

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 4 February 1997

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. Peter Dunn)** took the Chair at 2.15 p.m. and read prayers.

ASSENT TO BILLS

His Excellency the Governor, by message, intimated his assent to the following Bills:

Adoption (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
 Animal and Plant Control (Agricultural Protection and Other Purposes) (Interim Control Boards) Amendment,
 Criminal Assets Confiscation,
 Development Plan (City of Salisbury-MFP (The Levels)) Amendment,
 Electricity,
 Equal Opportunity (Tribunal) Amendment,
 Fisheries (Protection of Fish Farms) Amendment,
 Industrial and Employee Relations (Transitional Arrangements) Amendment,
 Irrigation (Conversion to Private Irrigation District) Amendment,
 Legal Practitioners (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment,
 Motor Vehicles (Inspection) Amendment,
 Parliamentary Remuneration (Supplementary Allowances and Benefits) Amendment,
 Pay-roll Tax (Superannuation Benefits) Amendment,
 Police (Complaints and Disciplinary Proceedings) (Miscellaneous) Amendment,
 Police (Contract Appointments) Amendment,
 Racial Vilification,
 Road Traffic (Inspection) Amendment,
 Roxby Downs (Indenture Ratification) (Amendment of Indenture) Amendment,
 Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers,
 South Australian Ports (Bulk Handling Facilities),
 South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage (Contributions) Amendment,
 Statutes Amendment (Taxation Administration),
 Taxation Administration,
 Waite Trust (Miscellaneous Variations).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The **PRESIDENT**: I direct that written answers to the following questions on notice be distributed and printed in *Hansard*: Nos 4, 18, 21, 36, 38, 43-4, 51, 58, 61-2, 64, 99, 103, 106-7, 109, 111-15, 118-21, 123, 126 and 129.

PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

4. The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:

1. Which company won the contract to build and finance the construction of the Port Augusta Hospital?
2. What are the details of the lease-back arrangements for the Port Augusta Hospital and, in particular—
 - (a) What is the term of the lease and what rights of renewal, if any, apply?
 - (b) Who will own the hospital at the end of the lease and if the Crown has a right to purchase, how will the purchase price be determined?
 - (c) What annual or periodic payments are due under the lease to the financier/constructor for the hospital and what provisions exist in the lease for these payments to be varied?

- (d) Who is responsible for cyclical and urgent maintenance and repairs to the hospital?
- (e) What is the total estimated cost of the hospital to the Health Commission over the life of the project?
3. How will the cost of leasing the new hospital be provided, i.e. will the lease be funded from the recurrent Port Augusta Hospital budget or from some other source?
4. (a) What financial analysis was undertaken of the benefits and costs of private funding of the hospital compared with public provision?
 - (b) Who undertook this analysis and will it be made public?
5. What are the claimed financial savings from private funding of the hospital as compared with public funding and how have these been calculated?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The financier of the Port Augusta Hospital Development Project is BZW Australia Limited and the builder is Baulderstone Hornibrook Pty Limited.
2. (a) The term of the initial lease is 25 years with the option of renewing for a further two five-year terms or one 10-year term.
 - (b) Port Augusta Hospital Limited, a special purpose vehicle which is the owner of the new hospital, has entered into a 50-year ground lease with the Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Services Inc. (PARHS). At the end of this period the hospital will revert back to the PARHS.
 - (c) The lease payment is \$435 440 per quarter. The lease payments are indexed by the consumer price index from March 1996.
 - (d) The owner of the hospital, Port Augusta Hospital Limited.
 - (e) The total of the lease payments, in present value terms, after taking the ground lease payments into consideration is \$23.9 million using a 5 per cent real discount rate. In determining this present value the lease payment excludes maintenance.
3. The Department for Treasury and Finance will provide \$1.4 million additional recurrent funding towards the lease payments, with the balance to come from efficiencies which will be generated from providing health services in a purpose-built facility.
4. (a) A financial analysis of the proposal was undertaken taking into account all relevant costs associated with the construction using private funding and compared with costs if the facility were publicly funded.
 - (b) The financial analysis was undertaken by Ernst and Young and included extensive consultation with the South Australian Health Commission and the Department for Treasury and Finance. The analysis has been made available to the Auditor-General's Department.
5. There are no financial savings from this proposal and it has never been claimed that the private funding of a hospital would generate financial savings. The Government was aware of the higher cost when the approval was given. The decision to proceed with private sector funding was based upon:
 - The Government inherited a massive debt. In the health arena, the public hospital infrastructure urgently required upgrading to enable it to meet the demand for hospital services in the near future.
 - SA Health Commission planning identified that for the RAH, the QEH and Lyell McEwin Health Service there is a total indicative estimated cost of major works for public hospital patient facilities until 2006-7 of up to \$425 million. This compares with an estimated availability of capital funds of around \$330 million if current expenditure patterns in SAHC capital works program were continued; i.e., 10 years of continuous replacement still is not enough to cover the run down health assets left by the previous Government.
 - The Health Facilities Plan also determined that the demand for hospital services will increase by around 17 per cent between 1991 and 2001 and 29 per cent between 1991 and 2011.
 - Given the urgent requirement to upgrade the hospital infrastructure in the metropolitan area, the Government also recognised the requirement to provide up-to-date infrastructure and equipment in rural South Australia.
 - The community, staff and hospital boards of Mount Gambier and Port Augusta have for a long time been seeking upgraded facilities. This Government was not prepared to ask them to wait another 10 years.
 - The Government decided to provide the much needed facilities immediately by funding the new hospital facilities through entering into long-term leases with the private sector.

MEDICAL BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**18. The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:**

1. What are the particular concerns expressed by the Medical Board of South Australia in its last two annual reports concerning receipts of notifications pursuant to section 72 of the Medical Practitioners Act and what alternative procedures, if any, has the board recommended to overcome these concerns?

2. What action has the Government taken to address those concerns?

3. Does the board have the power to impose fines under section 72 itself?

4. Has the board taken any action against any medical practitioner over the last five years for a breach of section 72 of the Act?

5. If so, what are the details?

6. If not, why has the board failed to take action?

7. What are the other amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act which have been recommended by the board?

8. Have any fines been imposed by the board under the following sections of the Act—

section 20A(4)—Investigations

section 30(1) and (2)—Illegal holding out

section 37(2)—Registration of companies

section 38(1)—Returns by companies

section 39—Companies not to practise in partnership

section 40(1)—Employment of medical practitioners by companies

section 43—Alteration to memorandum of articles of association

section 44(2)—The registers

section 49(3)—Information to be provided by medical practitioner

section 52(1)—Obligation to report unfitness

section 70—Penalty for breach of condition

section 71(5)—Declaration of interest in hospitals

section 74—Procurement of registration by fraud?

9. Have any penalties been imposed under any Regulation of the Medical Practitioners Act as provided for in section 77(1)(g)?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The concerns expressed by the Medical Board relating to the section 72 notifications related to the fact that, whilst the notifications are by and large received on time, they related to conduct by a practitioner which may have occurred many years prior to the matter either being dealt with by the courts or being settled between the parties.

This time lag can lead to difficulties should the board wish to consider formal action against the practitioner concerned.

The board has raised the possibility of requiring notification of the details of the alleged negligence at the time the matter is lodged with the courts, rather than upon determination by the courts or settlement by both parties.

2. A number of amendments to the Medical Practitioners Act are under consideration, with a view to an amending Bill being introduced. The board's concerns are being considered in that context.

3. Section 76 of the Medical Practitioners Act states that 'except as otherwise provided in the Act, offences against the Act shall be minor indictable offences'.

The board therefore does not have the power to impose fines against practitioners, but must take action in court to have fines imposed where the court deems such action appropriate.

4. The board has not taken action against any practitioner for a breach of section 72 of the Act.

The board has not been presented with evidence which on legal advice would establish a breach of section 72 by the practitioner.

5. See (4) above.

6. See (4) above.

7. The board has made a number of recommendations relating to the size of the board, formal establishment of Complaints Advisory Committees, mutual recognition, the Register and registration and penalties.

8. Yes. The court has imposed fines on a practitioner found to be a breach of the requirements of section 20(a).

No for section 30(1)&(2)

No for section 37(2)

No for section 38(1)

No for section 39

No for section 40(1)

No for section 43

No for section 44(2)

No for section 49(3)

No for section 52(1)

No for section 70

No for section 71(5)

No for section 74

9. No.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEALTH COMMISSION**21. The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:**

1. With respect to the South Australian Health Commission section of the Report of the Auditor-General, reference is made to four 'payment' items under 'Metropolitan Health Services' (page 603), all under the subheading 'Goods and Services'—

(a)—

(i) What makes up the item 'Other'?

(ii) Why has there been an increase of over \$35 million for the 1995-96 financial year?

(b)—

(i) What makes up the item 'Medical and surgical supplies'?

(ii) Why has there been an increase of over \$10 million for the 1995-96 financial year?

(c) What hospitals have had 'repairs and minor works' undertaken to account for the \$4.5 million increase in this item for the 1995-96 financial year?

(d) Why has the item 'Drug supplies' increased by \$2.5 million for the 1995-96 financial year?

2. With respect to the South Australian Health Commission section of the Report of the Auditor-General, reference is made to two payment items under 'Country Health Services' (page 604), both under the subheading 'Goods and Services'—

(a)—

(i) What makes up the item 'Fee for Service'?

(ii) Why has there been an increase of over \$2 million for this financial year?

(b)—

(i) What makes up the item 'Medical and surgical supplies'?

(ii) Why has there been an increase of over \$3 million for this financial year?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. (a)—

(i) The item that make up 'Other' are

Administrative Expenses

Staff Development

Rent and Rates

Motor Vehicle Operating Expenses

Patient Transport

General Insurance Premiums

Contract Management Payments

Building Cleaning, Leasing

(ii) The increase of over \$35 million for the 1995-96 financial year is mainly attributed to:

- The execution of contracts for the delivery of services at Modbury Public Hospital resulted in the payments under the contracts being reported as 'Other' rather than specific salaries and wages and goods and services line as was the practice previously

- An increase in insurance premium payments

- The full year effect for the transfer of responsibility for the Repatriation General Hospital from the Commonwealth.

(b)—

(i) 'Medical and Surgical supplies' is made up of dressings, minor surgical instruments, medical gases, disposable medical supplies (excluding drugs but including prostheses, pace-makers and so on), X-ray supplies; medical and surgical appliances such as splints, crutches and wheelchairs; and all outside pathology charges.

(ii) The increase of over \$10 million for the 1995-96 financial year is mainly attributed to:

- The execution of contracts for the delivery of services at Modbury Public Hospital resulted in an increase in 'Other' and a decrease in 'Medical and Surgical Supplies'.

- Introduction of recharging arrangements by IMVS for public pathology tests. The increase in pay-

- ments reflects the change in funding arrangements for the purchase of pathology services by some hospitals from IMVS. It will be noted that there was a significant reduction in expenditure incurred by IMVS (see note on page 604 of the Report and note 10 on the Financial Statement.)
- The full year effect for the transfer of responsibility for the Repatriation General Hospital from the Commonwealth.
- (c) The Hospitals that had 'repairs and minor works' undertaken to account for the \$4.5 million increase in this item for the 1995-96 financial year are:
- Repatriation General Hospital (full year effect)
 - Flinders Medical Centre
 - Royal Adelaide Hospital
 - The Queen Elizabeth Hospital
 - Women's and Children's Hospital
 - Lyell McEwin
- (d) The increase of \$2.5 million for 'Drug Supplies' is mainly attributed to:
- The execution of contracts for the delivery of services at Modbury Public Hospital resulted in an increase in 'Other' and a decrease in 'Drug Supplies'.
 - An increase in expenditure at Royal Adelaide Hospital on highly specialised drugs which is specifically funded by the Commonwealth.
 - The full year effect for the transfer of responsibility for the Repatriation General Hospital from the Commonwealth.
2. (a)—
- (i) There are few salaried medical officers employed in country hospitals and consequently fees are paid to private medical practitioners for services provided to hospital and nursing home patients.
- (ii) The increase is due to a combination of fee increases and significant swing from private to public status in country hospitals. When a patient is admitted as a public patient the hospital pays the doctor whereas in the case of a private patient the payment is made by the patient.
- (b)—
- (i) 'Medical and Surgical supplies' is made up of dressings, minor surgical instruments, medical gases, disposable medical supplies (excluding drugs but including prostheses, pace-makers and so on), X-ray supplies; medical and surgical appliances such as splints, crutches and wheelchairs; and all outside pathology charges.
- (ii) The increase of \$2.9 million is almost entirely due to the purchase of Pathology Services from IMVS. The increase in payment reflects the change in funding arrangements for the purchase of pathology services by some hospitals and IMVS. It will be noted that there was a significant reduction in expenditure incurred by IMVS (see note on page 604 of the Report and Note 10 on the Financial Statement).

TYRES, RECYCLING

36. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** In view of the Minister's promise, as part of the Liberal Party's 1993 Transport Policy, to investigate, in association with the Environmental Protection Authority and the motor vehicle industry, recycling options for used tyres—retreading and processed tyre products, plus whole tyre products such as artificial reefs, crash barriers, soil erosion controllers and playground equipment—what research has been undertaken in these areas?

If not, why not?
 How much has been spent on the research?
 What have been the results of the research?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

Processed tyre products

In December 1993, it was determined that the Department of Transport (DoT) would not undertake any specific research using scrap rubber in bitumen as it was found that some other road agencies were already doing some research on the subject—and it was considered unnecessary to duplicate the effort.

In the meantime—

- the DoT has been instrumental in gaining the agreement of AUSTRROADS to commence in 1997 a project to investigate a range of Polymer Modified Binders for use in asphalt, which will include the use of scrap rubber;
- the SA Environment Protection Authority in 1994-95 provided seed funding to Bridgestone Australia to develop a new product 'Playsafe' used on children's playgrounds, and factory floors (\$75 000); and
- the Department of Manufacturing Industry, Small Business and Regional Development (the former SA Economic Development Authority) has encouraged and assisted the establishment of a tyre pyrolysis plant in Port Adelaide. The Taiwan based company (Full Born Chen) is expected to have an operational plant soon. Products recovered by this process include carbon black, steel, gas and fuel oil.

All departmental contractors now have the option to use scrap rubber in asphalt on current projects but to date it has not been taken up because several technical constraints and cost factors apply—

- If scrap rubber is used in the asphalt then it is not possible to recycle the resulting surface using the Hot in Place Asphalt Recycling method due to the air emissions produced. This method uses insitu heating to remove the pavement surface, adding rejuvenating agents and laying it back on the road. The rubber smoulders as the asphalt is heated because of the relatively low temperatures involved.
- Additional costs are incurred and unusable waste produced. The fabric and steel needs to be removed from the tyres before the scrap rubber can be added to the asphalt.

DoT is initiating trials at intersections using different polymer modified binders. Scrap rubber will be included in these trials if a contractor is willing to use it, as the Department does not have the facilities to conduct trials independently.

New Processes

Australian investment in new products and processes using scrap rubber has been limited to only a few operations. These operations range from the export of butyl rubber (derived from inner tubes) to value adding rubber crumb produced from the retreading process.

A few 'new' technologies are currently being developed in South Australia (and around Australia)—but remain at the design or pilot plant stage.

Other uses

Retreading

Retreading is of course the oldest and most cost efficient form of recycling and reuse in the tyre industry. Currently 25-30 per cent of all waste tyres are retreaded. Opportunities for the better use of non-retreadable waste tyres are available, but as yet are not widespread in South Australia.

Currently four shredding operations are working to process waste tyres for landfill (whole tyres were banned from landfill in 1992). All are looking to find markets for the shredded rubber.

Energy Recovery

Waste tyres are used as an energy source for some cement kilns in Victoria—and SA exports some waste tyres to these operations. Cement kilns in SA operate on gas and do not have the appropriate technology to make use of the tyres as fuel.

The EPA is aware of possible ventures in South Australia for the use of waste tyres—and anticipate some approaches to the EPA's Pollution Prevention Scheme for some form of funding to develop the technologies and associated business plans.

Erosion control

The EPA licences erosion control projects in the Meningie area. These projects are under the auspices of LANDCARE and the local soil board in conjunction with the Meningie Council. Funding has been forthcoming from farmers and the Murray Darling Basin Commission. Licence conditions are strict, and work permits issued by Water Resources (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) outline directions on how the tyres shall be used.

Reefs

Reefs made from tyres were seen in the early 1970's as a cheap and easy disposal option for waste tyres. However, according to SARDI, their effectiveness in increasing fish stocks remains difficult to ascertain. Tyre reefs can also become a navigational hazard and leach Zinc.

Playground equipment

This remains a very small potential outlet for waste tyres. Whole tyres are not recommended because of the potential for mosquito breeding and associated diseases eg. Dengue and Ross River virus. The best use would probably be as flooring, as in 'Playsafe' mentioned previously.

CYCLISTS

38. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. In view of the Minister's promise, as part of the Liberal Party's 1993 Bike Policy, to make South Australia a 'cyclist's paradise', which of the following have been implemented—

- (a) the establishment of secure bicycle parking stations;
 - (b) allowing train commuters to take bicycles into TransAdelaide trains without charge;
 - (c) lobbying the Federal Government to lift the bicycle ban on the freeway between Crafers and Stirling;
 - (d) establishing bike routes through the State's wine-growing regions;
 - (e) establishing and installing sensors along bike paths which activate traffic lights;
 - (f) providing right of way for cyclists on roads;
 - (g) providing coloured bicycle lanes to enhance visibility;
 - (h) establishing Glenelg as the 'seaside hub of cycling', including the provision of a bikeway along the old Glenelg tram line extending east and west to establish a foreshore bikeway; and
 - (i) tripling the funding to a reformed State Bicycle Committee to \$750 000 per year?
2. How much have they each cost?
 3. When will the rest be implemented?
 4. If not, why not?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The Government's initiatives to realise the State's potential as 'a cyclist's paradise', including the release of the Cycling Strategy, were hailed at the 1996 Velo Australis International Bicycle Conference in Perth by national and international delegates. South Australia now leads the nation in the provision of on-road cycling facilities. In response to the specific initiatives nominated by the honourable member—

- (a) Secure bicycle parking stations have been incorporated in the Noarlunga Railway Station Redevelopment (\$17 000) and are planned for the Flinders Medical Centre extensions (\$55 000) and the Victoria Square parking precinct.

Bicycle parking lockers are being installed by the Department of Transport (DoT) in association with the Passenger Transport Board (PTB) at 12 suburban railway stations. Already 20 dual lockers have been installed at a cost of \$1 100 each.

In addition, DoT now assesses development plans for the provision, as appropriate, of secure bicycle parking as part of any new or modified development.

Free secure bicycle parking facilities has been provided at a number of events, including WOMAD and the SA Open Golf tournament (approximate cost \$5 000).

- (b) The issue of bicycles on trains, without charge, is being assessed—and is subject to contract negotiations.
- (c) DoT is finalising the form of bicycle provision as part of the Mount Barker Road upgrading issues, including the use of emergency lanes. In the meantime the riding service for cyclists using the Mount Barker Road will be improved this financial year.
- (d) Tourism cycle routes to wine growing regions of the State now incorporates a cycle path in the Clare area and the Barossa—and will be extended following completion of the Marino to Willunga bike path feasibility study.
- (e) DoT continues to improve cyclist recognition at traffic lights by providing push buttons for cyclists in all traffic signal upgrades to allow cyclists on the minor roads to activate the lights. The installation of bicycle detection loops (approx. \$800 each) have been successfully trialed at a number of intersections—and where appropriate are now installed as part of bicycle lane schemes. DoT is also working closely with the City of Adelaide to improve cyclist recognition at traffic lights in the city.
- (f) In partnership with local Councils designated space (bicycle lanes) for cyclists is being provided through implementation of the metropolitan bicycle network.
- (g) DoT is working with the City of Unley to include coloured bicycle lanes for the section of the Mitcham Arterial Bikeway along Duthy Street. Meanwhile, coloured pavement has recently been used on an off road path between Semaphore and Largs installed by DoT and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.
- (h) The City of Glenelg has recently completed the development of its Strategic Bicycle Plan (\$15 000)—and implementation of the Plan is proceeding well (\$50 000—1996/97). Other initiatives linked to Glenelg include—

- investigation of a bicycle route along the tramline for which the Glenelg Tram Line Working Party (comprising representatives of local Government, TransAdelaide, PTB and DoT) has prepared a brief to engage a consultant.
- the report on the feasibility of providing a shared use pedestrian bicycle facility along the foreshore from Outer Harbor to Seacliff is currently being considered.

- (i) Funding for the State Bicycle Fund was tripled in 1995-96 to \$750 000. This figure has been sustained for the 1996-97 financial year. As a result of this funding increase, it has been possible to provide bicycle education to primary school children and new facilities in Council areas including Cities of West Torrens, Marion, Noarlunga, Salisbury, Burnside and Kensington & Norwood.
2. Costings have been included in 1. when readily available.
3. See 1.
4. Not applicable.

IGNITION LOCKS

43. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. In view of the Minister's promise, as part of the Liberal Party's 1993 Transport Election Policy, to introduce legislation to enable ignition locking devices to be installed in vehicles driven by drink-driving offenders with blood levels over 0.1, what has happened to the legislation?

2. Why has it not been introduced?
3. Have there been any studies or reports initiated by the Government on ignition locking devices since December 1993?
4. How much did they cost and who was involved?
5. Will legislation to enable ignition locking devices to be installed in vehicles be introduced before the next State Election?
6. If not, why not?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Further to the Meeting of the National Road Trauma Advisory Committee in Adelaide in December 1996, it has been agreed that South Australia will be the base for a National trial of alcohol ignition interlock devices in 1997. This is an important outcome for South Australia because it recognises the determined efforts and sound research being undertaken in this State to reduce the road toll generally and to target safety initiatives to offending sectors of the driving population.

SPEED CAMERAS

44. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. What has happened to the proposal made by the Minister whilst in Opposition to relocate speed cameras to known black spots and to use them for road safety, not revenue raising?

2. How many black spots are there in South Australia and how often are the speed cameras placed there?
3. How many vehicles fatalities occurred at these known black spots for the years—
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95;
 - (c) 1995-96?
4. What has been the total revenue raised from speed cameras at these black spots for the years-
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95;
 - (c) 1995-96?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The focus on the placement of speed cameras is to influence motorists to obey traffic laws so that our roads will be safer for us all. The deployment of cameras is based on one or more of the following criteria:

- areas of high risk, crash history or potential for crashes (black spots);
- validated reports of speed complaints from members of the public;
- areas of high traffic volume, combined with high speeds;
- where it is unsafe to use any other form of speed detection equipment.

Revenue raising considerations have no influence on the placement of cameras.

2. Speed cameras are deployed in "black spots" in proportion to a speed weighted crash rating calculated for each road. There are approximately 45 000 road crashes reported to police in South

Australia annually. The number of black spot locations fluctuates as crash statistics vary, but they number in the thousands.

3. Fatal road toll statistics are collated in calendar years. Separate statistics are not kept for fatalities at black spot locations. However, the following information with respect to total fatalities on South Australian Roads, during the indicated calendar years, is provided for the information of the honourable member:

1993 -	218
1994 -	163
1995 -	182
1996 (to 3/12/96)	169

4. Separate statistics of revenue derived from black spot locations are not kept. However, total revenue received by South Australia Police through offences detected through speed camera operations for the years in question is as below. These figures include a levy for the Criminal Injury Compensation fund, paid to the Attorney-General's Department which administers the fund.

1993-94—	\$19.2m
1994-95—	\$18.8m
1995-96—	\$17.1m

TRANSIT WATCH SCHEME

51. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. How much has TransAdelaide spent on rewards to passengers who supply information about assaults, property damage or other serious offences on public transport for the years—

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95;
- (c) 1995-96?

2. How many assaults and other serious offences have occurred on public transport for the years—

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95;
- (c) 1995-96?

3. What has been the value of the property damage on public transport for the years—

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95;
- (c) 1995-96?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. No funds are recorded as having been paid to passengers under the Transit Watch Scheme operating in 1993-94.

Since the new Transit Reward was introduced, the following sums have been paid—

1994-95	\$50.00 paid on two applications.
1995-96	\$1 400 paid on 13 applications.

2. The Minister for Police has provided the following information which highlights a substantial fall in assaults and other offences on public transport over the past three financial years.

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Assaults	327	308	263
Robbery	146	149	56
Sexual Offences	77	83	45
Serious Damage	28	14	3
Total	578	554	367

Assaults include assaulting police, unlawful threats, acts endangering life and all levels of assault.

Robberies include larceny from the person.

Sexual Offences include indecent assault and rape.

Serious Damage are all incidents of damage, including graffiti where value is over \$2 000.

3. Due to various crime prevention strategies employed by TransAdelaide in the past three years the cost of repairing graffiti and vandalism on TransAdelaide property and vehicles has decreased steadily over the period from—

1991-92	\$1 200 000
1992-93	\$1 000 000

1993-94	\$990 000
1994-95	\$880 000
1995-96	\$760 000

PORTS CORPORATION

58. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** With respect to the Auditor-General's 1996 Report, Part B, Volume 2, page 650, which suggested that a Management Agreement between the Department of Transport and the Ports Corporation defining the responsibilities of the Ports Corporation in managing assets on behalf of the Department of Transport needed to be developed, has that agreement now been signed?

Why was it not considered necessary by the Government until it was pointed out by the Auditor-General?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. A Management Agreement has been prepared in consultation with the Ports Corporation, the Department of Transport and the Department of Treasury and Finance. The Agreement was formally signed in early December 1996.

2. The need for a Management Agreement was recognised early in the process of transition and, in fact, the committee drafting the Agreement met eight times during 1995-96.

The Agreement was not signed until recently due to the need to clarify a number of factors relating to the ownership and transition of assets. Meanwhile, business transactions between the organisations have been operating in accordance with the principles included in the Agreement.

As preparation of the Agreement was well advanced at the time the Auditor-General presented his report, it is understood that the Auditor-General's comments were written in the context of an endorsement of the need to establish an Agreement.

SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

61. **The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:**

1. Prior to the recommendations being made following the Marion Corridor Review, were predictions made about the schools to which students would go if their existing schools closed?

2. If so, who made those predictions and what were they?

3. If such predictions were made, how have known 1997 enrolments varied from those predictions?

4. In 1997, which schools will receive the students who in 1996 were enrolled at—

- (a) Marion High School;
- (b) South Road Primary School;
- (c) Sturt Primary School,

and how many extra enrolments will each recipient school receive as a result of the Marion Corridor school closures?

5. Will the Minister confirm that \$5 million will be available for surviving Marion Corridor schools as a result of Marion corridor school closures, and exactly when will this funding be given to the relevant schools?

6. In particular—

- (a) when exactly will Daws Road High School receive the 'considerable sums of money' referred to by the Minister in Parliament on 15 October 1996;
- (b) how much will be spent; and
- (c) for what will this money be used?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

1. Yes.

2, 3, 4. Estimates of probable enrolment were made by the review group, which included the principals and chairpersons of each of the schools, and the district superintendent of education. These estimates were based on information relating to where students lived, local contextual information and past enrolment trends. The estimates destinations and actual enrolments are indicated in the following table.

School	Estimated enrolments	Actual enrolments
South Road Primary School		
Year 6 students		
Daws Road High School—Year 7 middle schooling program	18	31
Clovelly Park Primary School	64	13
Colonel Light Gardens	54	17
Clapham Primary Schools	(combined estimate)	26

	School	Estimated enrolments	Actual enrolments
	Darlington primary School	12	4
	Edwardstown Primary School	0	33
	Ascot Park Primary School	0	5
	Schools outside the Marion area	16	15
Sturt Primary School	Marion Primary School	35	21
	Darlington Primary School	18	10
	Warradale Primary School	18	17
	Dover Gardens Primary School	0	11
	Vale Park Primary School	0	1
	Clovelly Park Primary School	0	1
	Ascot Park Primary School	0	1
	Daws Road High School Year 7 middle school program	0	1
	Glenelg primary School	0	2
	Other schools	0	6
Marion High School*	Aberfoyle Park High School	4	6
	Adelaide High School	12	10
	Blackwood High School	9	3
	Brighton Secondary School	10	10
	Christies Beach High School	7	5
	Daws Road High School	23	15
	Daws Road Hearing Impaired	0	6
	Daws Road Ashford Annexe	0	20
	Glenunga International High School	1	0
	Hallett Cove School	2	4
	Hamilton Secondary College	54	92
	Heathfield High School	1	0
	Mitcham Girls High School	0	0
	Morphett Vale High School	3	0
	Mount Barker High School	0	2
	Plympton High School	1	0
	Reynella East High School	5	2
	Seaford 6-12 School	1	0
	Seaview High School	86	114
	Unley High School	5	4
	Urrbrae Agricultural High School	0	2
	Willunga High School	0	1
	Wirreanda High School	2	4
	Other schools	5	10

*The estimated figures for Marion High School were determined from the results of a survey to parents conducted in May 1996. It is not a complete indication of predicted schools as not all families returned the survey form.

In the case of South Road Primary School some students transferred out of the district before the end of 1996 and are included in the estimated enrolment figures but not the actual enrolment figures.

While 1997 enrolments generally reflect predictions, the following schools have attracted more enrolments than anticipated: Edwardstown and Clapham Primary Schools—South Road Primary School students
Dover Gardens Primary School—Sturt Primary School students
Seaview High School and Hamilton Secondary College—Marion High School students

5. Over the next two financial years about \$5 million (dependent partly on the value of land sales) will be made available to spend on upgrading and developing the remaining four school sites as well as other neighbourhood schools in the south west. This level of expenditure will significantly improve the quality of facilities for students and staff in these schools. The four remaining schools are currently developing facilities briefs and funds will be made available as these project are approved.

6. With regard to Daws Road High School, the planned upgrade

and redevelopment will be completed for the beginning of the 1997 school year. It is anticipated that approximately \$1.78 million will be spent on this site. Redevelopment at Daws Road High School will include facilities for middle schooling, the Ashford Annexe, the Centre for Hearing Impaired students, cabling for Information Technology provision and the upgrade of library and administration areas.

TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES SCHEME

62. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:

1. What are the current criteria for the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme?
2. How much has been spent on the scheme for the years—
 - (a) 1993-94;
 - (b) 1994-95;
 - (c) 1995-96?
3. How many applications were there for the years—
 - (a) 1993-94;

- (b) 1994-95;
 (c) 1995-96?
 4. How many have been issued for the years—
 (a) 1993-94;
 (b) 1994-95;
 (c) 1995-96?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. Membership of the South Australian Transport Subsidy Scheme (SATSS) is open to people with permanent and severe impairments whose mobility limitations prevent them from using public transport. Eligibility is assessed by one or more of the following mobility criteria—

- Totally and permanently dependent on a wheelchair;
- Severe permanent ambulatory problems resulting from paralysis or necessitating permanent use of large complex walking aids;
- Permanent inability to ascend and descend 3 steps, maximum height of 350mm;
- Permanent inability to sit in public transport without restraints; and
- Severely restricted walking range, unable to walk more than 100 metres without rest.

The Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme (TEAS) is a sub-program of SATSS and has been in operation for a number of years. It is available only to those members who are in wheelchairs and receive 75 per cent subsidy. This program provides sufficient vouchers for travel to the tertiary institution and return home, at no cost to the member—it is subsidised at 100 per cent. As at 30 June 1996 there were 39 members who participated in the scheme. The number of participants varies based on the duration of the courses undertaken.

In September 1995 the Government introduced the Journey to Work Scheme (JTWS) on a trial basis. This scheme is also available only to those members of SATSS who are in wheelchairs and receive 75 per cent subsidy. Approved members receive sufficient vouchers for travel to their place of employment and return home but have to pay 25 per cent of the metered fare (75 per cent subsidy). As at 30 June 1996 there were 55 members participating in the scheme. The number of participants at any given time varies because of the duration of work undertaken by members. For this Scheme the work undertaken can be part-time or full time; can be paid or voluntary (including work experience).

The cost of TEAS and JTWS from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1996 was approximately \$180 000.

2. The following amounts have been spent on the Scheme for the years—

- (a) 1993-94 \$3.114m
 (b) 1994-95 \$4.067m
 (c) 1995-96 \$4.705m (including TEAS & JTWS)

3. The following applications were received for the years—

- (a) 1993-94 5 789
 (b) 1994-95 5 832
 (c) 1995-96 6 234

4. The following applications were approved for the years—

- (a) 1993-94 5 536
 (b) 1994-95 5 590
 (c) 1995-96 5 845

ARTS AMBASSADORS

64. **The Hon. ANNE LEVY:**

1. What was the total cost to Arts SA of the function held on 30 October 1996 at which the Arts Ambassadors were announced?

2. How was that total cost made up?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Due to generous sponsorship from the corporate sector the total cost to Arts SA arising from the launch of the Arts Prospectus and the announcement of the 12 South Australian Arts Ambassadors on 30 October 1996, was \$8 190.

This cost covered part of the production of the multimedia production, the launch of the web site, the musicians and refreshments.

TRANSPORT MINISTER

99. **The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:**

1. As of 30 June 1996, did the Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts and Minister for the Status of Women hold interests in retail properties, either directly or indirectly?

2. What are the names of the companies in which interests were held?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. No.
 2. Not applicable.

PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS

103. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. When will the new pedestrian lights containing pressure pads, as foreshadowed by the Minister in May 1995, be ready to go into general use?

2. How many per year are expected to be installed?

3. In what order of preference will locations be chosen for their installation, e.g. schools, elderly homes etc?

4. How much will be budgeted each year for their installation?

5. How much will be budgeted each year for their maintenance?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The Department of Transport has experienced some operational difficulties with regard to the performance of pressure pad features. Although negotiations are continuing with the equipment suppliers to rectify the problems, the Department does not expect to be in a position to proceed with further installations until the end of March 1997.

2. Once reliable performance of pressure pad facilities is obtained, consideration will be given by the Government to budget for the conversion of up to ten crossings per year. New installations will also have these features.

3. The criteria to retrospectively fit pressure pads facilities are—
 · the pedestrian crossing is well used i.e. the numbers using the existing crossing meet the criteria for a new installation in accordance with Australian Standard 1742.10 and the Code of Practice for the Installation of Traffic Control Devices in SA;
 · the pedestrian crossing has a high percentage of adults over 60 using it, or is located adjacent to a retirement village or similar; and
 · the pedestrian crossing is located at a school.

Once installations can proceed, all existing sites will be analysed in accordance with the above criteria to determine a priority list.

4. Provided reliable performance standards are met, \$40 000 has been budgeted for the conversion of existing crossings during the 1996-97 financial year. However, final budget allocation will depend on the priority assessed for this work against other competing projects. It is not possible to confirm future budgets at this stage.

5. Maintenance costs for each conversion are minimal i.e. approximately 10 per cent of the capital cost of the pressure pads, and provision will be included in the Department's overall traffic signals maintenance budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL AMENITY PROGRAMS

106. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. As page 94 of the Department of Transport 1995-96 Report states that \$1 422 000 had been budgeted for Environmental Amenity Programs, why was only \$376 000 spent in 1995-96?

2. What has happened to the other \$1 046 000?

3. How much has been spent on Environmental Amenity Programs for the years—

- (a) 1993-94; and
 (b) 1994-95?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1 and 2. The difference of \$1 046 000 is primarily a reallocation to more appropriate Departmental programs, rather than a reduction in expenditure or level of service, viz. various landscape and off-road amenity works are now charged direct to specific projects and this accounts for some \$600 000 of the difference.

The remainder comprises a number of projects of this nature which were—

- unable to be completed, or which did not commence, in 1995-96 but have been carried forward to the 1996-97 financial year.
- completed in 1995-96 though some costs have been carried forward to 1996-97.

3. Environmental Amenity Program Expenditure for the years—

- (a) 1993-94 \$739 000.
 (b) 1994-95 \$565 000.

ROAD FATALITIES

107. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Considering the jump in this year's road fatalities, can the Minister explain why spending on traffic signals' maintenance, as

stated in the Department of Transport's 1995-96 Annual Report (page 18), has fallen by \$771 000 or nearly 30 per cent between 1995-96?

2. (a) Will the funding be restored?
- (b) If not, why not?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. As at the date the honourable member asked his question, there had not been an increase in road fatalities this year—and at this time fatalities fortunately are less than last year.

And contrary to the honourable member's concerns the traffic signals maintenance figures referred to do not reflect a reduced level of service to transport users.

The expenditure trend for traffic signals maintenance has been downward since 1992-93. Expenditure has fallen from \$3 million in 1992-93, to \$2.6 million in 1994-95, and to an estimated \$2 million in 1996-97. The reason for this fall in cost is the new technology associated with replacement globes and cabling. Also, the recent development of the Traffic Signals Maintenance Unit into a Business Unit, within the Department of Transport, has given the unit a commercial focus. It is now providing a quality service at the lowest cost.

2. (a) As stated above, funding in 1996-97 will be approximately \$2 million. This level of funding will continue to provide the level of service that the transport community of South Australia expects.

(b) The current funding level is that which is required to operate an efficient and effective traffic signals maintenance group. Consequently, there is no reason to increase the level of funding.

ROAD ASSETS

109. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. (a) Will the Minister follow the Department of Transport's 1995-96 Annual Report's recommendations (page 10) that the long-term average annual cost of road asset consumption should not exceed the annual road asset replacement investment, if long-term running down of the asset is to be avoided, by making up the shortfall of \$15 million per annum?

- (b) If not, why not?

2. How much has the Department of Transport underspent on annual road asset replacement for the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The honourable member should refer to my answer provided to a similar Question Without Notice asked on 15 October 1996 regarding Government spending on South Australian roads.

ROAD COSTS

111. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Why have the maintenance costs, as stated in the Department of Transport's 1995-96 Annual Report (page 14), of keeping urban road conditions below an acceptable roughness level, risen from \$5 000 per kilometre in 1994-95 to over \$6 000 in 1995-96, a jump of some 20 per cent?

2. What were the equivalent figures for 1993-94?

3. Why have the maintenance costs, as stated in the Department of Transport's 1995-96 Annual Report (page 14), of keeping urban road conditions below a less than desirable level, risen from \$4 800 per kilometre in 1994-95 to over \$5 600 in 1995-96?

4. What were the equivalent figures for 1993-94?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. Two factors contributed to this rise in 1995-96.

Firstly, the Department of Transport allocated increased funds to the surface rehabilitation of urban arterial roads, to counter the gradual deterioration of the ride quality on these roads.

Secondly, a significant amount of 1994-95 funds were carried over into the 1995-96 financial year. This was a consequence of the Department's use of a cash accounting system, in which payments that could not be processed by 30 June, and contracted works that could not be completed and paid for by that date (for example due to weather, outstanding claims, etc.), were accounted for in the following financial year. There are problems in using cash accounting in conjunction with performance indicators.

2. The urban road roughness was measured for the first time in 1994-95 thanks to new, laser-based technology. The previous, mechanical, instrumentation could only be used on high-speed roads. There are, therefore, no earlier figures for this performance measure.

3. See 1 above.
4. See 2 above.

ROADS, BLACK SPOT

112. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Why has the State Government stopped contributing to the Local Government Authorities Black Spot Road Safety Scheme as shown in the Department of Transport's 1995-96 Annual Report (page 99)?

2. How much did the State Government pay to local government authorities for the Black Spot Road Safety Scheme during—

- (a) 1993-94; and
- (b) 1994-95?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. As the honourable member should be aware the Black Spot Road Safety Scheme has always been a Federal Government responsibility, which the former Labor Government ceased to fund in January 1994. Accordingly in 1995-96 payments to local government authorities were nil. Until this time the Department of Transport (DoT) acted as the South Australian administrator and agent for the disbursement of Federal Black Spot funding to those local government authorities who had approved Black Spot projects within their boundaries.

Since the Federal election last March, the Coalition Government has acted promptly to re-instate the Black Spot Scheme with an injection of \$148 million over four years.

Once again DoT will act as administrator of 'Black Spot' funds to Councils, for approved projects. South Australia's notional share of these new Black Spot funds is forecast to be \$12.1 million over four years commencing in 1996-97.

2. The payments made to local government authorities, as mentioned, are not funds raised from State sources. They are Federal funds. Amounts appropriated are as follows—

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| (a) 1993-94 | \$754 000 |
| (b) 1994-95 | Nil (Program finished in January 1994). |

BUS/RAIL INTERCHANGES

113. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Which bus/rail interchanges have closed circuit television monitoring and recording installed in them?

2. Who is responsible for monitoring the CCTVs?

3. How much has been spent on CCTV security for the years—

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95; and
- (c) 1995-96?

4. How many prosecutions resulted from the use of CCTV security systems in the years—

- (a) 1993-94;
- (b) 1994-95; and
- (c) 1995-96?

5. Will CCTV monitoring be expanded to other rail, tram and bus stations?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. Closed Circuit Television monitoring and recording is installed at various bus/rail interchanges in the metropolitan area. For security reasons I am reluctant to name the interchanges—but will provide the names of the sites to the honourable member if he wishes to have this information.

2. All Closed Circuit Television installation is monitored and recorded 24 hours a day by TransAdelaide's Security Services.

3. Expenditure on Closed Circuit Television has been \$2 900 in 1993-94, \$95 000 in 1994-1995 and \$11 200 in 1995-96.

4. When any illegal activity is detected by the Closed Circuit Television installations, the relevant video tapes are delivered by TransAdelaide's Security Services to the Police. While the video tapes are usually delivered to the Transit Police, there are occasions when other Police Divisions require these tapes. All subsequent investigations and any prosecutions are then handled entirely by the Police.

Consequently, details of prosecutions are only available from the Statistical unit of the South Australia Police. The current Police policy restricts release of such information without the approval of an officer at Commissioner level. It is therefore suggested that a request for this information be made formally to the Commissioner of Police.

5. Yes. While some of the interchanges are no longer owned by TransAdelaide, negotiations are under way with the relevant

agencies for TransAdelaide to install Closed Circuit Television at various locations and to provide monitoring. At other sites a series of locally recorded surveillance cameras are proposed.

WHISTLEBLOWER

114. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. How many of the eight disclosures covered under whistleblower legislation received from employees during 1995-96, as stated in the TransAdelaide 1995-96 Annual Report (page 48), have led to either prosecution or disciplinary action?

- 2. How many were the result of maladministration?
- 3. How many were the result of illegal activities?
- 4. How many disclosures were received from employees in—
(a) 1993-94; and
(b) 1994-95?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. Of the eight disclosures under whistleblower legislation received by TransAdelaide during 1995-96, there were no prosecutions and one employee was subject to disciplinary action.

2. Of the eight disclosures, three were as a result of maladministration.

3. Of the eight disclosures, three were as a result of illegal activities.

- 4. Disclosures received by TransAdelaide for—
(a) 1993-94 were nil; and
(b) 1994-95 were four.

TRANSPORT, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

115. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** Why did TransAdelaide increase the number of executive officers with remuneration of more than \$100 000 to six last year, as stated in the TransAdelaide 1995-96 Annual Report (page 75), at a cost increase of more than \$150 000 given there was a fall in income of more than \$12 million and a reduction in the general work force of 146 employees?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: TransAdelaide's 1995-96 report is a consolidated report and includes subsidiaries for the first time. The additional Executive Officer position in 1995-96 refers to a position which was filled halfway through the previous year, and accordingly only reached the \$100 000 threshold in 1995-96.

CANCER

118. **The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:**

1. Considering recent Health Commission figures show transport workers, including bus, truck, taxi and courier drivers, are suffering cancer of the lip at twice the rate of other South Australians, as well as having a higher risk of lung cancer than the South Australian average, what has the Minister's department done in order to minimise these dangers?

2. How long has the Department of Transport been aware of the dangers and what campaigns are planned, or currently in operation, to educate transport drivers of the dangers and therefore minimise their risk?

3. How many TransAdelaide train, bus or tram drivers are currently receiving WorkCover benefits or medical treatment as a result of lip or lung cancer?

4. (a) Will the Minister order her Department to make an immediate investigation into this serious occupational, health and safety issue and report the findings to Parliament as quickly as possible?

(b) If not, why not?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The South Australian Cancer Registry in a report Epidemiology of Cancer in South Australia (1977-1991, 15 years of data) released in 1992, indicated that a range of outdoor based occupations, including bus and taxi drivers, suffered a higher than expected incidence of lip cancer. It was concluded that this result had occurred because people involved in the transport industry would be more exposed to the sun, both through the windscreen and otherwise, than

most indoor workers. The major cause of lung cancer in the general population is attributed to smoking, with atmospheric pollution in urban areas, also being suggested as a contributing factor.

While public health issues, including specific occupations, are the responsibility of the Minister for Health, the Passenger Transport Board will publicise cancer awareness through regular publications (e.g. On The Street) to bus and taxi operators—and relevant industry groups.

In regard to the impact of these issues on employees within the Department of Transport (DoT), the public issues of cancer incidence and smoking are addressed to its employees through—

- moral support and financial assistance to quit smoking;
- a free counselling service;
- a Lifestyle magazine with health tips and information, distributed every two months to all worksites;
- individual voluntary health checks and lifestyle counselling; and
- the opportunity for individual health programs to be funded for specific work areas.

For a number of years TransAdelaide has ensured 'sunblock' is available at all its depots for drivers, and in 1997 it is proposed to conduct a 'Quit Smoking' campaign.

2. Specific actions taken by DoT to reduce the incidence of both lung cancer and skin cancer include—

- conducting regular Quit programs throughout 1995/96;
- the development and implementation of policies controlling smoking in the workplace, which include the prohibition of smoking in vehicles;
- inclusion of sunsafe information in all Induction Handbooks;
- providing as a free issue UVR protective clothing for all outdoor workers; and
- issuing Safety instruction 3-22 'Protection Against Ultra-Violet Radiation' in June 1995.

3. According to TransAdelaide's records there are no train, bus or tram drivers currently receiving workers compensation (WorkCover) benefits or medical treatment as a result of lip or lung cancer.

4. As indicated in the answers to questions 1 and 2, DoT has well established procedures for meeting Occupational Health and Safety requirements—and so does TransAdelaide.

HOSPITALS, PATIENTS

119. **The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:**

1. What is the average age of patients admitted to the following major public hospitals—

- (a) Flinders Medical Centre
- (b) Lyell McEwin Hospital
- (c) Modbury Public Hospital
- (d) Queen Elizabeth Hospital; and
- (e) Royal Adelaide Hospital?

2. Of the patients attending these public hospitals, what percentage have private health cover?

3. What is the estimated private health cover of the population in the feeder areas for each of these hospitals?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. The average age of patients admitted to major public hospitals in the year 1995-96 was as follows:

Hospital	Average Age (years)
Flinders Medical Centre	45.40
Lyell McEwin Health Service	34.96
Modbury Public Hospital	43.07
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	52.46
Royal Adelaide Hospital	55.29

2. The insurance status of patients should be interpreted with caution, as there is variation in the degree to which this item is collected by hospitals.

In the table below, the proportion of cases where the insurance status is not known varies from zero to over 20 percent. Therefore, figures from hospitals which have a large proportion of unknown data will be imprecise.

Number and percent of admitted patients with private hospital insurance during 1995-96:

Hospital	Hospital Insurance		Unknown	
	No.	%	No.	%
Flinders Medical Centre	6 977	16.7%	0	0.0%
Lyell McEwin Health Service	933	5.0%	134	0.7%
Modbury Public Hospital	1 314	8.6%	1 652	10.8%
Queen Elizabeth Hospital	5 254	13.1%	272	0.7%
Royal Adelaide Hospital	4 676	8.6%	12 698	23.3%

3. The number of persons covered by private health insurance is available on a statewide basis only, and is not disaggregated into smaller geographical areas. Data from the Private Health Insurance Administration Council for the June 1996 quarter show that:

- 504 000 persons in SA were covered by a Registered Health Benefits Organisation for hospital care.
- This represents 34.1 per cent of the State's population.

(Source: Private Health Insurance Administration Council, Coverage of Hospital Insurance Tables)

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

120. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:

1. Does any South Australian Government Agency or Department provide funding or assistance to the National Australia Day Council?

2. If so, how much funding has been provided in each of the last three years?

3. (a) Were any South Australian Government funds used in this year's Young Australian of the Year Awards presentation?

(b) If so, how much?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

1. No.

2. Nil.

3. (a) No; however, the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs sponsored the Career Achievement Award.

(b) Nil.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has, in past years, funded the Australia Day Council of South Australia Inc. for their accommodation and recurrent costs. In 1996-97 the Department paid \$1 700 recurrent expenditure early in the financial year. For the remainder of the year, the Council will receive a grant of \$38 300 in place of the previous system of reimbursing actual expenditure. This will make a total contribution for the year of \$40 000.

THE PARKS URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

121. The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:

1. (a) When will the redevelopment start?

(b) How many years will it take to reach completion?

2. Where in the area will the redevelopment begin?

3. Of the approximate 2 800 existing Housing Trust Homes, what numbers of dwellings will be—

(a) retained as is;

(b) refurbished; and

(c) demolished?

4. (a) Where homes are demolished, will the principles of urban consolidation be applied to the replacement dwellings?

(b) If so, what will be the plot ratio?

5. (a) Does the Minister expect that there will be an increase in population in The Parks as a result of the redevelopment?

(b) If so, what is the current population and what is the projected population?

(c) Will there be any deliberate targeting of particular demographic groups to live in the area, either by the Housing Trust or by any private developers associated with the project?

6. (a) For residents requiring temporary relocation, will they be able to be housed in The Parks area?

(b) Are there enough vacancies in the residential market or in Housing Trust properties to house all those residents wishing to continue living in The Parks while the redevelopment is taking place?

(c) How long will those who are temporarily relocated have to wait for permanent accommodation?

(d) If temporary housing will not be available in The Parks for all those requiring it, how will priorities be determined?

(e) Where will those who miss out be housed?

7. (a) Will the existing level of Housing Trust stock be maintained as a consequence of the redevelopment?

(b) How many new or refurbished Housing Trust properties will become available in each year of the redevelopment?

(c) Will all existing Housing Trust tenants who currently live in the area zoned for redevelopment be guaranteed permanent housing in the area?

8. (a) How much Housing Trust or Crown Land will be sold?

(b) Will the land currently occupied by The Parks High School remain in public ownership?

(c) What development is proposed for that site?

9. (a) Will rezoning allow the continued existence of corner shops?

(b) Will the Community Centre remain at its current site?

(c) What percentage of land in the redevelopment will be set aside for open space?

10. What steps will the Government take, as part of the redevelopment, to ensure the continuity of the existing community spirit in The Parks?

11. What has Cabinet decided with respect to the proposal for Phase I put up by the Housing Trust and Pioneer?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. (a) Depending on acceptable financial feasibility and Cabinet approval, approximately mid-1997.

(b) Estimated minimum of 15 years, depending on market conditions.

2. The Ferryden Park area.

3. Depending on financial feasibility and other considerations, indicative Housing Trust housing numbers are:

(a) retained (excluded from the proposed project)—460

(b) refurbished—260

(c) demolitions—1990.

4. (a) Yes—where appropriate and not constrained by existing servicing or other matters.

(b) It is estimated that over the life of the project, the housing density in the precincts to be redeveloped, currently owned by the Housing Trust, will be increased by around 30 per cent.

5. (a) Yes.

(b) Now—approximately 12 000. Projected 2012-13 350.

(c) No.

6. (a) Housing Trust tenants whose current dwellings are required for redevelopment will be offered other Trust housing where possible in areas that they request. Tenants who request temporary relocation within The Parks area will be housed there subject to the availability of suitable vacancies.

(b) It is unlikely that sufficient vacancies will become available in The Parks area during the redevelopment to allow all tenants who wish to remain in The Parks to do so. Where a vacancy is not available the Trust will negotiate with the tenant to find other suitable housing.

(c) The length of time that they will need to wait will depend on the number that request a moveback, the type of housing they require and the rate at which new dwellings become available. Moveback applicants are accorded priority status.

(d) Where there is insufficient vacant housing available within areas, priorities will initially be determined by matching vacancies with the housing needs of tenants requiring relocation.

(e) They will be housed in Housing Trust houses which are suitable to their needs and are in areas as close as possible to The Parks.

7. (a) No—the intention is to reduce the level of public housing from the present 60 per cent to around 25 per cent over the life of the project.

(b) On average, around 50 per year.

(c) No—and not all will wish to do so. A comprehensive public housing strategy has been prepared and tenants' needs will

be carefully considered in temporary and permanent relocation, and move-back arrangements.

8. (a) Present estimates are that some 230 refurbished double units and 2 050 allotments will be created from Housing Trust properties and available for sale over the life of the proposed project. No significant sales of Crown Land are proposed within the project.

(b)&(c) The Premier has recently announced that the future of The Parks High School is to be reviewed.

9. (a) Subject to the planning requirements of the Council, yes.

(b) The Minister for Recreation and Sport announced last month a three month study would be undertaken with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield to examine the feasibility of developing a world-class sports institute at The Parks Community Centre.

(c) The present area of open space is not expected to be reduced, and with the Council's involvement, will be enhanced and made more useable.

10. There will be a continuing community advisory structure over the life of the proposed project and the present community spirit and cultural diversity is viewed as one of the features of the area.

11. No proposal has yet been submitted—it is anticipated that Cabinet will consider a detailed submission on the feasibility of the proposed project in the next two months.

RENTS

123. The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:

1. (a) How was the 'market rent' been calculated for Housing Trust rental properties?

(b) Who made the assessment?

(c) What factors were taken into consideration?

2. For each postcode area or suburb, will the Minister say—

(a) What is the maximum and minimum 'market rent' for Housing Trust rental housing?

(b) How many Housing Trust rental properties commonly known as 'double units' (three bedroom) are located there?

(c) How many of the above double units have had their 'market rent' set at \$110 per week from March 1997?

(d) How many of the above double units will have their 'market rent' increased in September 1997?

3. (a) Have all non-rebate receiving tenants been notified of the assessed 'market rent' for their properties?

(b) If not, why not?

4. Is the 'market rent' referred to in form RL-82, which was sent to Housing Trust tenants in July, the final market rent payable on the property, or are further increases possible before the 'market rent' is achieved?

5. How frequently will the market rent for Housing Trust properties be assessed and who will undertake the exercise?

6. (a) How many Housing Trust rental properties are occupied by tenants who do not receive a rate rebate?

(b) How many of these tenants will be required to pay further increases in their 'market rent' after March 1997?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. (a) The trust has determined market rents based on advice from the State Valuer-General. Market rents are comparable with those applying to private rental properties. The Valuer-General has advised trust rents are at the lower end of the market because trust properties do not include soft furnishings and floor coverings.

(b) The trust and the State Valuer-General.

(c) The factors taken into consideration by the State Valuer-General include capital and site values, location, size of the property, number of bedrooms, level of amenity and general level of prevailing private market rents for comparable housing. Tenant improvements are excluded.

It should be noted that determining market rent is not an exact science. Different private landlords will set different rents for identical accommodation in identical locations.

2. (a)—(c) See following schedules.

(d) This can only be determined after market rents are reviewed by the Valuer-General and the trust in July 1997.

3. (a) Yes.

(b) Not applicable.

4. Tenants who received form letter RL-82 were advised of the market rent of the property they occupy and of the Government's commitment to phase in rent increases at maximum increments of \$10 per week, every six months. Thus, for example, if a tenant's rent was to increase by \$21 per week to the assessed market rent, it would rise by \$10 in September 1996 and March 1997, with the balance of

\$1 being applied in September 1997, along with any further increase determined at that time.

The market rent set out in form letter RL-82 will not necessarily be the final market rent payable on the property, as market rents will be reviewed in July each year. Following each review, tenants will be given 60 days notice of any increase in their rent (i.e., their rent will be advised in July and increased in September.)

5. Annually, by the State Valuer-General, who then advises the trust.

6. (a) 11 006 as at 30 November 1996.

(b) This will not be known until after market rents are reviewed in July 1997.

Rental Stock Minimum-Maximum Market Rents by Postcode

Postcode	MinRent \$	MaxRent \$
5000	82.00	190.50
5006	86.00	162.00
5007	64.00	164.00
5008	49.50	166.00
5009	88.00	155.00
5010	60.50	168.00
5011	70.00	210.00
5012	71.00	160.00
5013	67.50	155.00
5014	76.00	162.00
5015	71.00	148.00
5016	68.00	150.00
5017	56.00	143.50
5018	66.00	142.00
5019	59.00	250.00
5020	120.50	134.00
5021	45.60	138.00
5022	65.00	154.00
5023	71.00	148.00
5024	75.00	144.00
5025	78.50	160.00
5031	47.00	550.00
5032	62.50	152.00
5033	79.50	159.00
5034	78.00	180.50
5035	75.00	152.00
5037	76.00	171.50
5038	72.00	168.00
5039	68.00	146.00
5040	72.50	152.00
5041	75.50	152.00
5042	62.00	156.00
5043	30.60	169.00
5044	72.00	166.00
5045	72.00	156.00
5046	62.00	140.00
5047	71.00	152.00
5048	62.00	168.00
5049	96.50	154.00
5051	110.00	142.00
5061	70.00	259.50
5062	79.50	140.00
5063	81.00	190.00
5064	82.00	148.00
5065	78.00	130.00
5066	97.00	114.00
5067	81.00	177.00
5068	79.50	175.50
5069	54.40	180.00
5070	75.00	176.00
5072	79.50	207.50
5073	68.00	154.00
5074	72.00	162.00
5075	101.00	142.00
5076	134.50	148.00
5081	70.00	166.00
5082	77.50	192.00
5083	75.00	174.00
5084	67.50	150.00
5085	71.00	150.00
5086	33.00	193.50
5087	79.50	174.00
5088	80.00	150.00
5089	115.50	137.50

Rental Stock Minimum-Maximum Market Rents by Postcode			Rental Stock Minimum-Maximum Market Rents by Postcode		
Postcode	MinRent \$	MaxRent \$	Postcode	MinRent \$	MaxRent \$
5090	106.00	170.00	5330	75.00	130.50
5091	124.00	136.50	5333	79.50	130.50
5092	79.20	150.00	5340	75.00	107.50
5093	68.00	143.50	5341	1.00	134.50
5094	72.00	143.50	5342	96.00	96.00
5095	25.00	148.00	5343	71.00	136.50
5096	70.00	141.00	5344	90.00	110.00
5097	58.50	145.00	5345	74.50	137.50
5098	70.00	145.00	5351	79.50	106.00
5107	68.00	139.00	5352	75.50	134.50
5108	35.20	150.00	5353	74.50	136.00
5109	70.50	190.50	5354	78.00	80.00
5110	128.50	128.50	5355	89.00	144.00
5112	71.00	144.50	5360	121.50	121.50
5113	60.00	144.50	5372	100.00	110.50
5114	60.00	136.50	5373	74.50	126.50
5115	100.00	140.50	5374	74.50	107.50
5116	74.50	138.00	5381	79.50	79.50
5118	66.00	140.00	5400	108.50	113.00
5125	62.00	154.00	5401	74.50	108.50
5126	80.00	146.00	5412	94.00	121.50
5127	51.20	154.00	5413	79.50	108.50
5153	79.50	79.50	5417	80.00	121.50
5154	136.00	136.00	5422	84.50	130.00
5157	126.00	126.00	5431	79.50	102.50
5158	75.00	144.50	5433	76.00	110.00
5159	72.50	144.00	5434	74.50	129.00
5161	110.50	152.00	5451	74.50	79.50
5162	69.50	174.00	5453	74.50	128.50
5163	68.00	146.50	5454	79.50	79.50
5164	70.00	148.00	5460	79.50	90.00
5165	58.50	141.00	5461	67.00	121.50
5166	75.00	136.50	5462	74.50	79.50
5167	74.50	136.00	5473	44.00	125.00
5168	58.50	135.00	5480	75.50	107.50
5169	102.00	142.00	5481	72.50	81.50
5171	79.50	140.00	5482	79.50	99.00
5172	72.00	79.50	5483	97.00	97.00
5173	118.00	136.00	5485	114.50	114.50
5201	79.50	136.50	5491	56.00	129.00
5203	79.50	164.00	5495	72.00	90.00
5204	114.50	114.50	5501	75.50	106.00
5210	104.00	108.00	5502	107.50	107.50
5211	74.50	139.00	5520	79.50	88.00
5212	96.50	134.00	5522	64.00	85.00
5213	91.50	91.50	5523	79.50	121.50
5214	75.50	146.00	5540	58.00	139.00
5223	79.50	136.50	5550	79.50	79.50
5238	79.50	127.50	5552	129.50	129.50
5241	69.50	128.00	5554	79.50	146.50
5242	136.00	138.00	5556	74.50	136.50
5243	124.00	124.00	5558	79.50	130.50
5244	116.00	130.50	5560	80.00	90.00
5245	107.00	140.50	5570	105.50	105.50
5250	118.00	140.00	5571	75.50	116.50
5251	1.00	138.00	5573	74.50	130.50
5252	100.00	129.00	5575	79.50	134.00
5253	75.00	147.00	5576	79.50	111.00
5254	76.00	76.00	5577	79.50	79.50
5255	79.50	138.00	5581	79.50	79.50
5256	79.50	85.00	5582	79.50	79.50
5260	76.00	128.50	5583	75.50	80.00
5264	74.50	127.50	5600	76.00	132.00
5265	91.50	118.50	5601	45.00	74.50
5267	79.50	110.50	5602	101.50	116.00
5268	74.50	125.00	5605	81.50	130.50
5271	89.00	127.00	5606	70.00	144.00
5272	79.50	108.50	5608	71.00	145.00
5275	94.00	108.50	5609	102.50	134.00
5276	79.50	108.50	5631	94.00	110.50
5277	41.50	125.00	5633	79.50	79.50
5279	54.00	106.00	5640	94.00	111.50
5280	87.00	128.00	5641	79.50	126.50
5290	60.00	135.00	5652	62.00	107.50
5302	79.50	107.50	5654	113.00	113.00
5304	84.00	106.00	5670	79.50	79.50
5320	75.00	110.50	5680	79.50	114.50

Rental Stock Minimum-Maximum Market Rents by Postcode		
Postcode	MinRent \$	MaxRent \$
5690	86.00	124.00
46.00	248.00	700
5710	100.00	124.00
5723	54.00	104.00
5732	64.00	99.50
5733	64.00	90.00

Number of DU's Rental Stock By Postcode (Summary)	
Postcode	Number of Double Unit Properties
5007	7
5008	125
5009	36
5010	1126
5011	242
5012	1245
5013	140
5014	171
5016	50
5017	464
5023	744
5025	138
5032	22
5033	72
5038	308
5039	204
5041	41
5043	866
5045	2
5046	149
5047	16
5069	14
5070	85
5072	4
5073	70
5074	148
5082	28
5083	108
5084	1172
5085	194
5086	173
5087	333
5096	17
5107	92
5108	1120
5112	1503
5113	1621
5114	402
5116	168
5118	132
5223	10
5251	56
5253	410
5255	2
5260	20
5271	4
5277	19
5280	141
5290	591
5330	26
5333	71
5341	75
5343	72
5345	35
5353	100
5373	7
5422	10
5433	8
5523	20
5540	502
5556	36
5600	322
5606	312
5608	2759
5700	581
Grand Total	19741

DU Market Rent set at \$110 per week from March 1997 by Postcode	
Postcode	Number of Properties
5008	12
5010	33
5011	11
5012	163
5013	12
5014	4
5017	8
5023	263
5025	9
5032	4
5033	1
5038	62
5039	24
5041	1
5043	221
5046	3
5073	2
5074	2
5082	1
5083	17
5084	29
5085	2
5087	13
5107	2
5118	2
Grand Total	901

ARTS SA

126. The Hon. ANNE LEVY:

1. What is the total cost of the current refurbishment of the foyer and adjacent areas in the Arts SA premises?
2. When was the decision made to spend this sum on the refurbishment?
3. Was the Minister for the Arts informed of the refurbishment and its cost before any contracts were signed?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:

1. \$48 208.80.
2. Approval was given on 18 October 1996 to proceed with a program of scheduled works at a cost of \$46 039.80. Subsequent work variation orders were authorised during the works program totalling \$2 169.
3. Arts South Australia, as part of the annual budget discussion process, proposed operating efficiency measures involving the consolidation of staff and improved utilisation of accommodation space which would ultimately result in ongoing recurrent cost savings to the agency.

Accommodation refurbishment was undertaken within the Chief Executive's delegation as part of the strategy to address these goals.

TAXIS

129. The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:

1. Following from the Minister's letter dated 6 May 1996, and considering the process has been under way for more than two years, why has the process of accrediting centralised taxi booking agencies taken so long?
2. Considering a draft agreement was reached at the end of 1995, does the Minister regard the time taken to reach an agreement to be reasonable?
3. Will the agreement be completed this year?
4. If not, when will it be completed?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Passenger Transport Board (PTB) have continued an extensive consultation process with the taxi industry and centralised booking service operators in an effort to realise a mutually acceptable agreement for the accreditation of a centralised booking service. Throughout the process every effort has been made to take into account operator issues and to make a stand for continuous improvement in passenger services, for the benefit of the general public.

I have instructed the PTB to finalise this matter by February 1997.

While a satisfactory service agreement has not yet been reached, the centralised booking services are bound to comply with the requirements of the Passenger Transport Act and Regulations, including the Code of Conduct for Centralised Booking Services

(Schedule 10 Passenger Transport (General) Regulations) in the provision of services.

PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid upon the table:

By the President—

Employee Ombudsman—Report, 1995-96

By the Minister for Education and Children's Services

(Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

National Crime Authority—Report, 1995-96

Regulations under the following Acts—

Development Act 1993—MFP (The Levels) Zone

Education Act 1972—Various

Electricity Act 1996—

Principal

Vegetation Clearance—Bushfire Risk Areas

Firearms Act 1977—Compensation for Non-Registered Firearms

Public Corporations Act 1993—

Lotteries Commission

TransAdelaide

West Beach Trust

Taxation Administration Act 1996—Disclosure of Information

Witness Protection Act 1996—Non-Disclosure of Identity

Friendly Societies Act 1919—General Laws—

Confirmation Pursuant to Section 10 of the Act

SA Generation Corporation—Charter—for the period 1/12/96 to 30/6/97

By the Attorney-General (Hon. K.T. Griffin)—

Reports, 1995-96—

Coast Protection Board of South Australia

Industrial Relations Advisory Committee

Listening Devices Act 1972

Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee

WorkCover Corporation of South Australia

Regulations under the following Acts—

Acts Specified in Schedule—Common Expiation Scheme

Expiation of Offences Act 1996—Principal

Legal Practitioners Act 1981—Fees

Seeds Act 1979—Fees for Seed Analysis Service

Rules of Court—

Magistrates Court—Magistrates Court Act 1991—Forms

District Court—District Court Act 1991—

Arbitration and Mediation

Consumer Credit Act

Youth Court—Youth Court Act 1993—Alibi and

Expiation Relief

Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act 1933—

Disclosure of Information

Racing Act 1976—Rules—SA Harness Racing

Authority—

Repeal

Track without a Running Rail

Corporation By-laws—

Mitcham—No. 2—Council Land

Noarlunga—No. 5—Dogs

District Council By-laws—

Kapunda and Light—No. 6—Creatures

Remuneration Act 1990—Determination of the

Remuneration Tribunal

By the Minister for Consumer Affairs (Hon. K.T. Griffin)—

Regulations under the following Acts—

Liquor Licensing Act 1985—

New Years Eve Dry Areas

Prohibition in Public Places Time Extension

By the Minister for Transport (Hon. Diana Laidlaw)—
Reports, 1995-96

Board of the Botanic Gardens Adelaide

National Environment Protection Council

Regulations under the following Acts—

Controlled Substances Act 1984—Poisons
Dentists Act 1984—Treatment by Dental Hygienists
Passenger Transport Act 1994—Taxi Fares.

SA WATER SECURITY

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I seek leave to table a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Police in another place on the subject of the Police Task Force inquiry into security issues at SA Water's Australis building headquarters.

Leave granted.

WATER OUTSOURCING DOCUMENTS

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Minister for Education and Children's Services): I seek leave to table a ministerial statement from the Premier on the subject of SA Water Corporation.

Leave granted.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I seek leave to table a ministerial statement of the Minister for Tourism on the subject of integration of Australian Major Events and the South Australian Tourism Commission.

Leave granted.

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I seek leave to table a ministerial statement of the Minister for Local Government on the future of the Adelaide City Council.

Leave granted.

QUESTION TIME

SCHOOL FEES

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 the level of school fees.

Leave granted.

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES: On 31 January the Chief Executive of DECS told a Senate committee, 'No regular data is collected about school charges.' The Senate committee was also told that 'private funding to public schools in South Australia included \$37.5 million raised from fees charged to parents and other sources such as rent and sponsorship'. My questions are:

1. On what basis was the Senate committee told that fees and other private revenue raised by schools amounted to \$37.5 million?

2. Given the public debate over the level and legality of fees, will the Minister instruct his department to obtain the details of all fees charged to parents by public schools for 1997?

3. Will the Minister undertake to provide this information to the select committee of this House inquiring into school fees in South Australia?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: It is true to say that there has not evidently been a regular procedure for collecting school fees within Government schools in South Australia. However, we

have already taken action to collect the 1997 school fees, and I will be sharing that information with the broader community, not just the select committee. I was given a preliminary analysis of the first 50 per cent of so of school returns that have been received and, contrary to the impression that the Leader of the Opposition and the President of the Institute of Teachers seek to create, the information given to me was that about 62 per cent of all of those schools had materials and services charges of between \$100 and \$150, and about 9 per cent or so had a materials and services charge of between \$50 and \$100. So, in essence, the overwhelming majority of our schools—over 70 per cent—were charging a materials and services charge of less than \$150.

The advice given to me was that there were two schools (out of 650 schools) with a materials and services charge of just over \$300. Certainly the impression that the Leader of the Opposition is giving in running down our Government schools in South Australia and trying to frighten away parents from our quality Government schooling in a sustained and negative campaign of destruction—

The Hon. L.H. Davis interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Exactly, yes, she could do with a literacy test—with claims that large numbers of our schools are charging fees of \$600 is incorrect. The Leader of the Opposition should go out and speak to some real parents. When you have somebody in a supposed position of authority claiming that large numbers of schools—

The Hon. M.J. Elliott interjecting:

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The Hon. Mr Elliott had better talk about optional charges he takes in relation to subject choices. When you have a supposedly responsible person in a responsible position claiming that large numbers of Government school parents are having to pay \$600 a year, automatically parents are saying, 'If I have to pay \$600 to go to a Government school, I might as well look down the road at what else is available'. That is the sad result of a political Party and its education spokesperson not having the interests of Government schools and students at heart. On behalf of Government schools, teachers and students in South Australia, I implore the Leader of the Opposition in 1997 not to continue with this sustained campaign of running down Government schools and, in effect, driving away parents and families from our quality Government schools.

The Hon. J.C. Irwin: They're running down the State.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: They are running down the State and running down our Government schools—it is sad to see. As I have said, we have conducted a preliminary analysis of the materials and services charges.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! I cannot hear the response.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: When that information regarding the level of school fees and charges is completed, I will share it, as I have said, not just with the select committee: it will also be made available to everyone including the broader community.

The only other point that I make is that in some of the calculations that have been done and some of the claims that have been made by the Leader of the Opposition and the President of the Institute of Teachers about the level of private income in Government schools, I believe there has been either a deliberate attempt to mislead the people of South Australia or a gross display of ignorance of how the finances of our Government schools operate. That information is being collected—in particular, some statements made by the Leader of the Opposition to the Senate select commit-

tee last week and other public statements that she has made based on claims by the Institute of Teachers regarding private income. When that information is available I will share it with the broader community and members of this Chamber so that members will be aware of either the gross ignorance or a deliberate attempt by the Leader of the Opposition in cahoots with the President of the Institute of Teachers to mislead the people of South Australia about that most important issue.

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: I ask a supplementary question. If, as the Minister has said, the Government is embracing the principle of user pays, what impact will that have on the Government's consideration regarding Government grants to private schools?

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: That is a good try by my learned friend and colleague the Hon. Mr Crothers, but the Government is not embracing the philosophy or policy of user pays. The Government continues to pour \$1 100 million plus a year into Government schools and education in South Australia, not on the principle of user pays. The usually learned Hon. Mr Crothers had better get up a little earlier, because he will not find me anywhere on the public record, or indeed privately, supporting the notion of full user pays in our Government schools system in South Australia.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Primary Industries, a question about the future of the dairy industry.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS: Members would remember that last year I asked a series of questions about milk prices in South Australia. This concern is shared throughout the dairy industry. I recently attended a meeting of dairy farmers and representatives of a Victorian milk company in Mount Gambier called Murray Goulburn at the invitation of concerned dairy farmers and with the permission of Murray Goulburn. Clearly, the company was aiming to poach only invited Dairy Vale growers. It presented a rosy picture of higher prices based on 1995 figures if growers were to use its scheme, but it conceded that 1996 may be different. It also sought a loose endorsement from the assembled meeting to try to enter the market milk price equalisation scheme. This scheme has long been sought by the dairy industry. In fact, it has taken 60 years to put it into place in South Australia.

It was also made very clear to the meeting that Murray Goulburn did not intend processing to take place in South Australia. My subsequent discussions with Dairy Vale and public utterances by Dairy Vale reveal a most worrying situation for South-East employment especially in Mount Gambier and for the dairy industry and, I would suggest, the market milk price equalisation scheme in South Australia.

First, Dairy Vale claimed that, based on the 1996 arrangements, and given that producers would not pay a 1.5 per cent per litre levy under their arrangements as they would under Murray Goulburn's, producers were better off under the South Australian scheme. I guess that argument will be an ongoing argument. Secondly, if Dairy Vale producers left South Australia, its operations in Mount Gambier may well close, losing about 27 employees. I also had discussions with the development board in Mount Gambier and it is concerned also because of the ramifications and the loss of part of the Kraft facilities in Mount Gambier.

The market milk price equalisation scheme is under the care of the Minister for Primary Industries, and I ask the following questions:

1. Is the Minister confident that the farm gate price he recently set is at an appropriate level?

2. What action is the Minister taking to secure a fully integrated dairy industry in South Australia, including the protection of the market milk price equalisation scheme as well as jobs in processing in South Australia?

3. Will the Minister convene a meeting of principal players in the dairy industry to assist the dairy industry across the whole of South Australia?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I will refer those questions to my colleague in another place and bring back replies.

COONGIE LAKES

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, a question about Coongie Lakes exploration.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: There have been some announcements in the press that Santos will be examining a proposal for exploration in the Coongie Lakes region. I understand that a decision will be made some time in February and so there is some urgency in obtaining replies to the questions that I have. Mr President, I know that you do not have any control over that, but I put this in *Hansard* in the hope that the Minister will act on this as a matter of urgency. I am not questioning the legal right of Santos to conduct its survey. However, I am asserting that the Government has an obligation to the public to protect the environment and the environmental interests and to address any impact that exploration might have on a very delicate area of the State. One method of doing that is by commissioning an environmental impact statement and getting the best scientific evidence to weigh against the possible gains that may come from exploration.

The Government has this obligation and Santos should be requested to conduct a full environmental impact statement prior to any environmental damage being caused through exploration. Santos has prided itself in its environmental record in this State and there is no member on either side of the House questioning the role that Santos has played in developing this State's economy; nor am I seeking to place undue obstacles in Santos's way in relation to exploration. It is a process that has developed since the obligations and requests have been made to companies to use environmentally sensitive methods of exploration. In the past 10 to 15 years we have come a long way in gaining that cooperation outside of legislation, plus legislation that protects the environment from unnecessary incursions.

The Coongie Lakes control zone, which is the area in which the exploration activities are to take place, is 630 square kilometres in extent and forms less than 1 per cent of the 73 000 square kilometres of the Cooper Basin in South Australia, over which Santos and its associate, Delhi Holdings, hold petroleum licences. The point is that the Coongie Lakes have been shown by a number of official and unofficial assessments to possess outstanding natural and scenic values and the exploration extraction operations proposed by Santos could seriously damage these values and pre-empt the results of a management plan that is now in

preparation. I think it would be a timely decision for Santos to wait until the management plan was finally prepared.

The Hon. A.J. Redford interjecting:

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: It is your opinion that it is my opinion! Coongie Lakes have been nominated by a previous Government as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. The management plan for the wetlands has started to be prepared. What is more, the existing conditions set up the Coongie Lakes control zone as part of the Innamincka Regional Reserve and state that wildlife conservation and wetland management are to be the primary objectives of this zone. Coongie Lakes have also been listed on the Register of the National Estate of the Australian Heritage Commission. The lakes have been nominated formally by the Government as possessing wilderness value under the Wilderness Protection Act and an assessment of this value is long overdue. Therefore, my questions are as follows:

1. Why is the Government not requiring an independent professional assessment of the environmental impacts of exploration and extraction operations in the Coongie Lakes control zone?

2. Why is the Government not planning to allow public consideration of the advisability, in terms of the public interest, of exploration and extraction operations in the Coongie Lakes control zone?

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

PASSENGER TRANSPORT ACT

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport a question about the Passenger Transport Act.

Leave granted.

The Hon. SANDRA KANCK: When the Passenger Transport Bill was introduced into this Council in February 1994 the Minister asserted that the Bill 'confirms the priority the Government places on the need to revitalise passenger transport services in South Australia'. This renaissance of passenger transport was to include the taxi industry. This is what the Minister stated in her second reading speech:

For the first time the companies providing radio networks will be accredited and they will be expected to ensure that taxi operators and drivers who use their network abide by their respective codes of practice.

Under the Bill taxi drivers were also to be accredited. The stated intention of accreditation was for 'a self supporting framework of mutual obligations between the radio company, the cabbie and the Passenger Transport Board to be created; a framework structured to ensure quality service to the customer'. The Act was assented to on 26 May 1994. In December 1994 South Australia's 1 500 taxi drivers were required to seek accreditation or face a division 6 fine. A raft of obligations has now been imposed on taxi drivers but not on the radio companies.

In what has been described as one rule for the battlers and another for the powerful interests controlling the industry, the radio companies have not been required to undergo accreditation. Exasperated by the double standards in the application of the Act, a taxi driver, Bob Ruwoldt, is in the process of seeking an order that the Minister regulate and enforce section 29 of the Act. The court hearing was set down for 23 January, but at the Government's request it was adjourned until 12 February. I am informed that this action has spurred

the Minister into action and that, finally, the department is drafting accreditation guidelines for the radio companies. My questions are:

1. Why has there been this inordinate delay in accrediting radio companies?

2. Does the Minister acknowledge that, by failing to regulate and enforce section 29 of the Act, she was in breach of her legal duty to administer the Act?

3. Does the Minister acknowledge that the two-year delay in the radio companies' accreditation makes a mockery of the 'self-supporting framework of mutual obligations' which the Act was to put in place?

4. Does the Minister believe that individual citizens have a right to seek court orders to have Government Ministers comply with their legal obligations?

5. Will the Minister guarantee that the Government will pay both parties' costs in the Supreme Court action that has been taken by Bob Ruwoldt?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I am not sure who wrote the questions for the honourable member, but it is before the courts and is probably *sub judice*. However, I would like to inform the honourable member that, contrary to—

The Hon. Sandra Kanck interjecting:

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: No, I will reply to some of the rather upbeat and exaggerated comments which have been made to the honourable member and which I assume are simply just regurgitated and not researched. If the honourable member had sought to research them she would have realised that the Passenger Transport Board and the centralised booking services have been working over that two year period on some quite complex issues in terms of standards and procedures. For that reason—

The Hon. T.G. Cameron interjecting:

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: No. Sometimes these matters are particularly sensitive when there is a new arrangement and new responsibilities are to be accepted. Those responsibilities have been accepted, and I understand that, of all the centralised booking services, Des's Cabs has been the last to sign: all of them have now signed and these agreements and accreditations have now been finalised. A number of those signings happened some time ago. They were not all complete, and that is why I understand an adjournment was sought. We will be able to advise the court on 12 February that there is no case to answer, and the matter will be resolved as the court so wishes.

LEGAL AID

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS: I seek leave to make a statement before asking the Attorney-General a question about legal aid funding cuts.

Leave granted.

The Hon. L.H. DAVIS: The Attorney-General has been public in his criticism of the Federal Government's decision to slash legal aid funding to the States. This would result in a cut of \$2.7 million from the South Australian Legal Services Commission's annual budget, and that equates to a reduction of 25 per cent. The Federal Attorney-General, Mr Daryl Williams, has made a number of statements about this important matter in the past two weeks. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 January 1997 quoted the Federal Attorney-General as follows:

An outdated and inefficient legal aid system was providing Rolls Royce representation for a few and needed to be reformed to comply with modern management practices.

Mr Williams also stated:

State and Territory legal aid authorities are large, unwieldy bodies.

He claimed in the article that the authorities were bureaucratic and inefficient, had inadequate financial reporting systems and were immune to external pressures to improve. In the article Mr Williams was quoted as excluding Victoria legal aid from his criticisms, saying that reforms had been introduced in that State.

However, a week later in *The Age* of 27 January 1997 Mr Williams admitted that the savage cut to legal aid had been based on outdated figures. He conceded the error in a recent letter to State and Federal Attorneys-General. The article claimed that this error could amount to as much as \$45 million. Mr Williams blamed the State Legal Aid Commissions for the mistake, but conceded that he had used 1994-95 figures in his budget calculations rather than 1995-96 figures.

The Minister would be well aware that there has been widespread condemnation of these proposed Federal budget cuts to legal aid from groups such as the Law Council of Australia, a recent national summit on legal aid and all State and Territory Attorneys-General. A recent unanimous and comprehensive report from the bipartisan Statutory Authorities Review Committee of this Parliament also attacked the cuts and praised the effectiveness and efficiency of operation and quality of service provided by the Legal Services Commission in this State. My question to the Attorney is: Could the Attorney advise the Council of the latest developments in this proposal to cut funding which, if implemented, could seriously impact on thousands of South Australians seeking legal aid?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: It is correct that I have been fairly vocal in the promotion of South Australia's position in relation to the provision of legal aid. In this State we have one of the most efficiently run Legal Aid Commissions, and that is generally acknowledged because we manage to have tight control over costs and expenditure, and although there is a large Legal Aid Commission—a board—it represents a variety of views and, I understand, works fairly well.

So far as the Commonwealth is concerned, the Federal Attorney-General has been making statements about wishing to reform the delivery of legal aid and reform Legal Aid Commissions. The unfortunate thing is that South Australia seems to get lumped in with the Legal Aid Commissions in some other States, particularly on the eastern seaboard.

It is not recognised that we have significant efficiency in the delivery of services in this State and that the proposed cuts by the Commonwealth, when apportioned to South Australia, would represent about 25 per cent of the Commonwealth's legal aid contribution to South Australia. That is something which I have indicated publicly we cannot bear and as a State we are not prepared to make it up. The only other option available to us, apart from trying to negotiate a suitable outcome with the Commonwealth, is to disengage from the relationships with the Commonwealth, amend the Legal Services Commission Act and merely deal with the delivery of legal aid in so far as it may be funded by the State, allowing the Commonwealth to go its own way in the provision of legal aid for those persons for whom it has a specific responsibility either as being involved with Commonwealth matters, Aboriginal persons, persons on a pension, for example, and matters dealt with under Federal law such as family law, Commonwealth drug offences and so on.

I have said that this is not a desirable outcome, but if we have to get to that point we will not be afraid to move in that direction. South Australia was the first State to provide some updated figures to the Commonwealth back in August 1996 and has been in front in terms of the provision of information when it has been requested. We have found that there have been delays at the Commonwealth level on a number of occasions, frequently to wait upon other jurisdictions to present information or submissions, and that has prejudiced South Australia.

There has been continuing consultation between this State and the Commonwealth both at the officer level and ministerial level. I indicated to the Commonwealth that I want to see the issues resolved between this State and the Commonwealth before the end of this month because legal aid is presently being granted to those who are applicants, some of which will undoubtedly flow over into the next financial year. That has been the difficulty in the planning process in that it required the Legal Services Commission to take some decisions to lower the caps on legal aid funding in August or September last year, recognising that a number of commitments to legal aid will go into the next financial year.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General has acknowledged that, if he can be persuaded, he will take back a submission to the Commonwealth Treasury in relation to increasing or revising the 1996-97 forward estimates in relation to legal aid grants to the States. There is a compelling reason and more than adequate evidence for the Commonwealth to do that. The difficulty is that other States are not yet in a position to finalise their own attitude towards the relationships with the Commonwealth.

It is true that the Commonwealth made its first decision, upon which its budget figure was dictated, related to 1994-95 figures. They were wrong figures and relied upon Victorian and Western Australian legal aid practices and did not look across the States and Territories at what was happening. There is no doubt that the calculations were fatally flawed. It is my hope that the Commonwealth will be finally convinced that that is the case and will be prepared to revise the agreement with the Commonwealth.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I have said to the Commonwealth that we want it resolved by the end of February. I hope we will be able get it resolved; otherwise, we will be taking the course of bringing in legislation to disengage the Commonwealth from the State in the provision of legal aid in this State. It is an unsatisfactory situation. I want to continue to talk to the Commonwealth on reasonable terms, but it has to accept that it has made fairly significant errors in the way in which it has calculated the cuts that flow both to South Australia and to other jurisdictions, and I think the Commonwealth will have to recognise that, although it wishes to have reform in the provision of legal aid, that cannot be done at the cost of a rational and reasonable basis for making provision for Commonwealth funds to be administered by the States so that we would have a seamless arrangement for the provision of legal aid and not the division which, unfortunately, we may have to confront in the not too distant future.

MOTOR VEHICLE STAMP DUTY

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Education and Children's Services, representing the Premier, a question

about the current level of stamp duty on South Australian motor vehicles.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.G. CAMERON: A new RAA study on motor vehicle stamp duty shows that South Australia charges \$1 140 stamp duty on a \$30 000 family car. This compares with \$600 in Queensland and \$750 in Victoria. The RAA survey shows that SA stamp duty for small four cylinder cars and six cylinder family cars is the most expensive in Australia.

The RAA and other motoring organisations are now calling for a lowering of stamp duty on the sale of motor vehicles in South Australia from 3.7 per cent on four cylinder vehicles and 3.8 per cent on 6 cylinder vehicles to the national average of 3 per cent.

When it became apparent that speculation over whether there would be a reduction in stamp duty on housing was becoming damaging to the building industry, the Government moved quickly to end that speculation. As similar speculation is causing buyers to delay motor vehicle purchases, will the Minister rule in or out a reduction by the Government in stamp duty on motor vehicles?

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

TRANSPORT, NEW YEAR'S EVE

The Hon. G. WEATHERILL: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport about State transport.

Leave granted.

The Hon. G. WEATHERILL: For New Year's Eve, the Minister directed that extra buses and trams be provided to save from driving those people who wished to have a few sherbets. That was a good idea, but I received a few complaints from people who wanted to travel on the tram from Glenelg to the city. They alleged that there were long periods between trams which, apparently, can run every six minutes. Because people were so upset, missiles were thrown at trams which then had to return to the depot to be repaired. Is the Minister aware of this situation?

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. G. WEATHERILL: Well, if the Minister knows about it, I would like to know what she intends to do to prevent it happening again.

I also received many complaints about transport for the Jimmy Barnes concert. A train comprising two carriages left Adelaide at approximately 11.32 p.m. It travelled passed Alberton Oval a long time before the concert finished. People then had to wait a considerable time for the next train. Trains which arrived after the concert and which comprised only two carriages dropped people at Glanville but did not take them any farther. My understanding is that more carriages could have been put on the train provided sufficient personnel from AN were employed to maintain security on the extra carriages. Is the Minister aware of this situation? We had many interstate guests at the Jimmy Barnes concert and we received many complaints about how poorly South Australia is run.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The New Year's Eve services were generously underwritten and sponsored by the Motor Accident Commission so all services were free. More publicity than previously was given on this occasion to the free services and more people sought to use the services than TransAdelaide had anticipated. I know that a number of Cabinet Ministers were seeking the use of the services that evening and encountered considerable delay in the city.

TransAdelaide and Serco had simply not anticipated the large number of people that sought to avail themselves of these services. I know, for instance, that every train service to Noarlunga had three carriages instead of the usual one. Railcars were used to the maximum to deal with the traffic that was anticipated but the demand was more than we had expected and certainly more than in previous years. TransAdelaide, which provides the bulk of the public transport services, has learnt a lot. Hills Transit and Serco equally encountered pressure.

In respect of the rail services to the Jimmy Barnes concert, I will make further inquiries about the two carriages. I know that the Port Adelaide bus depot also provided extra services. Because the cost of operating buses is so much less than trains, TransAdelaide may have expected to take up the demand with buses and not trains and that may account for the experiences that the honourable member related. I am aware that the demand for trams was almost excessive and did cause grievance to both operators and passengers.

ADELAIDE CITY COUNCIL

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Attorney-General, representing the Minister for Local Government, a question about the Adelaide City Council.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: Last year I advised this place about the Adelaide City Council by-election and indicated that there were three candidates, the principal candidate being Roger Rowse who had the strong support of the Adelaide City Council Lord Mayor, Henry Ninio. I also indicated that I had a strong suspicion that Mr Ninio's candidate, Mr Roger Rowse, a former undischarged bankrupt, would be Mr Ninio's man on the floor. I also have been advised only recently that the Lord Mayor, Henry Ninio, indicated, first, that he did not intend to stand for council, secondly, that he intended to stand as an alderman, and only yesterday I was informed that he was planning a push poll in March. For members opposite who do not understand what a push poll is—

The Hon. Anne Levy: We do.

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: I will not therefore explain, but you push to get the answer—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: In any event, I am grateful that everyone in this place understands what is meant by the term 'push poll'. I understand that the Lord Mayor will conduct a push poll in March. I further understand that the result of that push poll will be—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: I am told that and I am told that the push poll will come up with the result that the current Lord Mayor, Henry Ninio, is the man for the job of Lord Mayor and that he will change his mind to seek re-election as Lord Mayor. That is of some concern and I would think that it is important that the Government embark upon the reform program of the governance of the City of Adelaide as quickly as possible.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Terry Cameron will get his chance.

The Hon. A.J. REDFORD: My question is: Will the Minister outline what is happening in relation to the future governance of the City of Adelaide?

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN: I will refer the question to my colleague and bring back a reply.

The PRESIDENT: The Hon. Bernice Pfitzner.

An honourable member interjecting: They're having two questions in a row.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am sorry that the air conditioning has broken down because it has affected your thought processes. The Hon. Terry Cameron and the Hon. George Weatherill asked questions in succession.

The Hon. Anne Levy: Because nobody stood up.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Bernice Pfitzner.

DOCTORS, RURAL

The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER: I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Health, a question about rural doctors' training.

Leave granted.

The Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER: Recently I was invited to visit the Peterborough hospital, and it was a magnificent place. The hospital has been fully renovated with the clinical examination areas, operating theatres, wards, x-ray section and staff lounge all up to the most modern standards and beautifully appointed, yet they were having trouble in attracting a doctor to this most attractive rural area. Similarly, towns on the Eyre Peninsula with its attractive lifestyle were also having problems in obtaining doctors.

Today I note in the *Advertiser* an article entitled, 'Destination city for the great rural drift.' I note that the 10 areas of losses from the rural area were Eyre Peninsula, Kimba, LeHunte, the Peterborough area and a number of towns from the Murray-Mallee area. Perhaps one cannot blame these people for moving to the city because, if you have a young family and live in the rural area without a medical service, there would be some cause for concern.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioner Rural Training Program feedback study has shown widespread frustration and disillusion among the rural medical registrars—the senior doctors—who claim inflexibility of the rural training requirements, and some comments of the rural medical registrars quoted in the *Australian Doctor* in January 1997 are as follows:

I had to leave my home and my family and live alone in a country town whilst I was pregnant. The fact that I was given no choice but to do the country location at this time or get kicked out of the program made it a very negative experience.

Another quote states:

By the requirement of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioner Training Program, I was 'freed' to work in a practice 200 kilometres from my husband's place of employment three months after we were married.

Another quote is as follows:

I am so fed up with the RACGP that I have enrolled in the Royal Australian College of Physicians to train in paediatrics.

This study was of over 300 medical registrars and it found that hospital terms done by medical registrars did not seem to improve their competence in a number of disciplines; that rural registrars remained considerably financially disadvantaged in comparison to their urban colleagues; and that the inflexible training program inflicted considerable hardship on their families.

The author of the study, Dr Louise Stone, said that rural practice was 'unlikely to appear attractive under these conditions'. The rural community has most attractive facilities. The community needs medical doctors, but this Royal Australian College of General Practitioner Training

Program does not seem to be addressing the situation which is to train doctors so that they will be competent to work in isolated and remote areas. My questions to the Minister are:

1. Will he ask his Federal counterpart whether he intends to revise the rural training program so that it is more flexible, efficient and effective?

2. What plans are in place to immediately address the inflexibility?

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

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: As a supplementary question, I wish to ask—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order on my right!

The Hon. T. CROTHERS: Will the Minister inquire of the questioner, who is herself a medical practitioner, how much time she spent in medical practice in rural areas?

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Maybe.

COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER** (3 October 1996) and answered by letter on 12 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Minister for Health has provided the following information.

Funding provided to the Regional Health Boards will be re-allocated to each of the individual health units comprising each region in accordance with the priorities developed by each of those Regional Boards. Funding is allocated to units on a global basis and accordingly it is not possible to say how much each individual unit will allocate for the purposes of staff training.

It is the legal responsibility of the Board of each health unit to ensure that the staff working in the unit are appropriately skilled and undertake appropriate continuing education initiatives when necessary. Accordingly, because the roles and functions of each unit, and the experience and skills of the individuals who work in that unit, will vary, it is not reasonable for an external body to be prescriptive in relation to funding. However, under the Training Guarantee Act, a minimum of 1.5 per cent of the value of a unit's total salaries should be allocated to continuing education.

Medical practitioners present a slightly different problem to that of nursing and allied health professional staff in that they are private practitioners who are not paid a salary. They are paid on a Fee-for-Service basis in accordance with an Agreement between the Australian Medical Association (SA Branch) on behalf of the doctors, and the SA Health Commission (SAHC) on behalf of the health units. Under the terms of that Agreement a sum of nearly \$0.25M is provided through the SAHC to support country medical practitioners in undertaking the continuing education initiatives they consider they require. That arrangement has been in place for approximately ten years, and has been emulated by other States. On a per capita basis the SA arrangements are more than comparable with the Victorian arrangement mentioned in the statement preceding the question.

The Rural Health Training Unit (RHTU) has been set up to co-ordinate the training for all health workers in rural and remote South Australia. The RHTU is the amalgamation of the Northcote Centre, which provided postgraduate training courses for country nursing staff, the Rural Practice Training Unit, which provided a focus on the recruitment and retention of medical practitioners in country areas of SA, and the Centre for Health Informatics and Primary Health Care. The RHTU will continue and extend those areas of involvement and is taking up the role of advocate for continuing education of all country health workers.

The role of the RHTU is to provide continuing education and training opportunities for the rural health workforce in order for them to deliver the health services the communities need.

There are a variety of incentives in place.

The Rural Health Education Scholarship scheme assists with the undergraduate education of all health professionals by a grant of \$5 000 per year, for up to 3 years leading to graduation, to assist selected country students with the expense of living and studying in the metropolitan area. In return the scholar agrees to work in an area

of need in the country for a period which is equivalent to the period during which they receive the scholarship (ie. up to three years).

In the two years since this scheme commenced, scholarships have been granted to eight medical students. Two of these have graduated and are now undergoing further training to enable them to take up a position in the country. This period of further training for medical graduates is likely to extend over three or four years, or more, depending on the particular branch of medicine they wish to follow.

SAHC funds are provided annually to both the Adelaide and Flinders Universities to enable them to allocate medical students, in their fourth and sixth years, to gain several weeks experience in working with experienced country doctors.

Through the initiative of the former Rural Practice Training Unit, both the Adelaide and Flinders Medical Schools have formed Rural Clubs which provide an ongoing focus for undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing a medical career in the country. The clubs, in conjunction with the RHTU, arrange a variety of events which allow students to associate with other students who have an interest in rural medicine whilst gaining experience in, and exposure to, issues which are important to rural doctors. The Flinders University club has recently broadened its charter to become Multi-disciplinary, whilst the University of SA is about to establish its own Club.

Programs have been developed to assist country High School students who are considering Medicine as a career.

The RHTU seeks and supports training positions in metropolitan hospitals for Trainees in both the RACGP Training Program Rural Stream, and those already in practice who wish to up-grade their skills in preparation for rural practice.

Under the terms of the AMA/SAHC Fee-for-Service Agreement (previously mentioned), the SAHC provides funding of nearly \$250 000 to support continuing medical education (CME) for rural general practitioners. That funding provides for the following schemes—

1. The Rural Registrar Scheme

This provides a salaried locum for up to three weeks per year to smaller medical practices (two person and sole practitioners) to enable them to pursue CME initiatives of their choice. The locum is a salaried employee of the Integrated Rural Locum Service (IRLS) and accordingly their service is free to those country doctors who meet the guidelines just described.

2. The Rural Registrar Back-Up Scheme

This provides a financial subsidy to country doctors who are eligible for the Rural Registrar Scheme but who are unable to access one of the Rural Registrars because of prior bookings.

3. The CME Reimbursement of Expenses Scheme

This provides reimbursement of expenses (within normal public service guidelines) associated with attendance at CME events. There is a scale of eligibility for funding allocated which favours sole practitioners, then members of a two person practice, and then members of multi-person practices.

The Commonwealth Government has had its Rural Incentives Program in place for about five years. That scheme operates through a panel in each State. These panels help identify areas needing GPs, and assess applicants in terms of relocation, training, and family support needs, and the identification of appropriate training placements. Components of the Program comprise—

- Relocation grants of \$20 000.
- Training grants of up to \$50 000, to help practitioners acquire skills needed to provide an appropriate service to a rural community. In exceptional circumstances the grant may be as much as \$78 000 for a 12 month course.
- Help with continuing education and locum relief. This scheme is run in conjunction with the SAHC Rural Registrar Scheme (through the IRLS) to prevent overlaps and maximise benefits.
- Certain communities throughout Australia have been identified as special cases based on hardship and isolation. In these areas an additional \$50 000 is available.
- Undergraduate support provides funding to extend opportunities for medical students to gain exposure to rural medical practice.
- Family support grants of \$15 000 are allocated to each State to undertake activities to improve communication and contact between the families of rural GPs.
- Individual health units, usually in association with their local district council, have a range of incentives in place. These may include a residence and/or a surgery, usually at a favourable rental.

BOWEL CANCER

In reply to **Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER** (15 October 1996) and answered by letter on 2 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Minister for Health has provided the following information.

Bowel cancer is a leading cancer in South Australia, responsible in 1995 for 424 deaths. Since the late 1970s, the age-adjusted death rate from this cancer has been stable in females, but has increased by almost 20 per cent in males.

There is experimental evidence that screening for bowel cancer can reduce the number of deaths. The scale of the reduction is subject to debate and may be lower than the 25-30 per cent which you cited. There is also debate about the costs, including those of investigating considerable numbers in the population who screen positive, but are found subsequently not to have a cancer.

The question of whether screening is warranted is presently being investigated by an expert committee of Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council, namely the Australian Health Technology Advisory Committee.

The Minister for Health will wait for the Committee's report on this matter, and closely examine its findings, prior to deciding on the desirability of establishing a population-screening program in South Australia.

WHOOPIING COUGH

In reply to **Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER** (27 November 1996) and answered by letter on 2 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Minister for Health has provided the following information.

1. The most recent complete information available on immunisation coverage is from the 1995 Australian Bureau of Statistics National Immunisation Survey. The survey found that 51 per cent of South Australian children were fully immunised against whooping cough at the age of 2 years. Ninety-five per cent of South Australian pre-school children were immunised with the first dose of MMR vaccine (against measles, mumps and rubella) and data from school returns indicates about 75 per cent had received the second dose of MMR vaccine at age 12.

Data from the new Australian Childhood Immunisation Register shows that about 50 per cent of South Australian children have been recorded as receiving the third dose of DTP (diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis) vaccine at the age of 6 months. This is almost certainly an underestimate since that Register was established only in January 1996, and does not yet have full enrolment of children, full participation of immunisation providers, or full recording of immunisations given. Calculations of coverage for other vaccines from this source are too unreliable at present.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics survey in 1995 showed that 32 per cent of children in SA had completed the (1994) immunisation schedule for all the vaccine preventable diseases. However, the 1994 schedule includes Hib vaccine. If the 1991 schedule, which did not include Hib vaccine, is used as the basis of the calculation, the coverage was 50 per cent.

2. As at 6 December 1996, there were 279 cases of rubella reported for 1996. Of these cases, 210 (75 per cent) were in males over the age of 10 years. The second dose of MMR vaccine was introduced in 1992, replacing the school-girl rubella only program. Boys did not receive rubella containing vaccine before 1989.

As at 6 December 1996, there were 763 cases of pertussis reported for 1996. Of these cases, 544 (71 per cent) were in persons over the age of 10 years. The currently available pertussis vaccine loses its effectiveness after about 5-10 years, and until 1994 the last scheduled dose of pertussis-containing vaccine was offered at age 18 months. The current (since 1994) schedule includes an additional dose of pertussis-containing vaccine at age 5 years.

South Australia follows the NHMRC recommended schedule which is intended to prevent disease in children under 2 years who are at highest risk of complications of whooping cough.

3. The SA Immunisation Coordination Unit was established in 1995 and fully staffed in 1996 with the aim of addressing these issues. The Unit is working closely with all SA providers and the Commonwealth to implement a range of strategies to improve uptake of childhood vaccines in SA.

Strategies to increase uptake include—

- the inclusion of immunisation as one of six priority health areas for the SA Health Commission;
- establishment of liaison with public providers, general practitioners and other private health services providing

immunisation to ensure the delivery of coordinated immunisation services across the State;

- development of an agreement with local Government and other public health providers to ensure that immunisation clinics are operated to national standards;
- delivery of vaccines to the door of all those providing immunisations to children;
- development of education programs for immunisation providers and the community;
- support and clinical advice to immunisation providers particularly for practitioners caring for children who have had previous adverse events following immunisation;
- feedback to providers in order to focus on gaps in coverage;
- coordination of the introduction of a new computer system for use by local Government and other immunisation providers;
- review of procedures to ensure compliance with national standards including the obtaining of valid parental consent and the recommended use of DTP vaccine;
- focus on opportunistic immunisation for specific target groups such as children in hospital;
- improved accountability including audits of vaccine use and accreditation of public sector immunisation providers;
- improved reporting of adverse events following immunisation; and
- improvements to the storage and distribution of vaccines (the 'cold chain').

MIGRANTS, HEALTH

In reply to **Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER** (26 March 1996) and answered by letter on 12 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Minister for Health has provided the following information.

1. Children under 12 are not routinely X-rayed, however, all children with abnormal skin test reactions are given a chest X-ray. The yield of abnormal results in a skin test negative child is quite low.

2. In South Australia all adult migrants and refugees who present for screening are given a Mantoux test, unless otherwise indicated, and a chest X-ray.

3. In South Australia all migrant and refugee children who present for screening are given a Mantoux test, unless otherwise indicated, and with parental consent.

4. Migrants and refugees on a health undertaking are notified to the State Chest Clinic by the National Health Clearance Unit. Migrants are asked to ring the Clinic within four weeks of arrival and if they fail to present to the Clinic within this time, letters are sent to the last known address, if any. Migrants and refugees on a health undertaking attend the Clinic and are given a Mantoux test (if indicated), a chest X-ray to compare with pre-migration film and they see a respiratory specialist with expertise in tuberculosis. Follow-up surveillance is as medically indicated with the usual minimum follow-up being six months.

5. Post-migration screening may take up to 12 months to complete. For persons arriving in 1994, which is the latest year for which complete figures of compliance are available, the numbers are as follows—

- 302 persons notified to the clinic on a health Undertaking;
 - 296 (98 per cent) attended;
 - 167 (55 per cent) complied with all required attendances;
 - 70 (23 per cent) failed to keep one attendance; and
 - 65 (22 per cent) failed to keep two or more attendances.
- For persons arriving in 1995, where screening may still be incomplete, the numbers are as follows—
- 393 persons notified to the clinic on a health undertaking;
 - 379 (96 per cent) attended;
 - 305 (78 per cent) complied with all required attendances;
 - 66 (17 per cent) failed to keep one attendance; and
 - 22 (6 per cent) failed to keep two or more attendances.

6. If migrants and refugees on a health undertaking fail to attend in response to the first reminder letter, a second letter is sent and phone call and/or home visit made. If they are still non-compliant or cannot be contacted, the Department of Immigration is informed.

7. Except for those on health undertakings, there is no notification of names of new migrants and refugees to the Clinic. In the past Nominal Rolls of persons arriving were received but these are no longer provided and so it is impossible to know the precise numbers of migrants or refugees arriving. The Clinic relies on the

Department of Immigration, SA Migrant Health Service and the general public to inform them of the arrival of refugee groups. The statistics for those seen by the Clinic are—

- In 1994—971 migrants and 396 refugees (total 1367) attended for post-migration screening; and
- 1995—1 211 migrants and 108 refugees (total 1319) attended for post-migration screening.

In the past, when Nominal Rolls were available, the Clinic was able to screen between 30-40 per cent of migrants.

8. Pre-migration screening is designed to screen migrants and refugees with active disease only, although this may not be completely effective. Post-arrival screening is the only way of checking whether migrants or refugees on arrival in Australia have active tuberculosis or risk factors for tuberculosis. Otherwise, their ill health is detected when they develop symptoms and present to their doctor.

The Minister for Health has taken up with the Commonwealth Minister the matter of ways in which the Commonwealth and States can work to improve the post-migrant screening process. The Minister understands that, in the past, various attempts to address the matter have not progressed. The present system also acts as a barrier to numbers of people, possibly with curable diseases, accessing free screening and treatment services. However, the Minister is hopeful that we may be able to open constructive debate with the Commonwealth to address what is a slowly escalating public health problem.

LAKES MANAGEMENT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (5 November 1996) and answered by letter on 20 January 1997.

	Cost of Vehicle	Cost/Passenger	Maintenance Cost of Track	Life of Vehicle
Light Rail	\$3 200 000	\$15 166	\$21 000/km pa	40 years
Guided busway	\$350 000	\$5 833	\$13 000/km pa	20 years

HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (7 November 1996) and answered by letter on 23 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Department of Transport has an ongoing program of dry docking and refurbishment of all ferries on the River Murray. In accordance with this program, the Goolwa ferry was replaced on 5 December 1996 with a ferry of the same size, but with an improved, more reliable drive system.

KOALAS

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (27 November 1996) and answered by letter on 17 December 1996.

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

1. The Koala Management Program on Kangaroo Island will cost, over the next two years, \$635 000.
2. It is not possible to predict how many, if any, may die as a result of translocation. This method has been used by the Victorian wildlife authorities for some years and has been quite successful.
3. The koalas translocated from Kangaroo Island are not likely to suffer from any new disease problems directly associated with their introduction to the South East or the Adelaide Hills.
4. All animals translocated will be sterilised.

DUCK HUNTING

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (28 November 1996) and answered by letter on 2 January 1997.

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

1. The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee recommended to the Minister in a letter dated 3 February, 1996 '... that reconsideration be given to banning duck hunting as a sport in SA, while still allowing culling of ducks under permit where they are causing problems to crops and water quality'.
2. The Minister has received advice from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including the Director-Natural Resources Group, on duck wounding rates.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: A draft management plan for Lake George was released for public comment in a statement by the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday, 19 November 1996. Submissions from the public are invited. They are to be forwarded to the Mount Gambier Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources by 31 January 1997.

Arrangements are currently being made for the public release of the final Management Plan for Lake Bonney, which has been prepared following extensive community consultation.

O-BAHN, SOUTHERN

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (15 October 1996) and answered by letter on 22 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I refer to the answers I provided to the honourable member's questions asked on 15 October 1996 regarding the Southern O-Bahn.

Any future project to provide a route corridor public transport service to the south would take into account, on a whole of life basis, capital costs associated with the installation of the track stations and interchanges plus the purchase of vehicles, and the recurrent operational costs. Other factors to be taken into account include accessibility and efficiency issues from a consumer's perspective and compatibility to the rest of the network.

The following cost and maintenance comparisons may be of interest to the honourable member—

3. Should the honourable member wish to see the documentation regarding duck wounding rates, the Minister has indicated that he would be quite happy to provide it on request.

MOUNT LOFTY SUMMIT

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (15 October 1996) and answered by letter on 20 December 1996.

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

1. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources submitted an application to the Native Vegetation Council for the selective clearance and pruning of native vegetation in the area that surrounds the plaza of Mount Lofty Summit. The Native Vegetation Council considered this application on 8 October 1996 and granted approval.
2. The necessity to manage vegetation for fire prevention was always recognised and formed part of the original planning process. CFS requirements comprised 10 of the 21 Development Assessment Commission conditions. Following discussions with the CFS, the Conservation Council of South Australia and other interested parties, clearance was less than envisaged under Development Assessment Commission conditions.
3. DENR was advised of Development Assessment Commission conditions prior to the commencement of works at the Summit. The Development Assessment Commission approved the Mount Lofty Summit development on 5 March 1996. The contract was awarded in early April and on-site work began at the Summit in mid-April 1996.
4. A general principle guiding the vegetation works has been to consider requirements as the construction proceeds, thus being in a better position to identify the extent of vegetation management required. Therefore, Native Vegetation Council approval for fire hazard reduction was sought after extensive consultations with the CFS and the further advice that they furnished upon an inspection of the site. Having viewed the construction of the building, the CFS advised that lesser clearance was required than originally stipulated in the Development Assessment Commission approval.
5. A further application for vegetation management was lodged with the Native Vegetation Council in early December and approval given. This work follows the recommendations of the consultative panel that was convened to advise the parameters of the development, and has been done expertly. Of the 42 trees affected, 14 were

stringybarks which are expected to regenerate. The remainder were blackwoods that colonised the Summit following the Ash Wednesday 2 bushfires.

It is important to consider this in the context of the major environmental works at the Summit which include planting over 16 000 plants indigenous to the site, removing all non-native plants, undergrounding power lines and revegetating the powerline corridors.

ABORIGINES PARTICIPATION

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (5 November 1996) and answered by letter on 15 December 1996.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Hon. Michael Armitage MP, the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, provided the following information.

1. No.
2. No.
3. Yes.

DOLPHINS

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (3 December 1996) and answered by letter on 20 December 1996.

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

1. The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources maintains an interest in the well being of the dolphins transferred from Marineland to Sea World and is very pleased to receive the information that they are in good health and earning their keep.

2. The Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources does not agree with the honourable member's observation. The Labor Government at that time mismanaged the situation to the extent that the State had to compensate the site developers and in addition lost an opportunity to create a significant tourist development.

PARKING REGULATIONS

In reply to **Hon. R.D. LAWSON** (26 November 1996) and answered by letter on 2 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Minister for Local Government has provided the following information.

1. Notification of the new regulation was contained in the *Advertiser*, 5 October 1996, in various editions of the Messenger Press and in the November/December edition of the RAA 'State Motor' magazine.

Under the new restriction there is a parallel situation with the prohibition of parking within 1 metre of fire hydrants and fire plugs (Regulation 28(4)) where there is no mandatory requirement for signage or line marking. In a climate of environmental awareness there is a national movement towards educating motorists about the various forms of restricted parking and so minimise the need for signage.

It is possible there are instances of signage adjacent to street postal boxes which could lead a motorist to believe that it is lawful to park or stand their vehicle within 3 metres of a postal box. However, the Local Government Association has circularised all Councils encouraging parking inspectors to issue cautions while motorists are becoming aware of the new restriction.

2. Australia Post has advised that it provides street postal boxes within the community for customer convenience and placement is in response to customer needs. The preferred sites for installations of street boxes include Australia Post or agency outlets, Central Business District locations, regional and strip shopping centres, commercial estates, railway stations and transport interchange points, tertiary institutions, hospitals and concentrations of the aged and people with disabilities.

The provision of street posting boxes can be a contentious issue with the general public and has the potential to cause a significant community reaction. However, senior staff of Australia Post have advised they are prepared to relocate boxes which may interfere with valuable parking space provided there is no undue adverse effect on customer convenience, equity of service, safety factors, traffic considerations and operational factors.

GULF ST VINCENT

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (27 November 1996) and answered by letter on 17 December 1996.

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

1. Officers of the Marine Safety Section of the Department of Transport understand that the rig discharged approximately 3000 tonnes of ballast water at the drill site.

2. That ballast had been taken on at the drill site. The rig previously had worked on the North West Shelf of Western Australia.

3. The company's operations were monitored by the Marine Safety Section.

4. The ballast tanks almost certainly contained residues from the North West Shelf. The ballast was not tested for micro-organisms.

EXHAUST EMISSIONS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (12 November 1996) and answered by letter on 20 January 1997.

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

The testing regimes being considered include the continuation of the 'smoky vehicle observation' program, random roadside testing in conjunction with police and Department of Transport staff, and various systems of periodic inspections in use in other States and countries.

OIL SPILLS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (14 November 1996) and answered by letter on 18 December 1996.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Firstly, I would like to clarify responsibility for the waters of the Gulf St Vincent and the number of rigs to operate in the Gulf.

The waters of Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf are the responsibility of the State Government. In all other coastal waters, the Commonwealth Government is responsible for waters beyond the 3 nautical miles from shore.

The article in the Southern Times Messenger of 13 November 1996, to which the Honourable Member referred, is not strictly correct. It is intended to use one rig only to drill two holes. Once this task is completed the rig is returned to port. The sites will be permanently marked on Navigation charts and, being deep under water, present no danger to shipping.

All exploration rigs in Australian waters are required to notify the Marine Rescue & Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Canberra when changing station. This information is then broadcast as an AustCoast Warning to all shipping, including small craft, on daily radio schedules.

The AustCoast Warnings advise mariners not to proceed within 2½ nautical miles of the rig. In addition, it is an offence under Regulation 151A of the South Australian Harbors & Navigation Act 1993 to approach within 500 metres of any part of the rig.

The Department of Transport's Marine Safety Section also publishes Notices to Mariners indicating the location of the rig, which are widely circulated in the print media and are published weekly in the Australian Notice to Mariners. The rigs maintain a watch on all traffic. In addition, they always have in attendance at least one support vessel which also monitors traffic within the vicinity. This vessel will shepherd away from the rig any other vessels straying into the rig's 2½ mile guard zone.

It should be noted that Australia has had production platforms in Bass Strait, on the main shipping lane from Sydney to Melbourne, for approximately 30 years without a major shipping mishap involving the production platforms.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is not aware of any collision incident involving an oil/gas production platform overseas.

On the question of whether the Government has a contingency plan in the case of a possible mishap or disaster associated with the siting of the rig, I draw attention to the Ministerial Statement made by the honourable Stephen Baker MP in the House of Assembly on 26 November 1996 which indicates the planning preceding the siting of the rig—

'Approval for the drilling of the two wells followed a comprehensive assessment by a number of relevant Government agencies and each well was subject to location and operation specific approval. The assessment process includes the review and analysis of considerable documentation that must be submitted by the operator in accordance with legislative requirements.

The documentation includes a declaration of environmental factors, a code of environmental practice, a drilling program, oil

spill contingency plan, emergency response manual and drilling rig safety case. In addition, on 4 November a hypothetical emergency exercise, involving personnel from 19 organisations, including emergency and support services, was held to ensure all emergency response and oil spill plans were fully coordinated with the State disaster plan and support plan, the State water rescue plan and the State oil spill contingency response plan.'

As the honourable member would be aware, these contingency plans were successfully activated when the rig, Maersk Victory, experienced difficulties on 16 October 1996 resulting in the drilling operations being suspended.

EYRE HIGHWAY

In reply to **Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** (3 December 1996) and answered by letter on 22 January 1997.

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Department of Transport (DoT) has completed its investigation into the possible lowering of the speed limit from 90 km/h to 70 km/h for heavy vehicles travelling between Cungena and Kyancutta on the Eyre Highway.

This investigation involved a careful analysis of accident statistics on the above section of road over the last six years, coupled with recent speed surveys.

It has been determined that heavy vehicles, which constitute 42 per cent of the traffic using the Eyre Highway, have been involved in approximately 28 per cent of recorded accidents i.e. they are under represented in the accident statistics. Speed surveys show that the heavy vehicle speeds on the Cungena to Kyancutta section are similar to other sections of the Eyre Highway.

A reduction in heavy vehicle speeds cannot be justified from an accident history perspective and would also be difficult to enforce over a 100 km length.

It is acknowledged that there is an upward trend in the number of accidents between Ceduna and Kyancutta. A more effective strategy to improve the safety performance of this section of road is being developed. This will consist of—

- erection of signs informing all road users of the condition of the road;
- suitable publicity in the form of pamphlets at roadhouses reinforcing the signs and encouraging road users to rest when necessary to avoid fatigue; and
- enforcement of existing speed limits for all road users

This strategy is being developed in consultation with SARTA, the RAA, Police and local community groups.

The longer term solution is clearly to complete the widening of the road. DoT is liaising with Federal officers to expedite the widening works by the re-allocation of funding dedicated to National Highway projects in 1996-97.

BUS SERVICE, ALDINGA-SELICKS BEACH

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (24 October 1996).

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: I provide the following information regarding the contract award for the Aldinga-Sellicks Beach bus service.

- The Passenger Transport Board (PTB) has awarded the Aldinga—Sellicks Beach bus service contract to Transit Regency and services commenced on 1 January 1997.
- The previous contract only involved five bus services (Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays). The new contract will extend the number of services to nine per day, seven of which will also travel to Sellicks Beach.
- In addition, the new contract will include four return services to Silver Sands via Aldinga and three return services to Sellicks Beach on Saturdays. Trial services have also been introduced on Sundays to Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach.
- Tenders were solicited from a number of tenderers. Transit Regency's tender was the lowest price and exceeded the minimum requirements in the contract.
- Negotiations with the successful tenderer resulted in additional services to Silver Sands, and a direct service to the Seaford Health Centre which will assist young families who don't have transport of their own.
- I have been advised that patronage has increased substantially since the services under the new contract have commenced.

This contract serves as an example of the PTB successfully implementing the Government's policies on competitive tendering and contracting.

DARTS

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (7 November 1996).

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: Further to my answer on 7 November 1996 I am pleased to report that I have approved the publication of a new quarterly report from Arts SA-ARTSTATE. ARTSTATE will provide regular information about South Australian artists, events, talent and successes and will be circulated to sponsors, funding bodies, investors in the arts, people working in the arts industry and senior Government officials.

In response to the honourable member's specific questions I advise as follows—

1. DARTS has been discontinued.
2. No. Much of the information previously published in DARTS is now published in ARTSTATE but in a different form and content.
3. Outside assistance was sought for the December issue due to the workload of officers in the Department, and will be sought from time to time.

Cost—\$1 080 (included in total figure).

No contracts have been drawn, and no outside assistance is being used for the March edition.

4. Cost of DARTS—\$4 500.

Cost of ARTSTATE (1st edition)—\$5 160 (including start up costs and journalistic assistance).

ARTS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In reply to **Hon. ANNE LEVY** (6 and 12 November 1996).

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Premier has provided the following information in relation to the appointment of the Chief Executive, Department for the Arts and Cultural Development (Arts SA).

1., 2., 3. and 5. Although the Government has the complete discretion in the filling of a Chief Executive position under the Public Sector Management Act, as was acknowledged by the Honourable Member on 6 November, 1996, the Minister for the Arts chose to ask the Commissioner for Public Employment to conduct a thorough merit based selection process to provide advice on the appointment. The steps in the process were as follows—

- The position was advertised nationally and twenty four applications were received.
- The selection panel comprised—
 - Mr Graham Foreman, Commissioner for Public Employment (Convenor);
 - Mr Barry Plewes, Reckless Moments Pty Ltd;
 - Ms Heather Webster, Chief of Staff, The Honourable Diana Laidlaw's Office, Minister for the Arts;
 - Ms Mary Valentine, Managing Director, Sydney Symphony Orchestra;
 - Mr Ian Kowalick, Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and
 - Dr Ed Tweddell, Group Managing Director, FH Faulding and Co Ltd.
- The selection panel initially short-listed and interviewed three candidates.
- Extensive referee checks were made following the interviews.
- The selection panel was not prepared to recommend any of the interviewed candidates.
- The panel then pursued further candidates and accepted a late application from Mr O'Loughlin.
- Mr O'Loughlin was then interviewed by available panel members. Some members of the panel were overseas and interstate at the time, and some were able to be contacted and involved in the decision. A majority of the panel was able to make a firm recommendation to the Minister for the Arts, without any dissent.
- Throughout the selection process Mr O'Loughlin was the only candidate to be interviewed by the Minister.
- The panel's recommendation was accepted by the Minister and in turn the then Premier, Hon Dean Brown, MP, took a submission to Cabinet. Mr O'Loughlin was appointed on 17 October, 1996.

4. No short-listed applicant from Victoria or anywhere else was told they would be recommended for the position.

Following the initial interviews the next steps in the process were to be comprehensive referee checking, and then for the preferred applicant or applicants to meet with the Minister.

One applicant was travelling to another State for a period of about two weeks and was contacted by the Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment regarding availability to attend an interview with the Minister.

However, following detailed referee checking the panel was unable to make a recommendation to the Minister—and pursued further applicants.

The applicant in question was advised that there was now no need to establish availability because the panel had decided to pursue other options before submitting a report on the outcome of the process to the Minister.

Subsequently, Mr O'Loughlin was appointed on 17 October 1996 and commenced his new responsibilities as Chief Executive on 2 December 1996.

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (6 November 1996).

The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW: The Commissioner for Public Employment has advised that following a decision by the panel to pursue further candidates for the position of Chief Executive, Department for the Arts and Cultural Development (Arts SA) Mr O'Loughlin was interviewed by available panel members. Some members of the panel were overseas and interstate at the time, and some were able to be contacted and involved in the decision. A majority of the panel was able to make a firm recommendation to the Minister for the Arts, without any dissent. Mr O'Loughlin was the only candidate, following interview and referee checks, to be recommended for the position by a selection panel chaired by the Commissioner for Public Employment. Mr O'Loughlin was appointed on 17 October 1996.

SCHOOL SALES

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (4 July 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

1. The following summary provides the sites that are currently available for sale and, based on advice, are expected to settle during 1996-97.

- Aberfoyle High School (Portion of former primary school site)
- Adelaide Girls High School (Portion)
- Bevan Crescent Primary School
- Fremont High School
- Glenunga International High School (Portion)
- Hindmarsh Primary School (Portion)
- Marden High School (Portion)
- Nailsworth High School
- Norwood High School (Portion)
- Norwood Primary School (Portion)
- Para Hills East Primary School (Portion)
- Playford High School (Portion)
- Plympton High School (Portion)
- Redhill Primary School
- Seacliff Junior Primary School (Portion)
- Seaton North Primary School (Portion)
- Thebarton Senior College (Portion)
- The Orphanage Teachers Centre (Portion)
- West Lakes High School (Portion)
- Windsor Gardens High School (Portion)
- 2 & 3.
- Aberfoyle Campus (Portion) Blackwood & Community Hospital
- Brompton Primary School (Portion) Department of Transport for roadworks
- Hallett Cove East Primary (Portion) Various individual School purchasers through C & G
- Holden Hill Primary School South Australian Housing Trust
- Marananga Primary School G W & J I Taberner
- Marden High School (Portion) Azzurri Soccer Club option
- O'Sullivan Beach Junior Primary Southern Montessori School School
- Playford High School (Portion) Anglican Church
- Port Kenny Rural School J & R G Kyriacou
- Port Vincent Primary School (Portion) D J & D F Bames and S H (Portion) Lee
- Quorn Area School (Portion) Quorn Senior Citizens
- Seaford High School (Portion) Seaford Development
- Smithfield Plains High School (Portion) P Migali
- Tungkillo Campsite J F Harvey and/or Nominee
- Underdale High School (Portion) Lefkas Pty Ltd
- Victor Harbor School site R F Shoesmith and/or Nominee

- Westbourne Park Primary School City of Mitcham (Portion)
- Wolseley Rural School R M & T W Janz
- Woodcroft Primary School J Molner and/or Nominee (Portion)
- Woodside School site District Council of Onkaparinga
- 4.
- Aberfoyle High School (portion) Reason Settlement delayed to November 1996
- Bevan Cres Primary School Negotiations continuing
- Fremont High School (Gymnasium) Settlement delayed to August 1996
- Fremont High School (Land) Negotiations continuing but valuation likely to be reduced
- Marden High School (Portion) Settlement delayed until planning approval received
- Nailsworth High School (Hall) Settlement delayed to end of August, 1996
- Nailsworth High School (Land) Settlement delayed to June 1997
- Norwood High School (Portion) Settlement delayed to June 1997
- Norwood Primary School (Portion) Settlement delayed to end of August 1996
- Seaton North Primary School Negotiations continuing
- The Thebarton Senior College (Portion) Negotiations continuing
- The Orphanage Teachers Centre (Portion) Settlement delayed to early 1997
- West Lakes High School (Portion) Settlement delayed to August 1996

OVERSEAS QUALIFICATIONS BOARD

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (14 November).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

- As the Hon P. Nocella has been previously advised, the position of Executive Officer was filled in mid August, 1996.
- The Overseas Qualifications Board was reviewed in 1995. Subsequent to the review, as the Hon P. Nocella has stated, there were delays experienced in the appointment of members to the board.
- However, since the appointment of an Executive Officer in mid August 1996, the board has been working effectively toward addressing the issues of our overseas qualified migrants.
- Now that the board have settled into their daily business, it does not seem appropriate to inflict further disruption by subjecting it to yet another review.
- It is reiterated, that the Overseas Qualifications Board has the support of the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education and may draw upon the Department's resources in the execution of its functions.
- The board has among its members dedicated individuals with a genuine concern and willingness to assist overseas qualified migrants.

INTERPRETER CARD

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (16 October 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

1. From the Interpreter Card's launch on 18 November 1994 to 21 October 1996, 417 have been distributed.
2. During the same period the Interpreter Cards have been used at least nine times. The languages are Arabic (1), Croatian (1), Persian (1), Italian (1), Russian (4), Serbian (1). It is possible the Interpreter Card has been used more frequently, without using the Interpreting and Translating Centre—the basis for these figures.
3. The Interpreter Card System was reviewed in January 1996 and as a result the 'life' of the card was extended to four years. The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has requested the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission to undertake an Evaluation of Access and Equity in the SA Public Sector, which would obviously include evaluation of the use of the Interpreter Card. The Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs will await the Commission's report before considering any changes.

MULTICULTURAL GRANTS SCHEME

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (25 July 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The following information has been provided by the Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs.

Applicants have been informed of the outcome of their applications.

An amount of \$68 250 was allocated in 1995-96. The 1996-97 financial year allocation will be no less than the 1995-96 funding level.

EDUCATION, ENGINEERING

In reply to **Hon. P. HOLLOWAY** (14 November).

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

These figures show that IT and Engineering courses have not fallen by the same rate as other applications. The data in fact demonstrates the outcomes of government educational strategies and the commitment by the tertiary and school sectors to improve IT and Engineering programs and participation.

In relation to information technology and engineering courses the figures are very encouraging and show:

1. There are 15 new courses across all institutions at undergraduate and post graduate levels in both areas of IT and Engineering;

2. In total there are 42 courses which are IT or engineering related;

3. University undergraduate applications in IT courses are increased by 4 per cent while there is a 13 per cent increase in all preferences to the relevant courses;

4. TAFE courses are reduced because of course changes (for example two courses in 1995-96 which are being replaced by new courses attracted over 1000 preferences for 71 places.) Preferences in IT and engineering courses are reduced in the order of 20 per cent to 27 per cent. This can be explained by the general trend by applicants not to apply for high demand courses. The 20 per cent to 27 per cent fewer preferences are none the less better than the overall reduction by 33 per cent in all TAFE preferences.

5. University undergraduate programs in engineering have 18 per cent more first preferences and all preferences increased by 33 per cent.

6. Post graduate courses, while reduced by 23 per cent for all preferences is better than the overall reduction by 33 per cent of non-school leaver applications.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (27 November 1996).

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

1. One of the outcomes in developing the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission/Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Strategic Plan 1996-99, was the requirement to restructure the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs (OMEA) to meet the needs identified in the consultation process.

2. The ASO-6 positions have not been reclassified, but are new positions. The classifications were assessed by the Commissioner for Public Employment as being the appropriate level that reflects the policy development and government coordination focus now being undertaken by OMEA.

3. Following the first call, the selection panel considered that it would be prudent to recircularise the positions in the Notice of Vacancies and, in addition, to advertise externally to broaden the field of applicants.

4. The positions have been finalised and both the successful and unsuccessful applicants have been advised of the outcome.

SCHOOL FEES

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (26 November 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: Schools are not empowered to refuse access to students whose parents have not paid fees. The matter of collection of outstanding fees is entirely separate from student attendance, and I understand the only students who will not be taught without payment of fees are overseas full-fee paying students.

I am advised that whilst the principal of Glenunga International High School wrote to the parent community stating that 'payment of fees, in full, is required before your student commences the 1997

school year', this statement was not intended to imply that students would be barred from attendance if fees were not paid.

I am further advised that communication sent to the parents also invited them to contact the school's Administration Officer to discuss the payment of fees. The principal advises that by negotiation with the Administration Officer, payments can be spread over the whole year.

PORT AUGUSTA SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (26 November 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: I am advised that the vacancy for a music teacher for Years 10-12 was advertised, however as no suitable applicant could be found it was not able to be filled for 1997.

I am further advised the school is currently investigating ways of providing these students with a music curriculum. The employment of local, qualified people on an hourly or part-time basis, or the enrolment of students through the Open Access College are currently being considered.

HILLCREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (7 November 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: In response to the questions asked, I refer the Honourable Member to my Ministerial Statement of 27 November 1996.

CHILD CARE

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (6 November 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: South Australia does not receive grants from the Commonwealth for community based child care, apart from the Commonwealth's contribution to capital development for new services under the 1992-96 National Child Care Strategy (NCCS).

The State, as part of the joint Commonwealth/State Agreement under the NCCS, agreed to commit recurrent funding calculated at \$0.79 million per annum in 1991-92 prices when the 890 long day care places were operational.

This commitment was based on the Commonwealth maintaining its contribution to Child care assistance (fee relief) and operational subsidy.

Over recent years, South Australia has committed its recurrent contribution to the development and trialing of a management support and computer based booking and payments system, for use by community child care centres, known as 'Kidsbiz'.

Following an evaluation and cost benefit analysis by Ernst & Young, the Government has made a commitment to extend this system over the next twelve months into the remaining community based centres in South Australia. The total project cost of this initiative is \$1.5 million.

MULTICULTURALISM AND ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION

In reply to **Hon. BERNICE PFITZNER** (22 October 1996).

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

- The 1996-1999 South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission (SAMEAC) and the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs (OMEA) Strategic Plan has identified social cohesion as one of the key result areas to be addressed over the next three years. Specific strategies to combat racism have been identified within the Strategic Plan.
- OMEA has applied for funding from the Commonwealth Government's Anti-Racism Education Campaign for six projects to be developed and implemented in partnership with other government departments and key stake holders. These projects will directly involve schools, the media, police, ethnic communities and sport and will have a significant impact on many sections of the community.
- OMEA has proposed a partnership with the Commonwealth Government to provide for community-based anti-racism projects.
- Women's Forums and the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission Multicultural Forum will focus on aspects of racism.
- Consultations will be held in country areas, commencing in Port Lincoln, to assess the impact of recent events on the community.

- OMEA will continue to provide cross cultural training programs for staff of public sector agencies, the non-government sector and the private sector.
- OMEA has recently produced the *Declaration of Principles for a Multicultural South Australia* in a further seven languages. The Declaration is now available in Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Khmer, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- SAMEAC is currently undertaking an Evaluation of Access and Equity in the South Australian public sector.

TERTIARY LANGUAGE EDUCATION

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (23 October).

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

Each of the universities determine their own teaching priorities within their funded load agreed between themselves and the Commonwealth. The decisions about funding and provision of teaching of languages is one for each university.

The Centre for Languages however provides a forum for coordination by the tertiary sector of language teaching. For this reason the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education has requested information through the Chair of the Management Committee about the expected impact of the reductions in Commonwealth funding on the teaching of languages in the State's universities.

As the universities are only now completing their profile negotiations with the Commonwealth and finalising their program plans for 1997 and beyond, it is too early to answer the questions raised by the Hon. P. Nocella.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (13 November 1996).

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

1. While language proficiency is important and continues to be included in the Government's response, a greater need for cross cultural skills has emerged. This means that in relation to business contacts or staff involved in management, policy development and service delivery to our culturally diverse community, it is important that staff have the knowledge and skills to work competently and confidently from a cross cultural perspective. Cross cultural skills training focuses on these areas. The government has embarked on several initiatives involving cross cultural and language skills, both for doing business overseas and for servicing our culturally diverse community.

From a survey of cross cultural and language skills needed in the public service, conducted by the Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment this year, a focus on being able to do business with five Asian Pacific countries has emerged—Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Papua New Guinea and Japan. The Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment has called for expressions of interest from training providers for business culture and language skills programs in these areas.

The Commissioner for Public Employment has written to all Chief Executives updating them on the priority that the Government places on cross cultural and language skills in the public service and advising them of the following steps they might consider:

- reviewing the position descriptions of relevant jobs to include in 'Desirable Criteria', cultural awareness or language skills, focussed on particular client groups or potential areas of business dealings;
- targeting training in this area as a priority in the criteria for approval of study leave within agencies;
- raising general awareness among employees in relevant work units of the benefits of the agency through a short training activity; and
- accessing the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs' cultural diversity training programs.

2. As part of the Commissioner for Public Employment Executive Development Program, an Indonesian Business Culture and Language Program has been designed and conducted with, to date, 33 executives attending.

3. As part of the Government's Access and Equity Evaluation, the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs has written to all Chief Executives requesting information on the following:

- the number of staff in each agency who are paid the part-time interpreters and translators allowance;
- the frequency and total payment made to staff receiving the part-time interpreters and translators allowance (as per Commissioner's Determination 29);
- the criteria used by each department to determine the eligibility of staff for receiving the part-time interpreters and translators allowance;
- what measures each agency has in place or is planning to put in place to encourage staff to use their bilingual skills.

This information will be included in the final Access and Equity Evaluation report, in mid 1997.

WOMEN, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (17 October 1996).

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

The Government is committed to addressing Non-English Speaking Background (NESB) women's issues, both within Government and the community. Across government many agencies are responding to the needs of women from non-English speaking backgrounds through a range of initiatives, that include:

Workplace:

- The Department for Employment, Training and Further Education has established the Open Training Market Program. It aims to expand the delivery of vocational education and training in accordance with the 'State Profile for Vocational Education and Training in SA'. Women with English language, literacy and numeracy difficulties are one of the targeted groups.
- For three years, the Equal Opportunity Commission has worked intensively with a number of ethnic communities. A major focus of this work is to develop skills among women of NESB in relation to Equal Opportunity laws. Approximately 420 women have participated in training courses over the 3 years.
- Women on Board, a project of the Equal Opportunity Commission, is designed to encourage women to participate in decision making. Project participants identified that enhanced employment opportunities result from their involvement on decision making structures.
- The Migrant Health Service with assistance from the Equal Opportunity Commission initiated a similar project targeting women of a non-English speaking background.

Domestic Violence:

- The Family and Community Services Domestic Violence Unit recognises the specific needs of NESB women in its five year strategic plan. In particular, these needs are taken into account in policy and program development and training for workers provided by the Domestic Violence Unit.
- The NESB Women And Violence Project is a collaborative venture between the Adelaide Women's Community Health Centre, Migrant Health Service, Domestic Violence Emergency Support Service, Yarrow Place and the National Women's Health Program and funded by the Country Health Services Division (SAHC). The project is developing a comprehensive and coordinated State-wide service delivery strategy to ensure greater priority is given to addressing the issue of violence against NESB women.
- The Migrant Women's Emergency Support Service Inc., funded by both the State and Commonwealth Government, provides support, accommodation, counselling and practical assistance to women of NESB on domestic violence.

English Language Training:

- DETAFE together with the Department for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and the Department for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs have developed a strategy for integrated English language literacy and numeracy in South Australia. The National Collaborative Adult English Language and Literacy Strategy provides an avenue for improved service delivery of adult English language and literacy.

In 1996, after consultation, the State Training Profile identified the following priorities:

- integration of English language, literacy and numeracy with vocational education and training;
- increased access to accredited training in English language, literacy and numeracy through improving flexibility in delivery;
- increased English language, literacy and numeracy training delivered in the workplace.

- TAFE Institutes which provide an English Language & Literacy Service also offer to all students a range of literacy courses including the Intermediate Certificate in ESL, the Advanced English proficiency Certificate and the NESB Introductory Vocational Educational Program.

Translating and Interpreting:

- Government agencies arrange and fund their own interpreting and translating services as demand requires.
- Annual use of interpreting and translating services across government agencies is unavailable at this time. However, the total number of both government and private assignments undertaken by the Interpreting and Translating Centre in the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs during 1995-96 was 21 463, of which it is estimated 55 per cent were for women of NESB.
- The introduction of the Interpreter Card provides all newly arrived migrants with access to free interpreting services through the Office of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, for the first four years after arrival.

In addition, the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission is currently undertaking an access and equity evaluation across government. The evaluation will address issues relevant to women of diverse cultural backgrounds and determine the effectiveness of the current policy and procedures and recommend initiatives which will facilitate effective and appropriate service delivery.

LION NATHAN

In reply to **Hon. A. J. REDFORD** (23 July 1996).

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

1. The Government is aware of the rumours stated in the *Business Review Weekly*. While the operational decisions of Lion Nathan are the business of the company, they do have the potential to impact positively or negatively on South Australia and, hence, the Government is in regular contact with company management to ensure as far as possible that business decisions are in South Australia's interests.

2. While the company management has provided comment to the Government on its strategy and intentions, it would be inappropriate for the Government to make any public statements on such matters as this is properly the prerogative of the company.

3. The company advises that it has not reduced production capacity since May 1994.

4. The company further advises that there have been no significant changes to its strategy of supplying products to its related breweries around Australia and taking advantage of export opportunities.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

In reply to **Hon. P. NOCELLA** (12 April 1996).

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

1. On coming to office, the Government found that there was no mechanism to collect information about the number of officers fluent in language other than English. The introduction of the Human Resource Management System (Concept) will enable this information to be collated.

2. In addition to the introduction of the human resource management system, a voluntary survey was conducted by the Office for the Commissioner for Public Employment in June 1995 of executive level officers to assist with their development. As part of that survey, information was requested about language skills. This revealed that some executives are bilingual and that a small number can speak more than two languages. The respondents also indicated an interest in developing other language skills, particularly in Indonesian and Asian languages. As one response, the Indonesian Business Culture and Language Program has been implemented.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

In reply to **Hon. R. R. ROBERTS** (3 July 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: The Premier and Treasurer have provided the following information.

1. The Government is able to advise that Tenneco Inc has announced its, in principle, agreement to separate its energy unit, Tenneco Gas, now Tenneco Energy, via a merger with El Paso Corporation of Texas.

2. It is understood that the effective sale price of the worldwide assets was US\$4 billion. The merged entity is understood to be worth in the order of US\$8 billion.

3. The merger should only reinforce the ability of the owner of the assets of the Pipelines Authority of South Australia to deliver efficient and secure gas transportation services within the State.

Indeed, the merged entity of Tenneco Energy and El Paso Corporation will be in a stronger position to support future investment with the State. I refer to an article in the *Advertiser* of 21 June 1996 which followed the announcement of the merger. It quotes the head of Tenneco Energy in Australia, Mr Hugh James, as saying that the deal with El Paso should provide new resources to boost developments in Australia, including new projects in South Australia.

The natural gas pipeline and other assets acquired from the Government by Tenneco will remain in the State, regardless of the merger arrangements reached between Tenneco and El Paso.

4. The transaction will in no way affect the current long-term Gas Haulage Contracts that Tenneco Energy has with SAGASCO and ETSA.

5. Tenneco has advised that all arrangements entered into in relation to employee benefits will be maintained.

6. It is understood that the merged entity will establish its worldwide headquarters in Houston, Texas, in the existing Tenneco Energy building. However, the Government would be prepared to consider any bipartisan approach to entice El Paso/Tenneco Energy to establish its headquarters in Adelaide.

The company already has based its Australian operational headquarters in Adelaide.

7. Each of the contracts contains a provision providing that the contract is not to be assigned without the consent of the South Australian Government party involved.

8. Future contractual arrangements will follow similar contracts which have been implemented to date and ensure that the interests of the South Australian taxpayer are protected.

Far from having our 'pockets picked by foreign companies in this State', the South Australian Government will continue to encourage investment that provides for expansion and long term viability of businesses in this State and will not rely on the taxpayer for support.

RESTRAINING ORDERS

In reply to **Hon. A. J. REDFORD** (17 October 1996).

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

1. Any breach of a Restraining Order is a criminal offence and the police department may experience a conflict of interest in cases where both parties were initially represented by the police at the application stage. For the reason of avoiding this conflict, it is departmental policy to represent only one party in the restraining order application process.

Applications for Restraining Orders are generally laid by police on the evidence of the person applying for the application. If the evidence provided by the applicant complies with the evidentiary provisions an application is normally made the day following the complaint. This practice occurs where a Restraining Order is applied for as there are serious issues of safety. Statistically, it is mostly women who apply for Restraining Orders and it may be in breach of the Equal Opportunity Act to put in place a policy which excludes men whose safety needs may also require attention.

2. Restraining Orders are granted on the balance of probability and therefore from an evidentiary perspective there is not the need to require corroborative evidence. In reality because of the hidden nature of domestic violence, it is on rare occasions that corroboration is available. Should the Restraining Order application be contested, corroboration as an evidentiary requirement is not essential. However in practice some type of supporting evidence may be sought.

3. Police training encourages a proactive approach. When police officers are tasked to an incident of domestic violence a firearms check should be done en route to the scene. Police are also advised to ask the victim if there are any firearms on the premises as it is recognised that not all firearms are registered. It is then recommended that police recognise the need to address whether or not this person is suitable to possess a firearm particularly at this time of crisis and to consider their rights to seize any firearms. This practice also prevents an Inquiry Officer attending alone to seize firearms bearing in mind the potential dangerous nature of domestic violence.

In the case in question, service of the order was made at a work place and a search of the offenders' abode was not conducted.

4. Any complaint received by the Registrar of Firearms as to whether a person is a fit and proper person to possess firearms is investigated at the discretion of the Registrar. It is the requirement on each firearms license that the class of firearms be endorsed on it. Security guards and members of the public must hold firearm's licenses to possess a firearm. The offender in this matter is not the holder of a firearms license and does not have access to firearms as part of his employment.

There is legislative provision within the Firearms Act for the Registrar, when appropriate, to notify an employer when an employee's firearms license has been cancelled or altered.

Dependent upon the outcome of the pending charges involved in this dispute a decision will be made relative to advising the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs of the circumstances involved in the allegations.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (23 October 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: In relation to the Auditor-General's comments on the financial and management operations of the Department for Education and Children's Services, I refer the honourable member to a similar question by the Hon. Mike Elliott MLC on 2 October 1996 and the response tabled on 6 November 1996. School Card

The numbers of students and the financial effect of the School Card Scheme for the 1995 and 1996 school years is expected to be constant.

The figure of \$10.3 million quoted is a financial year figure and does not take into account the timing of payments to schools during the school year. The actual gross payments for the school years 1995 and 1996 were \$12.029 million and \$12.43 million respectively.

The policy in relation to School Card is that available assistance is directed to those most in need at the time. Materials and Services charges are payable. Estimates of expected approvals are made and hence a budget estimate is established. However, the determinant is not a budget target.

Cleaning Contracts

It has not been the preferred option for the department to enter into an exclusive contract with a single tender facilitator. This has in no way been detrimental to the achievement of outcomes based contracts nor will it undo the benefits so far achieved by contracting out.

Where required, services of a tender facilitator are available to the department on a negotiated, fee for service basis. DECS is currently involved in the process whereby Services SA is investigating the creation of flexible facilities management contract packages and has publicly advertised for expressions of interest and preliminary proposals. The range of potential services to be included in a facilities management contract includes cleaning and this may present further management options.

Overtime

The utilisation of existing employees is often considered to be a preferred solution for short term or project related peak work loads as it provides access to a depth of knowledge and level of experience that cannot be obtained from agency staff. In many instances, overtime is considered to be a sensible, economic and efficient work practice.

In addition, the Audit report stated that 21 of the 85 officers who earned more than \$1 000 in overtime were at school locations and this overtime related to school security callouts. Schools develop rosters for staff to attend security related callouts and, for some officers, the conditions of their employment are such that they are entitled to be paid for the callout. The Specialist Consultant, Security, does however investigate instances where the number of callouts are significant and will then discuss management strategies with the school to minimise callouts without increasing security risks.

The issues raised in the Auditor-General's Report have been referred to the DECS Audit Committee. Further, the Chief Executive has had considerable involvement with Divisional Directors in work force planning issues. This has led to the development of work force plans for divisions within the context of the department's strategic plan.

The Chief Executive has undertaken to work closely with Departmental Directors so that appropriate management action is taken on an ongoing basis to ensure that the adequacy of resources for functions is monitored and that resources are reallocated or appropriate strategies are in place.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (24 October 1996).

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

Differences in unemployment rates cannot be entirely explained in terms of redistribution of industry and investment. Over the last 20 years investment in Australia has risen in *per capita* terms, even though East Asia has captured an increasing share of global investment.

Rising East Asian demands for capital for investment have been roughly matched by increased supply of capital from East Asia (including Japan) because savings have risen with incomes.

Although East Asia is to some degree a competitor with Australia for mobile investment, Australia has in general been a net beneficiary from expansion of the East Asian economies. Exports from Australia into the East Asian nations have risen strongly as those nations have grown.

The emergence of persistently high unemployment rates in most Western nations over the last two decades is primarily attributable to legal and institutional arrangements within their domestic economies. Significant differences in the West are also apparent eg as between the United States and Europe. Labour market regulation, training inadequacy and the structure of income support mechanisms have probably contributed to high unemployment.

The challenge for the community is to think carefully about the equity and social objectives of labour market regulation, training and income support mechanisms and ensure that desired outcomes are achieved in a way which is least detrimental to employment. This involves implementation of reforms which pose complex social and financial issues.

In recent years there has been greater prevalence of enterprise bargaining and there is scope to extend this further. By shifting negotiations to the workplace better productivity outcomes should be achievable with benefits for business viability and hence employment. Changes to training arrangements which are in progress should make employers more willing to provide training and ultimately create skills in the work force which are necessary if high living standards are to be maintained. By ensuring that Government is cost effective, low taxes/charges and quality, relevant services to the community can be kept in place thus minimising the tax burden on business which impedes global competitiveness and ability to create jobs.

Thus, while it almost certainly is the case that changing patterns of trade have been associated with retrenchment and higher unemployment in Australia in recent years, those changes cannot explain the bulk of the problem. In any case, rapidly changing global markets and relocation of industry are likely to be an ongoing feature of the world economy, and Australia will not be able to avoid dealing with them.

A nation such as Australia must ensure that the delivery of equity and social goals is achieved in a fashion that allows a labour market sufficiently flexible and adaptable to deal with changing conditions. Persistent high unemployment is of course a great concern in terms of the vision of equity and social justice which most Australians believe in.

AUSLAN

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (17 October 1996).

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:

1. The issue of AUSLAN being introduced as a Language Other Than English (LOTE) was raised in the Lo Bianco evaluation of the LOTE program in South Australian schools. Recommendations of the Lo Bianco report included the need to consider the introduction of AUSLAN as a LOTE in the future.

A feasibility study for the introduction of AUSLAN has been initiated and parents have been surveyed to gauge the level of interest.

A budget submission has been submitted to the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS) Senior Executive, requesting additional funding to increase the opportunities for supporting the teaching of AUSLAN.

2. Mr Phillip Wilson, coordinator LOTE, Plympton High School is coordinating LOTE courses for the south west corner schools. The proposal for AUSLAN has been promoted by Mr Wilson, Mr Quentin Iskos, coordinator, Marion CHIC, and others involved in the south west corner schools.

Daws Road High School will run the course which will then be available to all South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)

Stage 1 students in the south west corner schools. Information about the course has been circulated to the schools involved. I am advised that at this time there are only four students expressing interest in the course at Daws Road CHIC, but that this number is likely to change at the beginning of 1997 when students make final changes to their course selections.

RSL MEMORIAL HALL TRUST BILL

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:
That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Tuesday 18 March 1997.
Motion carried.

ST JOHN (DISCHARGE OF TRUSTS) BILL

The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General): I move:
That the time for bringing up the report of the select committee be extended until Tuesday 18 March 1997.
Motion carried.

CRIMINAL LAW CONSOLIDATION (SELF DEFENCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.
(Continued from 14 November. Page 523.)

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition): The Opposition opposes the second reading of this Bill. The most significant problem which the Bill attempts to address is the issue of whether a person should be excused from criminal liability when they are defending themselves or another person or their home from attack by another. Under the current law these questions are largely answered according to the genuine belief, the subjective belief, of the person who takes defensive action.

The Attorney-General wishes to introduce an objective element to the assessment of the actions of the accused person, assuming that we have someone accused of a crime as a result of taking defensive action. The Bill would require a jury to first assess what threat the accused person genuinely believed there to be, and then objectively consider whether the force used by the accused was warranted by the perceived threat. Any attempt at reform in this area is fraught with difficulty because of the variety of situations that might arise.

If more weight is given to subjective beliefs of the accused person, then we might be tempting those in the community who carry guns legitimately, or those who are prone to violence in any case, to shoot first and ask questions later, knowing that a story of perceived threat could be spun so as to avoid conviction for killing another. With the growing number of people who legitimately carry firearms, for example, security guards, we would not want to encourage the ready use of firearms if there are less violent means of apprehending offenders such as bank robbers.

It is even clearer that, if we impose a completely objective test to the behaviour of a person accused of killing in a situation where they have been threatened, then injustice can arise. We would be asking jury or judge to calmly consider what would have been the ideal behaviour expected of the accused, looking at the incident with hindsight in the clear light of day. However, the majority of violent crimes take

place in the heat of the moment, often where tempers are running hot or where alcohol has exacerbated a tendency to impulsive and aggressive behaviour.

On balance, the Opposition would rather that the law gave more weight to the subjective belief of the accused persons. In reality, this will always be subject to the mysterious processes of the jury if the matter is tried before a jury. The members of the jury are in the best position to take account of the circumstances of the alleged offending, including factors such as the relationship or absence of relationship between the accused and the person against whom the accused was defending himself or herself.

The main criticism of the existing legislation which has been in place since 1989 is the complexity of the directions which must be given to a jury, particularly in those cases where the defensive action results in death. It is hard to see, however, how the reform proposals simplify matters for jury members. As an example, I will reflect on the incident of domestic violence cited by the Attorney in his second reading speech. In consideration of this example, I bear in mind a statement made by Mr Leader Elliott (a lecturer in law at Adelaide University) published in the *Advertiser* on 9 January. In that article, Mr Elliott states:

Most informed comment agrees the law is still unnecessarily harsh in its application to women who kill in self-defence. There is no justification for making it harsher by reintroducing a requirement of proportionality.

In his second reading speech, the Attorney referred to the English case of *Oatridge*. In that case the wife fatally stabbed her husband in the chest with a knife during the course of an argument. After a history of violent episodes, she said that he attempted to choke her on the night in question. The objective evidence suggested that her necklace had been pulled off her neck, but there was no other evidence of strangulation. She was convicted of manslaughter. This was possibly a halfway house verdict by the jury: in other words, it may be that the jury considered that she was not without fault but that, on the other hand, she did not deserve to be convicted of murder.

Under the current laws, the Attorney correctly pointed out that, if the woman were prosecuted in South Australia, the Crown would have to show beyond reasonable doubt that she did not honestly believe that what she did was necessary for her own defence. The Attorney asks how the prosecution could ever prove such a thing, but I suggest that the answer to that question lies in cross-examination of the accused. For better or worse, our court procedures rely on the assumption that cross-examination will be able to draw out what people did or did not honestly believe at a particular point in time. What if a battered wife in this situation gave evidence that she believed that the physical attacks were getting worse and worse and that one day they would end up with her being killed? Should it be necessary for a woman in that situation to show that there was a genuine fear of being killed in a specific manner on that particular night?

Under the Attorney's proposals, in this situation the jury would have to consider the question of whether the threat as perceived by the accused warranted the retaliatory action taken by the accused. The Attorney says that the retaliation must objectively be reasonably proportionate to the threat that the defendant genuinely believed to exist. Is this really giving the jury any greater guidance than they have at present when they must assess whether or not the accused woman honestly believed that retaliation with a knife was necessary and reasonable to defend herself?

Ultimately, the Opposition is not persuaded that the Bill is any improvement on the existing law. Therefore, it opposes the second reading.

The Hon. J.F. STEFANI secured the adjournment of the debate.

ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 22 November. Page 589.)

The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition): The Opposition supports the second reading. It has no amendments. Consistent with the reforms enacted by the previous Government, the Opposition believes that the mechanisms contained in the corporations law should apply to incorporated associations where appropriate. In deciding whether or not it is appropriate for corporations law provisions to apply, we must bear in mind that the majority of incorporated associations are relatively small groups within the community which quite often have few qualified people on their board or committee of management. They may be concerned with sporting activities in the community, a hobby or special interests of the members, they may be drawn together by a particular disease or disability, or they may be concerned with educational purposes. In fact, there is almost unlimited variety in the clubs, societies and other groups that we have in the community that are trying to manage finances and satisfy legal obligations as well as pursuing the interests of their particular group.

Because many of the members of management committees in these circumstances do not have a great deal of training or qualifications, it is essential that the associations incorporation law is clearly understood. The Opposition certainly supports any relevant offences being spelled out in the legislation itself to make as clear as possible the obligations of committee members. The Opposition has no difficulty with the proposal to enable incorporated associations to enter voluntary administration with a view to executing a deed of arrangement with creditors. Again, the purpose is to place incorporated associations on the same footing as corporations in this respect.

One point that is particularly worth mentioning for the sake of any committee members or officers of incorporated associations is the insertion of a general defence in section 58A. This will provide a defence to a charge under the Act if the defendant proves that the offence was committed intentionally and did not result from a failure to take reasonable care. That should provide an important safeguard against innocent people being punished for the carelessness or criminal intentions of others. The Opposition supports the second reading.

The Hon. J.F. STEFANI secured the adjournment of the debate.

PULP AND PAPER MILL (HUNDREDS OF MAYURRA AND HINDMARSH) (COUNCIL RATES) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 3 December. Page 668.)

The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS: The Opposition supports the Government's position and, therefore, supports the passage of this hybrid Bill, which has reached the final stages of debate. The Bill was introduced in the Lower House in, I think, June last year. It fell off the Notice Paper, and was reinstated in October. A select committee was set up. It took evidence in Millicent and other places in the South-East, and there was considerable discussion between the parties. Kimberly-Clark, as the beneficiary of the hybrid Bill, was subjected to a process of questioning regarding the Government's intention towards Kimberly-Clark in respect of its position in relation to rates. Kimberly-Clark was subjected to a testing process through the select committee's questioning, and local landowners situated around the Kimberly-Clark mill certainly questioned Government members about some of the problems they were experiencing because of the existence of the industrial premise within their agricultural and horticultural areas.

Most of the questions related not to the Bill itself or to the intention of the rating system, but many of the local South-Easterners in the Millicent, Snuggery and the Hundred of Mayurra areas took the opportunity to make some statements in relation to how they felt about the impact of Kimberly-Clark's industrial complex on their agricultural and horticultural projects. The Bill sets out a rating system that gives continuity to a formula regarding the capital value of the land in relation to the Kimberly-Clark complex. It allows a more consistent formula to be developed for rateable land in that area. So the Opposition supports the Government's position.

We have sympathy for some of the land owners in that area who at this time have been impacted on, particularly in relation to the levels of the underground water and the amount of water being taken out of the underground system by Kimberly-Clark. Some have been beneficiaries, where the land dries up much more quickly than it used to at the surface level so cropping can be done much sooner and they can involve themselves in other activities. In other cases, the draw down impact of the bores has meant that they have had to spend a lot of money in putting an extension on their bores. There were other arguments brought forward—which had nothing to do with the rating system—that there were emissions from Kimberly-Clark that were impacting on their infrastructure; that is, their fences were deteriorating and their roofs and other infrastructure was being attacked by rust caused by the emissions from Kimberly-Clark. It is for Kimberly-Clark, as a responsible corporate citizen in that area, to try to address some of those problems through negotiations. I understand that Kimberly-Clark pays some compensation to some land owners in the area, but the responsibility for compensation rests with those parties. The responsibility for the rating system rests with the local government authority in that area, which is the Millicent council—they have just changed their name to Avenue Range through amalgamation. Both the major players that are impacted on by the effects of this Bill have reached agreement. So, the Opposition supports it.

The Hon. J.F. STEFANI secured the adjournment of the debate.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON A PROPOSED SALE OF LAND AT CARRICK HILL

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. Diana Laidlaw:
That the report be noted.

(Continued from 5 December. Page 745.)

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: When this matter was discussed last December I sought leave to conclude my remarks. However, as so much time has elapsed since then, I wish briefly to recapitulate what I said at the time. The report of the select committee on the sale of land at Carrick Hill indicates a clear victory for those who opposed the sale of the land on conservation and environmental grounds. The select committee was unanimous in accepting the many submissions which stressed the high environmental value of the grey box area of the property on the rising land behind the house, which should not in any way be disturbed as it is a remnant of the original native forest which covered the Adelaide Plains. There are sections of the land which the select committee, again unanimously, recommends can be considered for sale under certain circumstances, which are detailed in the report of the select committee, but these areas are in environmentally non-sensitive parts of the property—around the corner, one might say, from the property—so that any development there would not be visible from Carrick Hill House, and people living in any housing development there would have no view of the house and so the aesthetic integrity of the property would be retained.

The second point I made very strongly was that the select committee had to work within parameters which are set by Government priorities. This does not necessarily indicate that members of the select committee agree with those priorities: namely, that Carrick Hill's funding has been cut by this Government; that this Government is not prepared to provide half a million dollars per year to Carrick Hill, as did the previous Government; and that this Government wishes to considerably reduce even further its expenditure per annum on the maintenance of Carrick Hill as a site for the public to enjoy. It was not for the select committee to argue whether this was or was not a desirable policy. We had to work within that parameter that the Government has cut funding to Carrick Hill and intends cutting it even further. Given that, the question was how best to look at the finances of Carrick Hill and maintain it as a site for the enjoyment of the public of South Australia, as intended by the donors, Sir Edward and Lady Hayward.

The report lists many recommendations, which the Minister mentioned in her contribution to the debate, and which I am sure many of those interested in Carrick Hill have had time to read and digest. Basically, the committee was of the opinion that Carrick Hill should be given time to follow up the many suggestions which have been made regarding greater entrepreneurship on the part of the board and management of Carrick Hill, greater support from local residents and the Mitcham council, and pursuing numerous avenues which could make Carrick Hill more self-sufficient. I think all members of the select committee realised that Carrick Hill will never be completely self-sufficient from Government, and it is futile to pretend that it will ever come off the Government books. However, there is no doubt a potential there to raise considerable funds which would enable the Government to fulfil its policy of reduced expenditure from the public purse to the maintenance of Carrick Hill.

Since I last spoke on this topic there have been some disturbing developments at Carrick Hill; namely, the resignation of all members of the board of Carrick Hill. I regret this very much. I think the board had given long and devoted service to Carrick Hill and I, for one, certainly

appreciated the efforts that it put in and the contribution it made to Carrick Hill. I am not aware of any formal reason being given for the resignation, but I presume it was dissatisfaction with the select committee's report and, perhaps, reading into the report a criticism of its role and function which was not intended—certainly not by me and nor, I would imagine, by any other member of the select committee.

In the report of the select committee there is mention of the fact that in the evidence before it there were some witnesses who had criticised both the board and/or the management of Carrick Hill in the past. However, the fact that such criticism is reported in the select committee report in no way means that it is endorsed by the members of the select committee. I feel it is very sad that the board of Carrick Hill has resigned *en masse* in that way.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: The Mitcham council representative has stayed.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: The person appointed by Mitcham council has not resigned because that is an appointment by an outside body under the constitution and, if that person resigned, someone else would have to replace that person from Mitcham council. This puts Carrick Hill in a very serious situation because it currently has no functioning board at all. The local council representative can hardly be considered a functioning board, and I hope that the Minister in her response to the debate on the motion will be able to tell us what arrangements are in hand for appointing a board to Carrick Hill and when such appointments can be expected.

This situation is urgent. The select committee's report suggests that a full development and business plan for Carrick Hill be prepared to the satisfaction of the Minister within 12 months from now and, if there is no functioning board, it makes achievement of that expectation extremely difficult indeed.

Furthermore, the report recommends that consideration be given to joining Carrick Hill to the History Trust. Again, the select committee was unanimous that consideration should be given to this. The report makes it no stronger than 'consideration', because obviously there would have to be considerable consultation with the History Trust itself before such an amalgamation could take place.

Again, as two months have elapsed since this matter was first raised in the Parliament, I hope the Minister will be able to tell us what steps have been taken in this regard, whether amalgamation with the History Trust or some other body is being contemplated by the Government and what progress is being made in this matter.

Obviously, for an amalgamation to occur, legislation will be required to amend both the History Trust Act and the Carrick Hill Act and an indication from the Minister whether such legislation is to be expected soon would I am sure be very welcome, not only to me and other members of this Chamber but also to the many friends of Carrick Hill and the many well wishers which Carrick Hill has throughout the community, particularly in the Mitcham area.

Information as to where we go from here is certainly being requested by many of these people, particularly in the light of the resignation of the bulk of the Carrick Hill Trust Board. I am sure I do not need to emphasise that, if Carrick Hill is to meet the targets that were set out in the committee's report, it cannot continue without a board. Having not had a board for two months now, the matter is surely becoming extremely urgent and many people need information and reassurance, as I am sure the Minister would understand.

If the plans are to be carried out, there must be a board, whether it be a completely new board, the History Trust Board or any other board. So, whatever board is to be in charge of Carrick Hill must start work quickly so that the select committee's expectations can be worked on within the timeframe set out.

One matter that was mentioned in the committee's report deserves particular comment, even though it was mentioned by the Minister in her remarks thereon. I refer to the performance standards and financial goals which are to be set for Carrick Hill to achieve if the sale of land is not to occur. Those financial and performance goals are to be drawn up and presented to Parliament by means of regulation so that Parliament will have an opportunity to see whether realistic goals are being set.

Obviously, there could be a fear in some quarters that goals and performance standards would be set so high that Carrick Hill was being set up to fail and to enable the sale of land to occur at the end of the stipulated period. On the other hand, obviously the goals and standards must not be too low or the whole exercise will have been pointless.

There must be some incentive to the board and the managers of Carrick Hill to achieve what the Government wishes them to achieve in terms of financial self sufficiency. It was felt that, in order to ensure that everything was above board, Parliament should be able to scrutinise these performance standards and financial goals. I stress that this was a unanimous view from the select committee to ensure that everything was above board and to reassure the many people who are concerned about the future of Carrick Hill.

I hope that these goals and standards will be available to this Parliament before long. Certainly, I hope that they will be available within a few weeks. If we are to have an early election, as rumours abound that we are going to have, even though there is no conceivable reason for having an early election—

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: There is no reason for the speculation, either, except that Mr Rann is running around—

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: There is a great deal of speculation, a large part of it coming from the media, that the election will be held in a short time, and it seems to me—and I am sure the Minister will agree—that for the sake of Carrick Hill it is absolutely imperative that these goals and standards should be available to be scrutinised by this Parliament before an election is held. We all know that after an election there is a hiatus before Parliament meets again—

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: You're not going to be here, either.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: But plenty of other people will be.

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: But nobody will care as much as you do.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: For heaven's sake: all members of the select committee were unanimous in this view. Are you arguing that point?

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw: No. I'm just sorry you won't be here.

The Hon. ANNE LEVY: Well, all members of the select committee—certainly four of them—are expected to be here unless they fail in their preselection. It is important that this information be available to the Parliament before an election is held. Whether or not the election is to be held early, I hope the Minister realises that it is important that it be produced quickly. I hope that her officers have been working on this and that we will soon have the benefit of seeing what is proposed in this regard.

I stress the value of this select committee, which I think was an example of the select committee system of this Parliament truly working at its best. Whatever the views of the members of the select committee before they started hearing evidence, there is no doubt that we were all convinced by the evidence we heard and the discussions we undertook. The resulting report was unanimous and will have great conservation value and, as committee members hope, will be for the future benefit of Carrick Hill.

I think the developments of the past couple of months have been unfortunate. I repeat my admiration for and appreciation of the wonderful job which the board of Carrick Hill had been and was doing. I regret their almost complete resignation. I look forward to the Minister's informing the Council of what is occurring in relation to the many matters which were raised in the select committee report and for which she has responsibility, so that the other members of the select committee and the many friends of Carrick Hill can be reassured that the matter is not going off the rails and that the recommendations of the select committee remain achievable. I support the motion.

The Hon. J.C. IRWIN secured the adjournment of the debate.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.54 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday 5 February at 2.15 p.m.