

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

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**Fourth Session of the Forty-Eighth Parliament  
(1996)**

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Parliament, which adjourned on 1 August, was prorogued by proclamation dated 27 August. By proclamation dated 27 August, it was summoned to meet on Tuesday 1 October, and the fourth session began on that date.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Tuesday 1 October 1996**

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. Peter Dunn)** took the Chair at 12 noon.

**OPENING OF PARLIAMENT**

The Clerk (Mrs J.M. Davis) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Eric Neal) summoning Parliament.

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and conducted by him to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to her summons, His Excellency read his opening speech as follows:

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

2. My Government has created a foundation of economic and financial reforms to public administration from which South Australians are now poised to reap the benefit. These benefits have been targeted to meet the economic and the social priorities of my Government. These priorities reflect the mainstream aspirations of South Australians—a quality of life which is second to none, with improving living standards achieved through sound administration of the State's economy and international best practice in delivery of public services.

3. In building upon these foundations my Government will maintain the reform momentum. Legislation will be introduced into this Parliament which complements the many initiatives already undertaken by my Government since December 1993 both through this Parliament and through the Executive.

4. This Legislative program will build upon my Government's aggressive agenda for private sector industry development and economic growth in South Australia. It will recognise the ongoing need to create more jobs and complete the restructuring of our State's economic base. It will recognise that our State must tailor its delivery of public services to gain maximum value to the public and the economy. My Government's legislative program also recognises the need to protect our citizens with a legal framework of legislation that provides personal and social security, promotes the principles of equity and fair dealing, creates incentives for flair and entrepreneurship and values our unique environment.

**STATE FINANCES**

5. Since you were last called together my Government has delivered a dramatic turnaround in the State's finances which underpin our capacity to deliver the improved living standards and services required by our community. It has done so without introducing new taxes or relying solely on asset sales. It has done so by working more efficiently in the area of service delivery by the public sector.

6. In delivering its three budgets my Government has moved from a \$350 million underlying State Budget deficit to a position where over the next year, and with further careful management and a continuing commitment to debt and deficit reduction, we can forecast a real and sustainable State surplus.

7. Our State finances are on track. The 1995-96 underlying deficit in the non-commercial sector is \$101 million. This is \$5 million less than forecast at Budget time. My Government is ahead of its debt reduction targets. Asset sales play a significant role in this strategy and the Asset Management Task Force, established in March 1994, is continuing its comprehensive program of divesting non-core public sector assets to reduce State debt. The asset sales program has already achieved a total of \$1.75 billion in sale proceeds, dramatically exceeding the Government's original targets.

8. My Government will continue with the policy of presenting its budget before the commencement of the financial year as this facilitates better financial planning by both the Government and the private sector. To augment the

emphasis on financial accountability, my Government will be including in the 1995-96 budget outcomes a whole of Government consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 1996.

9. Legislation will be introduced to strengthen the regulatory framework of the Tobacco Products Licensing Act and to minimise illicit tobacco trading.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10. This State has much to offer in terms of resources, enterprise and expertise. The irony is that, sometimes, it is easy to lose sight of just how successful we have been, and continue to be, in attracting new employment-creating industries and in making the most of our resources—physical and human. Self-confidence is itself a most valuable resource, and we should nurture it.

11. My Government will continue to build upon the foundations of a stronger and more diverse economy which is creating more jobs for South Australians. Our economic development priorities include:

- developing export focussed and competitive South Australian enterprises which are responsive to changing international markets;
- building an attractive business environment with a highly skilled work force;
- encouraging new investment;
- improving productivity and encouraging innovation; and
- improving infrastructure.

12. The Premier's recent trade mission to Europe and China has confirmed the competitiveness of South Australian industry on the international export market. My Government's commitment to developing the most competitive investment and business environment is now bearing fruit—from industry sectors traditional to our State to new and expanding industry sectors such as tourism, information technology, aquaculture, food and beverage processing, the arts, water management and export of technical services.

13. My Government will continue to work cooperatively with the private sector in industrial expansion. My Government will continue to foster the growth of information technology based industries as a key element in the broadening of our State's industrial base. Importantly, my Government's program of economic reform targets regional and rural South Australia to share in the benefits of growth in jobs and wealth creation.

14. In the area of mineral and energy exploration, my Government will be introducing legislation to facilitate the proposed expansion of the Olympic Dam gold, copper and uranium mine at Roxby Downs. This \$1.25 billion expansion by the private sector will directly and indirectly create up to 6 700 new jobs. A special project team established by the Government has been working with the Western Mining Corporation on amendments to legislation and the indenture agreement to be introduced this session.

15. An essential element in improving South Australia's economy is the responsible development of our mineral resources. Mining provides substantial employment opportunities, export earnings, royalties and infrastructure for the State. The cost of mineral exploration is estimated to reach \$35 million over the next year—a 300% increase in five years. In the light of the State's tremendous mineral wealth South Australians should feel confident about their future.

16. The strengthening of our primary industries by Government, industry and the community working in partnership to develop opportunities for sustainable growth

continues to be central to the economic development objectives of my Government over the next year.

17. The establishment of Industry Development Boards for the rural industry sectors will assist my Government to better manage rural resources and to apply them most effectively for industry development. These boards will cover industry sectors such as wool, horticulture, field crops, meat and seafoods.

18. My Government will consolidate its strategy to revitalise rural Eyre Peninsula. The jointly funded \$11 million State and Commonwealth project will assist farming enterprises to adjust, to help introduce new skills into farming and to tackle land degradation issues.

19. Strategies will also be continued to enable our beef, sheep, dairy, forestry and aquaculture industries to obtain maximum value on the national and international export markets.

20. My Government will introduce amendments to livestock legislation designed to rationalise and amalgamate nine Acts applying to the livestock industries, and take other measures to promote industry development.

21. My Government is creating an export focused water industry in South Australia which is internationally competitive, innovative and export oriented. This will mean that three of the four leading global water companies will be operating in Adelaide and exporting world-competitive South Australian products and expertise to Asia.

22. My Government will be introducing legislation to enhance the efficiency of the MFP and consolidate a structure which can best achieve the economic gains for South Australia from the potential of this project.

23. My Government will also strengthen its commitment to the cost competitiveness of our local industry. Our industrial relations reforms in South Australia have led to productivity growth and workplace bargaining within a framework of low levels of industrial disputes. My Government will also continue the recovery of the State's workers compensation scheme and achieve nationally competitive WorkCover levy rates over the next year. Reforms will also be made to long service leave laws by introducing legislative amendments designed to create greater workplace flexibility.

24. My Government recognises that specific attention must continue to be given to the welfare of small business and job creation in that sector. The Small Business Advisory Council and the Regulation Reform Advisory Council established by my Government will continue their work in clearing obstacles preventing small business from achieving their maximum potential growth and investment.

25. As a further measure to assist small business, promote equity in commercial dealings and ensure South Australia continues as an attractive place to invest, my Government will introduce legislation to amend the Retail Shop Leases Act following its consideration of recommendations of the Joint Committee of this Parliament on retail shop tenancies.

26. My Government's active support for the film industry through the South Australian Film Corporation is returning handsome economic dividends to the State and renewed confidence throughout the local film industry.

#### EMPLOYMENT

27. My Government's economic development and industry policies are aimed at employment growth and new employment opportunities.

28. As the South Australian economy continues to restructure through this reform process my Government will

continue to promote labour market programs and youth initiatives which provide real opportunities for skill development and career advancement. Further new employment and training pilot programs will be introduced, including programs for the mature aged unemployed.

29. My Government is also improving the skills base of the existing work force to help our industry become more competitive and productive. My Government will introduce the Modern Australian Apprenticeship and Traineeship System in South Australia and continue the Upskill SA program, with the view to increasing apprentice and trainee numbers, and making training more relevant and useful.

30. My Government will also continue to improve the services delivered through our training and further education institutions via capital and infrastructure projects and productivity and information technology initiatives. Consultation with youth will be expanded through the convening of Youth Forums.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

31. My Government's program of infrastructure renewal and extension will be accelerated over the coming year.

32. The upgrading and leasing of Adelaide International Airport is a primary infrastructure objective. Current facilities are limiting growth in exports and tourism and inadequate air transport facilities are viewed by investors as a competitive disadvantage.

33. My Government has succeeded in obtaining a contribution of funds from the Commonwealth for planned runway extensions with work commencing this year. My Government predicts the runway extension will inject \$225 million into the State economy over the next 10 years through increased exports. Concurrently, the State will proceed in the coming year to upgrade passenger terminal facilities at the Adelaide Airport. In conjunction with key stakeholders and potential airport investors my Government is determined that our airport will enhance our State's national and international profile and our economic development objectives.

34. My Government also continues to promote the \$1 billion Darwin-Alice Springs Railway project, and over the next year will continue to actively work with the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments, and the private sector, on what is an essential national infrastructure project as we approach the next century.

35. In the area of road infrastructure my Government has been successful in initiating approvals for the construction of major road work projects. Three major contracts on the Darlington to Reynella section of the Southern Expressway will commence in October of this year. Off-airport works are continuing, including the Tapley's Hill Road deviation to enable the extension of the runway at Adelaide Airport. Construction work has commenced on a new bridge crossing the River Murray at Berri and design work is progressing on a replacement bridge at Blanchetown.

36. My Government has also succeeded in obtaining \$19 million funding assistance from the Commonwealth this financial year for the Mount Barker Road project. Preliminary work has already started between Glen Osmond and Crafers, with contracts for the tunnels to be called early in 1997. As part of my Government's commitment of \$12.8 million over three years to save our jetties, the Department of Transport has commenced negotiations with Councils to upgrade the State's 47 jetties.

37. My Government will proceed to implement a long term contract with the private sector for the provision and operation of water treatment plants to filter the water supplies in regional areas. Construction will also commence on a waste water treatment plant at Aldinga, with recycled water used for irrigation in the Willunga Basin.

38. Through SA Water, my Government has committed a total of \$74.1 million for expenditure in 1996-97 on a range of projects to improve the State's water supply, waste water and irrigation systems. My Government will introduce legislation to amend the Irrigation Act to ensure the smooth transition of irrigation areas from Government control to private management.

39. Over the next year my Government will also continue the reform of ETSA and the electricity supply industry within South Australia in preparation for South Australia's entry into the national electricity market.

40. My Government has targeted tourism infrastructure as a key element in the growth of this export earning and labour intensive industry sector. The development of the National Wine Centre in Adelaide and the upgrading and further development of Wirrina Cove resort and marina will give South Australia a strong international profile. Tourism infrastructure projects already under development in regional South Australia will proceed to completion. These initiatives will complement the targeted international marketing of South Australia as a tourism destination.

41. Legislation will be introduced creating a new structure which brings together my Government's administration of tourism, recreation and sport.

42. The construction of new facilities for soccer, athletics and netball will proceed in partnership with these sports.

43. My Government's commitment to upgrade the State's cultural institutions along North Terrace and the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust represents a major investment in revitalising the business and cultural heart of Adelaide.

#### EDUCATION

44. My Government will ensure there is a new emphasis on vocational education and training opportunities in our schools. Legislation will be introduced to facilitate the new joint development with TAFE at Urrbrae Agricultural College.

45. Significant additional resources have been provided to introduce computer and information technology into school classrooms and to connect the education system to the wider world using high speed telecommunications networks. Additional resources will continue to be provided to students under the Early Years Strategy to improve learning for students with learning difficulties. The Basic Skills Tests continue to operate with increased participation and overwhelming public support. Future national literacy surveys will be tailored to allow state by state comparisons. These measures mean that for the first time in over 20 years information on student achievements in the compulsory years of schooling will have been collected.

46. My Government will also be releasing a package of materials to assist the teaching focus on Aboriginal issues as part of building stronger links within our society between our Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultures.

47. Support for the educational needs of gifted and talented students will be enhanced as our education system strives for best practice outcomes and excellence in teaching and learning.

**HEALTH**

48. The delivery of health services responsive to community needs and within the efficiency objectives of the Government are central priorities.

49. Over the 1996-97 year the seven newly incorporated Regional Health Service Boards will be in operation and will become the driving force for the coordination and development of health services in each region, with a closer association to local communities which the health system serves.

50. My Government's reform initiatives in mental health are designed to produce more effective and targeted treatment within the community. During this year \$1.8 million additional funds will be made available for improved country mental health services. A newly formed rural health training unit will operate as an integral component in this new model in the provision of mental health services.

51. In the Adelaide metropolitan area health services will be enhanced by the operation of the Southern Regional Health Service, an initiative of the four major health service providers in the Southern region.

52. Specific initiatives and health care targets will be pursued over the next year in the area of Aboriginal health services following agreements between my Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Commonwealth in July 1996.

53. Information technology has a major part to play in the health sector. A major information technology project will be developed within teaching hospitals. The system has been designed specifically to improve the quality of care and also lead to long term savings.

54. In conjunction with the private sector, my Government will proceed with initiatives to construct new and improved health care facilities at Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and the Flinders Medical Centre.

55. Funding of approximately \$3 million will be available to primary health care projects and initiatives in the 1996-97 financial year. A significant proportion of these funds has been allocated to projects and initiatives aimed at improving continuity of care and Aboriginal primary health care.

56. My Government will be introducing amendments to the Food Act, the Nurses Act and the Medical Practitioners Act as part of its continuing program of legislative reform in the public health and health care sectors.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

57. My Government will continue its program of structural reform to local government in South Australia.

58. The reinvigoration of the Adelaide city centre is a high priority of my Government. My Government is determined to deliver a new structure for the governance of Adelaide which will breathe new life and vitality into our capital city centre. Legislation will be introduced which will replace the Adelaide City Council with three Commissioners, pending elections for a restructured Council. This legislation will complement the establishment of the Adelaide Partnership as a coordinated marketing and promotional body for the City of Adelaide.

59. The local government boundary reform process will accelerate as councils move to develop and finalise amalgamation options.

60. Legislation will also be introduced which increases the effectiveness of laws governing the conduct of local government elections and meetings. In addition, a full review

of the local government legislation is proceeding and further legislative reform will be made prior to the 1997 local council elections.

61. Amendments to the State's development laws designed to provide greater certainty in the development process will be brought into effect. Amendments relating to private certification of certain development approvals will also be progressed.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

62. Securing the future for South Australia goes beyond economic reforms. My Government will continue its program of crime prevention, community protection and personal and public safety.

63. My Government has taken a leading role in the fundamental reform of firearms laws in South Australia following the tragic events in Port Arthur in April and subsequent resolutions of Commonwealth and State Police Ministers. These reforms will continue to be effectively administered by my Government over the next year.

64. The Government's process of reform of the police service will continue with the introduction of significant changes to the Police Act and regulations in the area of appointments, promotions, performance management and disciplinary procedures. A Bill to amend the Police (Complaints and Disciplinary Proceedings) Act will also be introduced.

65. My Government will introduce amendments to criminal assets confiscation laws and legislative amendments to define the rights of legal assistance to indigent defendants charged with serious offences.

66. My Government will respond to concerns about the traffic of stolen goods in the community and introduce legislation to improve standards in the pawnbroking and secondhand dealing industries.

67. Over the next year my Government will continue its reform of our State's correctional and emergency services which have seen more efficiencies delivered to the community.

68. Amendments to the Young Offenders Act will be brought into operation which implement an upgraded system of home detention for selected young offenders.

**ENVIRONMENT**

69. My Government's programs for industry and economic development are based upon a fundamental respect for and recognition of our unique environment.

70. South Australia has led the way in the national program endorsed by the Commonwealth for the remediation of the Murray-Darling Basin.

71. A new Water Resources Bill will be introduced for debate in this session of Parliament. The Bill is the result of a comprehensive review of the Water Resources Act undertaken in recognition of the critical importance of water resources to the sustainable development of South Australia.

72. My Government will continue its program of capital works projects which are upgrading our national parks, and which contribute to our State's ecotourism development.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

73. My Government will continue its initiatives designed to promote opportunities to enhance awareness of the role and needs of women in society, in regional areas and in the work force. A Statement on Programs for Women will be tabled by my Government later this month.

74. My Government's priority in the provision of community services to families and the ageing in South Australia will continue over the next year. In conjunction

with the Council of Australian Governments the State will enhance its role and responsibilities in the provision of aged care.

75. Initiatives announced by the Premier earlier this year as part of a 10 point policy plan for the ageing will be pursued. These initiatives include improved planning and coordination in aged care services, paying special attention to the needs of disadvantaged groups in our society. The Advisory Board on the Ageing, chaired by former Governor Dame Roma Mitchell, will have a central role in the implementation of these initiatives.

76. This session will also see the Charitable and Social Welfare Fund commence operation which will provide a new funding source supporting the ongoing work of charities, social welfare organisations and volunteers in the community sector.

77. In addition, my Government has reviewed the operation of the Adoption Act and legislative amendments following that review will be introduced during this session.

#### OTHER MEASURES

78. My Government is concerned to take further measures which will improve road safety and focus upon responsible driver practices. Amendments will be introduced to motor vehicle and road traffic legislation designed to address these issues, including matters relating to the points demerit scheme.

79. Legislation, part of a national scheme, will also be introduced covering the use of drugs in sport. My Government will also, during the current session of Parliament, be introducing significant changes to the Racing Act to enable sports betting to be expanded both with bookmakers and the TAB.

80. My Government will introduce a State Records Bill to provide for the preservation and management of official records in South Australia, and also make amendments to the Freedom of Information legislation to enhance its efficiency.

81. Amendments will also be introduced to the Electoral Act introducing a series of amendments recommended by the Electoral Commissioner and other measures to improve the operation of the legislation.

82. Amendments will also be introduced to require additional safety measures associated with swimming pools in South Australia.

#### FORMER MEMBERS

83. Since you were last called together, the Parliament has recorded the death of Mr Kenneth Lance Milne, a former long serving member of the Legislative Council. I know that honourable members will join with me in expressing sympathy to the family and friends of this past member.

I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the people of this State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber, and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The President again took the Chair and read prayers.

*[Sitting suspended from 12.47 to 2.30 p.m.]*

#### STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table the report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee on the survey of South Australian statutory authorities, which was authorised

to be printed and published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

#### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table the report of the Social Development Committee on an inquiry into prostitution, which was authorised to be printed and published pursuant to section 17(7)(b) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991.

#### PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION SCHEME REPORT

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table the report of the Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme 1995-96.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT AND TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table the report of the Auditor-General and the Treasurer's Financial Statement 1995-96, Parts A and B.

#### REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

**The PRESIDENT:** Pursuant to section 5(4) of the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1983, I lay upon the table the Registrar's statement, June 1996, prepared from ordinary returns of members of the Legislative Council.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I move:

That the statement be printed.

Motion carried.

#### MEMBERS' TRAVEL

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table members' travel expenditure for 1995-96 under the Members of Parliament Travel Entitlement Rules 1983.

#### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

Budget Results, 1995-96  
 Friendly Societies Act 1919—General Laws—Confirmation Pursuant to Section 10 of the Act  
 Reports, 1995-96—  
 Auditor-General's Department Independent Audit  
 Department of Treasury and Finance  
 Gaming Supervisory Authority  
 Lotteries Commission of South Australia  
 Mines and Energy South Australia  
 Motor Accident Commission  
 Parliamentary Superannuation Scheme  
 Police Superannuation Board  
 South Australian Asset Management Task Force  
 South Australian Commissioner of Police  
 South Australian Gaming Machines Act 1992—Liquor Licensing Commissioner  
 South Australian Government Captive Insurance Corporation  
 South Australian Government Financing Authority  
 State Government Superannuation Board  
 Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia

- Response to Statutory Authority Review Committee's  
Second Interim Report on Review of the Electricity  
Trust of SA
- South Australia Commissioner of Police—Statistical  
Review 1995-96 Financial Year
- Premier's Report to Parliament on Planning Strategy Im-  
plementation, 1995-96
- Regulations under the following Acts—
- Education Act 1972—
    - Suspension and Expulsion of Students
    - Teachers' Registration
  - Firearms Act 1977—
    - Compensation
    - Variations—General
  - Mines and Works Inspection Act 1920—Principal
  - Mining Act 1971—
    - Precious Stones
    - Principal
  - Petroleum Act 1940—Revocations and Variations
  - Sewerage Act 1929—Principal
  - Waterworks Act 1932—Principal
- By the Attorney-General (Hon. K.T. Griffin)—
- Reports, 1994-95—
- Advisory Board of Agriculture
  - Freedom of Information Act 1991
  - South Australian Timber Corporation and Controlled  
Entities—Financial Statements and Reports
- Evidence Act 1929—South Australian Report of the At-  
torney-General relating to Suppression Orders for the year  
ended 30 June 1996
- South Australian Government White Paper Consolidation  
of Legislation relating to Livestock Health, Animal  
Identification and Compensation, September 1996
- Summary Offences Act 1953—
- Return as per section 74b—Road Block Establishment  
Authorisations
  - Return as per section 83b—Dangerous Area Declara-  
tions
- Regulations under the following Acts—
- Agricultural Chemicals Act 1955—Principal
  - Apiaries Act 1931—Registration as Beekeeper
  - Co-operatives Act 1983—Principal
  - Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935—Medical Ter-  
mination of Pregnancy
  - Explosives Act 1936—Principal
  - Fisheries Act 1982—Constitution of Fisheries
  - Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986—  
Petroleum and Mining Work
  - Poultry Meat Industry Act 1969—Principal
  - Recreation Grounds (Regulations) Act 1931—  
Principal
  - Stock Foods Act 1941—Principal
  - Subordinate Legislation Act 1978—Postponement of  
Expiry
  - Trustee Act 1936—Principal
  - Young Offenders Act 1993—Detention of Youths
- Racing Act 1976—Rules—Harness Racing Board—
- Carbon Dioxide Level
  - Swish Whip
- Rules of Court—
- District Court Act 1992—District Court Rules—  
Appeals—Residential Tenancies
- By the Minister for Consumer Affairs (Hon. K.T.  
Griffin)—
- Regulations under the following Acts—
- Consumer Credit Act 1972—Principal
  - Consumer Transactions Act 1972—Principal
  - Liquor Licensing Act 1985—
    - Controls on Consumption and Possession
    - Dry Areas—
      - Port Lincoln
      - Tumby Bay
      - Victor Harbor
    - Retail Shop Leases Act 1995—Landlord and Tenant
- By the Minister for Transport (Hon. Diana Laidlaw)—
- Reports, 1995-96
- Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee
  - ETSA Corporation
  - Wilderness Protection Act—South Australia
  - District Council of Mallala Waste Disposal Polices Plan  
Amendment Report—Report on the Interim Operation
  - ETSA Corporation Charter for the 1996-97 financial year
  - Crown Development Report by the Development Assess-  
ment Commission—Proposal by Services SA for the  
Redevelopment of the Belair Primary School
  - Regulations under the following Acts—
    - Crown Lands Act 1929—Principal
    - Dentists Act 1984—Qualifications
    - Environment Protection Act 1993—Waste Depot Levy
    - Local Government Act 1934—
      - Cemetery Authority—Principal
      - Expiation Fee—Post Box
      - Parking near Post Box
    - Medical Practitioners Act 1983—Fees
    - National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972—Hunting
    - Optometrists Act 1920—Principal
    - Passenger Transport Act 1994—
      - Regular Passenger Service—Exclusions
      - Variations
    - Psychological Practices Act 1973—
      - Fees
      - Principal
    - Public and Environmental Health Act 1976—  
Notifiable Diseases
    - Road Traffic Act 1961—Principal
    - South Australian Health Commission Act 1976—  
Interpretation Various
    - South Australian Housing Trust Act 1936—Water  
Rates
    - Summary Offences Act 1953—Method of Referring to  
Offences
  - District Council By-laws—
    - Strathalbyn—
      - No. 2—Repeal and Renumbering of By-laws
      - No. 3—Streets and Public Places
      - No. 4—Street Traders
      - No. 6—Garbage Removal
      - No. 7—Height of Fences near Intersections
      - No. 8—Parklands
      - No. 10—Caravans, Tents and Camping
      - No. 11—Animals, Birds and Poultry
      - No. 12—Bees
      - No. 13—Nuisances
      - No. 14—Vehicles
      - No. 15—Dogs
      - No. 16—Cemeteries
      - No. 17—Inflammable Undergrowth
    - Yankalilla—
      - No. 1—Permits and Penalties
      - No. 2—Repeal and Renumbering of By-laws
      - No. 3—Streets and Public Places
      - No. 4—Street Traders
      - No. 5—Moveable Signs
      - No. 6—Garbage Removal
      - No. 7—Heights of Fences near Intersections
      - No. 8—Park Lands
      - No. 9—Caravans, Tents and Camping
      - No. 10—Animals, Birds and Poultry
      - No. 11—Bees
      - No. 12—Vehicles Kept or Let for Hire
      - No. 14—Cemeteries
      - No. 15—Foreshore.
- SUPERANNUATION BOARD**
- The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and  
Children's Services):** I seek leave to table a copy of a  
ministerial statement made today in another place by the  
Treasurer on the subject of superannuation.
- Leave granted.

## COMMONWEALTH BUDGET

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made today in another place by the Treasurer on the subject of the impact of the Commonwealth budget on South Australian Government finances.

Leave granted.

## ASER PROJECT

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made today in another place by the Treasurer on the subject of ASER.

Leave granted.

## STATE BUDGET

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made today in another place by the Treasurer on the subject of the 1995-96 budget results.

Leave granted.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Tourism in another place in relation to South Australia's bid for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Leave granted.

## LISTERIOSIS

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement given this day by the Minister for Health on the subject of the listeriosis outbreak.

Leave granted.

## QUESTION TIME

### COMMONWEALTH GRANTS

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Education and Children's Services a question about Commonwealth grants legislation.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** This year, in 1996-97, the Brown Government budgeted for receipts of \$115.3 million in specific purpose grants from the Commonwealth for primary and secondary education. This was made up of \$98.444 million recurrent funding and \$16.9 million capital funding for primary and secondary schools. What funds were made available in the Howard budget for 1996-97 by way of specific purpose grants to South Australia for primary and secondary schools?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will take advice on the specific amount of funding. I think as the honourable member will know the Treasurer has indicated in a number of recent statements that Treasury officers in South Australia have been working through the recent statement issued by Commonwealth Treasury in relation to specific purpose payments and

the State Treasury office, as I understand, is still working through those issues, and when I am in a position to be able to indicate the precise level of specific purpose payments I will be pleased to do so. I guess the only other comforting note I can strike is that I was privileged yesterday to listen to our Prime Minister speak here at the Learning, Education and Technology Conference, where he spoke magnificently about the importance of education and technology. Certainly his remarks were very warmly received by all the educators in the audience, and the Prime Minister indicated in relation to the Commonwealth budget that, because of his very strong personal views on the importance of education, education payments had been quarantined from—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I was listening to the Prime Minister who, as I said, received a very warm response from the audience. In the Prime Minister's view it had been quarantined. So we look forward, when Treasury officers in South Australia are able to complete their analysis of the Commonwealth Treasury information that has been provided, to see whether in fact that has been the case.

## WIRRINA MARINA

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the Minister representing both the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources and the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Local Government Relations a question about the construction of the Wirrina marina.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** I have received correspondence from the South Australian Fishing Industry Council expressing concern about the damage to fishing sites on the Fleurieu Peninsula caused by the construction of the Wirrina marina. I will quote directly from the letter, which is addressed to me. It states:

We are writing to you on behalf of four fishermen. . . who have been directly affected by sediment outflow over traditional squid and garfish fishing grounds due to the recently begun construction of the Wirrina marina on the Fleurieu Peninsula. These grounds cover an area from Second Valley north to and including Lady Bay out to approximately .5 kilometres offshore.

The fishing season for these fishermen, in this area, runs for approximately five months from the end of August through to January. As discussions with the Environment Protection Authority suggest that the outflow will continue for at least the next three to four months, it is apparent that these fishermen will be unable to fish this season at all. As the long-term impacts of the disturbance are unknown, it is possible that these fishing grounds could be degraded for many seasons to come.

Suggestions that the fishermen should move their fishing operations elsewhere are unacceptable, given that their homes, families and businesses are integrated into the local community, and that it is the knowledge which they have gained by fishing these grounds over the years that makes their businesses successful. Such suggestions also ignore the fact that moving the fishermen merely creates extra pressure on fish stocks elsewhere and does nothing to mitigate the impact of the disturbance created on fish populations and habitats in this area.

The letter finishes with a request for further discussion on this matter and is signed by Michael Whillas, SAFIC General Manager. Given the concerns raised by SAFIC in this correspondence, my questions to the Minister are:

1. What assessment took place at the time of planning approval for the Wirrina marina of the possible short and long-term impact construction of the marina would have on the immediate marine environment and the fishing grounds contained within?

2. What steps has the Government taken to monitor and intervene in the construction of the Worrina marina to minimise short-term damage to local fishing grounds, and what safeguards are in place to ensure that there is no long-term damage?

3. What compensation will the Government make available to professional fishermen whose livelihood is adversely affected by the construction of the Worrina marina development?

4. Will the Environment Protection Agency act to ensure that the marina developers and those involved in the construction are prosecuted if they have in any way breached the Environment Protection Act?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to both Ministers and bring back a reply.

### WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources a question about water management.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** During the break I had the opportunity to talk to many people, particularly in the lower South-East, about the draft Bill concerning the water management plans that was presented and forwarded to me by the Minister. There is quite a lot of dissatisfaction in the area about some of the proposals in the draft. I understand that delegations have been received by the Minister, and I am certainly not complaining about the way in which the process has been developed to this stage, but I now have correspondence in front of me that indicates that perhaps the negotiating stages have either slowed down or been put on hold.

The questions that people in the mid South-East are asking are different from those that are being asked in the lower South-East and the upper South-East, but they all revolve around future access to water and the possibility of the charges and levies for the water that may be imposed by the Government across the board. There are many competitive use regimes in the lower South-East, including industrial, agricultural and horticultural uses, and certainly a lot of competition between agriculturalists and horticulturists as to whether they want surface water to remain on the surface without being drained away. Certainly, the matter of competitive use for the size of bores is a serious question in their minds. My questions are as follows:

1. Is it true that a proclamation is about to be made in relation to water management in the lower South-East before the draft Bill is to be introduced into Parliament, which goes against the flow of negotiations that have taken place so far?

2. What is the status of the current draft Bill? I understand there is, perhaps, a proposal to withdraw it and to introduce another draft.

3. Because of the difficulties being experienced by the Government in negotiating an agreement between the competitive users, will the Government withdraw the draft and, if it is not to withdraw the draft and put together another draft for negotiation, why not?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister and bring back a reply.

### TEACHER NUMBERS

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Education and Children's Services a question about teacher numbers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** What does John Howard say about that?

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I have heard what other people have had to say about him, too, but that's another story. Recently at a select committee hearing the question was raised as to whether or not there would be sufficient teachers available next year for country areas. I remind the Minister that, on 10 August 1994, I asked a question in relation to teacher numbers following a report released by the Australian Council of Deans of Education. That report stated that there was an urgent need to increase the number of trained teachers to meet teaching demand in Australian schools. The report indicated that nationally demand for both primary and secondary teachers will exceed supply in 1996 and that the gap will continue to widen over the next five years.

The report also found that between 1994 and the year 2001 the total number of graduates required to meet expected demand will increase by 118 per cent overall, from 7 957 to 17 381; and that there would be a sharp reduction in the number of students commencing teacher studies. The report stated that its figures were conservative in that it assumed that 75 per cent of graduates were suitable, whereas the New South Wales' experience suggested that that figure was more like 50 per cent. I also note that the report did not anticipate the exit of existing teachers from the system, as was happening in South Australia at that time.

The Minister, in his response, said that they would like to check the assumptions to see whether or not they agreed with the projections that were made in the report of the Council of Deans; and he suggested at the time that, if there were a surplus of teachers in South Australia, they could be looking to go to the Northern Territory and should be prepared to be mobile. He talked about it being a potential problem for Governments during the latter part of this decade and early next century and said that those Governments would have to address it.

Today I again spoke with Professor Adey and asked him how things now stood. He said that in fact another report is due out in a couple of weeks, and he said that their projections have all come to pass and, if anything, the situation is worse than the concerns that they expressed in 1994. He noted that next year Victoria would be looking for an extra 1 000 teachers; that already New Zealand and the United Kingdom were recruiting teachers in Australia; that the United States expected, by the year 2002, to have a shortfall of 250 000 teachers; and that already the State of Texas was arranging Green Cards so that it could get teachers from other English speaking countries. So, there is a heavy demand at a worldwide level for teachers and all the while a predicted shortfall in the number of teachers needed in the Australian teaching system, including the South Australian system, compared to the number which is expected to graduate.

I ask the Minister (because we never got a report back to this place that I recall—but I may be wrong): when he checked the assumptions, what conclusion did he reach in 1994 about those assumptions? Does the Minister still hold that view that we really do not appear to have a problem in South Australia? Does he agree that it is possible that, as early as next year, there will be a significant shortage of



teachers in country areas and that, perhaps within another year, that situation will be striking metropolitan South Australia as well? Further, considering that he when he last responded suggested that graduates should be prepared to move, does he recognise that, with many other States and countries looking for our teachers, if they do not get fair remuneration the assumptions will happen?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Dealing with the last of 18 questions first: that is exactly why the Government is trying to give money to our teachers at the moment. We have been trying to give them money since February this year because we want our teachers to be well paid. They deserve a pay increase and I have been desperate to give the money to them since early this year, but so far their advisers have been reluctant to accept the money the Government has been desperate to give them. The Government acknowledges that our teachers deserve a pay increase and it is desperately trying to give them a pay increase as quickly as the Government can do it. That answers the last question.

*The Hon. T. Crothers interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I think a lot of members of the Hon. Mr Crothers' former union would give their right arm to accept a pay increase of \$90 a week, or up to \$150 a week for some principals.

*The Hon. T. Crothers interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Hon. Mr Crothers should speak with some members of his former union, or the Hon. Mr Cameron or the Hon. Mr Roberts and ask them whether they would like a pay increase of up to \$150 a week, for some principals, and tell me what those white collar members of the unions say to them when that salary offer is made. I would be interested in the response.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I am happy to. My views and the department's on this particular issue remain the same as 1994 and, whilst I do not have my answer with me, it would appear that much of what I said in 1994 has proved to be accurate. The Hon. Mr Elliott indicated that the 1994 report stated that by 1996—and I am going on memory of his quote of the report—there would be a shortage of teachers both in South Australia and nationally.

**The Hon. M.J. Elliott:** That is what his report said.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** That is right. The facts are that that is not being proved correct, which is the view that I put in 1994. The facts are—and Professor Adey will concede—that that finding, if the Hon. Mr Elliott has read a correct summary of the finding of the 1994 report, has not proved to be the case in South Australia. Some thousands of teachers in South Australia are looking for contract work, temporary relieving teaching work, but are, in many cases, reluctant to move to country areas, and we understand that particular issue. In terms of the total number of teachers in 1996 that finding, if it is accurately reported by the Hon. Mr Elliott, has not proved to be correct. The statement I made in 1994 has proved to be accurate, and that statement was based on advice from my department.

As I think I indicated at the time, although I do not have the answer with me at the moment, the Government and the department conceded that it was likely to be an important issue for South Australia and, we suspected, nationally as well, but there was a difference in the timing. Professor Adey put a view that South Australia would have a shortage of teachers in 1996. The department's view was that we were likely to face a shortage potentially, unless there were changes, towards the end of this decade and the early part of

the next century. The view of the Government and the department, in discussions with Professor Adey, is that it is an important issue because the teachers who leave our universities at the end of the decade or early next century will be, in effect, the new graduates going into teaching courses this year or next year.

The Government acknowledged the seriousness of the problem but it differed with Professor Adey about the timing of it. Professor Adey put a point of view, as quoted by the Hon. Mr Elliott, that we would have a shortage of teachers this year. The Government does not accept that finding about 1996. We believe the problems are likely to be towards the end of this decade. The department and the Government are considering those issues in discussions and consultation with the universities, and obviously with the Commonwealth Government which has responsibility for the funding of higher education and the output of future teachers. The Hon. Mr Elliott will concede that the State Government obviously has an important interest in relation to this issue and will continue—

*The Hon. M.J. Elliott interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** An important interest I said, not passing. It will continue to put a point of view, but in the end the decisions will be taken by the individual universities and, of course, by the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Minister in relation to Commonwealth funding issues.

*The Hon. Carolyn Pickles interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I must say that I am not aware yet. If the Leader of the Opposition can indicate that a lot of our South Australian teachers are going to America, I would be interested. If the Leader can provide me with evidence of that particular claim she has just made, certainly I will—

*The Hon. Carolyn Pickles interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** No, I am happy to accept that evidence, if she can provide it, and take it up with the department and with others. I must say that, as Minister, I am not aware of a mass exodus of teachers to Texas or to America. There is evidence that New Zealand and some of the Eastern States are trying to attract South Australian teachers to their State or, in the case of New Zealand, the country. I will have another look at all the questions the honourable member raised to see whether there is any part to which I have not responded in my comprehensive reply. If there is, I will bring back further information, but it is fair to say that, in broad terms, the information I gave to him in 1994 has proved to be substantially accurate and, if there is anything more I can add, I will be pleased to do so.

The only other point I should make, now that I remember one of the honourable member's other questions, is that the Government and the department have had for a number of years problems in specific subject areas, and significant difficulty in attracting language teachers, that is, Asian language teachers, Japanese and Chinese in particular, and now to a degree Indonesian language teachers to relocate to particular parts of the country. There is a problem in attracting a supply of quality trained teachers in that particular subject area, and there might also be one or two other subject areas, but in terms of the total number of teachers my comments remain substantially the same as 1994.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** As a supplementary question, will the Minister indicate what actions have been taken over the past two years in anticipation of a potential shortfall late this century? What actions has the Minister carried out to

encourage larger numbers of people to undertake teaching studies?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** One thing we have been trying to do is to ensure that our teachers in South Australia are not the lowest paid teachers in Australia. The Government has been desperately trying to give a pay increase to our teachers and staff to ensure that they are fairly paid for the work they undertake so magnificently on behalf of our students in Government schools in South Australia. The second point is that, at the start of the year, the Government sought to undertake a positive campaign of highlighting the excellence of the work that is undertaken within our Government schools in South Australia and to promote an industrial action or strike free 1996.

The peace package launched by the Government in February this year was an attempt by the Government to try to convey a positive image of Government schools in South Australia. Sadly, the union leadership rejected that peace package and has not been prepared to support the Government's attempts to highlight the excellence of the work done in our Government schools. I can give members a number of examples but I will highlight just one: during the most recent Royal Adelaide Show, which some 600 000 people attended, the Government, together with TAFE and Youth SA, established an 'X Site' to highlight the excellence of the work students, teachers and staff were undertaking in Government schools in South Australia.

It was to highlight and to indicate to the broader South Australian community—up to 600 000 people—the excellent work that our teachers, staff and students are undertaking in our Government schools. What response did we get from the teachers' union leadership? We got a black ban on the X Site. It black banned the X Site and refused to cooperate with the Government and the departmental officers in any way in highlighting the excellence of the work done in our Government schools.

**The Hon. L.H. Davis:** And do you think that is a good idea?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** There is a strange silence from the Labor Party and from the Hon. Mr Elliott and the Leader of the Opposition. When the Government sought to highlight the excellence of the work that we do to try to lift the public esteem for teachers and staff in our Government schools, to show the support that the Government gives to our teachers and staff and the work we do in our schools, the likes of the union leadership—obviously supported by the Hons Mr Elliott and Ms Pickles—put in a black ban on the site—

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** It is class warfare—that is the only response of the Hon. Mr Cameron. He resorts to class warfare allegations.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Class warfare.

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. T.G. Cameron:** He did, and he will get more if he keeps it up.

**The PRESIDENT:** When I call the Hon. Mr Cameron to order, I expect him to come to order and not keep prattling on.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I have been asked what the Government has been doing. The Government has been trying genuinely to lift the status, esteem and public image of the teaching profession in South Australia. One of the

problems of attracting young people into teaching is the attitude and the public image of teaching as a profession in South Australia. If the Hon. Mr Elliott and the Hon. Ms. Pickles do not accept that, they do not understand the education position here in South Australia.

So, the Government tried to lift the public image of teaching as a profession in South Australia to highlight to young people the excellence of the work that is being undertaken, and the response we got was a black ban from the union leadership. In one northern suburbs school when the students wanted to come to run the radio and show the excellence of their music program the teachers had to actually resign from the teachers' union in protest so that they could come along and provide duty of care protection for those students at the X site. They had the courage to resign from the union, and that was the only way in which they were going to be permitted to allow their students to highlight the excellence of the work they were doing in that secondary school. That is the sort of action that the Hon. Mr Cameron supports. That is the sort of action that the Hon. Mr Elliott supports.

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** That is the sort of action the Hon. Ms. Pickles supports—black banning an attempt by the Government to lift the morale and public image of teaching in Government schools in South Australia. This Government has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, an extraordinary amount of activity to try to lift the public image of Government schools and teaching and to attract young people into teaching in our Government schools system in South Australia.

#### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

**The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER:** I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Minister of Transport, representing the Minister for Health, a question about new medical practitioners.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER:** In a recent Federal Government health budget initiative I was made aware of the discrimination that new medical graduates have to face from 1 November this year. I will read from a fact sheet of Federal Government Medicare benefits entitled 'Limited Medicare Access for New Medical Practitioners'. It says:

From 1 November 1996 new doctors seeking to provide services eligible for MBS [Medicare] benefits will need to be recognised as either a GP, a specialist or a trainee. This is necessary to ensure that patients can be confident that their doctors are properly trained and that high quality services are being provided.

It further states:

New arrangements will be put in place for recognition of specialist trainees to parallel the existing arrangements for general practice trainees. For new doctors entering training, provider numbers will only be available for recognised training placements, and existing medical practitioners, apart from interns, will not be affected. The Government will also be consulting with the profession on the possible introduction into MBS of new categories for recognised special interest medical practitioners. As this measure may place pressure on some areas where a shortage exists, a package of \$20 million in real terms per annum has been provided to assist in medical work force adjustment and in particular to provide support to rural practice. The Department of Health and Family Services will be consulting the profession and other key stakeholders in this package.

Finally it states:

Savings resulting from this measure will total \$26 million in 1996-97, \$106 million in 1997-98, \$182 million in 1998-99 and \$256 million in 1999-2000.

What is the implication of all this? The implication is that after six years of full-time training in being a doctor and an additional year as an intern a new doctor will have to find a recognised training placement that will be eligible for MBS benefits. I understand that there will not be sufficient numbers of these recognised training placements and that this will result in the new doctors, after seven years of training, having no jobs or, if they do get set up in a medical practice, it will not attract any MBS benefits. What patient would go to a new doctor and pay 100 per cent of the scheduled fee instead of using the 15 per cent gap? I think that no-one would go to these poor new interns. These new doctors will have no jobs to go to and they will probably be unemployed after seven years of training.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER:** Will the Minister take these following questions to his Federal counterpart:

1. Where does the Minister expect these new doctors to find a job and earn a living after all these seven years?
2. If this is a strategy to help the rural community in the health area, is he going to put in a scheme for these new doctors to get provider numbers only if they work in a rural area? If so, what is this scheme?
3. If the Minister intends to cut down on doctor numbers, why does he not do so at the source, that is, at the medical admissions school level rather than at the outlet at the graduate level?
4. Is the Federal Minister aware of this discrimination, and will he investigate this unfair and biased method of cutting down doctor numbers?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister and bring back a reply.

#### BICYCLES, EMERGENCY LANES

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (24 July) and answered by letter on 29 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Department of Transport (DoT) and the Minister for Police have provided the following information.

1. Currently it is not against the law for cyclists (or motorists) to travel in emergency stopping lanes.

However, recently the National Road Transport Commission circulated a draft proposal for the introduction of national uniform road rules which incorporates a ban on vehicles travelling in emergency stopping lanes. This proposal allows for bicycles to travel in the lanes. If agreed in full or in part by the Australian Transport Council it is anticipated that the draft proposal will be enforced in 1998.

2. Cycling is banned on the South Eastern Freeway between Crafrers and Murray Bridge, under the Road Traffic Act.

This Government is looking to remove the ban between Crafrers and Stirling as no suitable alternative exists. DoT is currently liaising with the consultant undertaking the design of the Mount Barker Road upgrade to determine the best connection between that project and Stirling to allow cyclist access. This may include utilising the existing emergency stopping lane for cyclist travel or the provision of an off-road velo-way. Either way, cyclist access between Crafrers and Stirling will be significantly improved.

From Stirling to Murray Bridge the former main road provides an attractive alternative route, passing through many towns along the way. DoT will consider expanding the function of the emergency lanes for cyclists on the South Eastern Freeway between Stirling and Murray Bridge. This will involve a review of safety characteristics of the Freeway and the former main road routes.

On roads other than the South Eastern Freeway, cyclists can travel in emergency stopping lanes. These lanes are likely to form part of the metropolitan network of bicycle routes.

3. Regulation 4.08 under the Road Traffic Act does not create an offence and therefore does not allow for a penalty under law for motorists using emergency stopping lanes for normal driving purposes.

Consequently, there are no statistics available on how many motorists using emergency stopping lanes for normal driving purposes are caught, as it is not unlawful at present, and there are no fines levied.

4. It is proposed that driving in an emergency stopping lane be prohibited in Rule 6.12 of the current draft of the proposed Australian Road Rules. If adopted by South Australia, under uniformity of road rules, it could be an enforceable offence.

#### VOLVO BUSES

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (23 July) and answered by letter on 15 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** In 1995, there were 219 overwidth B59 buses out of a total bus fleet of 729—and there were 282 accidents involving overwidth Volvo B59 buses out of 749 total bus accidents. There was no evidence that the non standard width of the Volvo B59 buses contributed to any of the accidents.

Overwidth buses have been successfully operated in the Adelaide metropolitan area for forty years and insurance claim records do not reflect any adverse experience due to the extra width. This is clearly supported by comparing the accident claims experience of the 140 MAN SL200 buses, which have been in service for the last thirteen years. One half of these buses conform and the other half exceed the standard width. Both types of buses have a similar accident claims experience. Successful operations have been confirmed by the experiences of the Queensland Government which initially issued ten permits for a one year trial to obtain practical experience in operating overwidth buses at a number of locations and for various purposes. The trial raised no concerns and the Queensland Government has now issued an additional 118 permits with a further 40 currently available.

There are no impediments under the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act to overwidth buses being operated within South Australia.

#### TAXIS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (29 May) and answered by letter on 8 September.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Passenger Transport Board (PTB) have conducted an investigation into the current requirements for Third Party Property Insurance for taxis and the impact a compulsory scheme would have on the public passenger vehicle industry and the community in general. This investigation reviewed the current requirements for Third Party Property Insurance for taxis and incorporated information and opinions received from the Taxi Industry, the Insurance Council of Australia, various insurance companies and interstate transport authorities.

In their investigations the PTB considered the findings of the Parliamentary Economic and Finance Committee in their report of the introduction of a compulsory scheme for Third Party Property Motor Vehicle Insurance. The Committee's report addressed issues such as the financial implications of a compulsory scheme for all motor vehicle owners, the substantial increase in premiums as a result of administrative costs and the resulting increase in the number of unregistered and uninsured vehicles.

The Economic and Finance Committee recommended that a compulsory scheme for Third Party Property Insurance was not the most effective way to increase insurance coverage but instead suggested that targeted education programs be developed, coupled with more effective policing strategies to reduce the number of unregistered and uninsured vehicles on the road.

The taxi industry agree that Third Party Property Insurance is the responsibility of the operator. The industry is aware that 'innocent' motorists involved in an accident with a negligent taxi driver can suffer considerable inconvenience and hardship if the taxi driver is under-insured. This problem is not, however, specific to the taxi industry, but is common within the general community and as such taxi and small passenger vehicle operators are similarly at risk of being involved in an accident with an 'at fault and under-insured' private motorist. In this situation the potential exists for operators to

be put out of business as they may be forced to pay for the cost of damages to their vehicle themselves which can often result in the vehicle being off the road for lengthy periods of time. For this reason the taxi industry argues that a scheme of Compulsory Third Party Property Insurance for taxis and small passenger vehicles only would be viewed as unfair due to the fact that, although operators would be forced to incur the added cost of insurance premiums, they would not necessarily be afforded the same financial protection offered to all other motorists.

The PTB have considered the available information and have recommended that no change be made to the existing requirements until such time as a Compulsory Third Party Property Insurance is introduced for all motor vehicles.

#### MURRAY ROAD, NOARLUNGA

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (10 July) and answered by letter on 20 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:**

1. There was a misunderstanding between the Department of Transport (DoT) and the City of Noarlunga as to who would carry out the repairs. This has since been resolved.

2. I have been advised by DoT that repairs to the hand rail within the pedestrian refuge were carried out on 26 July 1996.

3. DoT is not reconsidering the viability of the pedestrian refuge, as it is considered to be the most appropriate treatment for the site in question. The original investigation to warrant the installation of the pedestrian refuge was conducted in April 1989. The investigation was conducted in accordance with Australian Standard part 10 and the Code of Practice for the Installation of Traffic Control Devices in SA. It included an 11 hour pedestrian and vehicle count, an analysis of accident statistics, a study into the adequacy of the existing traffic controls and on-site observations. At that time, a total of 50 pedestrians, 29 of them aged, crossed over a 146 metre section of Murray Road in the vicinity of Perry Park Homes in the 11 hour period. These statistics do not meet the criteria for a pedestrian crossing in accordance with the Australian Standard. The current conditions are understood not to vary from those observed in 1989.

4. See question 3.

5. An on-site meeting attended by DoT's Pedestrian Safety Co-ordinator, Mr Bill Cirocco, the Member for Kaurana, Mrs Lorraine Rosenberg and other interested parties was held at the Perry Park Aged Care units on 26 July 1996, to discuss issues of concern at this location.

Mr Cirocco gave a full explanation of the reasons why the criteria for the installation of a pedestrian crossing were not met on Murray Road, and why the pedestrian refuge is the best form of protection at this location. Those present at the meeting accepted Mr Cirocco's explanation, and agreed that the pedestrian refuge should not be removed.

A further issue raised at the meeting was the relocation of the bus stop adjacent to the refuge, as it was thought by some residents that the new location of the bus stop was preventing the installation of the pedestrian crossing. This is not the case, and the bus stop relocation was supported by the representatives of the Passenger Transport Board and TransAdelaide present at the meeting.

It was agreed at the meeting that DoT would increase the size of the pedestrian signs on Murray Road, and replace the "Aged" plates with "Refuge Island" plates. It is expected that this work will be carried out in the near future, subject to the availability of resources.

#### AIR QUALITY

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (25 July) and answered by letter on 3 September.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources has provided the following information.

1. The current ambient air monitoring program will continue at Le Fevre Peninsula, but no further sites will be added to the program in this area, which has been extensively monitored over the past 30 years by State Government air quality personnel.

The expansion in the monitoring network will measure pollutants primarily related to the formation of photochemical smog and must therefore be located in the areas most likely to be exposed to that form of pollution. Thus units will be located at Northfield, Kensington Gardens, Elizabeth, Netley, Gilles Plains and Gawler, which according to previous studies by the South Australian Government and external consultants, are more appropriate than the Le Fevre Peninsula to measure photochemical smog.

2. Dust, or particulate matter, is the pollutant of greatest relevance on Le Fevre Peninsula, which is not only the site of several major industries, but also has large areas of open space. This open space represents a substantial dust source in certain weather conditions, particularly in the summer months. In addition to instruments measuring both nuisance dust and respirable particles at Osborne and Peterhead on the Peninsula itself, Commercial Road in the heart of Port Adelaide is the site of similar instruments, all of which were strategically located to monitor the effect of the major sources of pollution in the area.

The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources is pleased to report that the program shows great improvement in regional air quality over the past 15 years. The only exceedance of the 24 hour exposure goal in 1995 occurred at the Commercial Road site, and was caused by dust storms; otherwise all sites were well below the relevant air quality goal.

#### WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (1 August) and answered by letter on 3 September.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources has provided the following information.

Integrated resource management can take a number of forms. There are examples in New Zealand and Victoria and South Australia has looked at these models, and is proactively advancing towards integrated resource management through work being undertaken by the Natural Resources Council.

Integration has its advantages in terms of efficient use of Government and Community resources, but there are also disadvantages. Loss of focus, for example, can be a significant problem. Each of our precious natural resources, (water, soil, vegetation, etc.), deserve a degree of focused management in their own right. We need to maintain a careful balance between expertise and focus on the one hand, and the necessary coordination of effort on the other. Undoubtedly we need a holistic approach; and we are working on how to achieve it.

Effective integration can occur through legislation and administrative practice, but also particularly through community expectations. This latter form is very evident in the South East of South Australia where representatives of the various community based resource management committees and boards, including water resource committees and soils boards, have established the South East Natural Resources Consultative Committee. Here is an example of the community getting on with an integrated approach towards the management of their natural resources without the heavy hand of Government.

Increasingly, Government agencies are working more closely together. Better communications, and a recognition that the health of one resource is reliant on the health of the whole environment, are factors which drive integration within Government.

The draft Water Resources Bill, which is presently the subject of an extensive consultation program, advances the integrated approach to resource management. In the draft Bill it is envisaged that a regional water plan could incorporate part or all of a soil plan for the same region. This draft legislative approach for consistency between plans extends also to development plans. The draft Water Resources Bill is being developed with integration of natural resource legislation as a key aspect.

In summary, the Government is committed to integrated natural resources management, and has examined various models by which this can be achieved. The draft Water Resources Bill is a major step towards the level of integration sought by the community generally.

#### EXHAUST EMISSIONS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (30 July) and answered by letter on 22 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), in cooperation with the Department of Transport (DoT) and Police, is conducting the Smoky Vehicle Program which identifies excessively smoky vehicles by on-road observation. An advisory letter is sent to the owner of any vehicle observed emitting excessive smoke, requesting that the necessary repairs be undertaken. The vehicle is not stopped at any stage. If the vehicle is observed again the report is referred to the police for further action. There have been 174 reports of excessively smoky vehicles since the program was recommenced in April 1996, which includes 77 diesel powered vehicles.

Neither DoT nor the EPA have participated in any form of random vehicle emission testing. In fact there are no States in Australia which currently undertake emission testing, however it is expected that New South Wales will have a pilot program in place by the end of 1997. The South Australian DoT and the EPA will be monitoring the results.

#### WATER, CATCHMENT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (31 July) and answered by letter on 21 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I refer to the Honourable Member's Question Without Notice directed to both the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources. As the question relates solely to the responsibilities of the Primary Industries portfolio, the Minister for Primary Industries has provided the following information.

The funding proposal to raise the local community contribution to the Upper South East Dryland Salinity and Flood Management Plan was developed by the South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board in consultation with Local Government and landholders. The Board endeavoured to avoid a complicated funding proposal to minimise administrative costs associated with establishing and collecting the levies. More than twenty meetings were held to discuss the proposal and the development of the proposal was well reported by local media. The proposal was modified a number of times to take into account feedback received at the meetings and from individual landholders.

Because of the indirect benefits associated with the project, and the regional nature of the problem, the funding proposal recognises that the community contribution should be raised from an area wider than that which is directly affected. A catchment of about one million hectares with about 2000 landholders was defined. The catchment has been divided into four zones reflecting to the varying degree of benefit to be received from implementation of the drainage scheme. For each zone a differential levy has been assigned. The levies range from 11 cents/Hectare/year, for areas remote from the drains which will not receive any direct benefit from the plan, to \$2.24/Hectare/year for areas which receive the greatest direct benefit.

The South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board received comment from landholders in the highest rated area who were concerned about their ability to pay because of the current economic climate. Following this expression of concern, the funding proposal was further modified to allow landholders the choice of paying over a longer term to lessen the financial burden in the early years of the project.

Given the complexity of the salinisation and flooding problems, the total number of landholders involved and particularly the recent economic downturn in the wool and beef grazing industries, the number of landholders expressing dissatisfaction with the levies is not considered excessive.

#### MOUND SPRINGS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (24 July) and answered by letter on 2 September.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources has provided the following information.

1. The State Government agrees that an overall management plan is needed for the mound springs of the Far North of the State, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has already applied to the 1996-97 National Estate Grants Program for funding for such a plan. South Australia places a high priority on the conservation of mound springs; Witjira National Park has been established to protect Dalhousie Springs, ten high value springs on pastoral country have been fenced to exclude stock and—most recently—Wabma Kadarbu Mound Springs Conservation park has been constituted as part of the Government's \$1m commitment to conservation works in the Lake Eyre Basin.

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Mines and Energy South Australia have cooperated with relevant Commonwealth agencies (particularly the Australian Geological Survey Organisation) on mound springs matters over many years, but primary responsibility for mound springs management belongs to the State. Any development proposals likely to impact significantly on the Great Artesian Basin and its associated springs will be subject to rigorous environmental assessment procedures.

#### AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about Mr John Brew and the sale of Australian National.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** A recent article in the Adelaide *Advertiser* confirmed that Mr John Brew, the author of the Federal Government's recent report into the operations of Australian National which recommends its break-up and sale, works for a consortium hoping to buy AN. The article states—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** That's wrong. You know that's wrong.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** The Minister will get an opportunity to answer the question. The article states that documents from a presentation by the Macquarie Bank list Mr Brew as being involved in Great Southern Railway's bid for AN. In part, it states:

Great Southern Railway combines the experience of . . . John Brew—an experienced operator with unique understanding of issues relevant to AN.

The company would be owned by Macquarie Bank. It would appear that there is an obvious conflict of interest in this matter. Mr Brew is advising the Government to sell AN at the same time as he is advising a prospective buyer. It is an absolute scandal that John Sharp has allowed this situation to occur. My questions to the Minister are:

1. Is the Minister aware that Mr Brew is a consultant for Great Southern Railway—a consortium that hopes to buy Australian National?
2. Will the Minister demand that the Federal Minister for Transport order a full investigation into Mr Brew's connection with Great Southern Railway and its bid for AN to discover whether there has been a conflict of interest and, if not, why not?
3. Will the Minister now demand that the Federal Minister for Transport release the full Brew Report?
4. Has the State Government had any dealings with Great Southern Railway or any other company about the sale of AN assets?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Being generous, it is extraordinarily disappointing to think that over the break—and knowing that the honourable member should have had some time to research this question and at least have some regard for the accuracy of statements without seeking to defame individuals in this place—he has not sought to seek the truth. The statements he has made in this place both in terms of comment and his questions are reckless and regrettable. In terms of asking me whether I am aware of a conflict of interest, I can state that there is no conflict of interest.

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order, the Hon. Terry Cameron!

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I have been assured of this by the Minister's office. The Minister has also been reported as saying that he contacted Mr Brew when this issue was first raised by the Public Transport Union and Mr Roger Jowett in New South Wales. Mr Brew has denied any contractual arrangement and has guaranteed to the Federal Minister that that is so. The Federal Minister has also indicated that, if Mr Brew was engaged by any company that may have an interest in tendering for the whole or aspects of

AN's business, that company would be immediately disqualified—and so that company should be.

This Government, like the Federal Government, will have no part of such an arrangement where there would be such an obvious conflict of interest as Mr Brew's indicating certain recommendations to the Federal Government on the basis of a consultancy that was commissioned by the Federal Government. It would be totally inappropriate for Mr Brew to be involved in consulting work with any company interested in the future of AN—and he is not so engaged by any such company.

**The Hon. T.G. Cameron:** Then release the full report.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** It is not for me to release the report. It was commissioned by the Federal Government. The Minister is well aware, as are other members of the Federal Cabinet and South Australian members generally, that it is my view, as it is the Public Transport Union's view and as it is the Premier's view, that it is desirable that the Brew report be released. I understand that an executive summary has been released. There is sensitive information in that report that in particular—

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Well, you say that there is sensitive information. I do not think that for one minute the Labor Party would want to be involved in any further decline of rail in this State. If, as I understand it, there is commercially confidential and sensitive information, the last thing I will do is recommend the release of that full report. I would never recommend the release of that full report—

**The Hon. T.G. Cameron:** Release the report.

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! I have warned the Hon. Terry Cameron once. He had a chance; he asked his question.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** He didn't research it.

**The PRESIDENT:** I ask the Minister to stop interjecting, and I ask of the Hon. Terry Cameron exactly the same thing: please do not interject while the Minister is giving her answer.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** You know, I know and any member who has any regard for the rail worker in this State knows that the former Federal Government and Labor generally did nothing to help the future of rail in this State and, in fact, is largely responsible for the present predicament for Australian National, National Rail and the vulnerability of rail workers. So, I would never recommend the release of the full report if there was commercially confidential or sensitive information that would further jeopardise the credit rating of those agencies. If that were the case, I would not recommend the release of the full report. Nevertheless, I have recommended to the Federal Minister that the report be released. That is exactly as would be appropriate in the circumstances.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** Has the State Government had any dealings with Great Southern Railway or any other company about the sale of AN assets?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I met with Macquarie Bank some months ago when it expressed an interest in aspects of AN's business. I have met with a whole number of groups, and I have stated that publicly.

*The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** You get excited, but this is all on the public record—it was in an open letter and a press statement from the Premier. We are aware of six or seven companies from the private sector that have expressed an interest in all or some aspects of AN's business. One of

those companies, Macquarie Bank, indicated that it has a proposition under the title of Great Southern Railway.

### STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** I bring up the annual report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee for 1995-96.

### TAB FORM GUIDE

**The Hon. G. WEATHERILL:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Education and Children's Services, representing the Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing, a question on the TAB.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. G. WEATHERILL:** Last year, the TAB stopped the Adelaide *Advertiser* from publishing the form guide and information on races in South Australia. The TAB paid about \$2 million a year to have that program published in the *Advertiser*. It is my understanding that was done because the Adelaide *Advertiser* wanted to put up that price to about \$3.5 million. Even when the fee was \$2 million, it was the highest of the mainland States of Australia. Since then, the TAB has produced its own form guide, and it has been successfully received around the hotels, clubs and TAB agencies. I am advised that it costs the TAB about \$1 million to produce its own form guide. I noticed recently that the *Advertiser* has reintroduced the form guide. My questions to the Minister are:

1. What does it now cost the TAB and the taxpayer of South Australia to have the form guide published in the *Advertiser*, given that at one stage it cost us \$2 million to have it published in that paper? It costs the TAB approximately \$1 million to produce it. If it now costs \$2 million to have it in the *Advertiser*, that is \$1 million more than it cost us before. The TAB's form guide has been well received and is considered to be one of the better ones in mainland Australia.

2. When the TAB contract comes up for renewal in 18 months, will it be renewed or will it go back to the *Advertiser*?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister and bring back a reply.

### TAXIS

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about the taxi industry.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I should like to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the late Andrew Morodowicz, the caring taxi driver who was brutally killed in the line of duty in the early hours of Sunday morning. Since his tragic death, there has been much concern about the personal safety of taxi drivers, many of whom are from multicultural background. I understand that discussions have been taking place between the Passenger Transport Board and taxi industry representatives to review safety procedures. My questions are:

1. What steps have been taken by the Government to address this important issue?

2. Will the Minister advise the Council of any developments that have occurred or are occurring on this serious issue?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I thank the honourable member for his question and, like him, on behalf of all members of Parliament, I extend my condolences to the family.

**The Hon. Anne Levy:** Hear, hear!

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I thank the Hon. Anne Levy for her support. Taxi drivers provide an outstanding service to the community of South Australia and to visitors alike. It is often a tough job for them. Sometimes they are subjected to abuse and people do not always care for the vehicles or their behaviour in those vehicles. However, no-one, especially their families, should have to anticipate that when a taxi driver responds to a call they will not return because their life has been taken, but that is what happened on the weekend in Adelaide. The police are investigating it as a major crime.

It has galvanised the minds of the Passenger Transport Board, all in my office, other representatives of Government and the taxi industry. Today an urgent meeting was called between the Passenger Transport Board and representatives of the taxi industry, and a recommendation from that meeting was that \$50 000 be provided for a study to identify the circumstances in which drivers are attacked and that that be undertaken as a priority. That recommendation will come to me formally this afternoon, but I indicate at this early opportunity that I will approve that recommendation for such a study to be undertaken as a priority.

I also report that the PTB has agreed to a two-stage investigation of measures to improve taxi safety. The first to be considered by the PTB within the next month is the provision of a report to me on the fitting of all taxicabs with video surveillance cameras and internal release mechanisms for taxi boots. With such a mechanism, a taxi driver would not have to get out of the car to open the boot. The use of video surveillance cameras has been canvassed from time to time but, because of cost factors, little has been done by the taxi driver, the taxi owner or the taxi company, and certainly not by the Government.

There is a recommendation from the taxi industry that initiatives such as video surveillance cameras or internal release mechanisms be funded by a 1 per cent increase on taxicab fares or through Government subsidies. Those options can be looked at by the Government in terms of this report, which should be delivered to me within a month, but I also advise that there is a Passenger Transport Fund, which is maintained by the Passenger Transport Board. That fund is made up of contributions from taxi owners for the purchase of a plate or a licence to operate a taxi, and I suggest that we could also look at the use of some of those funds for these purposes.

The second stage of investigation by the PTB will be to look at the viability of mandatory fitting of what are called gutter-side lights to all taxis. Such a light is mounted to the top of the taxi. It is a brilliant globe, and a mechanism allows the light to turn and make it much easier for the taxi driver to spot the street number or the street name and to see in front of them when they are searching for passengers, the doors or the light. They will not be so vulnerable. This would be, in my view, an excellent initiative.

It has also been proposed that the taxi companies call back to all customers booking taxis between midnight and 6 a.m. I think that this would be a very good initiative if undertaken

by the taxi companies, because then they could verify the call and the address. I know it happens with early morning reminder calls, when one rings up for those, and there is an automatic ring-back to test that the number is the one given. I know that with pizza companies, for instance, if a person rings up after a certain hour they are requested to ring up again to double-check on the address, and the like, so that the person who delivers the pizza is not vulnerable. It is that same sort of arrangement that is being considered now and would seem to me to be something that could be introduced almost immediately, in terms of safety for taxi drivers.

Compulsory refresher driving safety training courses and the introduction of counselling are also being looked at. I also think that we should, as members of Parliament generally, in our communities and through the electorates, be suggesting to people that they should make the street numbers of their houses much more luminous and much easier to see for taxi drivers and, equally, all emergency workers. That would mean that taxi drivers are less likely to have to get out of their cars to search, as would appear to have been the circumstance early last Sunday morning.

So, it is a tragic circumstance. Like so many of these cases, it galvanises action. Issues such as the safety of taxi drivers have been around for many years but have never led to positive conclusions across the board. Certainly, positive measures, such as global positioning systems, have been implemented company by company, but not across the board. If anything comes from this tragedy last weekend, perhaps we can say that these strong recommendations supported earlier today will be implemented, some immediately, some over the next three months, so that we have a safer working environment for all taxi drivers. That is important for their own sakes and also for their families.

#### OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

**The Hon. P. NOCELLA:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Education and Children's Services, representing the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, a question about the Overseas Qualifications Board.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P. NOCELLA:** Earlier this year, in March, I asked some questions about the Overseas Qualifications Board because of serious concerns that were raised at the time about the efficiency of the operation of this important body, which, in general terms, seeks to ensure that the assessment and recognition of overseas qualifications, skills and experience are fair, equitable and as simple as possible in order to assist new arrivals in returning to the work force without delay. Those questions, as far as I can ascertain, remain without reply at this stage. In the meantime, the operation of this board has deteriorated somewhat by the failure to appoint an executive officer. My questions to the Minister are a repeat of the previous questions, without reply. In addition, could the Minister inform this Council when the appointment of an executive officer will be made in order to allow this board to function properly and carry out its institutional role?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister and bring back a reply.

## ARTS LAW CENTRE

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for the Arts a question about the Arts Law Centre.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I recently represented the Minister at an opening where I came across a brochure entitled 'Arts Law Centre of Australia'. The brochure states:

An advice and resource centre for the Australian arts community.

It advertises a subscription for an annual fee of up to \$175 for a commercial enterprise to secure legal and financial advice, access to the Arts Law Centre and legal advice service, referral to the Arts Law Centre and its national panel of arts and entertainment lawyers, mediators and accountants. The brochure is directed at people who are involved in the arts community. The brochure also says that the Arts Law Centre was established with the support of the Australia Council in 1983. It says in the preamble that it provides to people involved in the arts industry, if I can call it that, referrals to arts and entertainment lawyers from a national referral panel.

I am a little concerned, and concern was expressed to me, that perhaps this merely means that good, solid, talented South Australian artists or people involved in the arts community are simply referred to highly paid Sydney lawyers and accountants. In that context, my questions to the Minister are:

1. Is the State involved in this program and, if so, how, to what extent and at what cost?

2. Will the Minister advise whether South Australian lawyers or accountants are used? Are South Australian lawyers and accountants on the national referral panel? If so, to what extent?

3. Is there proper South Australian representation and, if it is appropriate, I would be delighted if the Minister could inform this place which lawyers and accountants provide this service to the arts community?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The South Australian Government is involved through the Department for the Arts and Cultural Development in that a sum of money is paid each year towards the operating costs. In addition to the membership costs, I think that every State Government, as well as the Australia Council, supports the operation of this centre. I will need to ascertain the exact figure of the cost of the South Australian contribution. In terms of the centre's advising South Australians or any other Australian to contact a South Australian lawyer or accountant who is associated with the centre, I am not aware of that and I will seek such advice and bring back a reply. As to whether there be proper South Australian representation and who that involves, again, I will need to seek that advice.

I do know that the department has continued to support this initiative, notwithstanding the very thorough look at all our costs and commitments to the arts in South Australia and across the board. It was determined that this was a solid investment by the State towards the operating cost of this centre; that the department got value for money in terms of supporting artists with legal inquiries. I am not sure about costs, but I will also inquire about that. I will obtain all the information and report back as soon as possible.

## SPEAKER'S CORNER

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for the Arts a question about Speaker's Corner.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. ANNE LEVY:** In May of last year—16 months ago—the Minister advised that Old Parliament House museum was closing but stated quite specifically:

Speaker's Corner, which is an institution in its own right, will be continued.

Speaker's Corner closed a month after that statement and has not been seen since. On 6 July last year, the Minister said (and I quote from *Hansard*):

There is no way that there will be no Speaker's Corner.

On 15 February this year, in response to a question, the Minister said:

I am adamant that there will be a Speaker's Corner.

These are various statements that the Minister has made over a period of 16 months, and we still have no Speaker's Corner. The fact that the Minister is passionate that there should be a Speaker's Corner does not seem to be reflected. In fact, in 16 months her passion has not translated into providing Speaker's Corner. I should add that Speaker's Corner would fit extremely well with the oft-stated comments about freedom of speech in this country. However, Speaker's Corner long predated any comments from the current Prime Minister and had been in existence for over 10 years, providing a wide range of opinions on topics varying from the Communist Party to National Action; from abortion reform to right to life, and everything in between. My questions to the Minister are:

1. Is she still adamant that there will be a Speaker's Corner?

2. When will there be a Speaker's Corner and where will it be, or is her commitment to Speaker's Corner to be a broken promise?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** 'Yes' to the first question. To the third question about promises, no, it will not be broken; it is just that sometimes things that mean a lot to you and are worthwhile working for take a bit longer to achieve than one would wish.

**The Hon. Anne Levy:** Sixteen months?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Yes.

**The Hon. R.R. Roberts:** Who's stopping you? We'll give you a hand.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Nobody is stopping me. It is a matter of juggling a lot of priorities. I have a long list of things that I am keen to achieve in the arts, and this is one of them. We have successfully moved the history centre to Edmund Wright House. I understand, although I do not agree with this, that the History Trust now claims that it has neither sufficient space nor budget to start a Speaker's Corner as we have known it in the past. We are waiting for some funding approvals and design work from Services SA so that the History Trust, hopefully by the end of this year, can move completely to Edmund Wright House, and that will resolve shortly thereafter a number of these outstanding issues. I acknowledge that it is outstanding. I would have liked it to be up and operating again as it used to operate. That is not possible at this time, but it is still actively on the agenda.



### ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Health, some questions about patient care at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** Today I was provided with a copy of a letter which was sent to the Health Minister outlining the experiences of a patient at the RAH. This patient, who is terminally ill with lymphoma, was told by her specialist that she needed an immediate blood transfusion. Her letter states:

He made the necessary arrangement for this to happen. I could walk a little with difficulty, but I needed a wheelchair. There was only one orderly on for the whole hospital—staff cuts and some sickness being the cause. My son half carried me to the ward. Some time later the transfusion was commenced. I have poor veins, so I asked for my arm to be strapped to a small board so that I would not bend it and puncture the vein.

She was told that, in the whole of the Royal Adelaide Hospital, not one splint was available. Also, in this ward, records of input and output of fluids were required to be kept, and pans of urine were mounting up because the staff had not had time to take the appropriate measurements. I again quote her letter:

The toilet was small and six pans, three on each side, were lined up in it. One had to tread carefully to get to the toilet.

I have also been told, by a doctor, of patients having to be washed by their relatives when they visit the RAH. My questions are:

1. How often are the relatives of patients forced to act as orderlies or nurse assistants at the RAH?
2. What steps will the Minister take to ensure that an adequate supply of basic medical equipment, such as splints, is available at the RAH?
3. Does the Minister consider that the care of patients at the RAH is being compromised by the lack of equipment and staff?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the Minister and bring back a reply. To help with the answering of this question, could I have the letter to pass on to the Minister?

### WATER, POTABLE

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** I seek leave to make a precied statement prior to asking the Minister for Education, representing the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development, questions about the future of potable water for the needs of South Australia, its horticulturalists and the population in general.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** I noted that His Excellency the Governor, in his address to the Parliament prior to Parliament's opening, made mention of his Government's intention to introduce amendments to the South Australian Water Resources Bill in order, as His Excellency put it, to ensure South Australia's future water resource. For many years this matter has exercised the mind of many South Australians. Over the past couple of weeks parts of this State, because of very heavy spring rains, have faced serious flood threat to properties, businesses and farm produce activities. I am told that this cycle of events occurs in our State every

four or five years and that the last heavy flooding occurred in South Australia in 1992.

I realise that, in the main, the natural feed-in system for this State's various artesian basins emanates in the main from water which has its genesis in north and northwest Queensland. Each year during this State's rainy period many thousands of billions of litres of water flows down our river systems straight into Gulf St Vincent and other areas of the sea which girt South Australia's coastline. The most recent floods in this State have seen our reservoirs, having already been filled, having to divest themselves of excess water down their spillways into our river systems which, because of heavy rain, have already been in very heavy flood without the additional assistance of overspill from our reservoirs.

Our major river systems, at times such as these, are discharging literally billions of litres of potable water each hour until such time as nature has run its course. The systems I am referring to are, in the main, the Gawler, Torrens and Onkaparinga catchment areas. Over the past 25 years or more State Governments of different political views have been forced to place various strictures on the extraction of water from the State's underground natural storage systems because of the falling levels of fresh water in those systems. With the foregoing in mind, I direct the following questions to the Minister:

1. Has the Minister considered setting up a system of diverting water in flood and other times to the artesian basins and, if not, why not?

2. I realise that the cost of doing this could be very high, but if we do not proceed to look at a project such as this what will be the future cost to the State's people, its industries and farming communities if it starts to run short of potable fresh water, as many experts are already forecasting will happen in the not too distant future?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I will refer the honourable member's question to the Minister and bring back a reply.

### HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about the Hindmarsh Island bridge.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** The Federal Government has recently stated its intention to legislate to permit the building of the Hindmarsh Island bridge. The Minister will recall that she was a vocal opponent of the construction of the bridge prior to the last election. Following the election the Minister instigated the Jacobs report to investigate the funding arrangements of the bridge, and that report has not been released by the Government. In May 1994 the *Advertiser* reported that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Dr Armitage, had used special powers under the Aboriginal Heritage Act to authorise the construction of the bridge. The Minister said his decision 'gave him no pleasure'. In December 1995 the Premier stated on ABC television:

Discussions have already taken place with Built Environs—the company awarded the original contract to build the Hindmarsh Island bridge—

as to the basis on which we could continue the previous contract.

The Premier said:

We expect work to start within three months.

On ABC television on 18 September last it was reported that Built Environs had stated that the company had had no formal

negotiations with the Government on the bridge since the work stopped in May 1994; and on that program the Deputy Premier was also reported as saying, 'The bridge contract is void.' My questions are:

1. Who is correct in their understanding of the status of the contract to construct the Hindmarsh Island bridge—the Premier or the Deputy Premier?

2. Does the Government intend to re-let the contract for the construction of the Hindmarsh Island bridge and, if so, is the Government committed to the construction of the bridge regardless of any increase in cost?

3. What are the contractual obligations, if any, to Westpac relating to the building of the bridge?

4. How does the Government now intend to finance the cost of the bridge?

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** Finally, will the Minister now release the Jacobs report?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Jacobs report will not be released, and the reasons for that were fully outlined in this place, as I recall, before the honourable member was a member of this Chamber. I therefore refer the honourable member to those reports.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** Yes, certainly a lot has happened since then, and it would be very interesting in the circumstances to see whether the Federal Labor Party supports forthcoming legislation in the Senate to facilitate this project. I will be most interested to see whether the Hon. Terry Roberts, the Hon. Ron Roberts and the Hon. Paul Holloway urge—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order! There is too much background noise.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** —their Federal colleagues to support this or whether they remain quiet, say nothing and just stir trouble. Whatever personal feelings one may have, the Government has indicated a commitment to build this bridge. We have gone through royal commissions and a range of other inquiries. The opportunity now provided by the Federal Government will speed this process and the approvals. The contractual arrangement with Westpac is a matter that I will refer to the Attorney to answer.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I have a supplementary question. In view of the Minister's answer, will she—

**The Hon. K.T. Griffin:** Why don't you ask me?

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I will ask the Attorney later, but does the Minister responsible intend to re-let the contract for the construction of the bridge?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** At this stage there is hardly any point re-letting the contract until the Federal issues have been resolved and, as I understand, that has been made quite clear by the Attorney in statements that he has made on this subject and about the legal processes. Therefore, the Federal Coalition is providing an opportunity to expedite this project after the latest inquiry, whilst invalid, recommended that there is no women's secret sacred business. If members wish to—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** —facilitate this bridge project—and I think the Hon. Paul Holloway was a member of the Government when it was supported by the Hon. Mr

Bannon, the Hon. Barbara Wiese and others, and it has been a nightmare ever since—

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** If only the homework had been done long ago, before letting of the contracts. All those people from the former Government have left us with this project. They have left this Parliament for a much quieter life but we are left with the mess, the financial implications and the legal issues.

*Members interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

## FRUIT LABELS

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Consumer Affairs a question about labels on fruit.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** The South Australian Consumers Association has recently drawn attention to the practice of the retailers and wholesalers of fruit in sticking small labels on items for sale. The Consumers Association has been quoted as saying that most people in South Australia are not in favour of these devices. Ms Elaine Attwood of the Consumers Association has been quoted as saying that most consumers complained that the stickers were unhygienic stuck to peelers, and some were concerned that children would eat them. She further said that they were environmentally unfriendly and that, from a consumer point of view, they are unnecessary.

The General Manager of the South Australian Apple and Pear Growers Association was reported as claiming that his industry bore the brunt of criticism because, unlike some other items of fruit, such as bananas and oranges, pears and apples are eaten as is. He is quoted as saying:

I have had consumers say that because of the stickers they will not buy the fruit.

My questions to the Minister are:

1. Is he aware of the complaints about these stickers?

2. Does he have any view as to whether or not any action is required in relation to them?

3. If, as I suspect, this might be an issue for the Minister for Health under the Food Act, will he direct the question to that Minister for an answer, if appropriate?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I certainly saw the report in the newspaper. I am not aware of the detail of it other than what is in the public domain. I have not heard that there have been any complaints to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs about the little stickers, but I will make some inquiries and, if there have been complaints, I will identify the number of those if the records have been kept. I think the practice varies; some stickers advertise that it might be fruit from South Australia. Remembering that a lot of this fruit goes overseas and interstate, it is not a bad advertisement for the State.

Personally, I do not have a difficulty because I always remember to take off the stickers. It does not fuss me. It is always good, particularly where you get a variety of red-skinned apples, some of which are Jonathans, some of which are other varieties—Golden Delicious and Red Delicious—to identify the differences. It is not so much a storm in a teacup, but it is something that is assuming mammoth proportions when in fact I am not convinced that it is a major problem. I will make some inquiries and bring back a reply.

### STATE ECONOMY

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (24 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Treasurer has provided the following response:

1. South Australia's net migration loss for the year to 30 June 1995 was 3 426 persons, considerably less than the 6 529 persons suggested by the Hon. T. Crothers in his question. The latter figure in fact relates to interstate migration only.

South Australia's overseas immigration intake is not at a record low as suggested by the Hon. T. Crothers. In fact, South Australia's overseas immigration intake has increased over the past several years. For the year ended 30 June 1995, net overseas immigration into South Australia was 101 per cent higher than for the year ended 30 June 1993, and 56 per cent higher than for the year ended 30 June 1994.

Nevertheless, the Government is concerned to increase South Australia's population growth rate and has announced measures which are designed to increase population growth over the medium term. These include:

- Setting up, with employers, a sponsorship scheme to provide skilled migrants to South Australia with two-years' support;
- Increasing efforts to attract business migrants to South Australia through the country specific Chambers of Commerce;
- Developing a procedure with the Federal Government to enable South Australia to secure a larger intake of migrants admitted to Australia;
- Targeting retirees, or near-retirees, up to 60 years with details of the benefits of settling in South Australia; and
- pursuing measures aimed at attracting more overseas students to South Australia.

The Government is also setting up an inter-departmental task force, overseen by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, to develop a package of pro-migration measures.

The Budget papers stated: 'population growth is as much a result of relative economic performance as a cause, and the restoration of job opportunities in South Australia is expected to bring with it stronger population growth.' The conditions are in place for the private sector to prosper. The Government's debt reduction strategy is on track, business taxation is more than competitive with other States, employment has been growing and is forecast to continue to grow. When combined with Government measures to boost South Australia's population growth, these conditions should assure continued growth in the South Australian economy.

2. Economic growth in South Australia has recently been strong. ABS State Accounts data show that seasonally adjusted real GSP rose 4.7 per cent over the year to the March 1996 quarter, the strongest rise of any State. It is now anticipated that economic growth for 1995-96 will be higher than the 3 per cent forecast in the Budget papers. Higher net exports have made a significant contribution to economic growth in South Australia.

According to the ABS Labour Force Survey, employment in South Australia has been trending up since early 1996. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June was the lowest since December 1990. The less volatile trend unemployment rate has also been falling.

The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies noted in its July Briefing Report that there have been some positive recent signs of pick-ups in retail sales and new motor vehicle registrations, and that business investment looks to strengthen in South Australia.

The Indicative Planning Council for the Housing Industry has forecast 6 900 new dwelling commencements in South Australia in 1996-97, an increase of 700 over the forecast number for 1995-96.

I refute Mr Ashbourne's claim that State debt has hardly declined one iota. Net State debt has declined from 26.5 per cent of GSP at the time of the May 1994 Financial Statement to 22.1 per cent in 1995-96, and is forecast to fall further to 18.6 per cent by 1997-98. As indicated in the 1996-97 Financial Statement, planned debt reduction targets have been exceeded in each year of the debt reduction strategy; by June 1998, the ratio will be below 20 per cent; and by the end of the decade, the ratio will fall to 16 per cent without further spending cuts or asset sales beyond those announced. Debt reduction will provide South Australia with a more competitive financial position and will free up resources currently being used to service debt; and will thus serve to further promote economic development in South Australia.

Recent investments announced by the automotive industry and by Western Mining for Olympic Dam are further evidence of the confidence that the private sector has in the future of the South Australian economy.

3. The new Coalition Government has indicated its resolve to cut the underlying Budget deficit of \$10.3 billion in 1995-96 by a substantial amount over the next two years, although perhaps not as much as the \$8 billion originally mooted by the Federal Treasurer. The Federal Treasurer has indicated that the Budget brought down on 20 August is aimed at reducing the deficit in order to increase national savings for 1996-97, reduce pressure on interest rates and increase job opportunities and stability for families and small business.

It is appropriate that a relatively small part of the Budget savings come from a reduction in the number of Commonwealth public servants, otherwise savings of equivalent magnitude would need to be derived from cuts in programs, welfare payments to those in need, or from further reductions in Commonwealth grants to the States. In any case, the private sector is likely to employ many of those persons who were previously employed by the public sector.

Latest IMF and OECD reports suggest that economic growth usually follows fiscal consolidation. In the last period of fiscal consolidation in Australia between 1986 and 1988, the average real GDP growth rate was 3.6 per cent per annum and the unemployment rate fell by 1 percentage point. Thus, I expect that ultimately South Australia will share in the national economic growth and consequent reduction in unemployment that is expected to flow from fiscal consolidation despite some initial cut in the number of Commonwealth public servants.

### EDSAS REPORT

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (5 June).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The consultancy brief for the 'Review of the Implementation of EDSAS into State Schools' was issued on 6 December 1995 and the consultancy commenced on 12 December 1995. A draft report was required by and received on 20 December 1995 with a final report taking into account comment from the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) and Principals' Associations due on 7 February 1996. I am advised that further negotiation of the deadline meant that the final report was due for completion by the end of April 1996. This allowed for all parties to provide further comment, if necessary, prior to the release of the final report. Comment from DECS on the second draft was provided to the consultant shortly after its receipt. Comment from the Secondary Principals' Association was provided to the consultant on 29 April 1996. The final report was received by DECS on 1 May 1996.

Advice that the report was not complete was provided by DECS on 26 April 1996, to enable a response to the questions placed on the Notice Paper by the honourable member on 9 April 1996. As per usual practice I endorsed the reply in terms of the briefing provided and that response was approved by Cabinet on 27 May 1996. The response was subsequently incorporated into Hansard on 28 May 1996.

I am advised the document tabled by the member is not a copy of the final report but is, in fact, a copy of an earlier draft version.

### MIGRANTS

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following response:

The impact of the Federal Government's immigration cuts will be minimal as the major cuts are in the family reunion category. This category has not made a large contribution to the South Australian population for some time as the migration chain has been broken.

The independent skilled migration category has been increased and this is to the benefit of South Australia as potential settlers in this category will be specifically targeted by South Australia. Many independent skilled migrants have the ability to find employment quickly and thus to begin to make an economic contribution to the State relatively soon after arrival.

Some additional immigrants may be attracted to settle in South Australia under the Regional Settlement Scheme.

The Commonwealth has agreed to increase the number of humanitarian migrants and refugees entering South Australia.

The establishment of the Premier's Task Force on Immigration Promotion to South Australia means that strategies will be developed and implemented to increase the numbers of migrants settling in South Australia.

### STURT STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (23 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The decision to close Sturt Street Primary School was not made solely on economic grounds, however general advice was available indicating that potential expenditure on facilities at Sturt Street Primary School of up to \$500 000 would be required to sustain the operation of the school. Included in this estimate is backlog maintenance and the need to significantly upgrade specific areas of the school, including administration and general and specialist teaching areas.

I am advised that the transition of programs to Gilles Street Primary School will recover operational and administrative costs representing salaries not required, such as a principal salary, and the recurrent services cost of operating a separate school. Depending on decisions made regarding the potential use of the Sturt Street site, these savings are potentially of the order of \$100 000 annually. The final decisions relating to economic issues cannot be made until the future of the Sturt Street site is decided. If the Government were to sell the Sturt Street site, considerable funds would become available for the Capital Works Program. However, if the Government chose to continue to use the Sturt Street site for educational purposes, such as consolidating some curriculum units onto the Sturt Street site, other properties and assets may be able to be sold.

### EDUCATION, CURRICULUM OUTSOURCING

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (31 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) is currently using eight external writers and consultants.

Consultants are selected on the basis of merit through open advertisements in the local or national press. When very particular expertise is required for input in areas such as language proficiency and Aboriginal languages revival programs, a direct approach is made to the person with knowledge in the area.

The projected cost for external consultants for curriculum development for 1996-97 is \$22 030.

DECS also has a Register of Teachers who contribute to curriculum development by writing materials, contributing examples of their own work, providing feedback on draft materials or developing examples of best practice.

### TEACHERS' DISPUTE

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (1 August).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** After seeking departmental advice I can now confirm that the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) has not engaged the services of the Stephen Middleton Public Relations Company since 23 May 1996.

### WOMEN'S STUDIES RESOURCE CENTRE

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (6 June).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education has provided the following response:

1. Records in the Office of the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education indicate that there were 182 letters of complaint received and 18 telephone calls relating to funding for the Women's Studies Resource Centre. Each of the letters were individually replied to. Many, however, were proforma letters prepared by the collective.

2. The Women's Studies Resource Centre commenced operation in 1975 funded by the Education Department. In 1992 the Education Department reduced the staffing complement by one co-ordinator as a saving under GARG.

DETAFE undertook to support the centre's operation through the provision of funding for co-ordinator's position for a two year period until 30 June 1994. Any further funding was always clearly subject to budget constraints.

In 1996 the amount of funding to the centre was decreased and made subject to a fee-for-service agreement.

This cut in funding was not an intention prior to election, but has been a necessary response to the budget situation government inherited.

From June 1995 the centre has been asked to seek alternative sources of funding, given that TAFE students and staff are only one of the user groups and there may be potential for other users (eg university staff and students) to contribute more to the operation of the Centre.

It is proposed to review the DETAFE funding arrangement in the second half of 1996 after six months operation.

### DEAF-BLINDNESS DISABILITY

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (30 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Mr Cielens has been a regular visitor to the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) over the past several years. His mission is to improve life chances for deaf/blind people in this country. His major goals are to establish a residential special school for deaf/blind students in this state and to ensure that a teacher is trained specifically in the education of deaf/blind students.

In 1995, the Director, Programs was nominated to deal with Mr Cielens' requests and respond to his questions. All DECS staff have been informed of this arrangement.

The Director has continued to perform this role and has devoted many hours in responding to Mr Cielens' questions regarding the education of children with dual sensory disability.

Given Mr Cielens preference for verbal, face to face communication, the Director established regular monthly meeting times with him at the commencement of this year. He was informed the purpose of these meetings was to develop a strategy for how he could work with DECS to improve services for students with disabilities including deaf/blind students. Mr Cielens was informed of the work of DECS in developing a Disability Action Plan and that his input and input from other members of the Disability Community, would be invaluable in formulating this plan.

I am advised in an effort to demonstrate to Mr Cielens the commitment of this Department to providing a range of settings to cater for the needs of students with multiple disabilities in a near to normal educational environment as possible, given their specialist support needs, the Director devoted a day to escort him on visits to two of the specialist units which have been established in primary schools for these students. This was seen as a means of demonstrating to Mr Cielens that the specialist services and facilities provided by DECS for students with severe and multiple disabilities are equal to world best practices.

This outcome was not achieved and I am advised Mr Cielens remained unconvinced that DECS is catering for the needs of deaf/blind students. He has maintained his determination to lobby for the establishment of a separate residential special school for deaf/blind students despite the assurance of the Director that deaf/blindness is a low incident disability and there are not sufficient numbers of deaf/blind students in this state to warrant the establishment of a special school.

I am informed during meetings with the Director, Mr Cielens has sought specific information as to the effectiveness of DECS programs in catering for the learning needs of deaf/blind children and students. He has been informed that no complaints have been received from parents/caregivers regarding the quality of the education services provided by DECS for these children and students. Further, he has been informed of the commitment of DECS within available resources to being both pro-active in establishing a range of facilities and services for students with disabilities in collaboration with other agencies and non-government organisations, and responsive to addressing the concerns of parents.

Information from Mr Cielens of instances where this department is not adequately addressing the needs of a particular child or student has been sought. He has not been able to provide a specific instance where this has occurred or is occurring. In response he has provided examples of services provided for deaf/blind students in nations with substantially higher populations than South Australia.

I am aware that Mr Cielens has provided the Director and other officers within DECS, including my office, with numerous articles about educational provision for deaf/blind students in other countries and several videos on the same subject in an effort to convince DECS that the only viable educational option for catering for the learning needs of these students is the establishment of a special residential school, staffed by teachers who have been trained to work with deaf/blind students. He has inferred that because DECS does not provide such an option it is not fulfilling its responsibilities to provide an appropriate education for this group of students.

As many of my parliamentary colleagues would be aware, Mr Cielens' commitment to raising funds to ensure a teacher is trained specifically to work with deaf/blind students in South Australia is very strong.

The Director, Programs has informed Mr Cielens of conversations with colleagues from other States and territories regarding the

professional development needs of teachers of low incident disabilities such as the teaching of deaf/blind students and of the possibility of working collaboratively to address these needs. The support of Mr Cielens in working to develop a strategy to address these needs has been sought. Mr Cielens remains determined to send a teacher overseas to undertake specific training in the teaching of deaf/blind children and students.

I am advised although Kilparrin staff have not undertaken a formal qualification in the education of deaf/blind students they have developed considerable expertise in working with deaf/blind students. They remain up to date with current research, trends and issues in the teaching of deaf/blind students. Their expertise in the field is well recognised. One staff member was employed at the Gilles Street Primary School Deaf/Blind Unit until it was disbanded and she was transferred to Kilparrin. The current Principal of Townsend School for Visually Impaired Students has undertaken formal training in the teaching of Deaf/Blind students. The Principal was also employed as a teacher at the Deaf/Blind Unit. As Kilparrin occupies facilities on the grounds of Townsend House a close professional relationship exists between the two locations and staff from Kilparrin who wish to seek specialist expertise in relation to the teaching and assessment of deaf/blind students can seek specialist advice/guidance from the Principal, if required.

In the past, the Education Department of South Australia has funded teachers to undertake a one year graduate program in the teaching of deaf/blind students in Europe. Release time scholarships are granted each year to enable teachers to gain qualifications in areas of under supply. A decision as to which areas of scarce teacher expertise are funded for the targeting of release time scholarships is made following an examination of priorities in areas of under supply. The education of Deaf/Blind students has not been identified as a priority field of under supply for a number of years. Should the need arise for specialist expertise in the future, the funding of such a scholarship will be further considered. Meanwhile, the Director, Programs has had informal conversation with staff at the Flinders University regarding the introduction of an element in the Special Education degree course relating to the Education of Deaf/Blind students. Mr Cielens has been informed of this.

I can assure Parliament every effort has been made to work with Mr Cielens in a positive way.

His correspondence has not been ignored. In line with arrangements established in dealing with Mr Cielens, all correspondence from him is forwarded to the Director for discussion with Mr Cielens at one of his regular meetings. Mr Cielens has been informed that all correspondence will be directed to this officer. Despite his preference for verbal face to face dialogue, Mr Cielens requested a written response. My response and that of the Director, Programs has recently been forwarded to Mr Cielens.

#### SAMCOR SALE

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (30 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Treasurer has provided the following response:

1. The Minister for Primary Industries has not breached any guidelines for ministerial involvement in asset sales. As you are aware, the previous process for SAMCOR has been closed and at the time of Mr Kerin's visit to Better Beef Limited the new process had not yet begun. I commend Mr Kerin's efforts in endeavouring to achieve the best result for South Australia, primary producers, meat processors and SAMCOR employees. Indeed, not only has Mr Kerin spoken to Better Beef Limited but he has held numerous talks with industry participants in order to produce the best outcome for the new process.

2. No action is necessary in the case of the Minister. Mr Kerin is well aware of the processes involved in asset sales and his responsibilities within the processes. The methodology adopted by Cabinet for asset sales ensures that asset sales are conducted in a clear and consistent manner and that the highest standards of integrity and probity are maintained.

The process embodies certain safeguards to prevent bidders from mis-using the parliamentary process or the media to advantage their own position.

As such, it is important that all politicians understand the process and do not place themselves in a position where they can use the privileges accorded by Parliament to provide advantage to a particular bidder or worse, to undermine the whole sale process at the expense of the taxpayers of South Australia and of the employees of the entity being sold.

3. The Minister for Primary Industries has held discussion with many industry participants.

The new process is being conducted by the Asset Management Task Force without the involvement of Ministers and it is on a competitive and level playing field. All parties have equal opportunity to lodge a proposal and will be treated in the same manner.

4. All bidders in the original sale process had ample opportunity to discuss their proposals with the Asset Management Task Force. Indeed the Asset Management Task Force held discussions with numerous Australian companies on numerous occasions. That was the opportunity for all participants to discuss matters of substance in relation to their proposal.

All discussions and all matters in any sale process are the subject of a Confidentiality Deed and we are aware that a number of parties may have breached such confidentiality. In the interest of protecting all parties involved in the process it is necessary for Government to enforce such confidentiality undertakings. The Government will enforce Confidentiality Deeds in the future and will not tolerate breaches and parties who attempt to run their campaign to acquire assets in the media or by mis-using the parliamentary process.

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act 1993 has no relevance in this matter.

5. The Member should reflect on his personal efforts to depreciate SAMCOR and put its employees' jobs at risk.

#### MIGRANTS

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (3 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has provided the following response.

The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has already expressed his concern to the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

The Federal Minister has assured the State Minister that all recipients of visas granted in the last six months have been informed of the changes prior to their departure. He has also stated that assistance will be provided to those migrants whose situation would substantially change, for reasons beyond their control, after their arrival in Australia.

The State is looking at ways of assisting persons in financial difficulty and discussions are taking place with the Department of Family and Community Services and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

#### BROTHERS

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (3 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Police has provided the following.

Members of the Vice and Gaming Task Force (Operation Patriot) do not seize safe sex information. In relation to condoms, the policy dictates that:

- new condoms are not seized—they may be photographed;
- in relation to used condoms, they may be seized dependent upon the facts peculiar to the circumstance.

In addition, photographs are taken when there is direct relevance to a fact in issue and it is deemed necessary.

#### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (24 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Industry, Manufacturing Small Business and Regional Development has provided the following:

1. The most important change referred to in the Federal Treasurer's announcement concerns the termination of syndication arrangements. The syndication concession enables two or more firms to register jointly in respect of research and development projects that are considered either too large or too risky for a single company to undertake in isolation.

The Department of Industry, Science and Tourism extensively examined syndication schemes, which were becoming more focused on tax minimisation rather than genuine R&D with the result that tax benefits often exceeded the cost of R&D.

Syndication provided incentives for continued financial innovation which outpaced the real technological innovation. The program was uncapped and as a consequence there was no longer any certainty as to its cost.

Investors under existing syndicates, and under planned syndicates which have already received advance approvals, will not be prevented from seeking the R&D tax concession.

The actual number of companies involved in syndication was small. Over the lifetime of the program a mere 39 firms and agencies accounted for some 60 percent of the claims, representing \$650 million of R&D, or over \$16 million per firm.

In South Australia, as in other jurisdictions, a large proportion of State R&D is undertaken in the primary industries sector. The Minister for Primary Industries has advised that the primary industries sector that is serviced by R&D institutions is generally not involved in syndication. Consequently, the Commonwealth's decision in this area is unlikely to have serious implications for the sector.

2. AusIndustry has received 50 submissions regarding suggested alternative programs from industry and held a Consultative Forum attended by 80 industry representatives on Tuesday 30 July 1996 to discuss alternative options. The vast majority of submissions and industry representatives were in agreement that an alternative to the syndication program was required. The main options discussed included grants, loans, interest subsidies or a combination of these measures.

Since the announcement, the Commonwealth has subsequently announced its intention to establish the Strategic Assistance for Research and Development Program (START) in its August Budget to replace the syndication concession.

This program will be established following consultation with industry and researchers and is intended to fund highly innovative research, to be supported by funding of \$40 million this financial year and \$100 million in each of the following three years. It is understood this measure will operate as a flexible package of assistance, comprising a combination of grants, loans and interest subsidies, with a particular emphasis on projects having support for commercialisation from the private sector.

In delivering the Budget on 20 August, the Commonwealth also announced a reduction in the rate of the general tax concession for R&D from 150 per cent to 125 per cent.

While the estimated revenue savings from this measure total \$1 225 million nationally over the next four years, past experience suggests that big businesses have reaped the greatest benefit from the tax concession. While 2 828 companies claimed the tax concession in 1993-94, the top ten company groups accounted for more than half of the overall claims in that year of \$2 billion.

Measures to support the R&D also include those in the primary industries sector in which mechanisms are in place to collect funds from industry via levy payments to R&D corporations. This provides a significant funding base for research activities, which are then accessed by such research institutions as SARDI.

The Commonwealth continues to provide existing measures to support innovation. These include competitive grants for R&D, concessions loans for the commercialisation of technological innovation and the general tax concession for R&D.

The move by the Commonwealth to replace the concession previously available to R&D syndicates is a welcome one. However, until the effect of the new scheme becomes clear, it isn't possible at this stage to comment in precise terms as to the response the South Australian Government might take. Nevertheless, the Government intends to closely monitor developments in this regard and to thoroughly assess the impact of the new measures on R&D in this State.

### COMPETITION POLICY

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (25 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Small Business and Regional Development has provided the following.

1. Yes. Minister Olsen and officers from the Department for Manufacturing Industry Small Business and Regional Development were advised of the dispute.

The following points, provided by Professor Allan Fels, Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), provide an update of the status of the case:

- on 26 June 1996, the ACCC sent letters to the Small Retailers Association (SRA), Coca Cola Amatil and Westfield expressing concern that there may have been breaches of the price fixing and boycott provisions of the Trade Practices Act (TPA);
- all parties denied breaches of the TPA however, information provided by the SRA in their media release 19 June 1996 indicated that:

- retailer promotion, profit sharing, pricing, etc was discussed at meetings on the 11 and 13 June 1996 attended by all representatives of the parties; and
- a meeting of the SRA on 18 June 1996 resolved that Coca Cola Amatil be informed that all retailers present would no longer stock or sell its products.

· the price fixing and boycott arrangements did not proceed and thus the investigation by the ACCC was terminated. The ACCC sent a letter to all parties involved informing them of this and recommending that a compliance program be implemented to ensure members understand the provisions of the TPA. The ACCC staff and the SRA met on 1 August 1996 to discuss this.

2. The Trade Practices Act covers all business, whether large or small. It is not intended that any business, regardless of size, be treated more or less favourably by the provisions in the legislation.

The ACCC is responsible for the enforcement of the competition and consumer protection provisions of the Trade Practices Act (TPA) and have to date, to the benefit of small business, successfully taken legal action against a number of large firms for breach of provisions within the legislation. Below are examples that indicate enforcement action taken in the courts that has directly benefited small business:

- Record penalties in concrete price fix case (4 December 1995)
- Maximum penalties in SA Fowl price fix (15 December 1995)
- Ultra Tune 'unlocks' franchisees (12 May 1996)
- Hamilton Island Limited and ACCC settle on Japalm (12 July 1996)
- Minister warns on small business 'registers' (8 July 1996)
- Hugo Boss penalised \$515 000, for resale price maintenance (25 July 1996)
- ACCC investigations boosts small business rights (31 July 1996).

In addition to conducting legal proceedings on behalf of small businesses in appropriate circumstances, to ensure that the enforcement of the TPA takes account of the interests of small businesses the ACCC has recently established a Small Business Advice Unit to, amongst other activities:

- conduct an education campaign to inform small to medium sized enterprises about their rights and obligations under the TPA; and
- give feedback to the ACCC about the problems faced by small firms.

These and other initiatives are examples of mechanisms through which the TPA is enforced so that it takes account of the interests of small business whilst keeping big business behaving in a competitive manner.

### AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Hon. G. WEATHERILL** (28 May).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Treasurer has provided the following response. I apologise for the delay in responding.

1. Yes an agreement was reached by the Premier, Treasurer and relevant Chief Executive Officers.

2. The Department has been satisfied with the standard of services being provided from the combined services.

3. In February 1996 the Chief Executive Officers of the central agencies involved decided to make a number of changes in the arrangements for Combined Corporate Services. The changed arrangements have resulted in the Department of Treasury and Finance having sole responsibility for the management of Combined Corporate Services.

### EDUCATION, QUALITY ASSURANCE

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (23 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:**

1. The Quality Assurance Framework applies to preschools as well as schools. Phase One sites (80 sites) which commenced use of the Framework in 1995, were given access to a suite of surveys to enable them to get feedback on various aspects of their activity, from parent, staff and student perspectives.

Sites have commenced the use of the Framework at different points. About a quarter have used the survey suite, with the majority using at least the parent survey.

Of the approximately 400 sites that have commenced the framework in 1996, not many have conducted surveys at this stage as the processing software has just been released to sites.

The annual cost of using, for example, the parent survey, is difficult to estimate.

From a site perspective the cost is low but would include the following:

- The cost to the site of the survey and the processing software, which is zero ie no direct site cost.
- The time to set up a random sample of 30 (or 5 per cent of) parents, whichever is the larger, modify the word processed version of the survey form and sending the survey out. This is estimated to be up to two hours work, but the actual time will depend upon how many additional questions the school might add, above the basic 23 questions.
- The time to follow up outstanding returns is estimated to be about one hour.
- The time to enter the data is estimated to be between one (23 questions only) and six or so minutes per response, depending upon the number of extra questions and the style of question added, in total about 45-60 minutes.
- The analysis of the results is instant as it is built into the supplied software. All summaries can be inspected and printed in about 5-10 minutes.
- The depth of analysis of the data, and conclusions to be drawn, is a site decision.
- The publication of the results in the site's annual report will take about 5 minutes.

The all up cost is in the time of staff, estimated, on the above basis, to be about four hours. This should be contrasted with time taken in the former ERU model of seeking the views of parents, which had it involved say 30 parents, would have taken about 25-30 hours.

Similar costing can be made of the annual cost to seek staff and student views, but the views of parents are the only views that the annual report to the school community has made mandatory.

The current estimated cost of purchasing rights to the surveys is about \$40 000

2. The surveys are just one of a range of activities to help individual sites understand the views of their clients. The prime purpose was not to provide survey results per se to the Department for Education and Children's Services.

Some schools are, however, beginning to ask whether some reference data might be made available to them, to judge whether the views of their own community of parents differs significantly from that of a group of similar schools. The feasibility of a feedback process is under consideration.

The survey results are to be published in the annual report to the school community and to the Chief Executive, through the District Superintendent. The only data required to be published are the average ratings of the major themes of the parent survey, by averaging the ratings of the four or five questions relating to that theme. Thus, the local parent perceptions of the quality of teaching, learning outcomes, reporting, general environment, customer responsiveness and general satisfaction would be reflected back to the parents of the school through the annual report. The annual report will be a public report.

The full text of all the annual reports and the companion statements of purpose will be collected by DECS for trend analysis. The trends identified will form part of the general reporting of the Chief Executive, and thus will make up part of the Chief Executive's report, tabled in Parliament.

As to the specific example of the response to any particular question from the survey, for example "My child's reports are informative in that they indicate achievement levels" (rated on a six point scale), it is not intended at this stage that this detail will generally be known to DECS, although a District Superintendent might become aware of this information through a visit to the school and, if it were a low rating, would be likely to inquire as to the action the site might be taking. Were the ratings to the other three questions relating to reporting to also be rated lowly, the average rating would be low and this would become known to the Superintendent and the community through the annual report.

3. Only in as much as the annual reports of each site are public reports and that the Department for Education and Children's Services will summarise aspects of these reports in the Chief Executive's report.

4. Answer is same as response to question 3.

#### YEAR OF TOLERANCE

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (24 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following information.

1995 was proclaimed International Year for Tolerance (IYT). During 1995 State Government agencies initiated and implemented

a wide range of programs and activities relevant to, or specifically for, the International Year for Tolerance.

Some of the major projects and activities dedicated to IYT included:

- The release, by the government in December 1995, of a multi-cultural charter—the Declaration of Principles for a Multicultural South Australia.
- Community Relations Forums organised by the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, on Lets Bring Australians Together and Racial Vilification.
- The production of a 60 second community service television commercial celebrating cultural diversity, a ceramic tile path-way project by members of the inner-Adelaide homeless community to promote tolerance and the Refugee Week pavement project through the SA Migration Museum, all organised through the Department of Arts and Cultural Development.
- Training and development package Blockout designed by the SA Health Commission for workers in health, education and community settings to decrease discrimination in relation to HIV/AIDS.
- A community education campaign Zero Tolerance dealing with domestic violence, the release of an IYT Report First Things First which stressed tolerance as a theme and a progressive Asian dinner to promote understanding of Asian cultures, all organised through the Department of Family and Community Services.
- The promotion of IYT through the magazine Connections and a range of activities at local schools, including an Italian Festival at Stradbroke Primary School and a singing tour Singing for Tolerance organised by Hampstead Primary School.
- Through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, cemetery regulations were changed to reflect the religious and cultural requirements of some sectors of the community a national conference Responsive Development for Diverse Communities was also held to increase understanding of cultural diversity and race for planners, developers and service providers.
- Through the History Trust of South Australia, the Government has supported a co-operative arrangement with the National Museum of Australia for the Travelling Exhibition Tolerance.

#### WATER AND ELECTRICITY PRICES

In reply to **Hon. G. WEATHERILL** (25 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Industry, Manufacturing Small Business and Regional Development has provided the following.

1. Yes.
2. For water supply, average bills of businesses in real terms over the 4 year period as follows:
 

Commercial customers:	- 12.9 per cent
Industrial customers:	- 16.4 per cent
Country lands:	- 9.3 per cent

For sewerage, bills for all customers have increased in real terms by 8.2 per cent over the 4 years. This includes a 0.5 per cent increase in the Environmental Enhancement Levy consistent with Cabinet's approval of 12 December 1994 to provide \$594 000 funding for Environment Protection. Without this increase, the real increase over the 4 year period would have been 7.7 per cent.

The nominal price of electricity for a typical small business in NSW fell by 28 per cent from 1992-93 whilst the reduction for the same customer category in South Australia was 26 per cent.

ETSA's overall average selling price has decreased significantly in real terms over the ten years since 1987. To illustrate this, the Minister for Industry, Manufacturing Small Business and Regional Development when providing this response quoted from an analysis which compares the electricity tariffs applicable ten years ago, for a typical all electric home, a typical small business (eg, delicatessen or take-away) and a medium industrial user, with their account using the current ETSA tariffs.

The analysis is based on the same electricity usage in 1987 as is the case today.

Market Segment	Real Change (Adjusted for CPI)
Domestic all electric	-16.3 per cent
Small business	-42.2 per cent
Medium business	-37.1 per cent

The largest price reductions have been delivered to business customers, particularly those able to take advantage of lower off-peak rates. Our typical small business has had a real reduction of 42.2 per cent over the last ten years and the typical medium business

has seen a real reduction of 37.1 per cent over the same period. Residential customer prices have also decreased in real terms. Our typical all electric home has seen a real decline in the price of electricity of 16.3 per cent over ten years.

It should be recognised that ETSA has delivered price reductions to most customer segments since 1992/93 comparable with those stated in the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal report.

### EMPLOYMENT

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** My colleague the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education has provided the following response.

Since this Government has come to office to June 1996 28 200 jobs have been created in South Australia (ABS figures).

We are putting in place opportunities in areas such as Information Technology, Tourism and the car industry. I might add that this state had an economic growth rate of 4.9 per cent in 1995 (the next highest in Australia was Western Australia with 3.1 per cent).

The expansion at Mitsubishi, General Motors-Holdens, British Aerospace, the establishment of other high technology industries such as Motorola and Vision Systems and the opening of the Westpac Banking Centre are a clear indication of this Government's commitment to the prosperity of this state and the creation of expanded employment opportunities.

### SCHOOLS, HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:**

1. An evaluation of the HIV/AIDS pilot school program, the Secondary Schools Sexuality Education Project, was completed and documented in February 1992 by Harrison Market Research Pty Ltd.

2. In effect, the HIV/AIDS pilot schools program became the foundation for the statewide HIV/AIDS focus school project which commenced at the beginning of the 1994 school year and involved ten schools. The focus school project trialed and developed curriculum materials for junior primary to secondary teachers in HIV/AIDS education in the curriculum framework of Health and Physical Education. In 1995 the focus schools shared their expertise and materials by arranging training in HIV/AIDS education for teachers in 3 to 4 schools with which they network. No further formal evaluation has been undertaken at this stage. However, there is presently consideration of a consultation to evaluate the three years to June 1996.

Upon receiving approval to publish, the materials developed by the focus schools will be distributed to all government schools in Term 4, 1996. The materials include teacher support materials for reception to year 10, and a children's story book as a resource by parents, students and teachers. A video titled 'Doing It' and a computer package 'Let's Party' have also been produced.

3. In September 1993 the South Australian Health Commission confirmed there would be an annual grant of Commonwealth/State matched funds of around \$293 000 every year for three financial years, 1993-94 to 1995-96. Each year the grant for school based HIV/AIDS education was distributed amongst the three schooling systems, ie Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS), Catholic Education Office (CEO), Independent Schools Board (ISB). The criteria for the amount of funds was based in proportion to student numbers:

	DECS	CEO	ISB	Total
July 1993-	\$219 750	\$42 485	\$30 765	\$293 000
June 1994	(75%)	(14.5%)	(10.5%)	
July 1994-	\$219 414	\$42 457	\$29 129	\$291 000
June 1995	(75.4%)	(14.6%)	(10.01%)	
July 1995-	\$168 000	\$64 000	\$67 000	\$299 000
June 1996				

The funds for the three years allocated to the government schools were used to

- provide salaries for a Curriculum Officer to manage HIV/AIDS projects
- establish the HIV/AIDS focus schools project, and its network training program, for teachers R-10
- develop classroom support materials which document examples of HIV/AIDS education in Health and Physical Education

- develop a children's story book in self management of blood spills (a resource for parents and students as well as teachers).
- develop a training and development package in HIV/AIDS education early childhood to year 10, which includes material for parents
- implement training and development statewide for early childhood and school settings.

### SKILLSHARE

In reply to **Hon. G. WEATHERILL** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education has provided the following response

The impact of the funding cuts to the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) employment and training programs announced on 28 June, 1996 will impact significantly on the activities of SkillShare both in South Australia and nationally.

The 20 per cent funding reduction to SkillShare, in combination with 80 per cent cuts to LEAP, JobSkills and New Work Opportunities, will result in an estimated 300 SkillShare job losses in this state and a total of 2 500 nationally.

The subsequent reduction in training places is likely to be approximately 2 000 in South Australia and 20 000 nationwide.

The example cited of a SkillShare computer course being cancelled and four employees laid off is indicative of the impact of the DEETYA funding cuts. Computer training will be one of the first sacrificed by SkillShare as this is one of the most expensive courses to offer.

Meetings have been held with the Federal Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone and senior members of staff to discuss the impact of the funding reductions on employment and training in South Australia.

The State Government's concerns have been presented to Senator Vanstone and are being addressed. The full impact of the funding restrictions will not be known until the Federal Budget is announced on 20 August.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANTS

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (28 May).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Personnel Division, Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS), engaged the services of Stephen Middleton Public Relations to provide marketing advice on the process of developing and implementing an enterprise bargain with employees and related issues. The Department for Industrial Affairs had recommended use of this company based on their present work in developing an enterprise bargain for police.

The services were provided on the following dates:

February 1996: 14-16, 18-23, 26-29

March 1996: 1, 6-8, 11-15, 19-22, 25 & 28

April 1996: 2, 12, 15, 30

May 1996: 3, 8, 16, 23.

The Director, Personnel, DECS, authorised the following payments to Stephen Middleton Public Relations:

February	\$5 173.80
March	\$3 140.00
April	\$880.48
May	\$374.00
Total	\$9 568.28

### SCHOOLS, MIDDLE AND SENIOR

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (10 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Honourable Member asked a question concerning government policy on the formation of middle and senior schools. In my response, I undertook to provide information concerning options that were considered by the Marion Road Corridor Review Committee in the course of the consultation process.

In the latter half of 1995, a number of models were offered for discussion:

- In August 1995, three options were considered
  - four sites which would be disposed as two Year R-5 schools and two Year 6-9 schools, which would be co-located with Year 10-12 sub schools;
  - four sites which would be disposed as one Year R-12 campus, one Year R-5 school, one Year 6-9 school and one Year 10-12 school;



- three or four sites disposed as one Year R-12 campus comprising R-5, 6-9 and 10-12 sub schools, an R-5 school, a Year 6-9 sub school co-located with a Year 10-12 sub school. An adult re-entry school could be co-located on this campus or on a separate site.
- By September 1995, following further discussions and consultations, the above models were rearranged into the following two options:
  - three schools on four sites. An R-12 school comprising of sub-schools R-5, 6-9 and 10-12, together with a Year 6-9 sub school on a separate site, an R-5 school on a separate site, and a Year 10-12/Adult Re-entry School co-located on one campus.
  - four schools on four sites arranged as two Year R-5 schools and two Year 6-9 sub schools, the latter being co-located with Year 10-12 sub schools. The Adult Re-Entry School would be located on one of the middle/senior school campuses.
- In February 1996, after undertaking further consultation and a detailed cost benefit analysis of all options, the following recommendation was forwarded to me:
  - Clovelly Park and Marion Primary Schools become R-5 schools,
  - Daws Road High School becomes a Year 6-12 school
  - Hamilton Secondary School becomes a Year 6-12 school. (Years 6-9 and 10-12 sub schools would become an organisational feature of the secondary schools.)
- As I indicated in Hansard (10 July 1996), the Government is not convinced about the argument for relocating year 6 students to secondary school sites and so the approved option was slightly amended from that which was proposed ie Clovelly Park and Marion Primary Schools will become Year R-6 schools, while the secondary schools will become Year 7-12 schools. Sturt Primary, South Road Primary, and Marion High Schools will close at the end of 1996. 1997 will be treated as a transition year with the following school structures:
  - Daws Road High School will become a Year 7-12 school
  - Hamilton Secondary College will remain Year 8-12 with Adult Re-Entry
  - Marion Primary School will remain R-7
  - Clovelly Park Primary School will remain R-7
 However from 1998 onwards the school structures will be as follows:
  - Daws Road High School will remain Year 7-12
  - Hamilton Secondary College will become Year 7-12 with Adult Re-Entry
  - Marion Primary School will become R-6
  - Clovelly Park Primary School will become R-6.
 In summary, there were proposals for stand alone middle and senior schools in the early stages of the consultation process. However, the final recommendations to me supported the development of middle and senior schools as co-located structures on existing secondary school sites.

### MUSIC EDUCATION

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (11 April).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:**

1. The Review of Music conducted in late 1994 was an internal review conducted by the Department for Education and Children's Services. The Terms of Reference of the Review were to:

1. Examine the effectiveness of both music specialist and classroom teacher based programs in meeting the requirements of the curriculum Statements and Profiles, in particular 'The Arts'.
2. Examine the range of music resources available and assess the effectiveness of the deployment and management of these resources and the possibility of using these in meeting the requirements of the Curriculum Statements and Profiles, in particular 'The Arts'.
3. Identify opportunities for more efficient and improved service delivery to students.
4. Examine current training and development programs and suggest any necessary changes to ensure improved service delivery.

The report and recommendations were released for comment in October, 1994.

A number of recommendations were proposed. These were:

Recommendation 1: The establishment of a 'Think Tank' of Music Educators to provide input and support for curriculum

initiatives in relation to the development of an Arts Policy Framework.

Recommendation 2: The establishment of an R-7 Music(Arts) Focus School

Recommendation 3: The provision of support for an expansion of best practice cluster and district models which are responsive to local contexts and increase program diversity.

Recommendation 4: The use of Alternative Delivery Modes where appropriate to improve service delivery.

Recommendation 5: The adoption and coordination of multiple approaches to meet the diverse training and development needs of both generalist and specialist music providers.

Recommendation 6: The development of clear role statements and protocols for instrumental and vocal music teachers.

Recommendation 7: The relocation of instrumental and vocal music teachers into local management structures.

Recommendation 8: The incorporation of social justice criteria in the allocation and deployment of instrumental and vocal music teaching resources.

Recommendation 9: The provision of support at the local level to schools from which instrumental and vocal resources have been reallocated to enable the development of alternative strategies to maintain existing programs which reflect best practice models.

Recommendation 10: The employment of private providers where appropriate at the local level to augment service delivery.

Recommendation 11: The development of service delivery standards and contract proformas to ensure the accountability of private providers.

Recommendation 12: The clarification of protocols relating to private providers and the circulation of this information to schools as a matter of urgency.

Recommendation 13: The review and refinement of selection, placement and vacancy description procedures to more accurately meet program requirements.

Recommendation 14: The broadening of Special Interest Music Centres to inform R-12 Arts policy and implementation in relation to music education and associated training and development needs.

Responses to the Music Review recommendations were widely sought from key stakeholders and client groups during Term 1, 1995 and collated. Both the responses received and the recommendations of the Music Review were being considered when a decision was taken as part of the 1995/96 budget strategy to reduce the number of 'above formula' teacher positions at the end of the 1995 school year as a measure to provide for the potential salary increase of teachers and other DECS staff in the 1995/96 financial year. A reduction of 98 of the 1500 'above formula' teacher salaries was targeted to achieve the savings required.

The impact of the reduction in the number of above formula teacher salaries on Instrumental and Vocal Music tuition was a reduction of 23.4 FTE teacher salaries. Despite this reduction a total of 82 salaries were retained to maintain a quality Instrumental and Vocal Music program to students in our state in 1996.

The issues raised in the Report of the Music Review (October, 1994) and in the responses to the Review were taken into consideration in allocating salaries to support the provision of instrumental and vocal music tuition. Many of these issues remain current. Some have been addressed. For example service delivery standards have been agreed. Others will be taken into consideration in future planning regarding the provision of instrumental and vocal music tuition to students in this state.

2. The reduction in the number of instrumental and vocal music salaries necessitated a reallocation of salaries.

A Working Party was convened to advise the Minister for Education and Children's Services on the allocation of the 82 FTE teacher salaries. The membership of the working party included representation from Secondary Area, Primary and Junior Primary Principals associations, the two peak parent bodies, Principals of Special Interest Music Schools, the Open Access College, District Superintendents, Instrumental Music Managers, Instrumental and Vocal Music Teachers, Regional Services Managers, Personnel and Curriculum Divisions of DECS.

The broad principles which guided the deliberations of the Working Party were the government's commitment to formulate an allocative mechanism to achieve the maximum possible access and participation of students in an instrumental and vocal music program and investigate and address the difficulties associated with the delivery of instrumental music programs to country students and maintain the outstanding Festival of Music as presented by the South Australian Public (Primary) Schools Music Society Incorporated

The Working Party also considered the recommendations arising out of the Music Review (1994) and the responses to that review.

Notwithstanding the reduction in the number of Instrumental and Vocal/Music salaries, the advice provided by the working party enabled a careful allocation of the available salaries to achieve the following outcomes:

- longstanding inequities in the allocation of Instrumental and Vocal Music salaries were addressed
- no country district had a reduction of greater than 30 per cent with the average reduction for the country being 18.7 per cent. This constituted a significantly lower reduction than that imposed in the metropolitan area
- no metropolitan primary or secondary program was reduced by greater than 30 per cent
- no Special Interest Music Centre was reduced by greater than 30 per cent
- an increased number of schools were provided with access to an Instrumental and Vocal Music Program
- funding for the Primary Schools Music Festival was maintained at the 1995 level.

All schools were advised of these outcomes.

3. There have been mixed reactions from clients, instrumental and vocal music providers, principals, teachers and parents to another review of music education.

The majority view is that the services of an outside consultant are not required to identify issues in relation to the provision of music education in this state.

The view has been strongly put that issues to be considered in the future to ensure a quality music education program in schools in South Australia have already been identified as an outcome of:

- the Music Review (October, 1994)
- the feedback received in response to this internal review
- the feedback received in response to the reduction in the number of instrumental and vocal music salaries and
- the recent report of the Senate Environment, Recreation, Communication and the Arts Reference Committee entitled Arts Education (October, 1995),

and that another review by an outside consultant will not achieve a final resolution of the major issues identified to date which are:

- How can specialist music services be best delivered to students in this state as part of a music education curriculum within the framework of Arts Statement and profile?
- How can quality control in the delivery of specialist music services be strengthened?
- How can the access to specialist music services of country students be improved to enhance their participation and attainment in music education?

Rather, it has been proposed that what is required is the development of a strategic plan for music education to address these and other emerging issues.

Departmental officers have been engaged in consultation with key stakeholders, clients and the music industry to seek advice as to the most effective strategy to employ to progress the final resolution of music education issues within this state. Consultations have now concluded and a recommendation as to a strategy to employ is in preparation and will be submitted for approval later this year.

## PUBLIC SECTOR REDUNDANCIES

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has provided the following response.

Workforce reductions in the public sector over the four year period to 30 June 1996 amount to 11606 FTE employees. This reduction is consistent with the fiscal targets established by the Government in the May 1994 Financial Statement where it was announced that there would be a planned reduction in the public sector workforce of 12400 FTE employees over a five year period to 30 June 1997.

Based on progress to date the target of 12400 will be achieved by the 30 June 1997. These reductions have been achieved in the context of the Government's no retrenchment policy by the application of voluntary separation package schemes.

At this stage the Government's no retrenchment policy remains in place and, as indicated in the budget papers, the Government will continue with the operation of separation schemes in 1996-97 in order to facilitate human resource management aspects of contracting out, restructuring and enterprise bargaining.

## STUDENTS, BOYS

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (4 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The following information sets out some of the ways the State public education system is addressing the differential schooling experiences and outcomes of girls and boys. Assessment

The policies and procedures now in place to support the collection and analysis of information about student achievement will enable detailed critical analysis of student achievement by group and gender and as individuals. The range of data available to assess student achievement in 1996 will include that from Basic Skills Test (BST), student profiling and from the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

There have been several important initiatives in the area of assessment in the senior secondary years of schooling. The Gender Equity in Senior Secondary Schooling Assessment (ESSSA) Project, a major national study funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Training (DEET) was managed by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA) in 1992-3. The information from the project is being used for a report compiled by Dr Richard Teese et al to be published this year on gender, curriculum and assessment as the Guidelines for Assessment Quality and Equity. An implementation plan will also be developed. Findings include boys' under-representation in the humanities, over-confidence in their mathematical abilities, over-reliance on short-answer and multiple choice techniques and their lack of skills in communication, reflection and empathy. Girls did well with open-ended and essay-style answers, tended to under-rate their capabilities in mathematics and physical sciences, both subjects with high status, and predominated in English which has been devalued as a credential for post school pathways.

Such research has implications for the analysis of the following information drawn from the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA) Annual Report (31 December 1995) which reveals some of the differences in the achievements of girls and boys and points to future work to improve students' educational outcomes:

Publicly examined subjects: A and B grades distribution by gender, 1995

	Female	Male
1. Mathematics 1 (double) Total 674 F:1317 M	A + B 342 + 214 556 F	A + B 502 + 461 963 M
2. Physics Total 1106 F:2089 M	A + B 243 + 358 601 F	A + B 393 + 579 972 M
3. Mathematics 1 (single) Total 2045 F:1760 M	A + B 386 + 570 956 F	A + B 256 + 421 677 M

4. Mathematics 2 (single) Total 679 F:1320 M	Female		Male	
	A + B		A + B	
	261	+ 185	394	+ 363
		446 F		757 M
5. English Studies Total 2606 F:1434 M	Female		Male	
	A + B		A + B	
	427	+ 1295	175	+ 576
	=	1722 F		751 M

The SACE Stage 2 figures demonstrate that there are still more boys than girls taking maths and sciences and there are more girls than boys studying English. It is also evident that there is a higher rate of success for the girls in the maths and sciences than there is for the boys. Boys are under-represented in English and over-confident in relation to their place in mathematics and sciences.

The Gender Equity in Senior Secondary School Assessment (ESSSA) project has been the basis for further work on examining boys' and girls' success in senior secondary schooling and beyond. In *Who wins at school* (Teese et al 1995) it is clear that there are gender differences in subject choice, participation and outcomes. For example, boys' avoidance of the humanities including English means that they miss out on involvement with the expressive and functional aspects of these learning areas and this can limit communication, study and civic skills. On the other hand, girls have increased their participation in chemistry and mathematics and do well but they are over-represented in the less challenging and lower status maths units of work.

Girls' selection of, and success in, English disadvantages them in different ways to boys. English as a subject does not enjoy the prestige in terms of a valued tertiary or vocational requirement. This, in fact, may be another of the reasons why boys are not participating in this area, whereas maths and science are associated with higher status.

Assessment practices are also under scrutiny. The essay and more discursive style seems to suit girls (as in English) and the short answer, multiple choice seems to favour boys (more likely in maths and science).

This report also showed that the gender dimension interacts with other factors such as socio-economic status. Girls and boys from low socio-economic backgrounds are most disadvantaged in terms of schooling outcomes.

The analysis of data relating to students' experiences of schooling, for example, behaviour management information, and in relation to student achievement, identifies groups of boys and groups of girls who are currently not benefiting and require specific attention.

For example, the needs of Aboriginal boys and girls in senior secondary education are being addressed through the establishment of the SSABSA Aboriginal Education Strategy Working Party in 1995 chaired by Mr Mark Williams from the Aboriginal Education Unit, DECS.

The debate and discussion offered by such reports informs the collection and analysis of data about student achievement. Schools have strategies in place to examine and analyse student achievement by group and gender in the SACE, the BST and through use of the Curriculum Profiles.

The Basic Skills Testing which was instituted last year furnishes data on Year 3 and Year 5 student performance on aspects of literacy and numeracy. This information together with the student achievement data provided from the implementation of the Australian Statements and Profiles for Australian Schools enables schools to take appropriate action for groups of students as well as individuals to enhance teaching and learning.

#### Literacy

The identification of boys' educational needs as a group is based on information relative to boys as literacy learners. The impact of boys not acquiring the requisite literacy skills in the early years is reflected in their schooling from reception to the post compulsory years. For example, boys have poorer communication, relationship, reflective and civic skills. This has implications for their behaviour in classrooms and what is recognised often as unnecessary risk taking behaviour outside school, for example, the high incidence of car accidents involving young males.

As a component of the DECS Early Years Strategy 1994-98, all teachers with students in the early years of schooling have had extensive training and development to enhance understanding and practice in literacy teaching and learning. This assists teachers to

identify, analyse and plan for the literacy learning needs of the students in their class by group and as individuals. Analysis of learning assistance and behaviour management programs have consistently identified boys as the major clientele.

The complexities of the issues involved in student achievement means that there is no single answer and that a range of strategies are employed. One of the major directions currently under the Early Years Strategy 1994-98 is the identification of boys and of girls with specific learning difficulties. In 1996, the system has provided 1.8 FTE positions, a 'hotline' and cash grants to schools to assist early identification and intervention through student literacy learning plans. Student outcomes will be monitored and reported on by schools.

Other information available relating to boys and literacy includes the recent Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) funded research project, 'Literacy Intervention Strategies for Boys', which examined boys' lack of interest and generally poorer performance with literacy skills and in the subject English. The project draws on understanding the problematic nature of the construction of a kind of masculinity which concludes that boys see reading and writing as 'feminine' practices and to be resisted.

As an outcome of the project, the kit, *Boys and Literacy: Meeting the Challenge* will be published and available for schools later this year.

#### Improved student learning

A significant aspect of improving boys' and girls' achievement is the area of curriculum review and reform. As noted in the discussion concerning assessment, there is still a tendency for boys and girls to align themselves with particular learning areas. Boys in particular are missing out on the cultural and social aspects of learning in the humanities.

A range of strategies are in place to improve boys' and girls' learning experiences and outcomes and support 'Achievement for Everyone' as one of DECS priorities in 1996. The implementation of the Australian Statements and Profiles for Australian Schools and the work-related Key Competencies has enhanced curriculum review and reform and the possibilities for student learning from Reception to Year 10.

Links are also being made between teaching and learning about gender and violence issues in areas of study in order to address the nature of violence and behaviour management in schools. Examples of teaching and learning materials which enhance boys' and girls' understandings relation to stereotyping, discrimination and their skills to challenge such limitations towards building respectful gender relations have been developed in the Curriculum Division and distributed to schools. These, together with other materials such as the nationally developed *No Fear Kit* (DEET 1995) for primary and secondary schooling, support a whole school approach to addressing the creation of a non-violent school culture and improving student learning outcomes.

DECS has provided teacher professional development materials, *Implementing Statements and Profiles: Improving Student Outcomes* (1994) and *Implementing Statements and Profiles: Curriculum Review and Reform* (1995) to support student achievement. The materials form the basis of understanding that successful student learning outcomes can be linked to curriculum content, delivery, assessment and reporting which is non-discriminatory and inclusive of all students' experiences and cultural backgrounds.

#### Behaviour Management

DECS is at the forefront of fulfilling legal obligations in preventing discrimination and harassment. The following policies and guidelines provide the basis for managing student behaviour in schools:

*Guidelines for Sexual Harassment and Grievance Procedures* (1988)  
*Anti-racism Policy Statement* (1990)  
*Education Department School Discipline Policy* (1991)

*Procedures for Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion (1995).*

The recently reviewed School Discipline Policy and Procedures (1996) addresses the need for a safe and supportive learning environment where both boys and girls have equitable access to, and participation in, all areas of learning. The predominance of boys, and particular groups of boys in behaviour management programs, is a concern which connects with the concerns relating to boys as learners and the impact of attitudes and behaviour on self, other boys and girls.

The reviewed School Discipline Policy (1996) provides the base for work with individual students as well as the creation of a safe and supportive school environment.

Its main features are:

- recognition of the connections between the provision of an inclusive and relevant curriculum (delivery, content, assessment, recording and reporting) and behaviour management
- the need to create a democratic and just school culture based on respect between teacher and student, student and student
- the need for students to be agents for change in attitudes and behaviours
- work with inter-agency personnel
- the need for curriculum materials, Reception to Year 12, which examine behaviour issues such as discrimination, harassment and other forms of violence.

A budget of \$2 million has been allocated for 1995-96 for major initiatives in behaviour management. The following list includes approximate percentages of boys involved in the programs:

- maintaining 70 salaries for primary school counsellors in disadvantaged schools (approximately 80 per cent boys)
- 85 salaries for behaviour support through interagency teams, learning centres and behaviour support teams (approximately 80 per cent boys)
- alternative schools—2 locations (approximately 80 per cent boys)
- annexe programs (over 80 per cent boys)

**Single Sex Schooling**

Information gathered nationally and statewide (Yates 1992, Kenway et al 1993, DECS, not yet published, DEETYA, not yet published) demonstrates that the use of single sex groups, classes and schools to address girls' educational disadvantage has been an ongoing feature of practice in the system's schools. Much of the practice also meant that work with boys in single sex classes took place. The system supports two all girls secondary schools, Mitcham Girls High School and Gepps Cross Girls High School and recently undertook a review which in part explored:

- the feasibility and desirability of a girls only primary school being established.

The review also considered the establishment of a boys' only primary school.

The review collected data which indicated that using single sex classes or groupings for girls and for boys was extensively used in primary and secondary co-educational schools in DECS.

This was particularly so in some learning areas such as Health and Physical Education, in Mathematics, Science and Technology.

Parents surveyed were more likely to support girls only schooling options than boys only. Boys' lack of skills in relationships and study were seen to be problematic to their functioning as a group without the mediation offered by the company of girls.

The committee made the following recommendations:

1. A feasibility study be undertaken into the establishment of a girls only primary school.
2. Year 6 and 7 options be established at the existing girls high schools as demand or interest indicates. This would be a trial structure and does not imply that other high schools should follow suit.
3. Establish focus schools in a single sex methodology to address the needs of girls and boys.
4. Further research be undertaken into gender equity and methodology which supports the learning of boys and girls.
5. Funding support be given to further develop single sex methodology in existing schools.
6. Training and development funds be targeted to address gender equity issues in the classroom, and in particular how these issues impact student learning and curriculum development and delivery.
7. This report be published and circulated to peak organisations as a discussion paper to facilitate consultation about the recommendations.

Further consultation with key parent and community groups on the review's recommendations are occurring now.  
Gender Equity

DECS has provided leadership in the area of addressing gender equity and identifying the educational needs of boys as well as continuing to improve girls' educational experiences and outcomes.

The system, through a consultation process which included schools, made significant contribution to the development of *Gender Equity: A Framework for Australian Schools* formulated under the auspices of the Ministerial Council for Education, Employment and Training (MCEETYA) to enhance girls' and boys' outcomes of schooling. The July 1996 meeting of MCEETYA ratified the out-of-session approval given to this framework.

The framework will build on the extensive progress already made in South Australia in raising awareness, identifying priorities and taking action to address gender equity. The quantitative and qualitative information recently gathered nationally for the Australian National Report on Schooling (to be published in 1997) verifies the excellent record DECS has in the area.

The framework includes the following five strategic directions for action on boys' learning as well as girls' learning:

- understanding the process of construction of gender
- curriculum, teaching and learning
- violence and school culture
- post-school pathways
- supporting change.

These directions will work towards achieving 'gender equity in schooling which is based on understanding that explanations for the differences in experience and outcomes in education for girls and boys arise from the ways in which the construction of gender impacts on the expectations, interests and behaviours of both sexes. It acknowledges that the impact is often one which constrains and limits, rather than expands options and possibilities for girls and women, and boys and men. It also acknowledges that, as with other areas of human experience, the construction of gender is able to be understood, and is capable of change'. (MCEETYA, draft 1995).

Some of the educational needs of boys and girls identified in the framework are also priorities and concerns for DECS. For example:

- Boys' subject enrolments remain concentrated in subjects traditionally seen as 'male-appropriate'.
- Boys continue to predominate in literacy, reading and other learning support programs, as well as in those for students with emotional or behavioural disturbances.
- Schools and communities increasingly acknowledge that violence in schools is related to understandings of appropriate femininity and masculinity.

**FORESTS**

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (29 May).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Premier has provided the following response.

1. No. The review is very extensive and involves the examination of a wide range of issues and has not yet been completed.
2. As the review has not been completed the final costs are not known.
3. The expectation is that Cabinet will fully consider all information placed before it and in due course a report will be provided to Parliament and the public.
4. It is appropriate that the issue of forest valuation be included in the report referred to above.

**SPEED DETECTION DEVICES**

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (4 June).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Police has provided the following response.

1. Precise details are not available because a variety of police could be involved in the policing of that section of the South Eastern Freeway.

However, since 1 January 1996, seventy seven drivers have been reported for speeding by Murray Bridge Police on the Freeway.

2. Police records are not kept which would provide the level of detail sought in relation to the Brinkley Overpass, near White Hill, Murray Bridge.

A variety of locations at different times have been policed for excessive speed on the South Eastern Freeway in the Murray Bridge police district.

The presence of highly visible police acts as a deterrent to road users and is one of the strategies used by police to influence driver behaviour to assist in reducing the number and severity of road crashes.

## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (10 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has provided the following response:

1. Refer to the attached Schedule.
2. Yes.

## 1995-96 COUNTRY SPECIFIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE GRANTS SCHEDULE

Australian—Philippines Business Council Inc.	Establishment Grant	\$1 000.00
South Australian—Thai Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Establishment Grant	\$1 000.00
Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SA) Inc	Balance of grant for its participation in the 1995 Thessaloniki Trade Fair held in Greece in September 1995	\$16 465.33
Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SA) Inc	Advance payment for participation in 1996 Thessaloniki Trade Fair	\$37 500.00
Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Australia—Adelaide	Advance payment to take part in the CIBUS 1996 Food and Beverage Trade Fair in Parma Italy in May 1996	\$33 750.00
Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (SA) Inc	Advance payment towards costs of participating in Agritech 96 in Israel in May 1996.	\$18 750.00
Australian-Southern Africa Business Council SA Inc.	Balance of grant for participation in a trade exhibition in South Africa at the World Trade Centre in Johannesburg in April, 1995	\$14 825.00
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of SA	Contribution towards costs of organising Investment and Business/Skilled Migration Seminars in Hong Kong.	\$25 000.00
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of SA	Joint Trade Mission with Malaysian Business Council to Penang and Kuala Lumpur in July 1995	\$8 500.00
Chinese Chamber of Commerce of SA	Assistance to attend Third World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention in Bangkok in December 1995	\$15 000.00
Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (SA) Inc	For participation in a SA trade delegation to Israel in May 1995	\$4 200.00
Australia-Malaysia Business Council Inc	Towards the cost of a trade mission to Malaysia during Grand Prix week	\$81 202.00*
Australian Indonesian Business Council	Towards costs associated with a Trade Mission to Indonesia.	\$58 000.00
Council for International Trade & Commerce M Clements, Chairman, CITCSA	Training Grant Travel to Sydney for the Business Asia awards	\$10 000 \$962.20
	Total	\$326 154.53

\* This includes a \$20 000 contribution from the then Economic Development Authority and does not take into account an expected refund.

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (11 July).

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Minister for Industry Manufacturing Small Business and Regional Development has provided the following response.

1. In the context of the Federal Government's migration program, the whole State is considered to be a regional area. The package of initiatives announced by the Federal Government in early July is aimed at encouraging migrants to settle in the less populous States and regions of Australia.

2. The Federal initiatives are consistent with this Government's own initiatives aimed at increasing South Australia's population. The Federal Government has set up an inter-departmental Taskforce to develop a package of pro-migration measures. The 'proposed' bond is only an idea that has been floated by the Federal Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

3. As the idea has only been floated at this stage, any legal implications regarding relevant United Nations' charters have not been examined.

4. Similarly, legal implications regarding the Federal Constitution have not been examined.

## MATTERS OF INTEREST

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I move:

That for the remainder of the session Standing Orders be so far suspended as to provide that at the conclusion of the period for

questions without notice on Wednesdays members may make statements on matters of interest; up to seven members may speak for a maximum of five minutes each; and the President may order the member to resume his or her seat if, in the opinion of the President, the member infringes Standing Orders governing the rules of debate.

Motion carried.

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LIVING RESOURCES

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I move:

That members of this Council appointed to the joint committee have power to sit on that joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING OUT OF STATE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRE-SCHOOL,  
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services):** I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED  
PRIVATISATION OF MODBURY HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER:** I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON OUTSOURCING  
FUNCTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY E&WS  
DEPARTMENT**

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON TENDERING PROCESS  
AND CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
THE OPERATION OF THE NEW MOUNT  
GAMBIER PRISON**

**The Hon. J.C. IRWIN:** I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON A PROPOSED SALE OF  
LAND AT CARRICK HILL**

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for the Arts):**

I move:

That the committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 27 November 1996.

Motion carried.

**SESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President and the Hons K.T. Griffin, R.I. Lucas, Carolyn Pickles and G. Weatherill.

Library: For this session, a committee not appointed.

Printing Committee: The Hons J.C. Irwin, P. Nocella, B.S.L. Pfitzner, A.J. Redford and T.G. Roberts.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**The PRESIDENT** having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Opening Speech, the Hon. R.I. Lucas (Minister for Education and Children's Services) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons L.H. Davis, P. Holloway, J.C. Irwin, R.I. Lucas and R.R. Roberts be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 4.22 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 2 October at 2.15 p.m.