something has gone wrong in the playground and I don't feel it has been properly handled. They're being bullied. School's not for them, I'm pulling them out.' We have got to get better at that stuff, because it is not just about school attendance but it is about what I am afraid is a growing kind of prevailing view that you are better off homeschooling your kids, and I do not agree with that—I do not.

I understand that a lot of parents who have taken that route feel that they did not have a choice, and instead of being defensive we need to look at that and look inwards and say, 'Right. If that's the view of all these parents, a growing number of parents, what do we change? What do we change?' We are doing a lot of that, but it is a very good point because the stuff you pointed out is the stuff that sits behind the trend where more kids are not at school.

Clause passed.

Clause 7.

Mr TELFER: Minister, in this clause, similar to the previous one, section 69(3)(a) is being amended to remove one of the valid reasons for a child not to attend school. The provision in question allows a child not to attend school if there is a danger of the child being affected by an infectious or contagious disease. Given your comments in your second reading speech, that this is apparently a provision that is unique to South Australia, what advice have you relied on for the removal of this provision at this time?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: As you correctly pointed out, we are the only jurisdiction that has that clause. The advice I have—and this was an amendment proposed, I believe, by the department; it was not one that came from me, although I support it—is that the provisions of the Public Health Act already cover those kinds of scenarios where parents feel that they might need to prevent their child from being at school for one of those reasons, and that this is not necessary. In the circumstance that a child could not safely attend school due to the fact they are immunocompromised, a parent could rely on the reason in section 68(3)(a)(i), that the child was sick or infirm.

Schools in the department will continue to promote and comply with SA Health guidance on the management of infectious diseases at schools, including recommended periods of exclusion, and comply with any relevant directions of the Chief Public Health Officer and the South Australian Public Health Act 2011.

So we felt that that existed in the act, that we are the only place in Australia that had it in the act, and that the provisions of the South Australian Public Health Act already cover those scenarios.

Mr TELFER: So there are no additional risks that students with disabilities or compromised immune systems could be caught out by the removal of this as a valid reason?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The advice I have is: no.

Clause passed.

Clause 8.

Mr TELFER: While simple in nature, this clause is a fairly significant increase, really, in the powers of authorised officers to require information on school-age children at a residential premises to be provided.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: Sorry, member for Flinders.

Mr TELFER: It is alright. I will start again. On face value, minister, this is a minor change in the number of words that are being changed, but it is a pretty significant increase, really, in the powers of the authorised officers to require information on school-age children in a residential premises to be provided, rather than simply to request it. What advice was provided to the minister in relation to the necessity for these increased powers?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: I understand that the discrepancy we currently have is that this information can already be required in public, but it cannot be in a residential home. We are just aligning the two things. The power does already exist, just not at the residential home.

Mr TELFER: The wording of this clause differs slightly from the powers of authorised officers who observe a compulsory school-age child in public. In that subsection, an officer 'may' require certain information, but in this amendment the qualifier 'may' is not included. It talks about 'require'. Is this a conscious change intended to provide increased powers to officers attending residential premises rather than in public? If you could explain the rationale to dispel any potential community concerns, that certainly would be appreciated.

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: The advice I have is that in terms of the requirement or otherwise it is that 'An authorised officer may at any time attend at residential premises,' and in terms of the current provisions for a public place 'the officer may require the child to provide,' so we do think the language is aligned in both with 'may'. In part 12, section 127 under 'Authorised officers' is 'Powers of authorised officers', which says:

- (1) If an authorised officer observes a person in a public place who appears to the officer to be a child of compulsory school age or a child of compulsory education age at a time when such a child should normally be attending school or participating in an approved learning program...the officer may require the child to provide—

and then (a), (b) and (c). In terms of what we are seeking to align with residential premises, it is:

- (4) An authorised officer may at any time attend at residential premises and require any person in the premises to provide the officer with—

(a), (b) and (c). I can tell you that the intention is for them to be aligned. We are not seeking to give them powers over and above what they currently have for the public place at a residential place. It is just to align the two.

I have to say, it does seem like a discrepancy that is a bit hard to understand. It might be a historical thing, that you could come across a child who looks of compulsory school age out and about on the street and you could demand them to say something, but you cannot go to the house of someone you know has not been to school for six months and ask the same information. It is about us aligning those two things.

Mr TELFER: The clarity was that the 'may' in that sentence is 'may attend' and 'require', rather than 'may attend' and 'may require'. That is I think, hopefully, in the development of the implementation, reflecting as they will, I am sure, on the words of the minister, the intent that will be reflected.

Just one more question on this one, minister. I guess it is really about that assurance on whoever is reflecting on this, whether it is the department or otherwise. Can you provide assurance that the expansion of these powers will not result in overreach? How will the limits of authorised officers' powers be clearly defined so that we can avoid any concerns of overreach?

The Hon. B.I. BOYER: That is a fair question given that these are strong powers and they get to the heart of what we are trying to do here. But what I would say is that Section 127 basically codifies what they could ask for, and I think protects against overreach, so talking about (a), (b) and (c), full name of each child, age of each such child, school or approved learning program, etc. It is actually defined and set out in terms of what can be, and that is done for a reason and it gets to your question around making it clear that there are things that can be asked and there are things that cannot be asked.

Clause passed.

Title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. B.I. BOYER (Wright—Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Minister for Police) (21:26): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

STATUTES AMENDMENT (BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW - PENALTIES) BILL

Second Reading

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 15 October 2025.)

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (21:27): I rise to indicate I am the lead speaker for the opposition and indicate the opposition's support for this bill, which, apart from some new offences, which I will mention in a moment, significantly is about amping up the amount of the penalty, or at least the maximum penalties, associated with many existing offences.

Perhaps at the outset, I might just indicate that, perhaps unsurprisingly, there is initial response from the key bodies—HIA, MBASA and so on—that express some concern about what is a substantial increase in penalties and, on the other hand, a perspective from the Law Society in that regard is that it might be observed that, after there has been a very significant period during which there has been no change to the level of maximum penalties associated with these offences, there is a risk that, at a certain point to a cynical operator, they may be regarded as or treated as a cost of doing business, and that is not a tenable set of circumstances to maintain.

So there is a tension, and when there are very significant penalties that are associated with these offences, then they not only get a tension but of course there is a risk that if they are applied unfairly, capriciously and so on, then those peak bodies, leading industry bodies, will be right to speak up in defence of their members going on about their proper licensed business day to day.

The other overall point that I just make the observation on is that this is all about the application of penalties that are against those who are operating without a licence, misrepresenting their licence, engaging unlicensed builders and so on. Being offences, the penalties are paid to the government. There is no provision for compensating owner-customers who might have suffered the result of bad practices by those who find themselves contravening the offence provisions. That is necessarily dealt with in ways parallel and separate to this.

It is important to highlight that where there is an offence occurring, not always but there is a high likelihood that the offence is going to come to light as the result of somebody complaining about work and somebody is affected. These are not victimless circumstances; if they were there would be cause for review of the regime.

The dynamic in which the Attorney-General's Department via the Consumer and Business Services agency is going about its work in making sure that there is compliance and applying these what are now very significant penalties attached to offences is likely to see some now much more material amounts coming to the government in response to these offences. We certainly hope that this has the effect of discouraging such behaviour and the offences will not be committed, but we ought to have a fairly clear eye whenever looking at this area on how the relative equality or inequality of bargaining power and capacity of parties to contracts that have been carried out by licensed builders can be reinforced.

We see here that it is sort of touched on in terms of the capacity for conciliations to be concerned with slightly more value, but I just want it to be not lost in the course of this debate that there are very many circumstances that are brought to the attention of members in the house where offending against these provisions results in very, very significant loss to owners. Where that has occurred, there ought to be as efficient and productive means as possible to get to grips with that and to make those who are wronged good. I just flag that.

I said at the outset that this is largely about increasing penalties and to make them meaningful. I have addressed the tension that is associated with that. Just to identify the new offences, they are the subject of clause 13. Proposed new sections 47A through 47D will amp up the offences associated with licensed builders: first, subcontracting with unlicensed builders; second,

using another person's licence number; and, third, holding out as being licensed or registered under the act.

Those will carry the same sorts of significant penalties as I flagged in terms of the amping up of the existing offences. There is both process and jurisdiction amendments to make the Magistrates Court more fully able to deal with offences the subject of the changes as to time for prosecuting them, and there are parallel amendments in the Building Work Contractors Act and the Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians Act respectively.

As I said at the outset, the opposition supports the bill, recognises the tension and therefore the necessary, practical and meaningful level that needs to be struck and the important responsibility in the administration and enforcement of the offences the subject of the acts. I highlight in particular the need for there to be an ever clear eye on the means by which those who have been harmed by the wrongful behaviour of builders can be made good as practically, efficiently and fully as can be. With those words, I commend the bill to the house.

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (21:36): I want to thank the shadow minister for his remarks. I think we are on the same page with this. We acknowledge the tensions. I note that many of those penalties have not been updated for over 20 years, hence the significant increase to make sure this is not seen as a cost of doing business where licensed building trades are doing the wrong thing or, in fact, where unlicensed trades are undertaking work they should not be.

This is obviously part of a fulsome review of the building and construction industry. We went out to consultation earlier this year and late last year. I want to thank all the stakeholders who have been involved in that consultation, particularly Will Frogley from the MBA and Stephen Knight from the HIA. I thank them for their constructive remarks. This is certainly making sure we are improving protections for consumers and making sure that the members of the building industry who are doing the right thing are certainly not at any competitive disadvantage when they are doing the right thing. I also commend the bill to the house.

The SPEAKER: I could not hear any of that because the microphone was not on. I will just check where we are up to.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

The Hon. A. MICHAELS (Enfield—Minister for Small and Family Business, Minister for Consumer and Business Affairs, Minister for Arts) (21:39): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (STREET GANGS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (21:52): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The bill I introduce tonight is the Criminal Law Consolidation (Street Gangs) Amendment Bill 2025. On 6 March 2025, the state government publicly announced the Young Offender Plan, aimed at strengthening laws for youth offenders and investing in preventative measures to divert young people from the criminal justice system. This bill is the first of two bills developed following the release of the plan.

Although South Australia has one of the lowest youth crime rates in the country, behind only the ACT, we are determined to ensure that we remain ahead of this curve. As part of the Young Offender Plan, the state government committed to ensuring that police have adequate tools and powers to target and disrupt the activities of street gangs and to deal with young people who commit

serious offences. South Australia's current legislative framework to deal with serious and organised crime is contained in the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008, part 3B of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 and the Summary Offences Act 1953.

Adults and youths are subject to the general law in relation to participation in criminal organisations, serious and organised crime and consorting with convicted offenders under the CLCA, SOCCA and the SO Act. However, these measures have been developed primarily in response to outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCGs) rather than street gangs and, therefore, their application to youths may be limited, as youths participating in OMCGs is uncommon.

While information suggests that street gangs tend to commit similar offences to other serious and organised crime groups, such as OMCGs, street gangs tend to have a more fluid composition, a less structured hierarchy and fluctuating membership. Unlike OMCGs, members of street gangs can also include youths. Accordingly, the bill proposes to create a new legislative scheme to address the risk posed to the community by the criminal activities of street gangs, with a view to diverting youths away from street gangs that are involved in serious criminal activity. The scheme will apply to both adults and youths who participate in street gangs.

The bill inserts a new part 3BA into the CLCA, to set out the legislative scheme targeting and disrupting the activities of street gangs. New section 83GH(1) defines a 'street gang' to mean:

- (a) a group consisting of 3 or more persons—
 - (i) who have as their purpose, or 1 of their purposes, engaging in, organising, planning, facilitating, supporting, or otherwise conspiring to engage in, serious criminal activity; and
 - (ii) who, by their association, represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community; or
- (b) a declared street gang;

The Commissioner of Police may make an application to the Supreme Court to have a group declared as a street gang in a process similar to the process for declaring a declared organisation under the SOCCA. The court may make a determination in relation to a group if satisfied that the participants in the group associate for the purpose of organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or engaging in serious criminal activity and, by their association, represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community.

The definition of 'street gang' and the declaration process have been carefully drafted to ensure the definition captures only those groups that are genuinely street gangs and cannot be used to declare any group of three or more adults or youths as a street gang. The street gangs targeted by the bill are not simply groups of friends hanging out and getting into trouble or committing minor offences. These are organised groups of mostly young adults who associate with each other for the purpose of committing serious criminal activity.

SAPOL investigated many types of offences associated with street gangs, including serious violent offences such as murder, attempted murder, serious assaults involving weapons, as well as large-scale drug offences and serious dishonesty offences, including money laundering. To be clear, we are talking about groups that represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community. Section 83GT provides for street gang control orders, which are a modified type of order based on control orders available under the SOCCA.

A street gang control order may be made in relation to an adult or a youth who is at least 14 years of age. Pursuant to the bill, the court may make a street gang control order or an interim street gang control order if the court is satisfied that:

- (a) the respondent is a participant in a street gang; or
- (b) the respondent—
 - (i) has been a participant in a group that is, at the time of the application, a declared street gang; and
 - (ii) associates with 1 or more participants in a street gang; or
- (c) the respondent has engaged in serious criminal activity with one or more participants in a street gang,

and that the making of the order is appropriate in the circumstances.

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

A quorum having been formed:

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: The bill defines a 'participant' in a street gang or other group to mean a person who: asserts, declares or advertises their membership of, or association with, the group (whether by words or conduct or in any other way); seeks to be a member of, or to be associated with, the group (whether by words or conduct or in any way); or with the intention of engaging in, organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or otherwise engaging in criminal activity—and attends more than one meeting or gathering of persons who participate in the affairs of the group in any way; or takes part in the affairs of the group in any way.

This definition has been adjusted in response to stakeholder feedback to ensure it does not inadvertently capture individuals seeking to provide positive social supports, such as social workers. The definition also expressly excludes lawyers who are acting in a professional capacity.

Where the court determines to make a street gang order, it can make a range of different orders which may disrupt street gang activities and prevent the commission of serious criminal offences. The respondent can be prohibited from doing one or more of the following:

- associating with a specific person or persons of a specific class;
- holding an authorisation to carry on a prescribed activity while the order remains in force;
- being present at, or being in a specified distance of a specified place or premises (or of a specified class);
- possessing a specified article or weapon (or of a specified class);
- carrying more than a specified amount of cash;
- using or being in possession of a communication device except as may be specified;
- engaging in other conduct of a specified kind that the court considers could be relevant to the commission of serious offences.

The factors that the court will consider when deciding on an application for a street gang control order are also set out in the bill. The court may consider:

- the likelihood that the respondent will engage in serious criminal activity;
- if the application relates to a declared street gang—any evidence as to the reasons given by the court for the making of the declaration;
- the extent to which the order might assist in preventing the respondent from participating, or further participating, in a street gang;
- the prior criminal record (if any) of the respondent and any person specified in the application as a person with whom the respondent associates or has associated;
- any legitimate reason the respondent may have for associating with any person specified in the application; and
- any other matter the court considers relevant.

Where one of the conditions to be imposed includes a non-association condition, there are mandatory factors that the court must consider. The mandatory considerations are the extent to which an order may impact on the respondent's connection with their family and culture, and the condition must not prohibit the respondent from associating with a close family member, unless the court considers it necessary, to prevent the respondent from engaging in serious criminal activity.

These mandatory considerations will help to ensure the imposition of a street gang control order does not have a disproportionate impact on Aboriginal people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

It is expected that, in making street gang control orders in matters where the respondent is a youth, the Youth Court will take into account the circumstances and factors that are particular to youths which may be different to adults. For example, the appropriateness of imposing a non-association condition on a youth, and the impact of this on their access to education, may be assessed differently than the impact of imposing the same condition on an adult.

The orders are intended to be a tool that can assist in steering individuals away from participation in street gangs by preventing involvement in the activities of the gangs, as well as a tool to assist police in maintaining community safety.

The bill also contains new criminal offences targeting street gang participants. Section 83GZC of the bill makes it an offence for an adult, who is a participant in a street gang, to recruit or attempt to recruit another person to become a participant of a street gang. The offence carries a maximum penalty of up to five years' imprisonment in relation to the recruitment of a child, and up to three years' imprisonment in any other case.

The bill also expands the existing offences of recruiting a child for criminal activity in section 267AB of the CLCA by amending the definition of 'prescribed adult' to include an adult who is the participant of a street gang. These two offences are squarely aimed at preventing children and youths from being recruited into street gangs and embroiled in serious criminal activity, and making sure any adult recruiting or coercing youths into joining gangs will face serious penalties.

Section 83GZD of the bill creates a new offence for a person who is the participant of a street gang, or who is subject to a street gang control order, to enter or attempt to enter a prescribed place or event that has been declared as such under section 83GA of the CLCA. The offence carries a maximum penalty of up to three years' imprisonment.

Section 83GZE of the bill creates a new offence to criminalise associations between members of declared organisations, members of criminal organisations and participants in street gangs. It also applies to people who are the subject of a street gang control order under the bill or a control order under the SOCCA. The offence carries a maximum penalty of up to two years' imprisonment.

The bill was subject to both targeted and general public consultation, with the bill available on the Attorney-General's Department website, with 31 submissions received. The government made several changes to the bill as a result of the valuable feedback received from stakeholders. In addition to consultation feedback received on the bill, the Attorney-General also met with representatives from the First Nations Voice. Feedback received from the First Nations Voice during the meeting recommended the bill be amended to:

- provide that applications for street gang control orders can only be made in relation to children who are at least 14 years of age;
- refine the operation of the presumption as to participation so that it does not apply to cultural symbols or symbols that are not unique to a street gang;
- ensure that the definition of participant does not capture people who may be providing positive social supports to individuals in street gangs; and
- ensure that only a court can make a declaration that a group is a street gang.

The government is grateful for the thoughtful and constructive submissions that were received. I commend the bill to the chamber and seek leave to insert the explanation of clauses into *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*

3—Insertion of Part 3BA

This clause inserts a new Part as follows:

Part 3BA—Street gangs

Division 1—Preliminary

83GH—Interpretation

This section contains definitions for the purposes of the Part.

Division 2—Declared street gangs

83GI—Commissioner may apply for declaration

This clause provides that the Commissioner of Police may apply to the Supreme Court for a declaration under this Division in relation to a group and specifies requirements in relation to such an application.

83GJ—Publication of notice of application

This clause provides that notice of an application under clause 83GI must be published in the Gazette and a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State. The notice must—

- specify that an application has been made for a declaration under this Division in respect of the group; and
- specify that there may be serious consequences for participants in the group and other persons if the declaration is made; and
- advise interested parties of their rights in relation to making or providing submissions to the Court at the hearing of the application; and
- specify the manner in which interested parties may inspect or apply to inspect a copy of the application; and
- specify the date, time and place of the hearing.

83GK—Court may make declaration

The Supreme Court may make a declaration that a group is a declared street gang if satisfied that—

- participants in the group associate for the purpose of organising, planning, facilitating, supporting or engaging in serious criminal activity; and
- participants in the group, by their association, represent an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community.

83GL—Notice of declaration

This clause provides that as soon as practicable after the making of a declaration of a declared street gang, the Commissioner of Police must publish notice of the declaration in the Gazette, in a newspaper circulating generally throughout the State and on a website maintained by the Commissioner.

83GM—Duration of declaration

This clause provides that a declaration made under this Division remains in force unless and until it is revoked in accordance with this Division.

83GN—Revocation of declaration

This clause provides that the Supreme Court may revoke a declaration of a group as a declared street gang on application by a person entitled to apply.

83GO—Procedure at hearings

This clause provides for procedures to be followed at the hearing of an application under clause 83GI, including the entitlement of the following persons to make oral submissions, personally or through a legal representative, and, with the permission of the Court, to provide, in accordance with any requirements of the Court, written submissions:

- the Commissioner;
- the group to which the application relates;

- any person who is alleged in an affidavit supporting the application to be a participant or former participant in the group;
- any person who is a participant or former participant in the group or other person who may be directly affected (whether or not adversely) by the outcome of the application;
- any other person whom the Court considers should, in the interests of justice, be entitled to make submissions.

83GP—Making of subsequent declaration

This clause provides, for the avoidance of doubt, that nothing prevents the making of a declaration in relation to a group that has been the subject of a previous declaration which has been revoked.

83GQ—Practice and procedure

This clause provides that, in proceedings under this Division, the Supreme Court—

- is not bound by the rules of evidence but may inform itself on any matter as it thinks fit; and
- must act according to equity, good conscience and the substantial merits of the case without regard to technicalities and legal forms.

83GR—Appeal

This clause provides that the commencement of an appeal under the *Supreme Court Act 1935* against a declaration made under this Division does not, of itself, affect the operation of the declaration to which the appeal relates.

83GS—Evidentiary

This clause provides that, in any proceedings before a court, an apparently genuine document purporting to be signed by the Commissioner and to certify that a specified group was, on a specified date, a declared street gang constitutes, in the absence of proof to the contrary, proof of the matter so certified.

Division 3—Street gang control orders

83GT—Court may make street gang control order

This clause provides for the making of a street gang control order relating to a person (the *respondent*) by the Supreme Court or the Youth Court. The Court may make the order if satisfied that the making of the order is appropriate in the circumstances and that—

- the respondent is a participant in a street gang; or
- the respondent—
 - has been a participant in a group that is, at the time of the application, a declared street gang; and
 - associates with 1 or more participants in a street gang; or
- the respondent has engaged in serious criminal activity with 1 or more participants in a street gang.

Proceedings under this Division will be in the Youth Court if—

- the respondent is a child at the time the application initiating the proceedings is made; or
- the proceedings relate to the variation or revocation of a street gang control order made by the Youth Court.

A street gang control order may prohibit the respondent from—

- associating with persons;
- holding an authorisation to carry on a prescribed activity;
- being present at, or being in the vicinity of, a place or premises;
- possessing articles or weapons;
- carrying more than a specified amount of cash;
- using for communication purposes, or being in possession of, a telephone, mobile phone, computer or other communication device;

- engaging in other conduct that the Court considers could be relevant to the commission of serious offences.

83GU—Interim street gang control orders

This clause provides for the making of an interim street gang control order if the Court is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so in all of the circumstances.

83GV—Duration of street gang control order or interim street gang control order

A street gang control order remains in force—

- for a period of 2 years or for such lesser period as may be specified in the order; or
- until the order is revoked.

An interim street gang control order remains in force for a period of 6 months or for such lesser period as may be specified in the order.

Nothing prevents the Commissioner of Police from applying for a further street gang control order or interim street gang control order in respect of a respondent.

83GW—Variation or revocation

The Court may make an order varying a street gang control order (a *variation order*) or revoking a street gang control order (a *revocation order*) on application by the Commissioner or by the respondent.

83GX—Right to object if interim order made ex parte

If an interim street gang control order or interim variation order has been made without notice to the respondent, the respondent may, within 14 days of service of the interim street gang control order or interim variation order or such longer period as the Court may allow, lodge a notice of objection with the Court.

83GY—Consequential and ancillary orders

The Court may, on making a street gang control order or variation order or an interim street gang control order or variation order, make any consequential or ancillary orders it thinks fit (including orders providing for the surrender or confiscation of an article or weapon).

83GZ—Automatic revocation of order

If a street gang control order or interim street gang control order is made in relation to a person in reliance on the person's participation in a particular declared street gang or the person's association with a participant in a particular declared street gang, the order is revoked if the declaration of the street gang ceases to be in force.

83GZA—Application of Division to children

The Division applies in relation to a child in the same way as it applies to an adult but:

- street gang control order may not be made in relation to a child who is under 14 years of age;
- if a street gang control order is made in relation to a child (being of or over 14 years of age) information is required to be given to a parent or guardian of the child, or another prescribed person or class of person;
- section 13 of the *Young Offenders Act 1993* applies to proceedings for the making, variation or revocation of a street gang control order relating to a child;
- the Court must satisfy itself that the child understands the nature of such proceedings;
- if the child is not represented by counsel or solicitor, the Court must take certain measures to ensure the child understands the proceedings and their rights in respect of legal representation and how to obtain it.

Division 4—Offences

83GZB—Offence to contravene or fail to comply with street gang control order

A person who contravenes or fails to comply with a street gang control order or interim street gang control order is guilty of an offence punishable by a maximum of 5 years imprisonment.

83GZC—Offence to recruit persons to become participants in street gang

A person who is aged 18 years or more and a participant in a street gang who recruits, or attempts to recruit, another person to become a participant in a street gang is guilty of an offence punishable by a maximum penalty of—

- if the person recruited, or attempted to have been recruited, was under the age of 18 years at the time of the offence—imprisonment for 5 years;
- in any other case—imprisonment for 3 years.

83GZD—Participants in street gang entering prescribed places and attending prescribed events

This clause provides new offences whereby a person who is a participant in a street gang or is subject to a street gang control order commits an offence if they enter, or attempt to enter, a prescribed place, or attend, or attempt to attend, a prescribed event. The offences are punishable by a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 3 years.

83GZE—Criminal associations

This clause provides an offence of criminal association between persons to whom the section applies, being:

- a person who is a participant in a street gang;
- a person subject to a street gang control order;
- a person who is a participant (within the meaning of Part 3B Division 2 of the *Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935*) in a criminal organisation;
- a member (within the meaning of the *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008*) of a declared organisation;
- a person subject to a control order under the *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008*.

The offence, punishable by a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 2 years, occurs where a such a person associates with another such person on not less than 6 occasions during a period of 12 months.

Division 5—Miscellaneous

83GZF—Appeal

The commencement of an appeal under the *Supreme Court Act 1935* against an order made under this Part does not, of itself, affect the operation of the order to which the appeal relates.

83GZG—Evidentiary

This clause provides for the admission of certain material in evidence in proceedings.

83GZH—Standard of proof

A question of fact to be decided by a court in proceedings under this Part (other than proceedings for an offence) is to be decided on the balance of probabilities.

83GZI—Evidence in other proceedings

If a court makes a declaration that a particular group was, at a particular time, a street gang then that group will, for the purposes of any subsequent criminal proceedings, be taken to be a street gang in the absence of proof to the contrary.

83GZJ—Service

This section provides for the service of an application, order or other document.

83GZK—Representation of unincorporated group

This section sets out how an unincorporated group may be represented in proceedings under this Part.

83GZL—Costs

Generally each party to proceedings on an application under this Part must bear the party's own costs for the proceedings, subject to certain exceptions specified in the section.

83GZM—Presumption as to participation

A person is presumed, in the absence of proof to the contrary, to be a participant in a street gang or other group at a particular time if the person is, at that time, displaying (whether on an article of clothing, as a tattoo or otherwise) the insignia of that group.

83GZN—Criminal intelligence

This clause protects information properly classified by the Commissioner of Police as criminal intelligence.

83GZO—Use of evidence or information for purposes of Act

This clause allows for the use of evidence or information obtained by the lawful exercise of powers under an Act or law (whether before or after the commencement of this section), evidence or information obtained incidentally to such an exercise of powers, and criminal intelligence for the purposes of the Part.

83GZP—Delegation

This clause provides that the Commissioner of Police—

- may not delegate the function of classifying information as criminal intelligence for the purposes of this Part except to a Deputy Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner of Police; and
- may not delegate any other function or power of the Commissioner under this Part except to a senior police officer.

4—Amendment of section 267AB—Recruiting etc child for criminal activity

This clause is consequential.

Schedule 1—Related amendment of *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008***1—Amendment of section 23—Senior police officer may make public safety order**

This Schedule makes consequential amendments to section 23 of the *Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act 2008*.

Mr TEAGUE (Heysen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (22:07): I rise to indicate I am the lead speaker for the opposition. The opposition supports the bill. We have just heard the minister rehearse the government's speech, and that is in circumstances where there has been thoughtful debate in another place, and I recognise the Attorney-General having introduced it not so long ago in another place. While the minister was not offending against standing order 128, it was nonetheless in circumstances where he obviously had the opportunity to seek leave to incorporate—

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister, we just want to get out of here, so let's not have any interjections.

The Hon. J.K. Szakacs interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Minister, I warn you. I am warning you, minister.

Mr TEAGUE: Ministers have through the course of today sought and obtained leave to incorporate their contributions, as well as the explanation of clauses. That leave has been granted. In circumstances of some difficulties experienced by Hansard just now, that opportunity was afforded to the minister and it is completely within the minister's discretion to go ahead and read it out, and that is just exactly what has occurred.

It is a government speech that spells out the changes that are the subject of what this now parallel regime to what the outlaw gangs legislation did some years ago. It has traversed the constitutional issues that were associated with that regime. The point that I would highlight, as the minister has at the conclusion of the government speech, is that it has at least been through an iterative process from a draft that was circulated and there has been some response, including from key stakeholders who have expressed serious, sincere, authentic concerns about how the regime in relation to street gangs might impact on children.

The government is to be commended for its focus in the course of this parliament on increasing penalties associated with adults who recruit children to criminal enterprise. To the extent that there remains that focus, particularly on adults who do the wrong thing by children in this regard, then that ought to be a key focus. I want to recognise that it is of crucial importance to continue to work closely with those key organisations that are working to assist children who find their way into wrongdoing and, in turn, to interact in ways, the result of their behaviour that will lead them into the justice system.

We are fortunate in this state for a whole variety of reasons over a long period of time to have a police force in the South Australia Police that enjoys the confidence of the community to a very high extent, and the police are going to be central to the administration of these new offences, just as, in turn, the rest of the justice system is. It is crucially important that they undertake their duties

so as to continue to maintain that high degree of confidence that the police enjoy in the community in this state.

What is clear is that there ought be no delay or equivocation when it comes to ensuring that people in South Australia are safe to be on the street, to go about their day-to-day lives, without the risk of being subjected to crime, and particularly gang crime.

There is no doubt about these laws. They are of somewhat unusual reach. It is extraordinarily important that in being of this somewhat unusual character, they are seen to be effective and so the focus is going to necessarily be on the outcomes that they are achieving and, as I say, on the greater confidence that the community can have in SAPOL and the broader justice system's capacity to administer them.

With those words I commend the bill and look forward now to the practical implementation of this new regime.

Mr DIGHTON (Black) (22:13): I am going to speak very briefly to speak on the Criminal Law Consolidation (Street Gangs) Amendment Bill. The bill supports the implementation of the Young Offender Plan, which the state government announced in March of this year, and includes the following aims: address serious repeat offending; strengthen bail and sentencing laws; invest in diversion and rehabilitation programs; and equip police with better tools to manage youth street gangs.

I want to reflect on the work of the state government a little bit. As was reported in July of this year, the number of crimes reported across the state has fallen for a 10th consecutive month, with latest statistics showing a 5 per cent drop in reported offences. The rolling year to date to the end of May reveals theft and robbery offences decreased by 10 per cent. Year on year, there have been over 5,000 fewer theft incidents reported to SA police and just a few weeks ago new data showed that knife crimes have reduced by 4.5 per cent in the first three months of the 2025-26 year compared to 2024-25, a confirmation that the Malinauskas Labor government's toughest knife laws in the nation are a step in the right direction.

The drops in crime reflect the Labor government's continued efforts to support SA police and obviously the state budget earlier this year provides the largest boost to police funding in our state's history, with the aim to target 5,000 sworn officers by 2031.

It is important to note that South Australia has the second lowest youth offending rate in Australia; however, a small group of repeat offenders is responsible for a disproportionate amount of youth crime. In 2023-24, 20 young people accounted for 11 per cent of all Youth Court charges. So, while South Australia has a low youth crime rate, this is a Labor government that sees an issue and acts to make sure there is a proactive approach to tackling repeat offending, crime prevention and community safety.

This bill amends the Criminal Law Consolidation Act to create a new legislative scheme to target and disrupt the activities of street gangs. The scheme is similar to what is in place for outlaw motorcycle gangs, but tailored to the way that street gangs operate, as they tend to have a more fluid composition, a less structured hierarchy and fluctuating membership.

SAPOL have investigated many types of offences associated with street gangs, including murder, attempted murder, serious violent offences, such as assaults involving weapons, as well as large-scale drug offences and serious dishonesty offences. These are crimes often associated with outlaw motorcycle gangs, hence the need to make sure there are laws in place to disrupt the criminal activities of street gangs and ensure that police have appropriate powers and tools to deal with these groups.

The minister has gone through a number of the major changes, so I will not talk about them, but I do want to acknowledge that there have been some concerns raised in relation to this bill, particularly regarding rights of children and racial discrimination. I want to reiterate that the focus of this bill is actually about preventing young people and children from being involved in a life of crime by targeting the criminal organisations and gangs that are recruiting vulnerable young people.

I want to quickly conclude my remarks by saying why crime prevention is so important, particularly in the context of social cohesion. As a former legal studies teacher, I would often teach my students about the importance of social cohesion, explaining that it is about building a sense of belonging and unity within our society, with shared rights and responsibilities, values, trust and a willingness to cooperate for the common good.

Crime, in particular organised crime, has a significant impact on social cohesion. Crime does not occur in isolation. Its effects ripple through our neighbourhoods, eroding the trust, safety and solidarity that bind us together. When crime takes hold, it undermines the confidence people have in our institutions, our police, our courts and even each other. Social cohesion suffers when neighbours no longer feel safe to interact, when families withdraw from public life and when young people lose faith in the future. Crime also fuels economic decline. This is why we need to pass laws such as this one. When our communities are cohesive, they are resilient, and when they are resilient they are far less vulnerable to the corrosive effects of crime.

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (22:18): I also rise to support the bill and I take a particular interest because of my electorate. One part of my electorate, in particular, has had a range of issues when it comes to youth crime. It is not exclusively youth crime, but youth crime that has had a major impact. I am talking about Port Augusta.

The member referred to the importance of prevention. I fully agree with the importance of early intervention. If you can get to kids at an early age when we see they are going off the track, if we can intervene in families, provide the support that is necessary, we might then prevent some of these kids going on to commit the crimes that they do.

This legislation should not be seen in isolation. We have made a number of other changes to laws. We have introduced changes to legislation around bail for young people, for serious young offenders. We have introduced barring orders for people who are assaulted or abused at work, especially retail workers and others. Of course, we are doing our hardest to recruit more police. In regional communities we will be getting 80 police security officers. I think this is the first time police security officers are going to be employed in regional areas, so that will free up time for fully commissioned officers.

This piece of legislation is part of that broader jigsaw in attempting to address crime in our state. It has been said that in comparison to other states we are nowhere near in the same position as other states. Another positive in South Australia is our rate of recidivism. We perform better than the other states when it comes to people who have been to jail subsequently reoffending again, so there are a number of things that are working. The community is entitled to feel safe, and this legislative change, in conjunction with others, will assist in that. I commend the bill.

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (22:21): I thank members for their contributions and commend the bill to the house.

Bill read a second time.

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 passed.

Clause 3.

Mr TEAGUE: I might, just by way of a current worked example, invite the minister to give some indication as to how and whether or not the provision subject of this clause will have relevant effects. Perhaps if I put it this way: will Hugo Burton, the Chief Executive of Palmer Hospitality Group—which owns The Highway hotel and the Thirsty Camel, which was on the receiving end of an incident that has been reported in the press in recent days involving, reportedly, a gang of youths in the age range of 10 to 17 unleashing, according to media reports, a violent rampage at the hotel and bottle shop—remain frustrated at the result of the bill passing, or will the machinery of the bill operate effectively to render those actions potentially the subject of offences the subject of the bill?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: There is nowhere near enough information before me to be able to give the member the advice that he seeks.

Mr TEAGUE: Perhaps to add a bit of information then and, if you like, take it one step back: the media reports have described a gang of youths engaged in what has been described in the media reports as a violent rampage. As I read the provisions, we are dependent upon prior application by the commissioner, generally speaking, and declaration.

In circumstances where there is violent gang-related youth crime that has caused damage and groups are identified as a result, will there or will there not be any capacity to apply the gang provisions in those circumstances? In other words, is it the case that these gang provisions apply entirely prospectively or, subsequent to the passage of the bill, will it be possible more fully to address what has been described in these reports as gangs of youths involved in rampage activities?

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS: In addition to referring to my previous answer, I cannot give the member legal advice with facts that are contained in media reports.

Clause passed.

Remaining clause (4), schedule and long title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. J.K. SZAKACS (Cheltenham—Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (22:27): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

In closing, I thank advisers: hardworking, diligent and supremely intelligent staff from the Attorney-General's Department who have stayed around until this very late hour at night to support me and the government in the passage of this bill.

Bill read a third time and passed.

LOCAL NUISANCE AND LITTER CONTROL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the following schedule, to which amendments the Legislative Council desires the concurrence of the House of Assembly:

No. 1. Clause 14, page 10, line 22 [clause 14, inserted section 24A(b)]—Delete 'or QR code' and substitute ', QR code or other means of communication prescribed by the regulations'

No. 2. Clause 14, page 11, lines 1 to 3 [clause 14, inserted section 24B(1)]—

Delete 'immediately after receiving that notification or becoming so aware, ensure that the trolley is collected from that place.' and substitute:

subject to any other law of the State, ensure that the trolley is collected from that place as soon as reasonably practicable (but in any event no later than the end of the next day of trading of the business) after receiving that notification or becoming so aware.

No. 3. Clause 14, page 11, line 15 [clause 14, inserted section 24B(3)]—After 'applies,' insert 'and subject to any other law of the State,'

No. 4. Clause 14, page 11, after line 22 [clause 14, inserted section 24B]—After subsection (3) insert:

- (4) In any proceedings where it is alleged that a person contravened subsection (3) it will be a defence if it is proved that—
 - (a) the collection of the trolley posed an unacceptable risk to the health or safety of a person collecting the trolley; or
 - (b) the trolley was not reasonably able to be collected using standard means, equipment or machinery; or

- (c) the trolley was not able to be collected on grounds, or in circumstances, prescribed by the regulations.
- (5) A person who would, but for the defence provided by subsection (4), have contravened subsection (3) is, despite that defence, to be taken to have contravened that subsection for the purposes of the issuing or enforcement of a litter abatement notice in respect of the contravention.

No. 5. Clause 15, page 13, after line 22—After subclause (3) insert:

- (3a) Section 30(8)—delete subsection (8) and substitute:
 - (8) The Minister or a council may, by written notice served on a person to whom a notice under this section has been issued by the Minister or council, vary or revoke the notice—
 - (a) in the case of a litter abatement notice that contains a requirement to prepare a plan of action that includes shopping trolley management requirements—on the application of the person to whom the notice was issued, if the Minister or council is satisfied that it is appropriate in the circumstances; and
 - (b) in any case—on their own initiative.
- (8a) An application under subsection (8)(a)—
 - (a) may not be made within the period of 12 months immediately following the issue of the litter abatement notice to the person; and
 - (b) must be made in the manner and form, and include the information, required by the Minister or the council (as the case requires).

At 22:28 the house adjourned until Thursday 30 October 2025 at 11:00.