

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday 16 February 1989

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. Anne Levy)** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m.

The Clerk (Mr C.H. Mertin) read prayers.

## PETITION: EYRE PENINSULA RURAL CRISIS

A petition signed by 475 residents of Eyre Peninsula concerning the Eyre Peninsula rural crisis and praying that the Council would request the Minister of Agriculture to immediately declare Eyre Peninsula as a drought area to enable farmers to avail themselves of Federal Government national disaster funding was presented by the Hon. Peter Dunn.

Petition received.

## STATE SUPPLY ACT

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER (Attorney-General)**: I seek leave to table the review of the State Supply Act 1985.

Leave granted.

## REPLIES TO QUESTIONS

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER**: I seek leave to have the following replies to questions, which were answered by letter during the recess, inserted in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

## RETIREMENT VILLAGES

In reply to the **Hon. J.C. BURDETT** (30 November 1988).

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER**: The Retirement Village industry has grown rapidly in recent years, and notwithstanding the passage of the Retirement Villages Act (1987) there is continuing unease about some parts of the industry.

Given the very great financial commitment incurred and the complexity of the arrangements, I have asked a Task Force for a report and for a draft code of practice for consideration. Codes of practice are presently being developed both in New South Wales and Western Australia.

The Task Force will report in due course and its report will address, among other matters, the questions asked by the Honourable Member. The Task Force is well qualified and broadly representative. There are four Government and four non-government members. The Government is represented by the Commissioner for the Ageing, the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, and two Government lawyers. Both the private sector and the Voluntary Care Association are represented by senior personnel (Dr Ted Heenan and Mr Lawrie Lewis respectively), and two village residents, one from a private sector village, the other from a church village, complete the Task Force.

The Honourable Member asks those questions about my intentions. When I seek the report of the Task Force I shall be in a position to announce my intentions.

## CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLICATIONS

In reply to the **Hon. J.C. BURDETT** (10 November 1988).

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER**: I considered this issue of the magazine and I forwarded it to the Classification of Publications Board for classification. The Board has considered the publication, in particular the article entitled 'The School-girl', and has decided that the current unrestricted classification was appropriate.

## ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACT

In reply to the **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (9 November 1988).

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER**: The Minister for Environment and Planning has advised that the proclamation of the Aboriginal Heritage Act has not been discussed with the Roxby Downs venturers.

## OCCUPATIONAL SHARE SCHEME

In reply to the **Hon. M.S. FELEPPA** (8 November 1988).

The **Hon. C.J. SUMNER**: The Minister of Employment and Further Education has provided me with the following report:

## OCCUPATIONAL SHARES SYSTEM

*Introduction*

The Occupational Shares System (OSS), a Commonwealth Government initiative, was introduced in 1984. It provides the basis for entry of skilled migrants to Australia:

- The scheme places annual limits or 'Shares' on the number of visas to be issued for occupations which the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) has identified as requiring some temporary reliance on migration to complement domestic sources of labour supply.
- This scheme operates in conjunction with the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), where employers who are unable to recruit suitable labour in Australia may nominate persons from other countries.

*Shares under the Occupational Shares System in 1988-89*

The Commonwealth Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, Senator Robert Ray, announced the allocation of shares for 1988-89 under the Occupational Shares System on 26 October 1988. As noted by the Hon. M.S. Feleppa, the national ceiling for applicants in 1988-89 will be 2 900 principal applicants compared to 3 000 in 1987-88.

The Commonwealth Department of Employment Education and Training identified 24 occupations where shortages were apparent, including occupations such as computing professionals, electronic engineer and industrial engineer (a full list is attached).

Naturally, not all of these occupations were in shortage in South Australia. Information supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Employment Education and Training indicates that, of the 24 occupations where OSS shares have been accorded, the following occupations are in shortage in this State:

- Accountant
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Radiographer (Diagnostic)
- Tool and Die Maker
- Motor Vehicle Mechanic
- Panel Beater
- Chef/Cook
- Waiter (Skilled)
- Cabinetmaker
- Wood machinist
- Upholsterer
- Computer Programmer/Systems Analyst

That is, roughly half (13/24) of the occupations accorded shares in 1988-89 under OSS are rated by DEET as being in shortage in South Australia although in most cases the shortages are only minor (see Attachment 2).

(However it should be noted that the ratings for South Australia are based on assessments published by Commonwealth Department of Employment Education and Training in July 1987, and new ratings, we understand, are to be published shortly which may cause this situation to vary.)

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING STRATEGIES

Within the State Government's overall economic development strategy, there are a number of specific employment and training

programs designed to address the labour market needs of the South Australian work force. In addressing these needs, the programs expand employment and training opportunities, facilitate economic and industrial development and increase the skills base of the State's work force, thus reducing its reliance on the 'importation' of skills.

The labour market programs essentially fall into two categories, entry level training programs and work force retraining and upgrading programs.

At the entry level, there are two major skill formation strategies which are designed to address the State's skill needs. These are the apprenticeship and ATS traineeship programs.

(1) *Apprenticeship*

During the 1987-88 year, apprenticeship commencements in South Australia totalled 3 674. This is the highest level achieved

in the past decade and almost double the number of commencements in 1982-83.

The table below shows the level of commencements by trade group. Four trade groups show an increase over the level of commencements in the previous year. The most significant increases were in the 'furniture' trades, up 31 per cent, and the 'metals' group, up 25 per cent. This would seem to reflect the strengthening of the manufacturing sector. An examination of the individual occupations in the 'metals' group showed that the most substantial increases were in the vocations of:

- fitting and turning: machinist 1st class—plus 34 ... (23%)
- boilermaking/welding 1st class—plus 34 ... (26%)
- sheet metal working 1st class—plus 24 ... (36%)

These increases are particularly important in terms of the State's manufacturing industries.

*Apprenticeship Commencements—South Australia*  
Commencements during the year shown:

1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
3 160	2 720	1 843	2 752	3 521	3 421	3 612	3 674

Commencements during the year shown by TRADE GROUP:

	1987	1988
Metals .....	617	774
Electrical .....	386	398
Building .....	444	421
Furniture .....	173	227
Printing .....	113	107
Vehicle Ship and Boat .....	623	622
Building .....	4	11
Food .....	412	368
Hairdressing .....	487	469
Farming .....	208	154
Other .....	145	128
	<u>3 612</u>	<u>3 674</u>

*Traineeships*

- Traineeships are being developed by the Commonwealth and State Governments to help young people (primarily 16 to 18 year olds) enter the workforce and gain the skills required by industry and commerce.
- Traineeships are a new system of entry level training into a range of occupations including those which are not apprenticeable trades or are not generally entered through full-time tertiary study.
- Both private and public sector employers provide employment and training integrated with off-the-job training. Off-the-job training is generally undertaken at a TAFE college on a two days a week basis for the equivalent of 13 weeks.
- Emphasis is currently being placed on developing Traineeships in a range of occupations in business and commerce, public administration, hospitality, community services, wholesale and retail services and more recently in the manufacturing sector.

At 30 June 1987, there was 237 ATS trainees in South Australia. At 30 June 1988 this had increased to 727, given that traineeships are of just one year's duration, this represents an increase of some 300 per cent. While to date the major growth has been in the commercial sector, traineeships are soon to be implemented in the automotive, white goods and building and construction sectors.

The State Government has continued to facilitate the development and expansion of these two program areas through the provision of financial incentives and the deployment of human resources. This support in particular is provided through the Office of Employment and Training, DTAFE and the South Australian Industrial and Commercial Training Commission. The financial support given to industry and regionally based group training schemes which employ additional apprentices and trainees and the funding of the prevocational training program in DTAFE are excellent examples.

*Workforce Retraining and Upgrading*

In this field the State Government is working closely with the Commonwealth Government, employers, unions and training providers, to ensure that effective structures and strategies are developed to enable retraining and upgrading programs to be implemented.

*Skill Centres*

The State Government is actively developing a network of industry-based skill centres in which retraining and upgrading programs

can be implemented. To date centres have been established in a number of industry sectors, including:

- Road Transport
- Plastics and Rubber
- Automotive Servicing and Repair
- Nursery, Irrigation and Horticulture
- Hospitality

Currently, there are proposals being examined/developed to establish centres for

- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- Retail
- Metals Engineering
- Aviation
- Building and Construction
- Timber and Furniture
- Manufacturing (Automotive)

In addition, the State Government through the Office of Employment and Training and DTAFE, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training, provide assistance and advice in the development and implementation of specific retraining initiatives at the enterprise, industry and regional level. As well as financial support for these initiatives, assistance is given with course and program development and instruction.

Attachment 1

CHANGES TO SHARES OF OSS CATEGORIES FOR 1988-89

Occupation	1987-88	1988-89
Electronic Engineer .....	100	150
Industrial Engineer .....	50	50
Quantity Surveyor .....	50	50
Computing Professional .....	500	500
Accountant .....	200	200
Nurse .....	300	250
Physiotherapist .....	100	100
Occupational Therapist .....	50	50
Speech Pathologist .....	50	50
Radiographer (Diagnostic) .....	50	50
Tool and Die Maker .....	100	50
Electrical Mechanic .....	200	200
Electrical Fitter .....	100	100
Refrigeration Mechanic .....	0	50
Plumber .....	100	0
Vehicle Mechanic .....	300	300
Panel Beater .....	100	100
Chef/Cook .....	500	300
Waiter (Skilled) .....	150	100
Pastrycook .....	50	50
Cabinetmaker .....	100	100
Wood Machinist .....	50	50
Furniture Polisher .....	50	50
Upholsterer .....	50	50
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3 300</b>	<b>2 900</b>

Note: These shares refer to the Principal Applicants Dependents make up the remainder of the intake.

## Attachment 2

## ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

OCCUPATIONS ACCORDED SHARES UNDER OSS IN  
1988-89 WHICH ARE IN SHORTAGE IN SOUTH  
AUSTRALIA

	Ranking
Accountant .....	MS
Physiotherapist .....	MS
Occupational Therapist .....	S
Radiographer (Diagnostic) .....	MS
Tool and Die Maker .....	S-MS
Motor Vehicle Mechanic .....	MS-B
Panel Beater .....	MS
Chef/Cook .....	S
Waiter (Skilled) .....	MS-B
Cabinetmaker .....	MS
Wood Machinist .....	MS
Upholsterer .....	MS
Computer Programmer/Systems Analyst .....	S

Source: Commonwealth Department of Employment Education and Training (formerly DEIR), *Summary Characteristics of Principal Occupations*, July 1987.

Legend: MS means minor shortage  
S means shortage  
B means balance

## MR X

In reply to the **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN** (1 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** On 1 November 1988, you asked questions in Parliament relating to grants of immunity to Mr X. The Crown Prosecutor and Mr Michael David, QC, reviewed the requests by the National Crime Authority for indemnity for Mr X and recommended to me that immunities be granted. Acting on this advice, I granted immunities in the following terms:

1. Mr X was granted immunity for any part he played in the commission of offences by Moyses and Malvasso and for the Penfield Gardens crop. He was also given immunity for any offences he disclosed in the course of his evidence which were the sales of three parcels of heroin between December 1985 and July 1986 (committal pp. 106-114). A number of outstanding charges against Mr X were not proceeded with. These included a break, enter and larceny, larceny (2), receiving, assault, possess cannabis, self-administer heroin and driving under disqualification (2).

2. No, except for 'other drug related offences' as detailed in paragraph 1.

3. The immunities were granted at various times: 8 December 1987, 26 July 1988 and 5 September 1988. The only condition was as follows: 'Provided that the said (Mr X) gives his active cooperation, including giving of evidence truthfully and frankly and without embellishment and withholding nothing of relevance in the proceedings in which he is required to give evidence in relation thereto'.

In reply to the **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN** (18 August 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** There are basically two groups of personnel involved in JIS. One is the personnel developing applications and operating the main computers. The second group are the users of the applications, such as individual police officers and other staff in the agencies.

With regard to the first group, that is, staff employed by JIS to develop systems and to operate the computers, record checks are undertaken on each person with the Police Department. This is done with the concurrence and knowledge of those individuals. It is the practice of the Police Department to notify the departments of any public servants charged with serious offences negating the need for periodic checks with the Police Department.

With regard to the second group of people, that is, the users of the system, the security checking and screening is a matter of individual agency policy. Access to the information contained on the JIS computers is restricted to those officers who require information for their day-to-day work and who are authorised by a responsible senior officer in that agency. The security policy for JIS lays down procedures for the authorisation and giving of people the ability to access information on the computer. Built into this security policy are a number of checks and balances to ensure that only those officers who need the information for their day-to-day work have access to it.

Considerable effort has been spent on the part of the JIS with regard to both security and privacy. There is a clear security policy agreed to by the Board of Management. There is a comprehensive and sophisticated security system which enables information to be secured so that access is available to those officers who need it. JIS has a Security Committee which is charged with the monitoring of the security system and recommending any future upgrades that may be required and there is monitoring in place aiming at detecting attempted breaches of policy.

I do not propose to list in any detail the security provisions within JIS as I consider that this would reduce the effectiveness of the security system. I can say that security has been taken seriously and that all that can be done is being done to ensure that breaches of security do not occur.

## INDUSTRIAL LAWS

In reply to the **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (12 October 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister of Labour has supplied the following information:

Inquiries were made of all Government Departments, the South Australian Health Commission and the Statutory Authorities listed in Attachment 'A'.

Although a number of the agencies still pay at least some of their employees by cheque, only those listed below provide time off during working hours to cash such cheques:

Dept/Authority	Employees	Time taken each Employee per month	Total time taken per month	Comment
Marine and Harbors	8 Port Pirie 10 Thevenard 20 Wallaroo	30 mins 30 mins 30 mins	29 hours	Cheques introduced to improve security Dept. considers payment by cheque no more costly than payment by cash.
Police	4069	No specific allocation and not known whether all employees take advantage of time off to cash cheques.	Not possible to calculate	Long standing practice which has been in place in Dept. since at least 1928.
Health Commission	RAH 50	20 minutes	17 hours	Employees concerned mainly visiting Medical Officers.

It would appear that the cashing of cheques during working hours involves only 4 195 employees (maximum) out of the public sector workforce of 105 000 (June 1987 figure) employed by those agencies of which enquiries were made, with a possible loss of production being the only associated cost.

Attachment A  
STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Adelaide Festival Centre Trust  
 Betting Control Board  
 Country Fire Services  
 Colleges of Advanced Education  
 ETSA  
 Legal Services Commission  
 Parks Community Centre  
 Pipelines Authority  
 SAHT  
 S.A. MFS  
 TAB  
 SAMCOR  
 SGIC  
 STA  
 Universities  
 West Beach Trust

CHILD ABUSE

In reply to the **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN** (13 October 1988).  
**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister of Community Welfare has provided me with the following answer: "The Government will not pay compensation."

NATIVE VEGETATION

In reply to the **Hon. I. GILFILLAN** (8 November 1988).  
**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister for Environment and Planning has provided me with the following answers:

1. No.
2. Investigation of the case revealed that, having regard to the principles which guide the Authority in its decision making, approval to fell the trees may have been given had an application been lodged prior to the clearance. As such, a prosecution would have been unlikely to succeed and could have been considered to be frivolous and vexatious.
3. The Minister for Environment and Planning has thoroughly investigated the matter and found that the facts of the case extended beyond those outlined by the Hon. Member. On the basis of the Minister's investigation he is not prepared to so instruct the department.
4. No. The Authority has served the State well since its formation in 1985 to assess applications to clear native vegetation. In this case its actions are consistent with wise administration of the Native Vegetation Management Act and its constructive resolution of the case will ensure the planting of 50 additional trees of local species to provide benefits for coming generations.

CHILD ABUSE

In reply to the **Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW** (1 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister of Community Welfare has provided the following answer:

The Government has been aware of issues surrounding the importance of the initial medical diagnosis in cases of child abuse. In October, 1986 the Government received a report from the Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse which listed a number of

recommendations relevant to this matter. Since that time planning has been underway to implement those recommendations. Specialist Child Protection Assessment Units are being established at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre. Both Centres will use the same procedures which will include a medical protocol which has been completed after consultation with a comment by medical practitioners, both public and private, and their professional organisations throughout Australia. All assessment procedures used in specialist assessments have been revised and updated.

Comments by Judge Newman refer to a medical assessment process which was in use 2½ years ago.

New funding has been made available for these new initiatives through the Health Commission commencing in the 1987-88 financial year and other resources have been transferred from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

New DCW Standard Procedures for investigating child protection matters were released in August 1988 and staff have been trained in their use. They are optional and under constant review. They have not needed amendment following Judge Newman's comments referred to by the Hon. Member as the issues he raised had already been addressed.

DCW has never insisted nor has issued any directives as claimed by the Hon. Member that specialist workers will only be women.

GILLES PLAINS COLLEGE OF TAFE

In reply to the **Hon. R.I. LUCAS** (1 December 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister of Employment and Further Education has provided me with the following answer:

As you are aware the Government will be pursuing the subdivision of land at Northfield as part of the urban infill policy. This will result in the Gilles Plains College of TAFE not being able to continue to use the land currently occupied by the Gilles Plains Animal Resource Centre on a long term basis.

To this end, the Department of TAFE is currently pursuing a number of options for obtaining additional land, the best of which is the possible acquisition of the Strathmont High School site. I understand it may become available in 1991 as a result of the amalgamation of the Strathmont and the Gilles Plains High Schools.

Should this land be obtainable it will satisfy the College's short and long term needs.

CHLORINE BLEACHING

In reply to the **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (16 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The Minister for Environment and Planning has provided me with the following reply:

The Director-General, Department of Environment and Planning has advised me that officers of the Government Management Division of the department recently visited the Apcel Pty Ltd plant in the South-East and raised the subject of chlorine bleaching. I am advised that dioxin is the commonly applied term to the chemicals in the group of chlorinated dioxins and furans. The principal compounds of concern are tetrachlorodibenzodioxin (TCDD) and tetrachlorodibenzofuran (TCDF). Dibenzofuran (DBF) appears to be ubiquitous. Trace levels of DBF itself have been found in brownstock pulp and woodchips, presumably as a contaminant, and even in town water and urban air in Europe.

Traces of TCDD and TCDF were detected in some of the sludges, effluents and bleached pulps in a screening study of bleached Kraft paper mills in the United States and Canada in 1986. The levels were of the order of parts per trillion (one million million) and parts per quadrillion (thousand million million); extremely small quantities. Since then the matter has been actively pursued by the industry and a recent paper industry association seminar in Melbourne included several papers summarising current knowledge.

Research by the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada indicates the principal mechanism of formation of TCDD and TCDF in the pulp process is a reaction between residual chlorine used for bleaching and the small quantities of DBD and DBF in the pulp.

A significant proportion of the DBD and DBF is attributed to the use of reclaimed motor oils in defoaming agents added to the process liquor.

I am informed that Apcel has investigated this source and has been guaranteed that its defoamer is not prepared from reclaimed oil. The process liquor would not contain sufficient quantities of the contaminants to general measurable concentrations of TCDD and TCDF during bleaching.

The Apcel plant is the only mill in Australia which uses the acid sulphite process for pulp manufacture, as distinct from the Kraft process used commonly interstate and overseas.

To date, no traces of dioxin have been found in bleached sulphite pulp in overseas tests. The quantities are extremely small and difficult to measure. No facilities in Australia are capable of the measurement and only a few in the US can do the analysis.

Apcel has therefore sent samples to the US for analysis, and will report when the results are received.

Studies conducted by a laboratory in the US in 1988 found no measurable migration of TCDD and a very limited migration of TCDF from the bleached paper and bleached paperboard stock to various physiological fluids. The conclusion drawn was that the presence of the extremely low levels of TCD and its equivalents in bleached communication paper and bleached pulp based personal care products did not present a statistically significant risk to the user through dermal contact.

An alternative bleach process has been investigated already by Apcel to replace chlorine, not because of its implications in TYCDD generation, but for other process and equipment considerations.

The matters relating to occupational health of the workers can only be realistically and practically addressed when the results of the analyses are known.

#### SACAE

In reply to the **Hon. R.I. LUCAS** (16 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER;** The Minister of Employment and Further Education has provided me with the following answers:

(a) *Appointment of Deans*

The honourable member wrote to the Minister of Employment and Education on 17 December 1987 in relation to these appointments and a reply was sent on 8 February 1988.

(b) *Senior Appointment*

The reference here is clearly to the recent appointment of the Head of External Studies. It is true that the successful applicant for this position, who was the previous occupant on a limited term basis, is the husband of another senior college staff member. However, the latter was not on the selection panel nor was she the person to whom applications should be forwarded. Applications were to be forwarded to the Senior Personnel Officer from whom job specifications were obtainable.

(c) *Underground Sprinkler System*

and

(d) *Transportable Building*

These two matters were dealt with in part in question number 550 asked by Mr Becker in the House of Assembly, replied to on 23 February 1988.

In relation to the sprinkler system the actual loss was minimal as most of the hardware was reused in the new location. At the time of the original installation the college did not know of the approval of the Commonwealth grant for a child-care centre.

In relation to the transportable buildings the facts as stated are substantially correct although the original buildings were used for a brief period. I should add that these facilities were financed under the nursing transfer capital program funded by the State. However, the only costs associated with the original facilities were for the hire charges associated with their actual use for the nursing program (\$520).

#### BOLIVAR TOXIC WASTE

In reply to the **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (3 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER;** The Minister of Water Resources has provided me with the following answers:

1. The proposed trial has not yet commenced. Comment on the proposal is still awaited from the Department of Fisheries and Environment and Planning.

2. Previous analyses of acidic wastewaters indicated extremely low average values of mercury of 0.0031 milligrams per litre (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm). At the minimum mixing ratio of 1:2000, the level of mercury in the lagoon influent would not be detectable and hence insignificant.

Concentrations of the two metals, lead and cadmium in the acidic wastewaters were lower than the other metals reported. Analyses for tin are difficult and time consuming, and not normally done unless there is some cause for concern.

3. The total weight of each metal in the effluent which is discharged annually into the gulf will depend on the quantity of effluent reused by the various irrigators as well as the variable concentration of these metals contained in the sewage reaching the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works. For 1986-87, the following estimated weights of metals were discharged to the gulf in an annual quantity of 61 700 megalitres.

Metal	Annual Weight (Kilograms per year)
Aluminium .....	12 000
Iron .....	17 000
Chromium .....	620
Copper .....	1 200
Nickel .....	1 200
Zinc .....	1 800
Lead .....	400
Cadmium .....	43
Mercury .....	12

It should also be noted that all the heavy metal concentrations in the effluent are within generally recognised criteria for marine discharges.

4. Any suspended solids in the lagoon inflow will settle in the stabilisation lagoon and gradually accumulate over the years. This is part of normal operation. Any additional increases in sludge settling arising from the proposal would not significantly increase the sludge on the lagoon floor due to the short term of the trial and the significantly lower quantity of 60 kilolitres of acid wastes as compared to 175 000 kilolitres of lagoon inflow per day.

Settled sludge in the stabilisation lagoons has not been removed since the commissioning of the Bolivar works and has not been or ever proposed to be used in fertiliser production.

Sewerage sludge from the Bolivar Sewage Treatment Works is treated in digesters, and the dried, digested sludge is sold to a private company for further treatment before use in fertiliser production. However, this sewage sludge collection and digestion process is completely separate from the current proposal and would not be affected in any way.

#### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

In reply to the **Hon. I. GILFILLAN** (10 November 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER;** The Minister of Education has provided the following answer:

The English as a Second Language program consists of two components—the General Element and the New Arrivals program. Although the Commonwealth reduced specific purpose funding to the general element of the program by \$1.57 million (in December 1986 prices) from 1 January 1987, the State Government decided to maintain the program at existing levels. As from January 1988 Commonwealth funding for the New Arrivals Program was effectively doubled. Students are now eligible for intensive tuition for 12 in lieu of six months.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN COURTS

In reply to the **Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN** (11 October 1988).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER;** The imposition of charges is outlined in Practice Direction No. 51 of the South Australian Industrial Court and Commission—Interpreting Charges, attached.

The cross-charging rates as outlined by yourself are correct. However, as the Court and Commission do not meet after hours and weekends, only hourly rates 8.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. apply.

The charges have been introduced from 3 October as part of a cost-recovery measure approved by Cabinet on 11 July 1988. Cabinet approved 'cost recovery from user parties, where possible'.

As I pointed out in my reply, 'unsuccessful litigants have to pay the cost of counsel, witness fees and many general costs including transcript fees and medical witness fees and the like. Why should not an interpreter assisting a witness also be paid as part of the costs?'

In relation to the position with less formal hearings and conferences the Court and Commission are not responsible for the provision of interpreters, and the litigant can bring their own interpreters along to assist them.

In relation to formal hearings, the practice direction formalises the long established practice of using South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission interpreters and of providing interpreters only to the interpreting of sworn testimony.

It is now the practice of the Court and Commission to seek clarification from the litigants as to when the testimony is to be given in order to avoid having interpreters waiting in court unnecessarily. Consequently expenses will be reduced. In the past lawyers for litigants engaged interpreters through Court long before testimony had to be given, as the expense for such service was entirely met by the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission (i.e. by the South Australian Government).

## QUESTIONS

### AMBULANCE DISPUTE

**The Hon. M.B. CAMERON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister representing the Minister of Health a question on the subject of the ambulance dispute.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.B. CAMERON:** I am informed that the Ambulance Employees Association has this morning placed a series of bans in a bid to obtain fully integrated crewing at all metropolitan St John Ambulance bases, covering all shifts. I am advised that full-time ambulance officers have stepped up their long-running campaign to totally eliminate volunteers at metropolitan depots. Among the bans which were placed at 6 a.m. this morning include the banning of all cases being taken over the radio unless they are emergencies.

This means crews will have to return to their base to receive all jobs except those of an emergency nature. At the same time I am advised that the union has placed bans on collecting patients discharged from hospital. Patients being discharged and requiring ambulance transport home will, in effect, have to wait until after 6 p.m. when volunteer crews come on duty. Volunteers tell me it could take them up to three hours or more to clear such backlogs. The ambulance union has also placed bans on all case cards which generate revenue for ambulance transportation, and I am advised that members of the clerical staff at St John's Eastwood headquarters are banning the handling of any paperwork to do with billing for patients carried by the service.

Members will recall that in November 1987 there was a dispute on the matter of integration of crews, and at that time a considerable amount of publicity was generated con-

cerning the cost to Government of the changes that occurred at that stage. In fact, no less a person than Mr Ray Sayers, the Deputy Chairman of the Health Commission at that time, when giving evidence to the Industrial Commission, said:

Mr Commissioner, I'd have to say that naturally I'd be prepared to put the matter to Government. I'd have to say on my present knowledge of this dispute that I'd have to recommend against it to the Government on the basis that we have a large number of very pressing and very urgent areas in which money needs to be expended where patients are in fact suffering on waiting-lists for hip replacements and so forth—a real problem to the Government at the moment—and that at this stage I am not convinced that \$500 000 is going to improve patient care one bit.

So on that basis I'd have to say to the commission that, in weighing up my current knowledge of it, I would have to say that we would have to recommend to Government against, that if \$500 000 was to become available, that it should be used in higher priority areas.

At that time, the Government granted \$500 000 to the Ambulance Board in order to make the changes being demanded by the Ambulance Employees Association. From the evidence given by Mr Sayers, it was clear that the money would have no advantage at all. It appears that that amount was not sufficient and we are now moving towards further disputes in this matter.

My questions are: what steps will the Government take to ensure that a full ambulance service is immediately restored, even if that means calling in additional volunteers or seeing whether volunteers are available to overcome a totally unnecessary set of bans? Assurances were previously given that no further steps would be taken in relation to industrial disputes about this problem of integration, particularly as it seems to be affecting people who are leaving hospital. I am sure that all members will agree that is totally unacceptable. After having already wasted \$500 000 during the previous dispute, does the Government intend to give in to the present attempt to further replace volunteers with paid staff, thus costing taxpayers and the health system additional unnecessary expenditure? What is the estimated additional expenditure that would be required if the Government does agree to the present demands of the Ambulance Employees Association?

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** I will refer those questions to my colleague in another place and I will bring back a reply.

### DRUG TESTING IN PRISONS

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, as Leader of the Government in this Council, a question about drug testing in prisons.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** Mr Justice Muirhead found in the case of Kingsley Dixon that, on the day of his death, he had taken one drug Rohypnol at about breakfast time; that he was supplied with cannabis by his mother at 11 o'clock on that morning; that at lunchtime he smoked marijuana; and that he also smoked a 'significant quantity' in his cell not long before he was found dead. The result, according to the Royal Commissioner, was that Dixon had been 'manifestly under the influence of a drug or drugs'.

Mr Justice Muirhead also found that consumption of drugs was common in Adelaide Gaol and that there was trafficking in drugs between inmates. In more general terms to apply to all correctional institutions, he recommended consideration of random urine testing as one means of better detecting drugs. During evidence given to the commission a prison doctor, Dr Bouguslaw Karpinski, called

for compulsory drug testing because of what he called 'widespread drug problems' in the State's prisons. Random urine testing also has been recommended to the Government by the Prison Medical Service.

The latest report to Parliament by the Department of Correctional Services expresses the hope that this form of testing 'may become a reality in the near future'. So far, the Government has made no public response to these calls, despite the mounting evidence of serious drug abuse and trafficking in our prisons and the fact that 512 drug related incidents have been reported by the department in the past three years. A report last week quoted a Correctional Services Officer as saying that it is only a matter of time before an inmate commits suicide at Mobilong Prison as a result of drug abuse.

In view of the findings by Mr Justice Muirhead and the evidence given to the Royal Commissioner about the prevalence of drugs in South Australian prisons and the recommendation of the Prison Medical Service, when will the Government introduce regular random urine testing of prisoners?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** On 6 February this year Cabinet accepted and supported in principle the recommendations of the Muirhead Royal Commission, with the implementation to be determined taking into account planning and resource implications over time. Obviously, some of the recommendations will require significant resources and will have to be planned for. Cabinet has asked the Justice and Consumer Affairs Committee of Cabinet which, for this purpose, will be supplemented by the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, to report to Cabinet on a strategy for implementation, a program for consideration and any further recommendations that may be needed in the 1989-90 budget, and generally to monitor the implementation of the recommendations.

Cabinet has also authorised the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to open negotiations with the Commonwealth Government on possible financial assistance for the implementation of the recommendations. The Government has accepted the recommendations in principle. Many of them have substantial costs attached and they will have to be planned for. However, a process has been set in place to enable that to happen. Whether the comment to which the honourable member referred is a specific recommendation, I am not sure at present. However, in general that is what the Government is determined to do.

#### ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** I direct my question about the Interim Report on Aboriginal Deaths in Custody to the Attorney-General. Following the Government's decision to implement all of the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody will the Attorney-General say:

1. Upon what criteria and using what assessment procedures will the Government determine whether or not a police or prison officer or recruit who is in contact with Aboriginal people in the course of his or her duties holds racist views which cannot be eliminated by training or retraining?

2. What 'retraining' is proposed for officers identified as falling into the category of those who hold views which are racist but that those views can be changed?

3. How have these been identified and what, if any, action is to be taken against them?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I have already answered the question in relation to the Government's actions with respect

to the recommendations of this Royal Commission. The Hon. Mr Davis has referred to another recommendation and that will be considered along with the means of implementation by the procedure that I have outlined to the House.

#### Mrs A. DIXON

**The Hon. R.J. RITSON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about smuggling of drugs into prisons.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.J. RITSON:** In view of the findings by the Royal Commission that drugs were supplied illegally by Mrs Dixon to her son a matter of hours before he died, does the Government intend to take any action against Mrs Dixon for illegally smuggling drugs into the prison?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** First, it is not a matter for the Government. The Government does not make decisions about whether criminal prosecutions should be taken. Those decisions are made by the police, which is the normal procedure, or in the case of matters before the higher courts the decision is ultimately the responsibility of the Attorney-General. However, they are not matters about which the Government itself makes decisions. The whole question of the charges, criminal or other—that is, possible charges relating to lack of compliance with procedure—is currently under consideration and, at some appropriate time in the not too distant future, an announcement will be made about them.

**The Hon. R.J. RITSON:** I should like to ask a supplementary question. In view of the fine distinction drawn by the Attorney-General between the office of Attorney-General and the structure of government, is it his intention to proffer any advice or to offer any opinion to the police prosecuting authorities if his advice were sought, and what would his opinion be?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** It is not a fine distinction. I have outlined that in the Council on previous occasions. I am sure that the lawyers—or one of them; I am not sure about the other—are aware of the principles involved in the role of the Attorney-General in our constitutional system. It has been outlined to the Council and it is well known—at least to those who have looked at the principles. Indeed, it is a necessary principle upon which our system is based. It is not a fine distinction. The Hon. Mr Burdett at least knows that it would be intolerable for the Government to direct whether or not actions for breaches of the criminal law should be taken against particular people. It is a matter that must be dealt with in accordance with the law, either in the initial cases by the police or subsequently by the Crown Law officers. In that respect, the Attorney-General is ultimately responsible for them.

Having set the honourable member straight on that point, I hope, the answer to his question remains the same: no decisions have been taken with respect to any criminal or other proceedings which might arise out of the Muirhead Royal Commission report. The issue is with the Crown Law officers. When I have received a final report, decisions will be taken and an announcement will be made.

#### NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY

**The Hon. I. GILFILLAN:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about the NCA.



Leave granted.

**The Hon. I. GILFILLAN:** This morning at only the fourth public hearing that the NCA has ever held, which was held in the Colonel Light Room of the Town Hall, Mr Mark Le Grande, the newly appointed member to the authority, indicated that, of the team of investigators he intends to appoint, half will be from the South Australian Police Force. In his prepared address he said:

The decision to involve South Australian police officers in investigations which will, amongst other things cover allegations of corruption within their own force, was a decision for which I alone am responsible.

As seconded officers from the South Australian police are appointed to the authority for only a limited period and then returned to the South Australian police, and as several of the allegations involve members of the South Australian police, concern has been expressed that the public will not have confidence in the independence of such investigators investigating South Australian police.

Mr Le Grande announced that the Deputy Chief Investigator is a South Australian, Det. Chief Inspector Milton Clark. Mr Le Grande said:

The authority as I see it has a twofold function in respect of the allegations which have been made in the Parliament and in the media. The first is to clear the names and reputations of innocent persons, and, if possible, to lay the ghosts to rest once and for all. Secondly, if sufficient admissible evidence is available, to place persons involved in criminal conduct before the courts by the submission of a brief of evidence to the prosecuting authorities to be dealt with according to law.

In further comments during informal questions and answers at the press conference, he said that the aim of the NCA is, firstly, exoneration, and he specifically called for the public to come forward to exonerate the accused. He said that it was further to lay the ghosts to rest. Mr Le Grande also said that the NCA was under close audit, first, by the State Attorney-General and, secondly, by the Police Commissioner. The authority intends to conduct all its hearings in private and, as stated by Mr Le Grande, the lines of reporting are limited. In his speech he said:

The lines of reporting and accountability are clear, namely, by way of the submission of admissible evidence to a law enforcement agency or the Attorney-General, or by way of reporting through the Attorney-General to Parliament or the Intergovernmental Committee and the Parliamentary Joint Committee. Beyond a sitting such as this—

he is referring to the public meeting held this morning, at which no evidence was given or taken—

held pursuant to section 60 of the NCA Act, the authority has no other avenue of reporting upon its investigations.

Bearing in mind the censorship imposed by the Attorney-General on the previous NCA report last year allowing us to see only chapter 12 and the conclusions, there is concern that the findings of the NCA may never see the light of public day. My questions are as follows:

1. Does the Attorney-General believe that the public's concern at allegations relating to the South Australian Police Force will be best set to rest if, as stated at the public hearing today—

- (a) the second in charge of the NCA unit is a South Australian detective;
- (b) half the investigative force are seconded South Australian police officers;
- (c) the hearings will all be held in private; and
- (d) the findings will only be released through the Attorney-General or the intergovernmental committee and the parliamentary joint committee?

2. Does the Attorney-General agree with the Head of the NCA in South Australia (Mr Le Grande) that the first function of the NCA is to clear the names and reputations of innocent persons and to lay the ghosts to rest once and

for all, or does he believe that the first and overriding function is to track down any criminality and/or corruption that exists in South Australia and bring the offenders to trial?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The NCA will certainly not go on a witch-hunt around the South Australian Police Force or the South Australian community and, in so far as what Mr Le Grande has said indicates that that is not what he is doing, I fully support him. He will not put on a show trial in public where innocent people will be condemned by publicity as a result of an open tribunal of that kind. The reality is that the NCA has been established with proper accountability procedures built in. It is accountable to responsible Governments which, in turn, are accountable to Parliaments. It is also accountable in another sense to the Federal parliamentary committee.

It has as a task, which is specifically and properly written into its legislation, the principal role of collecting evidence to put people on trial. That is a very desirable and necessary requirement for the NCA. Its role is to get evidence, if it can, to put people on trial. It is not to go on a witch-hunt and it is not to engage in show trials which, apparently, is what the Hon. Mr Gilfillan wants it to do.

*The Hon. I. Gilfillan interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The honourable member said that it had only had four public hearings, and he referred to censorship by the Attorney-General, etc. In other words, what the honourable member wanted the Government and me to do was table the full report in Parliament, including the names of innocent people, to be bandied around for his enjoyment. The Government will not do that. It will not stand by and see innocent people condemned in Parliament or in the community by that sort of show trial.

I agree with Mr Le Grande and I have no problems with what he said. He has a responsibility now as the NCA representative in this State to clear the air. I should have thought that the Hon. Mr Gilfillan would agree with that because he is one of the people, along with a lot of others in the Parliament and the media, who have made allegations that have become part of the public record. In my view, innocent people have been defamed by what has been said in Parliament and in the public arena. There is no question about that. The reputations of innocent people have been besmirched by the sort of carry-on that occurred in this State towards the end of last year and, in so far as Mr Le Grande has said that he will take action to ensure that those matters are properly investigated, he is saying that, if there is anything in the accusations, action will be taken, not by way of a show trial but by proper prosecution before the courts. That is a very sensible approach for him to take, and it is certainly supported by me and the Government. The NCA has been brought here at the request of the South Australian Government. For its investigations in South Australia, it is funded—

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** That interjection is not worth replying to. The Government has never opposed—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** That matter will be dealt with when I respond to the Hon. Mr Gilfillan's Bill. I am not interested in interjections from members opposite on this topic. They have no credibility in this area, in any event.

**The Hon. R.I. Lucas:** You can't answer them.

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I can answer them, all right. I know that Mr Olsen's rating has gone down 8 per cent or 9 per cent since the Opposition started this in October or November last year. The reality is that the Government



invited the NCA here. It never objected to the NCA coming here at any stage. The Government never objected—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** You do not know what you are talking about. The reality is that the Government never objected to the NCA coming to South Australia. We said that we had no objection to that if it wanted to come. Initially it wanted to establish an anti-corruption unit within South Australia and work with that. Eventually it was decided, because the NCA had coercive powers and because I do not think it is desirable to give yet another body in South Australia or Australia coercive powers, to invite the NCA. It is established here now and is funded for its South Australian investigations by the South Australian Government. It has the full panoply of powers by way of the reference given to it by the inter-governmental committee and will now proceed with investigations.

All the people who have made allegations over the past few months in this Council—the Hon. Mr Gilfillan, the Opposition and media commentators; all of them—now have their chance to have those matters properly investigated by a properly constituted authority, not by way of a show trial through the media, but properly investigated. If there is evidence, charges will be laid and dealt with before the courts of this State—before the independent judiciary—as they should be. So, I support what Mr Le Grande has said. He has taken the decision to involve South Australian police officers, and I certainly have no objection whatsoever to that.

The implication in the Hon. Mr Gilfillan's question is that South Australian police officers cannot be trusted. The South Australian Government rejects that absolutely. It believes that the South Australian police with local knowledge and by cooperating with the independent element which is involved in the NCA is a satisfactory way of dealing with these allegations.

**The Hon. I. GILFILLAN:** By way of a supplementary question, if the Attorney believes that the South Australian Police Force is to be trusted completely, why does he then believe that the NCA needs to be involved at all in the investigation of accusations of corruption in the Police Force?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I said that the South Australian Police Force is to be trusted. It is to be trusted: I make that statement and I will not resile from it. The Hon. Mr Gilfillan apparently believes that it is not to be trusted. He can make that statement and he can live with it.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** That is the implication of what the honourable member is saying. The reality is that there have been some allegations with respect to the South Australian Police Force, and there has been one conviction with respect to Mr Moysie. Obviously, some inquiries have to be made, but I do not believe—and I am happy to say in the Council or anywhere else—that there is widespread corruption in the South Australian Police Force. The great majority of officers in the South Australian Police Force are honest and hardworking. The reality is that the actions of the Hon. Mr Gilfillan and the Liberal Opposition have had a deleterious effect on morale in the Police Force. You cannot continually make accusations about corruption, trying to put the whole of the South Australian Police Force into a corruption pot, and not expect some problems with respect to morale and the like.

However, the Government is prepared to say that it believes that the South Australian Police Force deserves the support of the community and members of Parliament. But there have been some odd problems identified, and that

they need investigation is not beyond dispute. That can be done by the NCA and that is why it is here—not because the Government does not trust the South Australian Police Force but principally because the National Crime Authority has the coercive powers, which I think it has been agreed are necessary, to deal with these sorts of matters. The National Crime Authority has coercive powers; it is able to act nationally, that is, throughout the whole of Australia; and clearly it is the most appropriate body to investigate allegations against the police and any of the plethora of allegations that have been raised by members in this Council and by the media over the past few months.

**The Hon. I. GILFILLAN:** I have a further supplementary question. One would like to make statements in rebuttal of some of the accusations that have been made, but I realise that Standing Orders—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! Are you making a personal explanation?

**The Hon. I. GILFILLAN:** Madam President, my supplementary question is that I ask the Attorney-General, in the light of what he has said and in the tone of my question, he agrees whether that an undesirable proportion of South Australian police are involved in the investigative unit if the aim is, as I believe it is, to set the public's mind at rest that the issue has been fairly, objectively and impartially investigated?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I do not agree with the exact proposition from the Hon. Mr Gilfillan. It really does stagger me that he would come into Parliament on the very day that the National Crime Authority has had its first hearing in Adelaide, and attempt to undermine the authority.

**The Hon. I. Gilfillan:** I am cooperating—

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** That is what you are attempting to do; the Hon. Mr Gilfillan is attempting to sow public doubts—

*The Hon. I. Gilfillan interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** You are attempting to sow public doubts into the National Crime Authority's investigations.

*The Hon. I. Gilfillan interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** Well, what are you doing?

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I. Gilfillan:** I am asking you—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! The honourable member has asked his supplementary question. The Attorney will reply through the Chair.

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** After getting the NCA established here, having funded it with its coercive powers, its national jurisdiction and brief, and having got it here to deal with these allegations of corruption, the first question we get from the Hon. Mr Gilfillan is an attempt to chip away and to undermine the National Crime Authority.

**The Hon. I. Gilfillan:** I have given all my information to the NCA, Sumner. I trust—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. I. Gilfillan:** I trust the NCA.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I call the Hon. Mr Gilfillan to order.

**The Hon. I. Gilfillan:** Let him speak through you, and not to me.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I am asking the honourable member to cease his interjections. I do not need instructions from him as to how to carry out my responsibilities.

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** It is customary to refer to members in this Council as 'the honourable'. I am sure it was just the heat of the moment that caused the honourable

member to overlook those normal courtesies. I do not believe that an undesirable proportion of South Australian police is involved in the NCA. I think it is a pity that the honourable member has embarked on this course of action to try to undermine the authority of any decisions that the NCA might ultimately make on this matter.

There is clearly a very substantial independent element. Mr Le Grande is not a member of any police force; he has been an independent prosecutor, working in various situations in the eastern States. There will also be police from interstate; Mr Mengler, an Assistant Commissioner in the Victorian Police Department, will be involved. Other police from interstate will also be involved, and probably individuals from other non-police areas will assist where necessary. I do not see that there is a problem. There is a substantial independent element in the NCA's investigations. Mr Le Grande has obviously decided to combine that independent element with the South Australian police, with their local knowledge of the situation. There is no doubt that local knowledge about criminal activity is very important when going about an investigation of that kind. It is a decision taken by Mr Le Grande. The Government has had no influence in that decision, but he has made it and I support it.

#### LEGAL AID

**The Hon. J.C. BURDETT:** My questions, directed to the Attorney-General, are as follows: first, does the Government propose to make additional funds available to the Legal Services Commission (or to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement) to enable the family of a deceased Aboriginal prisoner to be represented at coronial inquiries? If so, how much is proposed to be made available in a full year? Secondly, does the Government propose to extend to the families of non-Aboriginal deceased prisoners funds to enable them to be represented at coronial inquiries as has been suggested for the families of deceased Aboriginal prisoners?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I will take that question on notice and bring back a reply.

#### SCHOOL STAFFING

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Tourism, representing the Minister of Education, a question on the subject of school staffing.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Members will be aware that the Bannon Government introduced new school staffing arrangements for 1989 based on average enrolments and, in doing so, promised schools and students that the changes would not affect the quality of education in our schools. I raise the case of the Aberfoyle Park High School but indicate a number of other high schools in the southern suburbs have experienced similar problems. At the end of last year Aberfoyle Park High School intimated proposed enrolments for February this year to be 1 042. However, the actual enrolment in February was 38 students more, a total of 1 080. As a result of the fine tuning, the school was promised an increase of about 1.4 to 2 teachers. It is noted that the reverse situation occurs in schools when in February the enrolments are down on the estimated number, the school staffing entitlement is reduced very quickly and the equivalent number of teachers can be lost, with staff being transferred to other responsibilities within the department.

Instead of getting the increased teaching staff to which they were entitled, the Aberfoyle Park High School has been given only a .4 teaching staff increase. This is just one example. I will not raise a series of other examples. It has caused severe problems for the students and staff at the Aberfoyle Park High School. For example, students who last year undertook year 11 German on the basis of a curriculum guarantee that they would be able to continue their studies in year 12 this year have now had that curriculum guarantee removed and have been told that the school is not able to provide year 12 German. This means students having to either transfer to other schools or contemplate giving up their chosen course of study. A series of other problems have arisen, such as the year 12 SAS media class having 28 students and year 11 accounting and English classes having 30 students.

I also want to raise the problem of the combined year 12 options at the Risdon Park and Port Pirie High Schools. The current staffing arrangements at those schools are such that the department has not been able to provide a year 12 accounting teacher. I understand that the department contacted 45 teachers qualified to teach year 12 accounting but 44 refused to transfer to Port Pirie. The one who accepted lived in Queensland and is unable to come until next year. As you would appreciate, Ms President, quite a number of students and their families are very distressed at the current state of teaching and staff resources at Port Pirie. Their chosen option of being able to pursue a career in accounting next year after successfully completing this year have been jeopardised by the staffing arrangements of the Education Department.

My questions are: first, will the Government urgently review its staffing policies for 1989, in particular in relation to the examples I have quoted? Secondly, does the Bannon Government and, in particular the Minister of Education, still believe that the quality of education in our schools has not been affected by the series of changes introduced by the Bannon Government?

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** I will refer those questions to the Minister of Education and bring back a reply as soon as I possibly can. On behalf of the Government, I would certainly reject any claims that actions taken by the Bannon Government during the past two or three years have affected the quality of education in South Australia. In fact, many of the actions taken by this Government during the past few years have significantly improved the quality of education, as is evidenced by statistical information which is becoming available in a number of areas within our State school system. I will refer the particular issues raised by the honourable member to the Minister and bring back a reply.

#### NURSING HOME CARE

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Tourism, representing the Minister of Health, a question on the subject of nursing home care.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Last Friday a report commissioned by the Federal Government entitled 'I'm still an individual' claimed that human rights of residents in many nursing homes and hostels were being ignored, neglected and violated daily, and standards of care generally were poor. The release of the report comes six months after the Federal Government imposed new standards of care and new national staffing standards in nursing homes, standards in South Australia which will reduce the average hours of

nursing and personal care for a person from 22 hours to 17.5 hours. At that time (July last year), the proprietors of nursing homes, aged care residents and their families protested strongly that the reduced staff hours would lower standards of care and would particularly hit rehabilitation services, an area directly related to the quality of life of the some 7 000 older people in South Australia's 160 nursing homes. Against this background I ask the Minister:

1. Do the conclusions of the Commonwealth report 'I'm still an individual' imply or confirm that the general high standards of care in South Australian nursing homes have been compromised by the Commonwealth Government's funding arrangements introduced last year?

2. When releasing the report, did the Commonwealth Minister for Housing and Aged Care issue an undertaking to ensure that nursing home staffing levels in South Australia do not fall below the State standards?

3. Can the Minister confirm whether any South Australian nursing homes are operating at staffing standards below the State standards and, if so, which nursing homes?

4. What action is the Minister taking to ensure that nursing homes are not caught between the Commonwealth maximum funding level and the State minimum staffing level?

5. Does the Minister consider the conclusions contained in the Commonwealth report based on a survey of .6 per cent of nursing home and hostel residents across Australia represents an accurate reflection of standards in South Australia?

6. What does the Bannon Government propose to do to ensure that standards in nursing homes in South Australia are maintained and the quality of life for aged residents is assured?

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** I will refer those questions to the Minister of Health and bring back a reply.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

**The Hon. J.C. IRWIN:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Local Government a question about the Local Government Department.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.C. IRWIN:** On 3 February I attended a meeting of the South-East Local Government Association at Kingston. I heard on ABC radio that morning of the imminent departure of Mr Michael Lennon from his position of Deputy Director of the Department of Local Government. This was confirmed at the meeting and we were told that Mr Lennon was to leave the department on a two year leave of absence to join a private firm of international accountants. My search of library paper cuttings does not indicate any public statement from the Minister about this move or the rearrangement of some positions within the department, including the appointment of joint Deputy Directors from within the Department of Local Government.

Will the Minister confirm the arrangements I have alluded to? What were the reasons for Mr Lennon's departure? Further, the local government community of South Australia would be very grateful if the Minister would employ in her department a senior local government Chief Executive Officer with considerable local government experience and on a salary which would attract such a person. Will the Minister indicate whether she has any plans to follow this course? Why did she not do this, rather than appoint joint Deputy Directors for her department on the departure of Mr Lennon?

**The Hon. BARBARA WIESE:** It is true that the Deputy Director of the Department of Local Government, Mr Lennon, will leave the employ of that department on the basis of two years leave without pay from the Public Service. He has not yet left the department, but will do so fairly soon to take up an appointment with a private company. The reason for his departure is a personal matter—he has made a career choice and felt that it would be helpful and desirable in the planning of his career to have some experience in the private sector.

As to the arrangements that will now be made within the Department of Local Government, that certainly is a matter for the Director of the department to determine, but in the short term she intends to reallocate certain functions and responsibilities that Mr Lennon and various other people within the department have held up until this time and, for the next few months at least, in effect there will be a three person executive panel, I suppose one would call it, that will manage the affairs of the Department of Local Government prior to a decision being made to advertise a vacancy within the department.

I am fairly certain that the arrangements being made to take up the various roles and functions within the department will mean that the very high standard of services that have been provided to the local government community, and the community at large with respect to local government matters, can be maintained. Before very much longer there will be a full complement of staff in the department.

#### ETHNIC INFORMATION OFFICERS

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister of Ethnic Affairs a question about ethnic information officers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** In April 1983, after the present Labor Government was elected, it directed a review of the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission. Amongst the 41 recommendations, the review team recommended that the information and referral role of the commission should be retained, and that the staff levels should be reduced from 12 to eight officers—

**The Hon. R.J. Ritson:** They want to include a few Liberals.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I do not know about that. That number excluded the community liaison officers. This review was to be implemented at no cost to the level of service to the community. Because the Treasurer (Mr Bannon) has cut funding to the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission, only 2½ information officers are now employed—2½ and not three. I commend the initiative taken by the Woodville council to overcome a crisis in the western region. It did that with the assistance of the limited resources from the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission which, incidentally, has to cover the whole of South Australia with 2½ officers and organise the course of 25—I repeat, 25—volunteers to be trained as ethnic information officers. These volunteers received their training certificates on 19 September 1988.

My questions to the Minister are as follows: Will the Minister direct the employment of the additional 5½ officers, as recommended by the review team? Is the existing information staff of 2½ officers who are employed by the South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission expected to train more volunteers, as well as perform its normal information duties Statewide? Will the Government give a commitment that it will reimburse volunteers' out-of-pocket

expenses, as these volunteers are now being used to provide the information services which the Government has failed to provide to the ethnic communities? Finally, will the Minister confirm whether the Government intends to marginalise the information services required by the various ethnic community groups to the extent that these important services become the responsibility of volunteers?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The answer to the last question is 'No'. I presented the certificates to the 25 volunteers on 19 September 1988. It was a very pleasant occasion. Most people were pleased with the fact that they had been able to do this course and complimented the assistance that had been given to the course by the Ethnic Affairs Commission. Unlike the former Tonkin Liberal Government, this Government's policy is not to say that ethnic affairs matters should be just dealt by the Ethnic Affairs Commission. We see multiculturalism as an integral—

*The Hon. J.F. Stefani interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:**—part of the whole community. The previous Liberal Government's policy was to give the ethnics their commission and to concentrate on a bit of folk dancing and the like, in the hope that that would keep them quiet.

**The Hon. J.F. Stefani:** You have marginalised them to the point where they can't operate.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** That is simply not correct. What we have done is try to make multiculturalism a part of the mainstream delivery of services throughout Government. That has led to the Education Department bringing down a report which was prepared as a joint venture between the Ethnic Affairs Commission and the Education Department and which led to a number of recommendations on multiculturalism in education. In particular, it has led to the commitment to provide, I think by 1995, the opportunity for all willing South Australian children to learn another language. I would have thought that was a rather substantial—

**The Hon. J.F. Stefani:** It's got nothing to do with the question.

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** It's got everything to do with the question. It is about multiculturalism being part of the whole Government.

*The Hon. J.F. Stefani interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I will get to that. Other task forces were appointed in the areas of welfare and health. Information services are available through those agencies. That is an integral part of those agencies' operations. That is the approach which has been adopted. It does not mean that the Ethnic Affairs Commission does not provide information—it does. It does not mean that the Ethnic Affairs Commission does not provide grants to ethnic communities to assist in the provision of information. It does not mean that other Government departments do not assist in providing information—clearly, they do. That is the policy of the Government.

There is always a need for more people to assist with information in this as in any other area. Therefore, it seems to be a reasonably sensible proposition for volunteers to be trained in the provision of information and that training was assisted by the Ethnic Affairs Commission. The fact of the matter is—

**The Hon. J.F. Stefani:** I tell you—

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! You have asked your question, Mr Stefani. Perhaps we could have the answer without interruption.

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** Rather than marginalise, the Government's policy has been to ensure that ethnic affairs or multiculturalism becomes an integral part of the delivery of services throughout Government departments. That only has to be contrasted with the approach of members opposite, who pay lip service to ethnic affairs and to a bipartisan approach in this area. However, they must look at the policy of their Federal colleagues. Their Federal colleagues have written multiculturalism out of their thoughts and out of their policies. As far as Mr Howard is concerned, it is a no-no; he does not want to know about it. He is being run by people from the extreme right in this area.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I am sorry, there is no question about it. If Mr Howard becomes the Prime Minister of this country we will see a devastation of funding in areas of multiculturalism. He no longer has the issue in his policy: multiculturalism has been written out of the Liberal Party's policy. It does not exist. Mr Howard does not want to know about it, and if there is a Federal Liberal Government in Canberra there will be an assault on funding in this area. The Liberal Party has not made any secret about it. Anyone can see what it will do. It has already taken the first step: multiculturalism is a 'no-no' as far as it is concerned.

Opposed to that, this Government has given significant attention to both the philosophies and practice of multiculturalism. As Minister, I have participated in this Government's actions in ensuring that multiculturalism is given a priority, in ensuring that multiculturalism is considered as an integral part of society, and in ensuring that it can be used in a positive way for the benefit of the Australian community. What we have attempted to do—and the honourable member has raised one issue—is to ensure that services are being delivered to Government departments by the establishment of specific policies with respect to the various Government departments that exist.

#### JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I seek leave to have the reply to a question inserted in *Hansard* without my reading it.

Leave granted.

In reply to the **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (1 November).

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** The contract for supply of the network to the Justice Information System was originally awarded to CSIRONET, which was a division of CSIRO. They had developed a network which operates around Australia and their tender was based upon that network. The contract let had two basic parts. The first was supply of the network as currently implemented by CSIRONET and the second a number of enhancements to be developed by CSIRONET, in order that the network meet the Justice Information System requirements. These enhancements were to be developed over a period of approximately one year.

Following the signing of the contract, CSIRONET entered a joint venture with a company called Techway Pty Ltd to form Network Automation. The reason for this was that CSIRONET wished to concentrate on selling the services provided by its network and wished to devolve itself of development of network software. This was to be undertaken by Network Automation and CSIRONET would be a customer of Network Automation. The Justice Information System contract was assigned to Network Automation with CSIRO and Techway being guarantors for the performance of Network Automation. The enhancements being provided by Network Automation are being progressively delivered and installed and these should be complete by 30 June 1989.

Network Automation have formed a strategic alliance with a United States telecommunications company. The overseas company, Telematics, is not supplying any of the software enhancements which form part of the Justice Information System contract. I understand that the alliance has been developed because each of the companies supply products to different areas of the network market. By having strategic alliance, it strengthens each particular company's ability to sell within the market place.

The Government Management Board at the request of the Government, commissioned a study by two senior officers of the Justice Information System in September. As a result of this initial reassessment of the JIS the Government has taken a number of steps which are intended to review the scope, cost, development time and benefits for JIS. The courts computer is completely independent of any other computing system, including Justice Information System. The Court Services Department recently selected equipment to enable the provision of its own network services to court locations in the city and suburbs.

The future provision of regional network services, that is, for country courts, can occur simply by extending the above-mentioned local area network which, as well, maintains independence from the JIS and the JIS developed network. The use of JIS Network facilities would only occur where dictated by Government as a wide area networking strategy for all agencies. It should be appreciated however, that any decision to share a network would not diminish the independence and integrity of the courts computing system.

#### DROUGHT FUNDS

**The Hon. PETER DUNN:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General a question about the Premier's attitude to drought funds.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. PETER DUNN:** In another House the Premier made a statement which was subsequently reported in the press that he thought that declaring Eyre Peninsula a natural disaster area would be worse than useless because its lack of value would only prove cruel and misleading to farmers. I do not know where the Premier gets that idea. I understand that other States have enjoyed very much the use of the effect of declaring an area a natural disaster. Can we assume from that that the Premier is making a conscious effort to depopulate the electorates of Eyre and Flinders by not using the Federal funds available to him? Has he failed in his negotiations with the Commonwealth Bank as it has refused to join the State Bank and the ANZ Bank in providing further funding for farmers on the Eyre Peninsula?

**The Hon. C.J. SUMNER:** I will refer the question to the Premier and bring back a reply.

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#### NORTH HAVEN TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.  
(Continued from 15 February. Page 1920.)

**The Hon. J.C. IRWIN:** The Opposition is happy to facilitate the passage of this Bill today to at least give the Council some work to do. The Opposition supports the Bill as amended by the Assembly and in the form presented to us.

The aim of the Bill is to amend the North Haven Trust Act 1979 so that the North Haven Trust is constituted of the Minister for Environment and Planning. The Bill also provides for the trust to hold its property for and on behalf of the Crown.

The North Haven Trust was established pursuant to the North Haven Trust Act 1979 to undertake and promote development of the North Haven harbor project. Since the sale of this project in 1983, it has been the aim of the trust to finalise its major activities and facilitate the eventual repeal of the North Haven Trust Act.

The Crown Solicitor has advised, however, that there are certain risks associated with the repeal and effective winding up of the North Haven Trust particularly due to the complexity of the arrangements entered in to by the trust and concern as to whether such repeal may effect enforceability of the deed of sale or other agreements existing between the developers and the trust. It is therefore the recommendation of the Crown Solicitor that the North Haven Trust should be retained as a statutory corporation at least until the development obligations of the respective parties have been complied with, but that the North Haven Trust Act 1979 could be amended so that the North Haven Trust is constituted of the Minister for Environment and Planning.

The Hon. David Wotton, in another place, raised a few points with the Minister for Environment and Planning. I understand that the trust has about \$500 000 in its account, and this money is to be used mainly for the Department of Marine and Harbors to enable it to continue its work in connection with the maintenance of the harbor. I also understand that the trust's revenue raising responsibility has ended now that the trust is constituted in the form of the Minister. The Minister for Environment and Planning said that he would obtain the information requested in the other place. That information was not forthcoming in Committee in the other place, I ask the Minister in charge of the legislation in this place whether that question has been addressed or whether he has been furnished with any advice concerning the points raised here and in the other House.

Observers of the passage of this legislation will note that the Bill includes a sunset clause which will be contained in section 26 of the principal Act if this Bill is passed. That section will provide for the expiry of the Act on 31 December 1993 or, if the Governor fixes some earlier date for its expiry, on the date so fixed. The Opposition is pleased that the Bill now carries this sunset provision and I reiterate its support for this Bill.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee.

Clause 1—'Short title.'

**The Hon. J.C. IRWIN:** As I indicated, two points were raised by my colleague in the other place, and I have reiterated them today. I do not suppose that there is any advice on whether the entrepreneurial activities—I use that expression in a broad sense—of the trust are completed, whether the \$500 000 in the kitty will be used only for harbor work and whether anything that is left over after the legislation expires will be distributed as the clause provides.

Clause passed.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.23 p.m. the Council adjourned until Tuesday 21 February at 2.15 p.m.