

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(HANSARD)

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**Fourth Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament  
(2000)**

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Parliament, which adjourned on 13 July 2000, was prorogued by proclamation dated 10 August 2000. By proclamation dated 10 August 2000 it was summoned to meet on Wednesday 4 October, and the Fourth Session began on that date.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 4 October 2000**

[prayers]

**The PRESIDENT (Hon. J.C. Irwin)** took the chair at 12 noon.

**OPENING OF PARLIAMENT**

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

**GOVERNOR'S SPEECH**

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

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

I have called you together for the dispatch of business.

Today we enter a landmark Parliamentary Session for this State.

It is a landmark because we are on the verge of celebrating the Federation of our great nation.

And in doing so we mark the achievements we have made together as a society over the last 100 years.

Over recent years we have faced many challenges and my Government has responded with an approach to turn these challenges into opportunities.

This applies to sectors such as our manufacturing industry, in which we were the only State in Australia to increase the total number of people employed, and our defence industry in which we have secured vital funding for local jobs whilst ownership details concerning the Australian Submarine Corporation are yet to be finalised by the Commonwealth Government.

Since my Government was re-elected to a second term in 1997 its priority has been to deliver to all South Australians a society which enjoys growth and provides security and greater certainty.

As we approach this coming session, and as we embark on a new era into a second century of our Federation, my Government intends to continue to deliver to South Australians a future which emphasises quality of life.

As we enter this new era it is also important to reflect upon the recent past and how far we, as South Australians, have come by working together.

We have been in a recovery mode and significant recovery has been the result of patience and hard work by everyone.

Everyone deserves the credit. All South Australians have done their part in turning our State's fortunes around.

My Government believes it is now in a position to implement policies which build on the momentum that has been created, and to secure the future for each and every one of us.

Over the last year South Australia has recorded the strongest economic growth in the nation between June quarters.

It is against this economic backdrop that we are enabled to improve our social well-being in areas such as education, health and safety. This economic prosperity is important in defining who we are and how far we have come as a State.

For my Government, it is about giving people opportunities that they might otherwise not have had.

It is about giving our children the best opportunity to secure a job in an industry which will be in this State for the long-term.

And it is about giving the parents of those children the security of knowing their children do have a future in South Australia.

For my Government, it means better schools, better hospitals, better roads, a cleaner environment, and a move toward a future where we are a more compassionate, just society.

The policies and legislation which will be outlined and introduced over the course of this Parliamentary Session will demonstrate my Government's commitment to achieving a balance between economic gain and social justice.

My Government has always recognised that to achieve social justice, it first had to get the economic fundamentals right. It first had to deliver on its promise to reduce the State's debt.

In doing so—it has created the conditions for long-term security and certainty for South Australians.

No longer do the people of this State have to carry the burden of excessive debt.

My Government expects to have almost halved in real terms total public sector net debt by the end of 2001, compared with June 30 last year.

The 2000-01 Budget continued the Government's commitment to its four-year financial plan, as set out in the 1998-99 Budget.

The Budget is balanced in cash terms over the forecast period, which means the non-commercial sector capital investment program is fully funded each year without borrowing.

The leasing of the electricity assets meant there was no need to introduce the power bill increase proposed in the 1999-2000 Budget.

My Government expects a net benefit of more than \$100 million to be realised in 2000-01 from the disposal of electricity assets, which is the difference between interest savings on debt and the loss of dividends and tax payments from the relevant entities.

Through its major asset management program, my Government has been able to retire debt, reduce the annual interest burden and reduce the exposure of the budget to fluctuating interest rates and the inherent risks of the national electricity market.

The staged electricity disposal program, which has formed an important priority for the Government, is now nearing completion—with the disposal of six of the seven electricity businesses completed.

The disposal of the retail, distribution, generation and transmission assets, including the recent leasing of Flinders Power and ElectraNet SA has realised gross proceeds of some 5.3 billion dollars, with net proceeds being progressively applied towards the retirement of State debt.

This concludes the disposal of the State's major power assets, with the only remaining electricity asset to be sold being the gas trading business, Terra Gas trader.

My Government will continue to pursue sound fiscal policies designed to reduce public sector debt, while maintaining a competitive tax regime and providing a high level of service to the community.

Our State's competitive position is underlined by the reduction of Workcover costs to business of 7.5 per cent on average, and by our industrial relations record, which is second to none.

When I opened the parliamentary session last year I reported that South Australia had recorded the second highest level of growth of all the State's and Territories.

Now we have recorded the strongest growth. Our State is firmly in front and my Government has clearly met its goal of reducing debt.

The next step in my Government's direction is to ensure our children of today have all the skills they require for employment in the future.

My Government is committed to ensuring that our education system meets the demands of this new century. That has meant looking at how we educate our children and deciding to do it in a different manner.

My Government has introduced what it regards as the highly successful Partnerships 21 scheme.

This innovative program is giving all parents, businesses and communities the opportunity to become involved in the local management of their schools and preschools. The early success of Partnerships 21 indicates that South Australians do want to be involved in their schools, and many of those schools do want extra freedom and responsibilities.

We must never forget that these reforms are aimed at producing one result—better learning for our children. Almost half of the State's schools have signed up to be a part of this initiative.

My Government has made education one of its key priorities, for it believes that if the right educational foundations are provided, our children are well placed to make a valuable contribution to our society.

Advancing South Australia's reputation as a leader in the provision of education and children's services underpins this priority.

The South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework will be introduced in South Australian government schools at the beginning of the 2001 school year.

This follows the largest single curriculum consultation process ever undertaken in South Australia.

The Framework will better define the curriculum from birth to Year 12; thereby making it easier for teachers to plan, teach and report on student progress. Parents will be better able to determine how their children are progressing throughout their schooling. The framework includes a strong focus on literacy, numeracy and information technology.

The Government's Literacy and Numeracy Strategy reflects a commitment to a renewed focus on improving literacy and numeracy outcomes for all learners, young and mature. We want our children to read, write and do their sums well. My Government's aim is to improve literacy and numeracy levels for students in years 3 and 5 as part of a national literacy and numeracy plan.

While the strategy relates to all learners, it specifically acknowledges the particular needs of:

- learners from low socio-economic backgrounds;
- Aboriginal learners;
- adult learners;
- learners with disabilities;
- learners from culturally and linguistically diverse heritages; and
- male and female learners.

Science and mathematics education is also a key priority for the Government.

My Government has committed \$10.8 million towards building Australia's first specialist science and mathematics secondary school within the Flinders University precinct. The school will be a State and national focal point for teaching, professional development and research aimed at boosting science and mathematics in secondary schools and transforming students' attitudes to these areas as career paths.

My Government believes its commitment to educating our young people is unparalleled.

But my Government also recognises that there is more to creating security and certainty than simply providing an educational framework, which will bring out the best in all of our students.

It is also necessary to have in place policies to encourage our young people to not only enter the workforce—but to

remain there, in a job that will provide them with security and certainty.

Through the year to August, South Australia recorded employment growth of 2.4 per cent and full-time employment growth of 3.8 per cent.

South Australia now has a record number of people in jobs—683 300 in August—and the lowest unemployment rate since July 1990.

My Government will continue to make employment growth across the State its first priority, for it believes that the surest way to provide security and certainty is through the creation of a work ethic and that means there must be jobs available for those who want them.

One area to which the Government is giving particular attention is the level of employment in regional South Australia.

My Government is committed to working with local communities to address key regional concerns. The Regional Employment Strategy provides regions with the flexibility and autonomy to tailor initiatives to meet their unique regional employment needs.

Regional Development Boards have been allocated almost \$2 million to implement the strategy and to assist economic development. It is anticipated that 1 656 positions will be created across South Australia through this strategy.

To consolidate the future of skill development within the State's building and construction industry, my Government will, in this session of Parliament, introduce a Bill to amend the *Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993*.

The purpose of the Bill is to amend a range of definitional and operational matters associated with the business of collecting and distributing the construction industry-training levy.

For instance, by raising the current levy threshold from \$5000 to \$15 000 my Government seeks to alleviate an unnecessary administrative burden on small business and private home-owners as well as minimise administrative overheads. It is anticipated that this will reduce administration and paperwork by 27 per cent while only reducing the estimated income collected by 3 per cent.

To assist young South Australians prepare for the challenges of employment my Government has commenced Active8. This scheme will involve partnerships between schools, communities, youth organisations and young people. It will promote self-reliance, self-confidence, voluntary work, leadership and community service among young people.

In providing a framework for educating and employing South Australians, my Government is also focussing its attention on the critical areas of health and personal and community safety.

My Government believes there can be peace of mind only if we are all secure in the knowledge that we have a world class health system. It is also my Government's belief that all South Australians deserve to feel safe in their own homes and in their own communities.

In the area of Human Services, effective treatment for people with a mental illness is a key priority of my government. Under the leadership of the new Director of Mental Health, the reorganisation and strengthening of mental health services in South Australia is underway.

More supported accommodation in the community and a new crisis intervention team for the southern suburbs are part of this plan. Other parts include enhanced mental health services for adolescents, training programs and education for mental health staff, integration of mental health services

within rural health networks and the development of a new role for Glenside Hospital which will specialise in mental health rehabilitation services.

Another key priority is the promotion of safety and quality in South Australian hospitals. A Hospitals Safety and Quality Council has been established and major programs are underway in each hospital to reduce the number of medical errors. Part of this reform will be the thorough investigation of complaints. A new Health Complaints Bill will ensure that complaints are independently investigated and resolved for patients in both the public and the private health care systems.

In other initiatives, public dental services have been boosted, more funds have been allocated for homeless people, Foodbank has been established in South Australia, and a new partnership agreement has been signed between the State Government and the Churches to provide housing for people with special needs.

My Government will continue to give priority to the development of services and support for people with disabilities.

The level of funding allocated to disability services is \$173.9 million, the highest ever. A new Disability Services Framework will set the future directions for the provision of disability services in South Australia and will ensure that resources are equitably distributed so that people with disabilities have opportunities to lead active and fulfilling lives.

As our State has a higher proportion of persons aged over 65 of any State or Territory, my Government will continue to support programs which build on the theme 'Positive Ageing' by encouraging older citizens to participate in community activities and life-long learning.

My Government will continue to place great emphasis on ensuring the personal security and safety of all South Australians through the reform of the criminal law, adequate resourcing of police and innovative crime prevention strategies and programs, working in close co-operation with communities.

My Government will continue with its proposal to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the introduction of a police drug diversion scheme to deal with drug offences relating to the possession or use of minor amounts of illicit drugs.

It strongly believes that the new scheme, which will allow diversion to education, assessment and treatment when a person is apprehended, will provide yet another effective option to make our community safer.

In addition, the Regulations under the *Summary Offences Act* relating to Prohibited Weapons and Dangerous Articles have now been finalised and will be laid before Parliament shortly. The *Summary Offences (Offensive and Other Weapons) Amendment Act 1998* and the regulations will come into operation in December.

They provide a comprehensive framework for dealing with prohibited weapons for the first time and dangerous articles.

My Government and the community are immensely proud of our South Australian Police Service. Citizens take comfort from seeing police in their communities.

To ensure that the Police have the capacity to provide improved levels of service particularly in local areas, my Government has provided \$3.1 million extra funding this year, increasing to \$8.2 million in 2004-5, which will allow for the recruitment of an additional 113 police.

In addition, my Government has agreed to the recruitment of an extra 27 non-police personnel to assist in the adminis-

tration of policing activities. This will maximise the time available for community policing in both the metropolitan area and country South Australia. I am pleased to be able to indicate that recruitment for these police and non-police positions has now commenced.

The resurgence of South Australia is about more than just budgets and statistics.

It is about building on our State's reputation as a quality tourist destination for interstate and international visitors while at the same time protecting our natural wonders and enhancing one of the best lifestyles found anywhere in the world. My Government is making great strides in all these areas.

South Australia's tourism industry, in 1999, generated \$3.1 billion in expenditure and supported 36 000 full-time equivalent jobs and is providing immense opportunities for economic and employment growth across our State.

High profile major events continue to be vitally important in attracting visitors to our State, acting as major drawcards and gaining extensive media exposure.

The inaugural International Rose Festival, to be held later this month, is one such event, and December's Le Mans 'Race of a Thousand Years' is another.

Last month's Olympic Football Tournament is another shining example of maximising the potential of 'one-off' major events. South Australia hosted seven successful football matches and we all had an opportunity to be part of Olympic history.

In the area of the environment and water resources, my Government believes that the quality of life for all South Australians will depend upon the sustainable management of the State's water resources.

My Government has released the State Water Plan 2000, which sets out the strategic policy direction for sustainable use and management of South Australia's water resources over the next five years.

My Government will introduce amendments to the *Water Resources Act 1997* in the present Parliamentary session, so that threats to natural water resources from significant and dramatic landuse, can be managed. This will provide greater security and certainty to those who have a direct interest in the result, including the plantation forestry industry.

My Government intends to proceed with the preparation of a draft *Natural Resource Management Bill*. The Bill will seek to respond to Commonwealth Government initiatives such as the National Discussion Paper '*Managing Natural Resources in Rural Australia for a Sustainable Future*'. It advocates the streamlining of existing administrative arrangements through the formation of regional bodies with responsibility for coordinating community input into natural resource management strategies.

My Government is opposed to the dumping of long-lived intermediate and high level radioactive waste, such as reprocessed fuel rods, in this State. It has introduced legislation to prohibit the establishment of a nuclear waste storage facility for this type of material in South Australia and intends to proceed further with that legislation.

My Government also recognises the need to secure a system of assessments for those seeking approval under both the Commonwealth Act and State Assessment legislation in order to minimise duplication of procedures and increase certainty for proponents of mining and other developments. Legislation for that purpose is being developed.

It will ensure that the relevant authority is empowered to accept assessment documentation prepared for the Common-

wealth to satisfy all or part of its own assessment requirements.

This measure mirrors the 'one-stop' shop assessment process provided for in the Development (System Improvement Program) Amendment Bill which the government will reinstate in this session.

My Government believes that the greatest asset of this State is its people, in particular the large number of volunteers we have working in the community.

As we head into the International Year of the Volunteers my government is taking a lead in acknowledging the invaluable contribution the volunteer sector makes to the South Australian community.

This session we will develop draft legislation to consolidate and enhance protection for the many thousands of South Australians who contribute enormously to the State through their work as volunteers. It is intended that a *Volunteers Protection Bill* will be introduced before Christmas.

In the area of Aboriginal Affairs, my Government will continue to implement strategies which create an environment to support long term secure employment for Aboriginal people.

My Government will introduce amendments to the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act, which will seek to achieve greater cooperation and a stronger working relationship between the State's three Aboriginal landholding authorities.

As well, my Government will continue to promote practical reconciliation strategies.

In the area of Minerals and Resources, my government will introduce the *Electrical Products Bill* to provide for minimum energy performance standards. The introduction of this Bill is an essential part of the measures required for Australia to meet its obligations under the Kyoto protocol.

It will create a provision for energy efficiency labelling, certificates of suitability, offences relating to labels and prohibition of sale or use of unsafe electrical products.

My Government will continue to play a leading role nationwide in road and marine safety.

Legislation will be introduced to implement an alcohol ignition interlock scheme in South Australia—the first of its type in the nation.

Amendments to the *Harbours and Navigation Act 1993* will increase the penalty for boat owners who do not carry items of safety equipment which assist search and rescue endeavours by authorities. Further amendments will encourage councils to enforce jet ski regulations

Meanwhile, my Government will continue to invest in projects to enhance transport infrastructure in South Australia. Stage 2 of the Southern Expressway to Old Noarlunga, which is creating more than 1000 fulltime jobs, will be completed next year.

Planning is also progressing well for the construction of the Port River Expressway Project, the upgrade of regional roads which advance economic development and jobs and for the redevelopment of both the Adelaide Festival Centre and the State Library.

As we move into a new era in our history—it is appropriate that we pursue the new industries of the new millennium. With this in mind, my government is at the forefront of the Information Economy. It will pursue our *Information Economy—Delivering the Future*—a bold plan containing 21 initiatives for the 21st century. This plan is about creating networks of people and building a connected community in which everyone within the community benefits, rather than a select few.

The most effective and compelling way to do this is to ensure that all South Australians are encouraged and have the opportunity to engage in the information economy locally, nationally and globally.

And while my government is pursuing the industries of the future, it has not neglected our traditional manufacturing and agricultural base.

My Government will reintroduce the *Industrial and Employee Relations Amendment Bill*. This Bill will encourage a more productive, competitive and innovative business climate in South Australia—which in turn helps create the environment of security and certainty all South Australians deserve to have.

This session's legislative program responds to the needs of our community. It highlights my Government's determination to first achieve economic security for all South Australians.

Having achieved economic security, my Government believes it is now in a position to deliver social well-being to all South Australians.

It is also appropriate that we remember and acknowledge the contribution of those individuals associated with the Parliament who have passed away in the last year.

Specifically I mention former Governors the Honourable Dame Roma Mitchell and Sir Mark Oliphant, and the former member for the former seat of Alexandra, the Honourable David Brookman.

It was also with sadness we learnt of the death of the former Premier the Honourable David Tonkin earlier this week.

I now declare this Fourth Session of the 49th Parliament open and trust that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the people of this State.

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

The President again took the chair and read prayers.

#### MEMBER, SWEARING IN

The President produced a commission from His Excellency the Governor authorising him to administer the Oath of Allegiance to members of the Legislative Council.

The President produced a letter from the Clerk of the assembly of members informing that the assembly of members of both houses of parliament had elected Mr Robert Kenneth Sneath to fill the vacancy in the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of the Hon. George Weatherill.

The Hon. Robert Keith Sneath, to whom the Oath of Allegiance was administered by the President, took his seat in the Legislative Council.

*[Sitting suspended from 12.40 to 2.30 p.m.]*

#### SENATE VACANCY

His Excellency the Governor, by message, informed the Legislative Council that the President of the Senate, in accordance with section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, notified him that, in consequence of the resignation on 15 August 2000 of Senator John Andrew Quirke, a vacancy occurred in the representation of this state in the Senate of the commonwealth. As the parliament of the state was not in session when the vacancy was notified, the Governor informed the Council that the place

was filled pursuant to section 15 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia by Geoffrey Frederick Buckland. The Governor is advised that the place of a Senator, having become vacant and being so filled within the meaning of section 15, will again fall vacant at the expiration of 14 days from the beginning of the Fourth Session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament and before the expiration of the original term of John Andrew Quirke and that such place must be filled by the houses of parliament, sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

**The PRESIDENT:** I inform the Council that I have conferred with the honourable Speaker of the House of Assembly concerning the arrangements to call a joint sitting of the two houses for the purpose of complying with section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act and that I have decided to issue notices to members of both houses of parliament to attend a joint sitting in the Legislative Council chamber at 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 11 October 2000 for the purpose of filling the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator John Andrew Quirke.

#### OLIPHANT, SIR MARK, DEATH

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of Sir Mark Oliphant, AC, KBE, FRSE, FAA, former Governor of South Australia, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

In speaking to this formal motion, I speak on behalf of the majority of my colleagues in this chamber. We are speaking to two condolence motions today—this motion and then immediately after we will speak to a condolence motion for former Premier David Tonkin. It is fair to say with as much parochialism as we can muster that many of the people who have been the subject of previous condolence motions may well have had reputations in other parts of South Australia or perhaps all of South Australia; in fact, one or two of them may well have had a reputation which extended beyond the borders of South Australia to other states. However, it is fair to say that, with this condolence motion in respect of Sir Mark Oliphant, we are expressing our condolences for someone whose public service and reputation were known not just in South Australia and Australia but were widely regarded in many countries around the world, particularly in the scientific community.

On behalf of government members, in some small part I want to pay tribute to the life of Sir Mark Oliphant, who spent many of his original years in South Australia. Sir Mark was born in the year of federation, on 8 October 1901. It is indeed a tragedy that he was unable to live to see the centenary of federation which, as the Governor announced today in opening this session, will be celebrated next year as an important part of Australia's history. It is sad that Sir Mark Oliphant will not be part of that celebration; indeed, I am sure that many within the scientific community would have wanted to see Sir Mark Oliphant as part of a number of activities the scientific community is planning for the centenary of federation in Australia.

Mark Oliphant was the eldest of five brothers. He was the son of a civil servant with the South Australian Department of Hydraulic Engineering, which is an interesting statement in itself—that we had at that time a Department of Hydraulic Engineering in South Australia—and his mother was a school

teacher. He lived in an old stone house on Belair Road, Mitcham. The official records say that he went to Goodwood Primary School and Unley and Adelaide High Schools before going onto the University of Adelaide. I can say that the official records have overlooked the fact that he spent one year at Mylor Primary School. The reason I know that is that the last occasion I met Sir Mark was in 1994—

*The Hon. T. Crothers interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Let me share this information with the Hon. Mr Crothers. It was a very hot Sunday afternoon and Sir Mark was well into his nineties. He had been invited by the Mylor Primary School to open the Oliphant Science Centre at the school, because he was a former scholar of Mylor Primary School, having spent one year there in 1912. He spent a year there before going on to attend Goodwood Primary School and then, as I said, Unley and Adelaide High Schools. Whilst he was obviously not in robust health, being a man in his nineties on that Sunday afternoon, what I thought was intriguing was that clearly the students had had a number of lessons about Sir Mark in the days and weeks leading up to that formal opening. The awe in which they held Sir Mark Oliphant was obvious, but I am sure that many of them would not have known—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** And yourself!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I would have to say with as much humility as I can muster that they did not know much about the Minister for Education at that time. It was really all Sir Mark Oliphant. He was obviously a frail man, and he sat on a chair for much of the afternoon and made some brief comments in terms of the opening. On that Sunday afternoon, they treated him with the sort of accolades and superstar status with which many of the young ones are treating Kieren Perkins, Cathy Freeman and a variety of our other Olympic athletes. They had obviously been very well prepared by the principal and the teachers and they realised how significant a person was there for their opening, and how significant a person had been a former student of their school at Mylor.

Sir Mark went onto a brilliant career in science at the University of Adelaide. In 1925 he married and in 1927 he won an exhibition scholarship which took him to Trinity College, Cambridge, to work in the Cavendish laboratory with the legendary Lord Rutherford, the pioneer of atomic science. With Rutherford and other great scientists there, such as Fermi, Cockcroft, Lawrence and Oppenheimer, Sir Mark became one of the creators and leaders of the then revolutionary world of nuclear physics.

In some of the other articles written about Sir Mark's life, I note that Sir Mark was quoted in one of his interviews in later years as to why he had wanted to head off to Cambridge. Oliphant said that he had heard the 1908 Nobel Prize winner speaking during a visit to Australia in 1925, was dazzled by the brilliance of Rutherford and was determined to find a way of working in his Cavendish laboratory. Another article states that in the 1930s eight Nobel Prize winners were working in the Cavendish laboratory, which was then the world's leading centre for experimental nuclear physics, and that is an indication of the tremendous expertise that existed under Rutherford. It is an example of how great minds and great talent can attract other great minds and great talent to a research institution—and a lesson for Australians at the start of our federation year.

Sir Mark later became Professor of Physics at the University of Birmingham. His laboratory there produced the magnetron, which was an invention that greatly improved the efficiency of radar. The magnetron helped in the war effort.

It helped Britain to track and sink German submarines in the Atlantic and the Americans used it decisively against the Japanese fleet.

I will not spend too much time on this because a lot of the recent public debate has been about the work that Sir Mark and others did in relation to the development of the first atomic bombs under the project known as the Manhattan Project, which dramatically ultimately put an end to World War II, which obviously had a very significant impact on Sir Mark personally. The devastating use to which his knowledge had been put led him to the views that he expressed from that period onwards and for many years after that in relation to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He was variously described during those years as a dangerous left-winger and in 1951 he was actually banned from entering the United States because of his outspoken opinions in the immediate period after World War II, although the ban was later lifted.

The next significant period in Sir Mark's history in terms of his academic work and professional occupation was 1955, when he accepted an invitation by the then Chifley government to return to Australia to found a research school of physical sciences at the newly established Australian National University. A number of the articles written about Sir Mark indicate that he had a number of other irons in the fire at that time. There were other opportunities he could have taken up but he did have a great love for and wish to return to Australia and to contribute to the academic life in Australia: he was delighted to take up that initial position with the Australian National University.

Time does not permit to go through all of the life and times of Sir Mark Oliphant. Perhaps the next most significant event from South Australia's viewpoint was his appointment in the 1970s, after he had retired in the mid 1960s, to the position of Governor here in South Australia. I think the best way of putting it is that he was a new breed of governor, compared to governors that South Australia had seen before. On a number of issues he freely and frankly expressed his personal view. This was a trait that he had expressed all through his adult life, and even after his period as Governor many will know that he expressed his views on environmental issues, issues of life and death and other issues. Sir Mark Oliphant expressed his views publicly, but it was a bit unusual in that period, going back some 25 years, to have a Governor who was actually doing that. He led the way for some of the governors and governors-general who have followed.

If I can introduce an element of small 'p' politics into all of it, I remember that, having commenced my involvement in political life in 1973—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** As a leftie?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Well, I do not know whether I joined as a leftie but certainly my views were left of centre at the time, and the Hon. Mr Cornwall was oft wanting to remind all members of this chamber of my original views. Soon after that, in 1974—at that stage we had two newspapers, the *Advertiser* and the *News*—there was the shock which involved some members of the Legislative Council when the Governor threatened to resign as a result of an Address in Reply presentation to Government House, when he expressed the view that at least two members (there were others perhaps) had presented themselves at Government House dressed inappropriately for the formal presentation of the Address in Reply.

**The Hon. L.H. Davis:** Are you going to name them?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I do not have to; they were on the frontpage of the *Advertiser* of 7 August. The two members who were singled out at the time were our good old friend the Hon. Cecil Creedon and the Hon. Mr Chatterton. There is a lovely photograph of them on 7 August 1974.

**The Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins:** They were both from Gawler.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Is that right? The Hon. Mr Dawkins has a history to live up to.

**The Hon. Carolyn Pickles:** What did they have on?

**The Hon. R.R. Roberts:** Was it pink shorts?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** No, luckily it was not pink shorts. The article stated:

Sir Mark took one look at Mr Chatterton in his brown slacks, matching corduroy jacket, mustard shirt and paisley tie—

with anyone wearing a mustard shirt and a paisley tie I am not surprised that the Governor suggested that he might resign on the spot—

and Mr Creedon in a green check suit and waist coat, and cut the proceedings there. He told the gathering he was expected to wear a 'monkey suit' and indicated that some politicians might lend a little more dignity to the occasion. He then briefly expressed his dissatisfaction with the role expected of him.

I am sure, as subsequently ensued, there had been some correspondence between the then Premier and the Governor over another issue. It was obviously, to use a colloquial expression that Roy and HG could perhaps make great fun of, the straw that broke the camel's back.

**The Hon. L.H. Davis:** Peter Duncan featured somewhere didn't he?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** That is interesting, although that may well be part of folklore.

**The Hon. L.H. Davis:** He had a polo neck jumper on!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Well, he is not listed. The others who are listed were referred to as follows:

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr Casey) wore grey slacks and a blue Bermuda jacket, and Mr Cameron (LM) a fawn suit with shirt and tie covered by a crew-neck jumper.

They were the only four who were listed.

**The Hon. L.H. Davis:** The House of Assembly went another day.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Maybe it was another day and that is what caused the problem. Sir Mark was never afraid to speak his piece, but I think (as is perhaps indicated by that) that on occasions there were some troubled waters that needed to be smoothed over by the Premier. The Premier, we are told, threw the emergency services legislation that he was handling in the house into the hands of his deputy, went straight across to Government House and, an hour later, managed to talk the Governor out of resigning.

I remember the story being told by a journalist from the *News* (who is still tied up in the media in South Australia) who said that he, too, had the exclusive and came scurrying back from Government House, having obtained this exclusive from someone. He then managed to get the story into a delayed, late edition of the *News* that afternoon before the *Advertiser's* front page story the following day. As I said, it would have been an interesting period in which to be in government and Executive Council with the then Governor. He clearly spoke his mind frankly and freely on a range of issues publicly, and I am sure that there was a range of issues on which he spoke frankly and freely to the then Premier and members of Executive Council.

Sir Mark Oliphant had a long and distinguished career. It is not possible in a contribution this afternoon to trace all the significant achievements that he made in his almost 100 years

on this planet. Suffice to say that, as I said at the outset, in this condolence motion we are truly acknowledging the magnificence of his academic achievements over many years and the significance of his contribution to community and public affairs over a very long period, and acknowledging someone who had an influence not just in South Australia and Australia but around the world. We extend our sympathies to Sir Mark's family and friends at his passing.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I am very happy to second the motion. Sir Mark Oliphant was indeed a very distinguished South Australian, renowned not only in our state but in the whole of Australia and indeed the world for his scientific achievements. I did not know Sir Mark very well but I met him on a number of occasions, and one of the things that struck me about him was that he was a man who in his private life was a very humble person and who obviously had had very much a change of mind from his earlier striving for scientific achievement in the area of nuclear physics to realising, as did Einstein before him, that he had helped to unleash a monster that could never be put away again.

It is interesting to note that, on *The Science Show* in 1985, in an interview with Robyn Williams which was replayed after his death, he said:

I feel very moved when I read again the Russell-Einstein manifesto which ends up with the words, 'Remember your humanity and forget the rest,' because they were saying that it's human beings to human beings. And I believe that, to use knowledge of any kind, whether it's physical or any other sort of knowledge, in order to kill people is a horrible thing to do. And I don't want to have any part in it. Nor do I want any other people to have any part in it.'

Obviously, having been a brilliant scientist working in the Cavendish Laboratory with some very eminent scientists at Cambridge, he realised that he had indeed helped to unleash this monster with which we still live today. It is interesting to me because I grew up in that generation post-second world war, and one of my heroes was Bertrand Russell, who was also very much a pacifist and who opposed the nuclear bomb.

Looking at the information that was provided to me by the Parliamentary Library, I sought the text from Stewart Cockburn, who I understand was a very good friend of Sir Mark Oliphant and who obviously had great insight into this person as a human being. One of the conversations that I had with Sir Mark was about the issue of euthanasia. Sir Mark believed most fervently in voluntary euthanasia, particularly, I understand, during his wife's illness. He certainly hoped that the law would change on this issue as also, I understand, does Stewart Cockburn.

Sir Mark is known internationally for splitting the atom and for his involvement in the Manhattan project, but I would also like to think that in South Australia he is known for his humanity and controversy. I was not aware of those interesting comments about the dress of members of the Legislative Council. We are much more relaxed these days. As I replaced Cec Creedon, I would like to think that I have lifted the tone a little. I always remembered Cec as a particularly—

*The Hon. R.I. Lucas interjecting:*

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I don't know what he did with his check suit. Sir Mark was a product of the public education system in South Australia. He went to Goodwood Primary School, the Unley and Adelaide High Schools and the University of Adelaide, but I understand that he did not have an easy path into Adelaide University. That is surprising for someone so brilliant. I seem to recall that Albert Einstein

also had a tricky educational background and was not recognised for his brilliance. I understand that Sir Mark was 25 when he became a science graduate and that he came from a fairly working-class background. He spent some years sweeping floors in a jewellery manufacturing company. He was someone who used his brilliance to further his career.

In South Australia, we know him better as the Governor of South Australia from 1971 to 1976. His was a fairly controversial appointment by Don Dunstan, and the then federal member for Boothby, the Hon. John McLeay, publicly attacked the appointment, claiming that Sir Mark was a 'politically committed man with strong leftist affiliations, a man identifiable with the far, far left'. That was interesting at the time, because I do not think that he or members of the left ever agreed with this. Sir Mark commented at the time:

Well, that does surprise me. I have never had any political feelings whatever and have never belonged to any political party.

Sir Mark might never have thought that he had any political feelings, but he certainly used his time as Governor to demonstrate his strong views on issues. He criticised the quarrying in the Adelaide Hills and the then Bannon government's plans for development in the Flinders Ranges and many other issues. So, he was very outspoken and not frightened to use his position to further his own quiet political agenda. That is not something that we should necessarily criticise, because I think he was definitely a move away from the bland governors that we had had in the past, all of whom seem to have emanated from the British military. Sir Mark's appointment was very controversial but it was certainly one which was widely respected on all sides of parliament.

The Treasurer referred to his early life, but I will not dwell on that any further. I understand that he is survived by his daughter, Vivian Wilson, his daughter-in-law, Monica Oliphant, his granddaughters, Katherine and Michele, his grandson, Michael Wilson, and his great-grandchildren, as one would expect for a man of his years.

We regret his passing very much indeed. Sir Mark lived a long and fulfilled life. He created in his earlier scientific career something that I suppose was certain to happen at the time of the Second World War. We were presented prior to that with a destabilised Europe and we were certainly looking at creating weapons of mass destruction. Sir Mark was part of that. In his later years he very much regretted that he had been part of it and campaigned strongly against it. As the Treasurer alluded, he was banned from entering the United States. I suppose that took place in the McCarthy era. So, the Opposition regrets his passing and congratulates him on his eminence as a scientist and for his humanity.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I rise on behalf of the Democrats to support the motion, to express regret at the passing of Sir Mark Oliphant and to pass on condolences to his family. With motions of condolence, very rarely does one have the opportunity to say, 'He was a great South Australian.' There is no question that Sir Mark Oliphant was a great South Australian, and not just a great scientist but a great man in other ways as well. Unfortunately, too many scientists involve themselves in pure science and allow the economists, politicians and military to decide what happens with the science. Sir Mark Oliphant was one of those who, having been involved in the pure science of splitting the atom, I am sure never contemplated the way in which it would be used.

However, he did something more latterly which many scientists have not done, and that is engage themselves in public debate about the consequences of the application of science. It is a great pity that more of our scientists have not done so. Time and again we see that science can be used for good or ill, and too often the people with the knowledge about the real consequences have not been prepared to engage in the debate. I suppose, to some extent, one did not need a degree to understand the consequences of the use of the atomic weapon.

He was a great South Australian and also a very humble man. I will not repeat the history of Sir Mark as told by others. I have personal recollections of seeing him in his latter years walking around Adelaide, particularly North Adelaide, with his wife who was in a wheelchair. He was a very ordinary man who was committed to his wife, who was suffering very grave illness. He was a man of compassion and he expressed his views in relation to euthanasia probably reflecting upon that. He was not a man who was seeking to desert his wife in any way but committed himself to her, as I am sure he did during all of her life, during those difficult years towards the end. So he was a man of compassion, a great South Australian, and one who engaged himself across debate, not just within his narrow confines of science and his particular specialities but more generally. If only there were more South Australians like him. I am sure we would be the better for it.

**The Hon. IAN GILFILLAN:** I would like to add a couple of personal comments about a man whom I knew and felt a strong affection for in a quite extraordinary way. I do compare Sir Mark with Dame Roma, in that it is rare to meet people who are so forthright and courageous in what they are able and wish to say and yet retain the humility to listen intently without any prejudice to what anyone in their company is saying. I suppose it was a presumption but it was one which I can recall and want to share with the chamber.

Before I was in parliament and in the earlier years of Sir Mark's gubernatorial term I wanted to see if I could either persuade him or at least share with him my and the Democrats' opposition to nuclear energy. So I did whatever one does over there at the gate and spoke to a police officer who said, 'I don't know that we can do anything about it, sir, but I'll try.' Mildly to my surprise—although coming from Kangaroo Island I expected all the gates to be opened—I was invited in straightaway and was shown to the den where Sir Mark welcomed me, sat me down, offered me a cup of tea (and I forget whether or not I had it, but that is immaterial), and then was prepared to engage with me in a full discussion as to why he was vehemently opposed to the weaponry of nuclear technology but felt that the energy options were rewarding and therefore should be encouraged. We disagreed, and I still disagree with that point of view. But the enchanting thing about that great man was that here was someone who was prepared to give that time to someone whom he had not met.

The second reflection is that Sir Mark presided over an inaugural Democrat meeting in Melbourne. He also attended Democrat meetings, not as a member of the party but as someone who was interested in issues and who was prepared to support energetic and innovative politics.

The third memory I share is reflective of what the Hon. Mr Elliott indicated. I remember calling on him at the Helping Hand Centre in North Adelaide just to see him and have a chat, and he asked me whether I would mind waiting,



because he had to go and feed his wife. He did not ask me in because his wife was not able to recognise that I was there and he wanted to feed her himself.

For me, those three instances remain as examples of a person whom I certainly will never forget. I was always conscious of it during his life, and it does not change with his death. I think it is exciting that have had people of the calibre of Sir Mark and Dame Roma as governors of this state. We may not match the big boys in certain GDPs and GSPs and whatever the other criteria are, but I would bet that we are at the top of the league with respect to governors we have had in this state, and Sir Mark stands pretty well at the top of that league table.

**The PRESIDENT:** As a matter of interest, I have just been informed that, when the President takes legislation across to Government House on members' behalf, every piece of legislation is accompanied on its front page by a short explanation—I think it is usually on a blue page and signed by the President and the Clerk. That came about with the assistance of Sir Mark Oliphant, as Governor, wanting to know what the legislation was about, and that practice is still carried on today.

Honourable members stood in their places in silence.

#### TONKIN, HON. DAVID, DEATH

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** With the leave of the Council, I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent death of the Hon. David Oliver Tonkin, AO, MB, BS (Adelaide), DO, RCPS, former Premier of South Australia and member of the House of Assembly, and places on record its appreciation of his distinguished public service.

It is with some sadness that I speak to this motion—I am sure that I speak on behalf of all my colleagues, and I know that a number of them will want to speak to this condolence motion. I am sure that all of us, in one way or another, knew David Tonkin, some of us for longer than others. My interaction with David, I guess, goes back to the start of his political and parliamentary career and the start of my political career, so it must have been somewhere in or about 1973. I know that I speak on behalf of all members but, in particular, government members, when I say that it is with some sadness that we speak to this motion.

Members may be aware that, prior to entering politics in 1970 as the member for Bragg in the House of Assembly (I think that my colleague the Hon. Mr Davis will talk about some of his political involvement before then, but I will leave that to him), David had practised as an ophthalmic surgeon. He had won scholarships to St Peter's College and the University of Adelaide, and his biographical notes record that he worked as a truck and taxi driver whilst a student (and I am not sure whether he was a member of the appropriate truck drivers union at that stage), and I remember him talking about the work he did to help pay his way through university.

As an indication of his example of community involvement prior to entering politics, he had been a director of the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness since 1962—for almost a decade. He had been an executive member of the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness for almost five or six years during the 1970s. He was also a South Australian Social Welfare Advisory Council member for two or three years in the late 1960s prior to entering parliament. Without going through all the detail of

his life prior to entering politics, I point out that he had had a successful career as a surgeon but he had also demonstrated his willingness to be involved in community affairs in those areas, and I know in a number of other areas as well.

As members will know, he was elected in 1970. He became leader of the Liberal Party in 1975 and Premier and Treasurer of the state in 1979, remaining Premier until 1982. He retired from politics in 1983, so his political career spanned some 13 years. Of course, they were turbulent years for South Australian politics—although I suppose if we went back over any 10 year period we may well say they were turbulent years. They were probably as turbulent as many that we might have seen because of the division within the conservative side of politics with the arrival of what was then a splinter group originally and then a separate party in the Liberal Movement. It was an extraordinarily difficult time for members of the conservative side or the liberal side of the political continuum in South Australia.

Members may or may not recall the 1975 election, which was the very famous election when Premier Dunstan was almost defeated—from what would have been seen to be an almost unassailable position—by Bruce Eastick, who was then the leader of the Liberal Party. In the last five days, Don Dunstan dissociated himself from Prime Minister Whitlam with the famous, 'I am being smeared by my association with Gough Whitlam' full page press advertisements. It is an interesting twist on itself that one can be smeared by being associated with one's federal leader. It was a very tumultuous period in state politics—and federal politics, of course—from 1972 to 1975. At that election of 1975, Bruce Eastick went within one seat of government: as I recall, it was the seat of Gilles, and Lou Ravesi was the Liberal Party candidate. Jack Slater might have been the Labor member. The government was within 300 votes of losing that seat. The government would have changed, and the history of the 1970s and beyond might well have been changed by one seat and election result.

Soon after that, David Tonkin was elected as the leader of the Liberal Party. He led the Liberal Party through a very difficult period between 1975 and 1979. The story has been discussed in various circles since, but it is not unfair to say that there were rumblings during that period of 1975 to 1979 as to whether David would continue as leader, leading into the 1979 election. Indeed, another person taking over the leadership was actively contemplated for that period, and that person decided that he was not interested at that time. The common view was that the 1979 election was not an election that was capable of being won by the Liberal Party.

I tell a little of that history without going into gory detail to indicate something about David Tonkin the person. He saw not a position of self-aggrandisement in being a leader but responsibility in what he believed in in terms of Liberal politics and leading the Liberal Party. He saw that the Liberal Party was in a mess and that it did need a healing hand. It did need somebody who was prepared to take a difficult job. Even if all the poll results and everything else were telling him that he was going to lose and others were not interested in his position because they felt he might lose, he did not share that view. He was unfailingly optimistic. He continued to believe that, if one put one's head down and worked together, in the end nothing was ever certain in politics.

I spent a brief period during the mid 1970s—I think during the period 1976 to 1977—working for David Tonkin on his research staff. I was working in the Liberal Party and came across to Parliament House for a period of about 18 months

or so and worked with David in his office and knew first-hand the difficulties that he confronted. I could see the difficulties. I could see the impact on David Tonkin the person as, inevitably in those sorts of circumstances, others who one sees as friends and colleagues have doubts about you, and others who you see as your friends and colleagues, either knowingly or unknowingly, undermine you. As I said, he unfailingly maintained a public persona, a disposition that this was his task, that he would not give it up, and an unflinching belief that in the end nothing is certain and that the election in 1979 could be won.

My recollections on these events are always interspersed with memories of the advertising at the time. It is always an easy way to remember the particular election campaigns. Of course, the 1979 election campaign was the infamous 'Follow the leader' campaign, which was a wonderful entree for the Liberal Party's creative advertising with press ads with sheep running off the edge of cliffs, and a variety of other creative advertising content during that 'Follow the leader' campaign that the Labor Party conducted. Of course, as it turned out Premier Dunstan had retired through ill-health. During that period it had been a stormy time for Premier Dunstan with a variety of events occurring and Des Corcoran took over as Premier. All through that David Tonkin continued to believe that it was an election that could be won by the Liberal Party.

As I have said, I do not subscribe to the view that the election was won by the bus strike in the last week. I think that is the Labor Party rewriting of history view that has been entered into by a number of Labor apologists to try to explain it. If people think that that is what caused that election result, first they are deluding themselves and, secondly, they did not have access to the polling results collected during that period. I still have access to some of the polling information from 1979 and it certainly demonstrates that the bus strike was an issue, but it was not 'the issue' that those who seek to explain the events of 1979 away claim it to be. It is not an accurate reflection of what occurred in the late 1970s—and in 1979. I think my colleague Mr Griffin might address some comments in relation to this matter, because he was, of course, a much more active participant in the process at that stage than I was as a mere servant of the party working in the organisation.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** My colleague was a servant of the people and I was just a servant of the party at that stage. The Hon. Mr Griffin may address this in more detail, but there were a significant number of achievements of that brief interregnum, the three years of Liberal government in almost 20 to 25 years of Labor administration in South Australia. There was the land rights legislation, which the Hon. Mr Griffin had personal involvement in as well, and he will be able to speak on that. What has not been commonly referred to in much of the comment in the past 48 to 72 hours are the very significant financial changes implemented by the government.

The abolition of death duties, which was an enormous issue during the 1970s, and the abolition of land tax on the principal place of residence were both implemented by that government in the first 12 months. There were some hard-nosed political pragmatists who perhaps had a view that doing all those wonderful things in the first six months after the election meant that people said, 'Thanks for that' and when it came time for the next election in 1982 they said, 'What have you got for us now?'. The inference is that perhaps it would have been better to implement these things

over a three year period rather than all at once. Again, I think that is an indication of David Tonkin. David and his team had made this a centrepiece of their election strategy and, once they were elected, it was actioned very quickly.

The most controversial aspect of the Tonkin government's three years was the debate which is again centred around this chamber, that is, the debate in respect of Roxby Downs. I would be very surprised if my colleague, the Hon. Mr Davis, does not provide a bit more colour and detail of the time in relation to the Roxby Downs debate and possibly even the role of some current members of the House of Assembly and their views on Roxby Downs. I will leave that to my colleague.

However, that in itself was a very significant achievement, and I know that at the time certain decisions were taken as to how the government would play that. I was involved with the party's market research at the time. There were two views. One was, if I can put on my political hat, to go to the election on the issue rather than try to get the legislation through the Legislative Council and through the parliament. The government did have options in terms of what it might do. Again, David Tonkin had a very strong view, as did others, that this was such a significant development for South Australia's sake and for workers in South Australia that the government should not play politics on it in terms of going to an election but should do everything it could to have another go at getting the legislation through the parliament. Of course, Norm Foster, within the space of a couple of days or so, took the momentous decision then (which has since been followed by two other momentous people who have made momentous decisions in the Legislative Council in more recent times) to cross the floor and vote against his political history and heritage and vote for the Roxby Downs legislation in 1982.

My other recollection of David Tonkin during the 1970s is of a man who, under adversity, managed to continue to carry himself with good grace and good humour and who believed that he could turn things around. I have to say that during the Tonkin government's term of office from 1979 to 1982 it was my sad duty every three or six months to appear before the party's campaign committee meetings to report the results of opinion polling to the Premier and to the Liberal Party in respect of how we were doing in the lead up to the election campaign. Without revealing the confidential polling, I think the public polling at the time indicated that we were not doing that well in terms of public polling. Again, David Tonkin's approach to life and politics was demonstrated by the unflinching view that he, working with the government, would be able to turn it around in the period leading up to the election in 1982. As it transpired, of course, in 1982 that was not possible and David and the Liberal Party were not successful at the 1982 election.

David then retired in 1983. Subsequent to that he won a prestigious position as the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. He was the first Australian to hold the post. In fact, he was the first non-UK citizen appointed to that post. I think he held the position for 6 years. It may be that my colleague the Hon. Diana Laidlaw will speak of David's great love of the arts before he entered parliament. It was not something he developed as a convenient parliamentary additional extra; it was a love he enjoyed prior to entering parliament. And he enjoyed it during his period in parliament. He was appointed as chair of the Film Corporation for a period in the 1990s and continued his involvement right through, as has been recorded, to the night of his sad passing. He had been enjoying music at the Barossa

Music Festival when, sadly, later that night he passed away.

As I said, a number of my colleagues will speak, but for those who will not I speak on their behalf, I know, in publicly acknowledging the achievements of David Tonkin, not only as a member of parliament and as Premier for three years but as a human being, in terms of his commitment to public affairs and community life before, during and after his parliamentary career. It is with much sadness that we move the motion, and I pass on my sympathies to Prue, to members of his family and friends of the family at the passing of a truly decent South Australian.

I hope that this motion and others will start to acknowledge some of the tremendous achievements that he made—not just the fact that he was a truly decent South Australian but that he did achieve much in terms of his parliamentary and public life.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I am very happy to second the motion, although I am very sad at the death of David Tonkin. I last saw him on Saturday night at the Barossa Music Festival, so I was quite shocked to hear of his death. I knew that he had been in indifferent health for a number of years, having battled to overcome a stroke that had left him quite disabled for some years, and I was very pleased that he had managed to take up to some extent his public life as chairman of the board of the South Australian Film Corporation. I believe that he had been doing a tremendous job in that role.

Those of you who were given some extracts from the Parliamentary Library might have noted that in 1979 a Mrs C.A. Latter stood against David Tonkin. That was me in another life. But I had known David prior to that. My eldest son and his twin sons James and John were great friends at Rose Park Primary School and were always in and out of one another's house, so I knew David and Prue very well. David was also a member of the Rose Park Primary School Council, as was another member of this chamber, Anne Levy, and her husband Keith Barley.

The Rose Park Primary School Council went on to breed some members of parliament, a Premier, a minister and a Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House. They must have done something right in those days. I was very fond of David Tonkin. He was a man of great humour, great warmth and great strength and I, like the honourable Treasurer, think that his achievements have been not very well recorded. I was handed a message from Betty Fisher from the Women's Electoral Lobby, someone whom the Hon. Diana Laidlaw would know very well. She says in her note:

Please remind the House of Mr David Tonkin's being the first member to introduce a sex discrimination bill and the first member to table a report of the Women's Information Switchboard.

My colleague in another place Stephanie Key has indicated that she will be speaking in this condolence debate because, in her role in the Working Women's Centre, David Tonkin was her boss, and she said that he was a very good and reasonable person indeed. I think the fact that he was a Premier who was renowned for being, as the *Advertiser* says, a nice guy rather detracts from his strength as a human being and as a leader. He certainly was leading the Liberal Party in a difficult time.

I recall one night at a Rose Park Primary School Council social occasion when, knowing my interest in politics, he told me that I would see the emergence of a third force in politics, which of course became the Liberal Movement. He assured me that this was going to be the middle of the road politics,

between 'a leftie like you, Carolyn' and the more conservative right-wing people then in his own party. It did not last for very long, but he certainly was a leading light in that area.

The fact that he was in another political party from mine certainly did not detract from my friendship, although I was not in parliament in the time when he was. Even though I stood against him in the seat of Bragg, it was not ever going to be a big contest, but he behaved very much as a gentleman at the declaration of the poll. It is quite interesting that I doorknocked in that electorate. It was a bit of a forlorn hope, but many people said that they had never been doorknocked by a Labor politician before, so this was a unique thing for them.

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** That is probably very true. David Tonkin certainly was a significant leader in the area of Aboriginal land rights and the bipartisan approach to that issue. He will also be remembered for the Roxby Downs indenture legislation that caused me, in particular, great pain, because at that time I was taking the opposing view. One of the things about politics is that you often change your mind on issues and, although I still think that there are certain problems connected with the uranium mining industry, it has been a great boon for South Australia. He initiated the O-Bahn, and I understand that he set up the South Australian History Trust and the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** Personalised numberplates—'The festival state'?

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** I do not think that that is one of the things he would want to be remembered for. I think that he would want to be remembered for his role in the Pitjantjatjara land rights, for his initial bill on sex discrimination and also for his particular humanity. I caught up with David again in his role as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, a role he very much enjoyed.

He said that it was a pleasure indeed to get on the boat on the Thames from his flat in Putney to travel to the House of Commons, where his office was situated, I think in St Martin's Court, although I stand to be corrected there. He certainly loved that period, and I know that he was very much supported by a Labor government for that position. I feel very sad that he is no longer with us.

My condolences go to Prue and to his many children, particularly to James and John, whom I knew as young children. Obviously, they are men now, getting towards middle age, as is my son, and I know—

*The Hon. K.T. Griffin interjecting:*

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** Are you? I will remember that. I know that my son Marcus was very sad to learn of his passing. I think the state will regret the passing of parliamentarians of his ilk, because he was a true gentleman. He presided over a government in very different and very difficult times on both sides of politics, and he did so with a great deal of humour, tolerance and genuine interest in the wellbeing of the state.

It is very sad to reflect that politicians of this ilk are perhaps no longer with us in great numbers, and I think politics is the lesser for it. Sadly, today we have seen the passing of two great South Australians. On a personal level I am very sad to hear of the loss of David Tonkin, particularly as it was so recently that I saw him and he seemed to be in such good health, enjoying one of his great loves, music, with his wife Prue. My condolences and those of opposition members, particularly those of us who knew him personally, go to Prue, his children and his many grandchildren.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** On behalf of the Democrats, I support the motion. I knew David Tonkin personally. As opposed to so many of these condolence motions that relate to someone that you know only by way of reputation, I knew David from the early 1970s. I met him when I was a member of the Liberal Movement, as he was, and he was someone for whom I had and continued to have a great deal of respect. It might be fair to say that I have not agreed with absolutely everything that he has done, but that must be true of everyone to a greater or lesser extent. He was a good man, and a man whom I held in high regard.

When he became the leader of the Liberal Party in 1975, it was one of the reasons why I applied to the Liberal Party to become a research officer. The reason that position became vacant was that the Hon. Robert Lucas had just left that position to go and work for David Tonkin.

*The Hon. R.D. Lawson interjecting:*

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** Absolutely. I had held David in a great deal of regard, and it was on the basis that the Liberal Party chose him as leader that I thought it would be a party worth joining—and I will not reflect on that further. I did have the opportunity, working for the party, to also get to work with David from time to time. The Hon. Rob Lucas might recall that for quite some period of time he used to invite the two of us in, as I recall, on a Friday morning, to chew the fat for about an hour, as a fairly regular thing. He did it I think largely because he was looking for a couple of young blokes who might throw up something different, and I think he enjoyed the opportunity to do that.

I suppose it was bit like the opportunity that the Hon. Ian Gilfillan had to go in and speak with Sir Mark Oliphant—the fact that you have somebody who says, ‘Look, I am just going to take the time to talk to some other people and get some other views.’ Just as with Sir Mark, I think that that is a reflection of a person of some worth. I saw David in the same way, that he was somebody who took the time to talk to people even though it could be argued in the diary that it perhaps was not the most important event that day. As I said, he took the time to simply chew the fat. There was never an agenda—we would just go in and talk for an hour.

**The Hon. A.J. Redford:** Did the counselling help you at all?

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** It was not counselling. As I said, it was not a case of someone telling somebody else to do something; it was simply a chance to go in and chew the fat. However, not long after that, I parted ways with the Liberal Party, but I always held David in the highest regard, and I always believed him to be a good man and continue to do so to this day. I extend my condolences to his family. I am sure he will be sorely missed, but he will not be forgotten.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** There was something of the devil in David Tonkin. I was President of the Liberal Party from 1973 to 1975—

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** Do you mean an impish devil?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** An impish devil.

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

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** Yes, feisty. For fear of being misrepresented already, after only one sentence—impish, devilment; and, if we need more, we can put the record straight—

**The Hon. Ian Gilfillan:** Do you want to start again Trevor?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** No. It’s on the record now.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** I’ll keep quiet.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** You can interject if you like. Feisty is probably a correct description of the interjection, too. I was President of the Liberal Party from 1973 to 1975. I can well remember an occasion where I had to address a meeting at Blanchetown. David Tonkin was then the spokesperson for the parliamentary Liberal Party on health matters. He offered me a ride to Blanchetown in a navy blue—

**The Hon. T.G. Roberts:** And none home!

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** And one home, too. The trip home was more awesome than the trip to Blanchetown, because the trip to Blanchetown was made in the evening. It was a navy blue Fiat, as I remember, what we would now describe as a hatchback, but certainly a very powerful engine under the bonnet, low to the road, a small vehicle, and it went like the wind. But, coming back the following morning, he said, ‘Trevor, let’s see how fast we can go.’ So the foot went down.

**The Hon. Diana Laidlaw:** He was a devil.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** He was.

*The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I am sure that, if one could find that vehicle around Adelaide now, one would still find the imprints of my fingernails in the passenger seat, because he did go like the wind. That was not always David’s approach. In politics he was mostly calm and collected. But there were occasions when he would bounce into a meeting, a glint in the eye, and say, ‘I have the solution to this problem.’ You would have to debate it with him for a while: sometimes it was a solution but other times he was flying a kite. It may be that, in the same fashion that he sought to have two young research officers flying kites to test him, so also was he testing both the state executive and, subsequently, the parliamentary party and the cabinet.

David was elected as the member for Bragg in 1970. That election (as is the case with most elections, I suppose) took place in a very highly charged political environment, and I remember it well. I was a candidate for the state seat of Brighton and was not successful. David, of course, had the option of a much safer seat—the seat of Bragg—and he won it. That was the election where there was the big debate about Dartmouth and Chowilla, so the focus was on water. Unfortunately, the then Liberal government, led by Premier Steele Hall, lost that election.

There was a valiant effort to win the 1975 election, which was unsuccessful, as my colleague the Hon. Robert Lucas has already indicated: 1977 was unsuccessful, and 1979 was a landslide. People say, ‘We never really expected to win it.’ I think we always thought that it was winnable but, having been in opposition for quite a long period of time, we took the view that we should not count our chickens before they were hatched and, therefore, were somewhat more subdued about the election campaign, although quite a significant amount of vigour was used in the political process. If one reflects back to the time, one will remember that Don Dunstan had retired and resigned seven months prior to the election. Premier Des Corcoran had called the election almost a year early. We had been through a quite traumatic royal commission into the Harold Salisbury affair. The Labor Party was in some disarray. There was a campaign by the Labor Party for worker participation and compulsory unionism. Whilst the Hon. Robert Lucas has already made reference to a bus strike in the last days of the election campaign, by the time that came, I believe that the result of the election had already been set in concrete.

So, the election came. We were voted into office. We had a fairly extensive policy—although some people say that, in that era, there were not many achievements. However, I decided to look back through the statute book for those years of 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982, and there are some quite significant things which occurred under David Tonkin's leadership. There were one or two things in which we were not successful, such as the abolition of the unsworn statement, which ultimately hung upon one vote of the late Lance Milne, but in a number of other things we were highly successful. As the Hon. Robert Lucas has already mentioned, the abolition of gift duty, death duty and land tax on the principal place of residence was a key policy initiative of the new Liberal government. That was among the first pieces of legislation that we introduced. It came into operation on 1 January 1980 and was the honouring of a fairly hard fought policy commitment during that campaign.

There are other areas of legislation that perhaps have not yet been referred to; for example, random breath testing. Limited alco-testing was in place at the time we came to office. However, Michael Wilson as the Minister for Transport, under David Tonkin's leadership, introduced quite comprehensive random breath testing. When we came to office, there was no legislation to deal with state disasters, with essential services, with motor fuel shortages, and so on. Early on in our government, we were faced with a crisis in relation to motor fuel shortages. That prompted us to introduce legislation in 1980 dealing with motor fuel rationing, petroleum shortages, and the State Disaster Act came into operation, and then, in the following session in 1981, the Essential Services Act. So a suite of legislation was brought in—which is very largely in place today—with the safeguards we sought to build into it at that time.

It might be remembered that Adelaide still had then a very small domestic airport, and it was the dream of David Tonkin in particular and also the Liberal government that we should be able to make Adelaide an international gateway. It might be remembered that it was during that period that Adelaide did become an international gateway with the building of the airport terminal at West Beach. At that stage also we were not regarded as having any international standard hotel. Again, it might be remembered that the Victoria Square Hilton International Hotel came into being.

The Hon. Carolyn Pickles has already identified that David Tonkin was the person who introduced a private member's bill in 1973 for a Sex Discrimination Act, and that really formed the basis of the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975. Following on in 1981, which was the International Year of the Disabled, we took the view that something should seek to eliminate discrimination on the ground of disability. In that year, the Handicapped Persons (Equal Opportunity) Act was enacted. It might have been forgotten, but also in that year the River Torrens Linear Park Act was enacted which for the first time sought to establish that Linear Park which is now so much of an asset to South Australians in both the eastern and western suburbs.

A lot has been said about Roxby Downs. Whilst Mr Beazley and the federal parliament believed—quite erroneously—that history showed that there was a bipartisan approach of the parliament in 1982, that was not the case. That legislation, which David Tonkin, Roger Goldsworthy and the rest of the government was committed to getting through by one means or another, was very heavily contested, and it was only the crossing of the floor by Norm Foster that enabled us to get Roxby Downs on track. Talking about Roxby Downs also

brings back a recollection of the Stony Point liquids project, which again was a major development for South Australia, and in 1981 the legislation was passed dealing with that.

A lot has already been said about the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act of 1981, and it should not be forgotten that that was a quite significant piece of legislation in which David Tonkin again played a fairly important role, particularly in supporting several of us as we negotiated with representatives of the Pitjantjatjara people, and the Pitjantjatjara people themselves, for a quite significant piece of legislation that vested a form of freehold in a new body corporate established under that legislation. This was a quite stimulating piece of legislation, and also negotiations leading up to its enactment.

I refer to the Sir Samuel Way Building in Victoria Square. When we talked about some work being done for the courts and a new building, David Tonkin was again very supportive of restoring the old Charles Moore department store to accommodate the courts as a landmark building in Victoria Square. There are many other pieces of legislation—

*An honourable member interjecting:*

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** Protecting the marble staircase as well. There are many other achievements during that period. Whilst it is a sad occasion upon which to reflect on those achievements, nevertheless it is important to do so, lest we forget that David Tonkin particularly, and also the government which he led, did make significant contributions to the wellbeing of the state during a relatively short period in office. After his involvement with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, David also played a very active role in a number of charitable and other organisations.

Reflecting on his time as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, it was really his warm personality, his capacity to include people, his generosity and his trustworthy nature which, I am sure, played a very significant part in the way in which he led both the parliamentary Liberal Party and also the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I know that in his five or six year term in that office he enjoyed it for the opportunities it gave him to promote South Australia in particular and to bring him into contact with leaders in parliaments around the commonwealth of nations, and also because it gave him the opportunity to ensure that the welfare of parliamentarians in less well off countries in particular was able to be promoted.

David Tonkin gave of his time as a governor of the Queen Elizabeth Trust, the Commonwealth Trust and the Commonwealth Society for the Blind. He was a trustee for Vision Aid overseas. He was also a director in his earlier years, and also partly up to the time he became Premier, of the Australian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness which, I suppose, naturally followed from his very keen interest in and specialty of medicine. He will be missed. He made a significant contribution to the life of South Australia and to the lives of those with whom he came into contact. I extend my condolences to both Prue and his family and friends.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** In my view, David Tonkin, as a statesman for this state, has never been adequately acknowledged. Many members in this place have spoken of his love for his family, his capacity as an ophthalmologist, his championing of humane legislation, and his capacity to build and energise the Liberal Party.

As a younger woman in the Liberal Party, and also as one privileged to work with him indirectly as ministerial adviser to the then Minister for the Arts and Local Government and

Housing, and assisting the Premier, David Tonkin, in ethnic affairs, I first got to know David Tonkin through the Liberal Party when he was introducing his first sex discrimination bill as a private member. To me, as a relatively young university student at the time, this was a pretty bold effort by any member of parliament—it was the first such bill in Australia—and it was even more remarkable as a Liberal to see that these issues were being taken so seriously, and thereafter I took the man very seriously, too.

Trevor Griffin is right when he says that David Tonkin, as Premier, then took this issue of equal opportunity a step further by extending these measures to people with disabilities. He was not only humane but he championed so many causes where it was not always possible for people to find a platform. I mention briefly the Working Women's Centre. It would not necessarily have been anticipated that a Liberal Premier, after years of Labor government, would adopt and support so strongly the Working Women's Centre, particularly as it had very strong union links at the time. David Tonkin worked assiduously to ensure that the employers got involved in these issues as well and supported this centre, recognising that it was so important, from a business perspective, to give working conditions for women a much higher profile.

He found new premises for the Working Women's Centre. With Jennifer Cashmore, he encouraged the first women's health policy to be developed by any government in the country. He set up the first women's health centre with Jennifer as minister in Adelaide. Working through Murray Hill, the Minister for Housing, we established through legislation the first cooperatives or associations that enabled women's shelters to gain half-way houses for women as they left the shelters before they could find independent accommodation themselves.

These were all pretty revolutionary steps. When I came into this place in 1982, I was bewildered when I went interstate to see how far behind parliaments and services were in the eastern states compared to what we took for granted here, having been championed by Labor and then further advanced by David Tonkin as Liberal Premier in this state.

I acknowledge, too, David Tonkin's help to me when I decided to stand for preselection. It was a pretty unusual thing to have a woman so young in the Liberal Party stand for preselection and he was an enormous help and encouragement to me at all times. That continued after I became a member of this place and he retired from parliament.

As ministerial adviser I just want to put on the record the ferocious way in which he wrote his blue notes. He would always have bright ideas and, as the Attorney-General said, every day we would receive these cursed blue notes from the Premier regarding things he would be expecting us to do and wished us to deliver.

*The Hon. K.T. Griffin interjecting:*

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** I was going to mention Ross Story. There were some that Ross Story, as his chief of staff, would ensure were never delivered. He would then quietly talk to the Premier and persuade him from a course of action.

When David Tonkin was Premier, the first arts department in this state was established. The South Australian Performing Arts Board based at Carclew was established and, as the Hon. Carolyn Pickles mentioned, the History Trust was established, as was the Migration Museum. The Birdwood Motor Museum, which was experiencing enormous difficulties as a private sector organisation, was taken under the wing of government. The Mortlock Library in the State Library

was established, and, with the commissioning of plans by Mr Bob Edwards, major work was proposed for the South Australian Museum. That work was then abandoned by the next Bannon government, and it has been my pleasure to advance that work from the Tonkin years during my period as Minister for the Arts.

David Tonkin had an enormous love for the arts and a respect for the power of the arts to define a society, to civilise generally, to enlighten and to enrich. He was appointed by the Labor government to chair State Opera between 1985 and 1986. I acknowledge that approach by the Bannon government because David Tonkin knew his music and continued to love it until the day he died. I made the recommendation to Cabinet and David Tonkin subsequently was appointed board member and chair of the South Australian Film Corporation on 26 September 1994. He served as chair until 20 October 1997. He continued as a board member until 31 December 1999. During that period when he was chair David Tonkin suffered a stroke. I have an enormous respect for David and his courage in overcoming that physical disability. His mind never weakened. He would get so impatient because he could not always say what he felt, but somehow he continued despite his difficulties to be a wonderful chair of the South Australian Film Corporation and then continued on as a board member.

That period embraced some of the greatest times of change in the history of the South Australian Film Corporation. I would like to mention two significant achievements in particular. There was the production of Scott Hicks' *Shine*, which was to go interstate to be filmed in New South Wales, but we captured that back here through a lot of work behind the scenes to which David contributed enormously. Also, David pestered every single member of Cabinet and beyond to get the funding for the Harrison sound-mixing desk at the studio of the South Australian Film Corporation. Part of the funds for that purchase were gained from the filming of *Shine*. That has enabled many local films to be mixed here to world standard and for us to attract to this state other filmmakers from across Australia. There is no doubt in my mind that this strength of independent film making based in South Australia and the new role of the South Australian Film Corporation from a producer in its own right to management of film development programs owes a great deal to the dedication and commitment of David Tonkin during his period as chair.

I last saw David a few weeks ago at Sir Bruce Macklin's memorial service. He was excited to tell me that he had recently seen Judith McCann, the General Manager of the Film Corporation during the period that he had been chair. He had recently seen Judith in Canada. Having spoken to Prue Tonkin last night, I am aware that Judith McCann has been alerted to David's death. David and Judith were a formidable force at the corporation. We owe a great debt to David in terms of the revival of film-making in this state.

As a former Premier of this state, we also owe to him another debt—and I also mention former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser in this regard. Too few Liberals have been given credit for the humane and enlightened environmental and equal opportunity legislation which they have advanced for the benefit of all—in David Tonkin's case, for South Australians and, in Malcolm Fraser's case, for Australians. It is awful that David's death has caused us to put all this on the record. We must think about how to promote the achievements of our leaders during their lifetime and not just after their death.

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** My association with David Tonkin goes back to the 1960s when, as a member of the Liberal Party, he won endorsement for the state seat of Norwood, which was then held by the Premier of the day, Don Dunstan—a formidable member of parliament who had just succeeded Frank Walsh as Premier of South Australia. Although the Liberal Party was successful in winning the state election in 1968 on what were then controversial boundaries, David Tonkin was not successful in wresting the seat of Norwood away from the Premier of the day.

But it was a campaign of great enthusiasm. It underlined the humanity of the man that, every Saturday after we had been out doorknocking and letter boxing, we would return to his Kent Town home for a barbecue and drinks. It was a day when people belonged to an organisation, which is not a feature of the year 2000. In this era of belonging, there was enormous support, as David brought friends and members of the Liberal Party together in what was a terrific campaign with a lot of verve and excitement. He was hooked on politics after that first effort and subsequently sought and was successful in receiving endorsement for the safe seat of Bragg, which was the adjacent seat in the eastern suburbs, and so he became a member of parliament in 1970.

I was involved in the Liberal Party organisation in Bragg during those years, so I knew David Tonkin very well. As several speakers have already mentioned, these were difficult times because the Liberal Party had two parties. It was a party within a party—the Liberal Movement and the LCL (as it was then described). To characterise it briefly, most members of parliament within the metropolitan area, I think with only one exception, were members of the Liberal Movement; the majority of members of the LCL organisation in the metropolitan area were members of the Liberal Movement, and David Tonkin was one of those.

David Tonkin was always true to Liberal ideals. He was a politician who did not play it hard. As someone described him in the paper only the other day, he was perhaps too nice to be a politician—but nevertheless he was a most successful politician. When he became the leader of the parliamentary Liberal Party after the narrow defeat of the Liberal Party at the July 1975 election, I happened to have one of those white knuckle rides in David Tonkin's car to a regional convention. In fact, he had traded in his blue Fiat and at that stage had a green Alpha Romeo, which I suspect had rather more horses under the bonnet than the Hon. Trevor Griffin would have wished for. As I remember, he drove like the wind that day to a regional convention deep in the South-East, on day one of his leadership. He was very enthusiastic about the opportunity but realistic about the challenge, because Premier Don Dunstan undoubtedly was at the height of his popularity in the electorate.

As has been mentioned, in 1977 David Tonkin, as Leader of the Opposition, presided over yet another defeat for the Parliamentary Liberal Party, and coming into 1979 the prospects were no better, even though Don Dunstan had retired as Premier on the grounds of ill-health in early 1979, to be replaced by his deputy leader of many years, Des Corcoran. I can well remember, just days after my entering parliament on 31 July 1979, that a meeting of the joint parliamentary party was convened at Parliament House. I understand that it was perhaps, arguably, the first time that the President of the Liberal Party organisation had ever come and addressed members of the joint party. The then President of the Liberal Party, Dr Jim Forbes, said that some polling had been carried out which suggested that the Liberal Party

was well behind the Labor Party and that we had to lift our game. That was early August 1979, and in the space of a few weeks there was a dramatic turnaround in fortune.

As the Hon. Rob Lucas has already told the Council, the Labor Party, without apparently any real pre-polling, ran into that election with the slogan, 'Follow a leader.' Nigel Buick, that famous personality from Kangaroo Island, authorised advertisements, many of which said, 'Only sheep follow a leader.' That theme was picked up, and I can remember in the week leading up to the campaign in 1979, on 18 September 1979, indeed, there were as many as nine full page advertisements in the afternoon *News*, all advocating a vote for the Liberal Party, whereas the Labor Party had virtually no advertising at all.

So, David Tonkin became Premier in most unexpected circumstances. Probably, in his heart, he was not expecting it but, of course, in the week or two leading up to the campaign it became very obvious that something was happening. I remember seeing Hugh Hudson shopping in Rundle Mall just days before the election date, and I said, 'Hugh, what are you doing? I thought you would be in the electorate.' He said, 'It's too late, mate; I'm gone.' Of course, the Deputy Premier, who was very politically literate, had read the tea-leaves in his political cup and recognised that his time was up.

David Tonkin presided over three years of Liberal government, and I agree with the sentiments that already have been expressed. I think that it is a government that was very much underrated in terms of its achievements. Perhaps pre-eminent amongst the achievements, from my point of view, was the establishment of Roxby Downs, against all odds. It is, of course, history now and, uncomfortable though it may be, it should be mentioned again. The Labor Party ran a very public and a very spirited campaign against it, and this campaign was led pre-eminently by one Mike Rann, who put out a booklet of some 30 pages attacking Roxby Downs. I was a member of a select committee looking at uranium resources, and one of the members of that committee was, in fact, Norm Foster. Norm Foster ranks as one of the modern heroes in South Australian political history—and there will be two other members in time who will enter that pantheon, I know, for their recent commitment. Norm Foster, of course, changed political history by resigning from the Labor Party and supporting the development of Roxby Downs.

That now is a township of 4 000 people. It now is one of the great underground mines of the world, and it generates an enormous amount of royalty for the government, and also export revenue and jobs for South Australia. Of course, David Tonkin's persistence in that does him and his government of the day great credit. The development of the Hilton hotel, the international airport, the Pitjantjatjara legislation, the abolition of death duties and land tax—which have all been mentioned—and the introduction of random breath testing. That is something for which he deserved great credit. There was a lot of opposition in the early days from many politicians and much of the media. I served on both of those random breath test committees and know the pressure that we were under not to introduce it. Another factor which has not been mentioned is the introduction of program budgeting under the Tonkin government which transformed the approach to the annual budget.

David Tonkin was served very well by a loyal and very able Deputy Premier Roger Goldsworthy. They were different people. Roger was much more of a political animal than David Tonkin. I spoke to Roger Goldsworthy not so long ago,

and I said, 'Tell me, Roger, what was it about David Tonkin that kept the government together so well even though it was under pressure?' He said, 'He just kept everyone happy. He just had that wonderful way of keeping everybody happy. Whilst 'jolly' is perhaps an unfashionable word these days, he certainly was a person who was extraordinarily jolly, always looking on the bright side.

The other thing that has to be said about David Tonkin is that he had a lovely sense of humour. On one occasion he called me into his office and said 'Legh, this is just between you and me, but what would you say if I made Don Dunstan Governor of South Australia?' I looked at him, my jaw dropped, and I said, 'Not too many people would be very happy with that on the Liberal side of politics.' He laughed and said, 'I don't mean that Don Dunstan; I mean someone else called Don Dunstan who is an army chief who has just retired.' He said, 'Why don't you think about that overnight and let me know whether you can see any problems with that.' Of course, Sir Donald Dunstan later became Governor of South Australia and served in a very distinguished way in that role.

It can be said that in 1982 when the Liberal Party managed to get Roxby Downs through the parliament it may well have gone to the poll and been successful. As the Hon. Robert Lucas said, the polls perhaps were not very strong for the Liberal Party during that time. However, it was a characteristic of David Tonkin that he believed that he should serve his three years, so he faced the electorate on 10 November 1982 with an economy that was generally depressed and with a season in drought. So the conditions were not good.

*The Hon. Diana Laidlaw interjecting:*

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** Yes, and there were economic factors that conspired against him. Of course, in the meantime the Labor Party had changed the uranium policy and was supporting Roxby Downs, so that issue had been removed as an election issue in many ways. Looking at it without emotion, I have always believed that, in the past four or five decades in politics in Australia generally, there have probably been only three or four governments that have lost that did not deserve to lose. One can think of the Greiner government, one can think of a Labor government in Queensland, and one could certainly place the Tonkin government in that bracket. It was a government that had a lot of achievements, was hit by a bad economy and paid the consequences.

David Tonkin will be remembered for being the leader of a very fine administration, creating some very worthwhile and lasting projects for the benefit of South Australia, a person who made a great contribution to his community both in politics and after he retired from politics with his interest in the arts in particular, and his compassionate and genuine interest in his fellow man. I know that Prue and his children will miss him very much and our deepest sympathies are with them.

**The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS:** The Hon. Mr Tonkin was a colleague and the leader of the party when my father was in this place. Like my colleague the Minister for Transport, he offered me great encouragement both before and after I was elected to this place. I particularly want to make mention of his role in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Most members would be aware that in the past 10 days I have had the great privilege to represent this parliament at the annual CPA conference in the United Kingdom. Part of that conference included a debate on the method of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the CPA, because there was

some dispute about the way in which that position should be filled in the future. As part of the debate, particular detail was provided about the four people who had previously held this position—remarkably, only four people in 89 years—including David Tonkin. It is interesting to note that in 1985, at a meeting in Saskatchewan in Canada, the executive committee of the CPA was unanimous in recommending the appointment of the Hon. David Tonkin as the successor to Sir Robin Vanderfelt. Dr Tonkin joined the secretariat staff in April 1986 and took up his duties in July 1986.

In 1991 Dr Tonkin, who was to retire at the end of 1993, agreed to retire one year early so as to allow the selection of his successor to proceed in tandem with the selection of a person for the newly created position of Head of Administration of the CPA. That is typical of the man: he decided that it was best for those people to be appointed at the same time rather than for him to remain in office for a further 12 months.

Dr Tonkin was appointed to the position of CPA Secretary-General on the basis that his duties would be mainly representational and promotional. However, circumstances at the secretariat required him to be involved more than anticipated in administrative matters, and this inhibited his ability to devote his total efforts to a representational role.

Overall, the general members of the CPA who were heavily involved in the work of the association held Dr Tonkin in very high regard. Indeed, the incumbent Secretary-General, Art Donahoe QC (who will step down next year), told me how pleased he was to have a visit from David and Prue Tonkin at the CPA Secretariat earlier this year. I extend my condolences to the Tonkin family.

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I endorse entirely the statements of the Hon. Diana Laidlaw about David Tonkin's impact on the state and on each of us individually. That impact has been much understated, particularly in the media following his death, and that is a matter of some disappointment. My first memory of former Premier David Tonkin was from a great distance in the sense that I was still a student at university. I recall having discussions with my parents about politics in general and I remember my father saying to me on a number of occasions that the one thing about David Tonkin was that he always kept his promises. He had a pretty big grab-bag of promises that he had made leading into the 1979 election, particularly getting rid of death duties. He kept all those promises and I know that his conduct and administration had a not insignificant role to play in changing finally my father's views on politics and, in particular, the Liberal Party.

My second contact with David Tonkin was in relation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association following my election. It is not often that you see someone who has held and discharged executive office in this place continue to endorse and embrace the parliamentary traditions and accountability of the executive to parliament as David Tonkin did both throughout his career when he was Premier and subsequently. His elevation to the position of secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was an endorsement of his love and cherishing of parliamentary tradition.

One of the things which he did in relation to parliament as Premier and something which has not been mentioned earlier is the introduction of the committee process in dealing with budgets in the form of estimates committees. It is a process that again brings the executive arm of government and the public sector directly into contact with the parliament



and ensures proper accountability in the true Westminster tradition.

*The Hon. P. Holloway interjecting:*

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** The Hon. Paul Holloway interjects. If the Labor side is not good enough to take advantage of it, that is its problem. He did give you that opportunity.

The third issue on which I came into contact with him is Carrick Hill. I well recall that the select committee was set up, at the instance of the Hon. Diana Laidlaw, after his stroke. I recall his giving evidence to the select committee, and clearly it must have been extraordinarily frustrating to him to be trapped with his intellect unimpaired within the shell of a stroke. I know that his evidence was both clear and unequivocal.

I recall talking to him afterwards about the results of that select committee. I know he was so pleased that we had managed to find, or at least to consider, a way to improve the management and success of Carrick Hill—something which he cherished so much—without having to sell some parts of the land. That is not to say that he opposed what the Hon. Diana Laidlaw has said in any vociferous way other than from the intellectual point of view. When I spoke to him about my daughter's view on the retention of Carrick Hill, he said it is very important that we often ask our children's views about what we are or are not doing in a political sense because they, after all, will inherit what we do.

The final opportunity I had to deal with David Tonkin occurred only as late as June this year when his wife, Prue, was invited to be a guest speaker at the Mitchell SEC. I well remember the sense of great pride and love he had for his wife Prue as she addressed a not insubstantial meeting of the Mitchell SEC—I think there were about 40 in attendance. Someone stood up at one stage and asked a question not of Prue but of David, and I recall David saying that this was Prue's occasion and that she would answer all the questions. Indeed, she made a very good fist of it.

One could see clearly the love and respect he had for his wife Prue. I know, given the way she conducted herself that day, that she must have been a great support to him both personally and in his political career.

My sincere sympathy goes out to her at her great loss, a loss that we all share. I know that in a really clear and substantive sense David Tonkin has improved my life; he has improved the lives of us all, extending that to the lives of my children. Indeed, it is my view that that legacy, whilst it stands today, will continue to stand for some considerable time into the future.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** David Tonkin, I must put on record, was what I would call an uncommonly decent man. He will be missed by everyone whose life he touched during his own lifetime. Equally, I am sure, he will be missed by his wife and family, and I extend my condolences to them.

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I must recognise the tremendous assistance that in 1980 David Tonkin as Premier gave to the Italian earthquake appeal for the Campania region. I was co-opted to organise the appeal and can remember very clearly that as Premier he came to the Campania Club and pledged one-to-one government support for the money raised over a weekend.

Needless to say, the appeal had been launched to help the victims of the earthquake, and I can clearly recall his generous gesture, which gave a great deal of support to the

Italian community in South Australia in raising \$45 000 over the weekend. The Liberal government, led by Premier David Tonkin, matched that appeal with \$45 000, which gave a great boost to the ongoing appeal that finally raised \$490 000.

I would also like to acknowledge that, during the period of David Tonkin's leadership, with the Hon. Murray Hill (the minister assisting the Premier for multicultural and ethnic affairs) the first Ethnic Affairs Commission was established. It was a ground-breaking decision, which I am sure helped a great deal in furthering the concept of multiculturalism in South Australia. I would like to extend my sincere sympathy to Prue, his children and his grandchildren.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

*[Sitting suspended from 4.33 to 4.45 p.m.]*

### MERTIN, Mr C., DEATH

**The PRESIDENT:** It gives me much sorrow to inform members of the Legislative Council that our previous Clerk, Mr Clive Mertin, passed away suddenly on 31 August 2000 at the age of 68. Clive's untimely death came as a shock to us all. He commenced his parliamentary career in the Legislative Council in 1960 as the Clerk of Papers and Records. Prior to this, he served four years in the Royal Australian Navy as well as in the Adelaide office of the Orient Steam Navigation Company.

In 1967, Clive was appointed Second Clerk-Assistant and in 1978 he was appointed to the position of Clerk-Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod. He was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Council in 1979, a position he held until his retirement in 1992.

Clive saw many changes in his career of 32 years in the Legislative Council. The upper house went from being a house dominated by the government party to one in which neither party had majority control. Clive was always a staunch defender of the institution of the upper house and held the respect of members and staff who were associated with him.

For those who knew Clive personally—and I had the pleasure of knowing Clive for six years in this place—he displayed a marvellous sense of humour that is often needed during long sitting periods. He had a wealth of knowledge of the inner workings of the Council and the parliament. I am sure that his former colleagues will join with me in extending sympathy to Angela, his wife, and their two daughters, Shirley and Alexandra.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL VACANCY

**The PRESIDENT** laid on the table the minutes of the assembly of members of both houses held this day to fill a vacancy in the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of the Hon. George Weatherill.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I move:

That the minutes of the proceedings be printed.

Motion carried.

### LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The PRESIDENT:** I lay upon the table the report of the Legislative Review Committee concerning the Freedom of Information Act which was authorised to be printed and

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

### PAPERS TABLED

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the President—

- Report of the Auditor-General and Treasurer's Financial Statements, 1999-2000, Parts A and B.
- Members' Travel Expenditure, 1999-2000, pursuant to Members of Parliament Travel Entitlement Rules, 1983.
- Register of Members' Interests—June 2000—Registrar's Statement.
- Ordered—That the Statement be printed (Paper No. 134).

By the Treasurer (Hon. R.I. Lucas)—

- Report, 1998-1999—
  - Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee.
- Reports, 1999—
  - Adelaide University.
  - Flinders University of South Australia.
  - University of South Australia.
- Reports, 1999-2000.
  - Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal.
  - Gaming Machines Act 1992—State Supply Board.
  - Government Boards and Committees Information.
  - Promotions and Grievance Appeals Tribunal Report.
  - Seventh Australian Masters Games.
- Regulations under the following Acts—
  - Electricity Act 1996—Industry.
  - Fees Act 1927—Revocation.
  - Lottery and Gaming Act 1936—Interpretation Variation.
  - Police Superannuation Act 1990—Commutation.
  - Public Corporations Act 1993—Adelaide Convention Centre Corporation.
  - Public Finance and Audit Act 1987—Variation of Bodies
  - Superannuation Act 1988—Miscellaneous Amendment.
  - Water Resources Act 1997—Meters.
- Flinders University of South Australia—Statute Amendments allowed by the Governor in 1999.
- South Australian Motor Sport Board—Statement of Accounts for Year ended 30 June 2000.
- University of South Australia—Financial Statements 1999.

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

- Reports, 1999-2000.
  - Advisory Board of Agriculture.
  - Phylloxera and Grape Industry Board of South Australia.
- Evidence Act 1929—Report Relating to Suppression of Orders.
- Regulations under the following Acts—
  - Bail Act 1985—Bail Application—Written Reasons.
  - Dairy Industry Act 1992—Licence Fees.
  - Dangerous Substances Act 1979—Application of C/W Regulations.
  - Daylight Saving Act 1971—Summer Time 2000-2001.
  - Fisheries Act 1982—
    - Exotic Fish.
    - General.
    - Miscellaneous.
    - Prawn Fisheries Variation.
    - Private Mines.
  - Petroleum Act 2000—Principal.
  - Petroleum Products Subsidy Act 1965—Customs.
  - Recreation Grounds Act 1931—Hindmarsh Stadium.
  - Sexual Reassignment Act 1988—Principal.
  - Sheriff's Act 1978—Items on Premises.
  - Subordinate Legislation Act 1978—Postponement of Expiry.
  - Valuation of Land Act 1971—Fixtures.
  - Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1986—
    - Crown Agencies.
    - Dispute Resolution—Payment of GST.

General Payment of GST.  
Reviews and Appeals—Payment of GST.

Rules of Court—

- District Court—District Court Act—
  - Amendment No. 28—Person Under Disability.
  - Amendment No. 29—Application of Schedules.
- Magistrates Court—Magistrates Court (Civil) Rules—
  - Amendment No. 16—Erratum.
- Supreme Court—Supreme Court Act—
  - Amendment No. 74—Interest Rate Change.
  - Amendment No. 75—GST Costs.
  - Amendment No. 76—Registry Hours.
  - Amendment No. 77—Interest Rate Application.
- Supreme Court—Supreme Court Criminal Rules—
  - Amendment No. 10—Performance Indicators.
- Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Videotapes—Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995.
- National Classification Code—Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) Act 1995.
- Public Corporations Act 1993—Ministerial Direction—
  - South Australian Ports Corporation.
- Summary Offences Act 1953—
  - Dangerous Area Declarations.
  - Road Block Establishment Authorisations.

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

- Regulations under the following Acts—
  - Conveyancers Act 1994—Cheques Exemption.
  - Land Agents Act 1994—Cheques Exemption.
  - Liquor Licensing Act 1997—Dry Areas—
    - Barmera.
    - Clare and Gilbert Valleys.
    - Port Adelaide.
    - Victor Harbor.
  - Plumbers, Gas Fitters and Electricians Act 1995—
    - Smith's Snackfood.

By the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning (Hon. Diana Laidlaw)—

- Reports, 1999-2000.
  - Booleroo Centre District Hospital and Health Services Inc.
  - Boundary Adjustment Facilitation Panel.
  - Dental Board of South Australia. Land Board.
  - Local Government Finance Authority.
  - Local Government Grants Commission South Australia.
  - Physiotherapists Board of South Australia.
  - Reserve Planning and Management Advisory Committee.
  - South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Council.
  - Wildlife Advisory Committee.
- Reports—
  - Berri-Barmera—General Review and Consolidation Plan Amendment Plan Amendment Report.
  - Interim Operation of the City of Norwood, Payneham and St. Peters,—Kensington and Norwood (City) Development Plan, Local Heritage (Built Heritage) Review Plan Amendment.
  - Interim Operation of the Hills Face zone Amendment Plan Report.
  - Interim Operation of the Telecommunications Facilities Statewide Policy Framework Plan Amendment Report.
- Regulations under the following Acts—
  - Adoption Act 1988—Age.
  - Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium Act 1978—
    - Admission Charges.
  - Coast Protection Act 1972—
    - Eyre.
    - Fleurieu.
    - Kangaroo Island.
    - Metropolitan.
    - South East.
    - Spencer.
    - Yorke.
  - Controlled Substances Act 1984—

Cannabis Plant Expiation.  
 Poisons.  
 Prohibited Substances.  
 Development Act 1993—Telecommunications Facilities.  
 Environment Protection Act 1993—Weighbridge.  
 Local Government Finance authority Act 1983—Prescribed Bodies.  
 Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999—Public Consultation.  
 Motor Vehicles Act 1959—  
 Accident Towing Roster Scheme.  
 Fees Recovery.  
 Passing Emergency Vehicles.  
 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972—Administrative.  
 Royalty.  
 Occupational Therapists Act 1974—Prescribed Qualifications.  
 Passenger Transport Act 1994—Exclusions from Accreditation.  
 Racing Act 1976—The Authority.  
 Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982—Ionising Radiation.  
 Road Traffic Act 1961—  
 Emergency Workers.  
 Hospitals for Compulsory Blood Test.  
 Inspection Fees.  
 No U-Turn Signs.  
 South Australian Health Commission Act 1976—Private Hospitals.  
 Local Government Elections—May 2000.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNET AND INTERACTIVE HOME GAMBLING AND GAMBLING BY OTHER MEANS OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I bring up the interim report of the select committee together with minutes of evidence and move:

That the report be printed.

Motion carried.

#### STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

**The Hon. L.H. DAVIS:** I lay on the table the annual report of the Statutory Authorities Review Committee 1999-2000 and move:

That the report be printed.

Motion carried.

#### PARTNERSHIPS 21

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I seek leave to table a copy of a ministerial statement made in another place today by the Minister for Education, Children's Services and Training on the subject of Partnerships 21.

Leave granted.

#### CRIMINAL LAW (UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS) ACT

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I seek leave to make a ministerial statement on the subject of the Criminal Law (Undercover Operations) Act 1995.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** In April 1995, after the High Court decided an appeal called *Ridgeway* in favour of the accused, the parliament passed the Criminal Law (Undercover Operations) Act 1995, with the support of all sides of politics. The object of the legislation was to place the law of police undercover operations on a legislative footing and to ensure certainty in the law. It was clear that the High Court ruling on entrapment by police of drug dealers and other criminals had become a source of judicial uncertainty.

As honourable members may be aware, one of the safeguards that was built into legislation which clearly extended police powers was that there should be notification of authorised undercover operations to the Attorney-General and an annual report to the parliament. I am pleased to assure the Council that the system is meticulously adhered to, both by police and by my office. The details of these notifications form the basis of the report which the statute requires me to give to the parliament. I now seek leave to table that report.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I reported last year that it is clear that the legislation is working well. That continues to be the case. I also reported last year that the Chief Justice had expressed some very general misgivings in a judgment delivered during that reporting year about possible difficulties in the application of the legislation retrospectively. However, that general concern has not been made manifest and, until the precise nature of any difficulty has become apparent, it seems to me that it would be unwise to anticipate events. I am unaware of any judicial activity in the last 12 months of relevance to this statement which should be reported to honourable members. I think honourable members should be well assured that the legislation is working as it was intended to do and that no difficulties have appeared in its effective operation.

#### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I seek leave to make a brief ministerial statement on the subject of a report on the operation of section 93AA of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** Section 93AA of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 deals with sexual harassment by members of parliament and members of the judiciary and was inserted into the act in 1997. By subsection (6) I am required, as soon as practicable after the second anniversary of the commencement of the section, to cause an examination to be made of the operation of the section and within six months of that date to prepare a report of the results of that examination. The report is required, by subsection (7), to be laid before the parliament within 12 sitting days after its completion. I now seek leave to table that report.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The section commenced on 20 April 1998. It constitutes the Chief Justice, the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly as the 'appropriate authorities' to investigate complaints of sexual harassment by members of the judiciary and of either house, respectively. Complaints may be lodged with the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity but must be referred to the appropriate authority in each case. Accordingly, earlier this year I sought information from each of them and also from the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity as to: (a) whether any complaints under section 93AA had come to

their attention during the two year period since the commencement of the section; and, if so, (b) how such complaints had been dealt with.

Each of the appropriate authorities has responded to me to the effect that no such complaints have been made or referred to them during this period. The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity confirmed that she had not received or referred any such complaints. This is satisfactory in that, in the absence of other evidence, it tends to suggest that there is no significant problem of sexual harassment by either members of parliament or members of the judiciary. However, it provides no basis from which one can make any assessment of the adequacy or otherwise of the procedures prescribed by section 93AA for dealing with complaints of such harassment. My report is therefore necessarily limited to the conclusion that I have no reason to consider the provisions of section 93AA to be inadequate or to require any amendment on the information available to me, and I propose no such amendment.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REGISTERS OF INTERESTS

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I seek leave to table a ministerial statement given today by the Hon. Dorothy Kotz, Minister for Local Government, on the subject of local government elected members' registers of interests.

Leave granted.

#### GOLDSWORTHY, HON. E.R.

**The PRESIDENT:** I recognise in the gallery the presence of the Hon. Roger Goldsworthy, who was Deputy Premier to the late Hon. Dr Tonkin from 1979 to 1982 and who would, no doubt, have memories of this chamber from 1982.

#### QUESTION TIME

##### PETROL PRICES

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (Leader of the Opposition):** I seek leave to make a brief statement before directing to the Treasurer a question on the subject of petrol excise and prices.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES:** Petrol prices have risen to over 90¢ a litre in the metropolitan area and even higher in the non-metro area. The commonwealth is making a windfall gain of around 2¢ per litre at motorists' expense because it is receiving around 1.5¢ per litre more from the GST than on the old fuel excise level, plus the fact that the GST is a tax on a tax, levied on top of increases in petrol excise. This is despite the Prime Minister, John Howard's promise, as follows:

The GST will not increase the price of petrol for the ordinary motorist.

The next indexation of commonwealth excise for CPI is scheduled for February and will see the price of fuel rise further.

State leaders are seeking to use the November Premiers' Conference to apply maximum pressure on the Howard government to forgo the February excise increase. These leaders include Richard Court, the Liberal Premier of Western Australia, and Labor Premiers of Victoria and

Queensland. Meanwhile the federal opposition has called for Prime Minister John Howard to give motorists some tax relief by reducing the petrol excise by the full amount of the GST. Failing that, the federal opposition leader has called for the Howard government to remove the GST inflation spike from the excise indexation next February. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. Does the Olsen government support yet another rise in the commonwealth fuel excise next February that is already delivering a windfall gain to the Howard government of around 2¢ per litre?

2. Alternatively, does the government consider that the commonwealth should forgo a further increase in the commonwealth fuel excise next February in line with the views of other states?

3. If the Olsen government's position is neither of the above, what is the government's position and what does it intend to do to give tax relief to South Australian motorists and hold Prime Minister John Howard to his promise that the GST would not increase petrol prices?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** As the honourable member has indicated by way of explanation to her question, this is an issue for the federal government. It is not an issue for the state government to make a decision or policy decision on. I think the point that is missing from the honourable member's question is that it is not correct to say that the increase in petrol prices has been solely due to the national tax reform implications and the GST in particular. I think most people would understand, and I would hope that the Leader of the Opposition might understand, that the price of crude oil in the international marketplace has obviously been a significant factor in the price of petrol for motorists in Australia.

**The Hon. T.G. Cameron:** It has tripled in the last 18 months.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** The Hon. Mr Cameron says it has tripled in the last 18 months. It is therefore misleading for the honourable member in her question and her explanation to try to imply that the sole cause for the increase in petrol prices has been as a result of the national tax reform debate. I know that is what her leader in another place, Mike Rann, has been suggesting. I know that is what the federal Leader of the Opposition has been suggesting, but the Leader of the Opposition—

*The Hon. Carolyn Pickles interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** To be fair to Richard Court, he has acknowledged the impact of international world oil prices. It would appear that the only people not prepared to acknowledge the reality of what is going on in the world are members of the Labor Party. Of course, they are doing that for crass political purposes. One can understand that, if you are a member of a whingeing, whining opposition seeking to complain all the time about anything that moves within this state or, indeed, this nation, you would seek to blame the federal government, and then, by way of further extension of the honourable member's question, seek to blame the state government as to what the state government will do to try to correct this problem.

It is beyond our capacity. We are a regional or provincial government. We have some significant powers within the jurisdiction of our own state, but I am afraid that the issue of world oil prices and the GST and its impact at the federal level are just a touch beyond our power and control. Before one assumes to know what the Premier of Western Australia is saying it might be worthwhile people checking before they

then move down a particular path. One comment from the West Australian Premier indicated that, whilst he was supporting action in relation to the excise, he at the same time acknowledged that it should not affect the fiscal or budgetary position of the federal government. How one can do both is a challenge, and that is an issue that Premier Court might be able to put at the COAG meeting in November, namely, how a change he and others are suggesting on this issue might be achieved without impacting on the fiscal position of the federal government.

I am happy to consult with the Premier in relation to what discussions, if any, he might have had on this issue with either the Prime Minister or someone else in the federal arena, but I am sure he would join with me in making the point that this is clearly, absolutely and unequivocally an issue that has to be resolved by the federal government. It is not an issue that the state government of South Australia is in position to make decisions on.

### NATIONAL ELECTRICITY MARKET

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about the national electricity market.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. P. HOLLOWAY:** On 1 August 2000 it was reported in the *Age* newspaper that the South Australian Industry Regulator, Lew Owens, believed that the National Electricity Market had changed the pricing regime 'forever'. He stated that under the NEM 'residential consumers could theoretically end up worse off'.

According to the *Australian Financial Review* of 7 September 2000, the Victorian government is seeking a major shakeup of the national electricity market and will lobby other states to overhaul the market's structure and governance. A task force report on Victorian electricity shortages in February this year found as follows:

The national electricity market and governance failed to put sufficient duty of disclosure on market participants and failed to clearly outline their roles and responsibilities.

My questions are:

1. Does the Treasurer accept the comments by the South Australian Industry Regulator that residential consumers could be worse off under the national electricity market?
2. Has the Treasurer been approached by the Victorian government to overhaul the national electricity market and, if so, what was his response?
3. Does the Treasurer agree that the national electricity market is in need of reform?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I do not have a copy of the Industry Regulator's reported comments with me, but from my recollection the honourable member's summation of those comments is not a fair reflection of what the Industry Regulator said. I am happy to have another look at the Industry Regulator's comments, which I thought at the time were reasonably balanced in relation to the issues. He certainly was not, in my judgment, solely making the point that the honourable member seeks to make in his question.

In relation to the national electricity market, I am not sure that the South Australian government has been formally approached by the Victorian government. Certainly, the Victorian government has issued public statements, so we have seen its reported public statements, but I do not recall seeing any correspondence, although it may well be that there

has been some relaying to me or to my office of the report that was released which indicates its general view.

If the Victorian government's position is that there be a radical restructuring of the whole national electricity market, the general response from the market is that that would not be supported. By 'the market' I mean the general response from the other jurisdictions is that that would not be supported. Given that you require unanimous approval of any significant restructure of the market, if that is what Victoria wants, it is unlikely that the Victorian government will get a significant restructure.

I saw the press comments of what the Victorian minister was meant to have said, and I also looked briefly at the paper. I think the press spin that the minister put on the statement and what was said in the document do not exactly correspond. If one looks at a number of things they are suggesting, they do not really involve a radical overhaul or restructure of the national electricity market.

One of the problems for the Victorian government was that it was a new government obviously unprepared for election, and it got itself into trouble in the way it attempted to handle the problems it had in February this year. At that time it made some statements that have come back to haunt the minister and the government. They were ill prepared in terms of being able to handle the difficult issues that they confronted in February this year.

As most independent observers have said, when one looks at the way in which governments and systems handled the problems of February, which were caused by the industrial problems at Yallourn Power Station, South Australia's circumstances were handled immeasurably better than the Victorian government's handling of similar circumstances in that state. I think that most independent observers of the respective governments have conceded that point.

So, I think the Victorian government is on a steep learning curve in relation to some of the statements that it made earlier this year. This recent statement by the Victorian minister is an attempt to carve out a slightly new position. If it is a fair reflection that what they want is a radical restructure of the market, then from what I am told by the other jurisdictions there is no prospect that they will achieve such a change.

Regarding the honourable member's third question whether there is room for change, or words to that effect, there is always room for change. This is a significant change in terms of the structuring of a national electricity market. Any new system will obviously have teething problems. If anyone took the view that it is 100 per cent perfect first time they would be deluding themselves. There is always room for monitoring and, if agreement can be reached, for some improvement in the operations of the system, but that would not be within the structure of a radical overhaul or restructure of the total market: it would be looking at areas where we might be able to improve the operation of the market, if that can be agreed with other jurisdictions such as Victoria.

### PETROL PRICES

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about state petrol subsidies.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. ROBERTS:** In July this year, I asked a question regarding the difficulties that have been faced because of the disparity in prices between city and country

areas as a result of the GST. The reply that I received from the Treasurer states, in part:

The state government in its regional budget statement for 2000-01 announced \$16 million to reduce the bowser cost of petroleum fuel for all users in regional South Australia, fluctuations in petrol prices in recent times primarily due to abnormally high oil prices combined with the lower value of the Australian dollar leading to wholesale prices.

In part, I accept the second part of the answer. Regarding the distribution of the extra windfall profits, I do not accept the explanation that has been given by the Prime Minister. My questions, which relate to this disparity, are:

1. Will the Treasurer give us the outcome of the inquiry that the Premier announced six weeks ago into whether state petrol subsidies of up to 3.33¢ per litre were being passed onto country motorists?

2. Has any action resulted from these investigations?

3. Is the \$16 million subsidy paid to oil companies or petrol retailers or is there is some combination of the two or some other method of rebate?

4. In the light of his reply to my question of 4 July, will the Treasurer provide an unequivocal guarantee that the full value of the subsidy is being passed onto regional customers given that on the eastern seaboard there is some question as to whether the full value of the subsidies that are being paid are being passed onto consumers and the Treasurer has acknowledged that there are disparities in prices—in the South-East \$1.03 is being paid for petrol at the bowser and in the city we are still paying 92¢ a litre?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I am not in a position to provide the honourable member with any information on the results of the review being conducted by Treasury officers. That review is still being conducted, and it is likely to be some weeks before it can be concluded. It would be obvious to anyone who understands the pricing policies of the oil industry right down the chain that this is not, as the Leader of the Opposition, Mike Rann, thinks, a fairly easy task, that we should go in and have a look at it overnight and whip out a result next week.

Those who understand something about the oil industry would know that it is an extraordinarily complicated industry, and any sensible review of pricing policies, particularly in the area that we are talking about, involves a lot of work in trying to review a lot of information. The Treasury officers who are conducting the review will be challenged in arriving at their conclusions. They are doing what they can as assiduously as possible, but it will be some weeks before we are in a position to bring down the results of the review.

### MORTLOCK LIBRARY

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** I seek leave to make a brief statement before asking the Minister for the Arts a question about the Mortlock Library.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER:** Last week the *City Messenger* reported the State Library Director, Ms Bronwyn Halliday, as follows:

The Jervois wing is not suitable for storing historical collections. Many of us have taken a great interest in the Mortlock Library as it houses many of the old histories of this state, particularly the family collections. If Ms Halliday has been correctly reported, what is intended for the Jervois wing in the planned redevelopment of the State Library?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I thank the honourable member for her support of the Mortlock Library, the State Library in general and the South Australiana collection. It is a timely question, because today in remembering former Premier David Tonkin I did mention that during his premiership the Mortlock Library and the restoration of the Jervois wing was first announced.

As minister, I take a particular interest in not only the library redevelopment, for which the government has committed \$40 million, but also the fate of the South Australiana collection. The work is to start early next year and be completed in 2003. The Mortlock collection of South Australiana has been such a successful initiative that it has completely overwhelmed the space in the Jervois wing. Today only 11 per cent of the collection is stored there.

I have been advised by State Library staff that some conservation issues have been highlighted by Artlab, that the bright light needed for reading and research in that area has resulted in very poor conservation conditions for some of the precious materials that are stored as part of the Mortlock collection, and there is a real issue of damage. There is also a need for more online research material, and the issue is how to bring the new technologies and wiring into the old heritage building. Also, DAIS has told us that we must undertake earthquake remediation work, which will further limit space.

There is real tension between the wish to keep the Mortlock collection in that building and issues of preservation and access. I have been advised by the State Library Board that what is proposed as part of the \$40 million redevelopment program is that a whole new section with specially tailored research rooms, special areas for the preservation of material, and online access will be created under the name of the Mortlock collection.

We will also be bringing the Bray reference collection into closer alignment with the Mortlock collection, so that all that research and reference work can be done together and we can have librarians skilled in those areas working together rather than apart, which is highly inefficient. Only 11 per cent of the Mortlock collection is in the area that was originally designated for it: the rest of the collection is scattered throughout the State Library. We also have separate areas for the Bray reference collection.

So, it is proposed to bring all that together and then use the upgraded Jervois wing to really highlight the very special nineteenth century qualities of that building as a public access area. Many people come into the area to see the building, and also I know from my own experience that you exclaim how wonderful it is and you want to talk about some of its history. However, it is really very disturbing for people who are seeking to carry out the research work. So, it will be made a public access area. It will mean removing the horrible filing cabinets and things which are down the centre of the Jervois wing now and which are completely out of character with a nineteenth century building, and I think we will find that the very special quality of the Jervois wing will, in fact, be restored, that it will be a great access point between the reference sections in the new library and the restored museum and that a much better arrangement will be made for research.

I understand the concerns of the History Society and others. I know that their concerns are well founded, but they must understand that, in fact, this move is being made in the best interests of researchers and material which is precious to our history and which cannot be accommodated, as at present, in the nineteenth century Jervois wing.

**ELITE SPORT**

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport and Urban Planning, representing the Minister for Recreation and Sport, a question about public funding to elite sport.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I am one of the millions of Australians who, I am sure, proudly watched the Australian athletes achieve many things over the two weeks of the Sydney Olympics. As I watched the television coverage, though, I could not help but be reminded in a whole range of ways that there are many close links between big business and elite sport, and I think many people would be in little doubt that elite sport would not be under great threat if governments did not fund it to the level that they do currently. However, it has been estimated by South Australian sports scientists Kieran Hogan and Kevin Norton that each Australian gold medal at the Sydney games cost taxpayers about \$37 million, while each silver and bronze cost about \$8 million.

**The Hon. T. Crothers:** That is being conservative.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I am probably being conservative.

*The Hon. T. Crothers interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** It is with some concern that I note the announcement yesterday by the Prime Minister that public funding to elite sport will be boosted in next year's federal budget. I also note that the state government continues to make large contributions to elite sport. Current estimates of public funding sunk into the Hindmarsh Stadium are in the tens of million of dollars; a further \$7.6 million is to go into the stands at Football Park; and we now know that the South Australian Cricket Association has its hand out, hoping that it can have extra seating installed at Adelaide Oval.

On a number of occasions in this place I have pointed to the growing body of academic research that shows that every day Australians are becoming fatter, not fitter. Just last Saturday, the *Australian* magazine reported new research that found that 64 per cent of Australian men and 49 per cent of Australian women are overweight or obese. The research also noted a sharp decline in children's exercise time and that 19 per cent of Australian boys and girls are overweight.

I remind the minister of recent research by the University of South Australia that found that South Australian children in 1997 were significantly heavier, taller and fatter than they were in 1985. It found that South Australian children were putting on weight disproportionately to their increase in height and, because diets generally have improved, the majority of this could be attributed to lack of regular physical activity. Last month, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found that 88 per cent of Australians believed that they would be healthier if they could be helped to be more active.

Given this information, a lot of people are surprised that the government continues to put such significant sums of money into elite sport. My questions to the minister are:

1. Does the state government intend to follow the federal government and increase its funding to elite athletes and elite sporting facilities in the future and, if so, where is that money coming from?

2. Will the minister explain why such a large amount of public funding has gone into elite sporting facilities—for the most part which has been seating, so that people can sit and

watch sport—when a similar amount could be spent on community facilities and would have a profound impact on community participation and healthy recreation, producing significant physical and mental health benefits?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I will refer that question to the minister and bring back a reply.

**ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE**

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (13 July) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

1. The Minister for Human Services has approved funding for two significant projects recommended by the Anti-Tobacco Ministerial Advisory Taskforce and currently being developed, in relation to the impact of ETS in homes, cars and the workplace.

Both Campaigns will be run within the next six months.

2. At the Minister for Human Services' request, the Department of Human Services is currently investigating legislative approaches in this area, with the long term aim of reducing further the impact of ETS in public places. Information is being gathered on best practice models used overseas and interstate, and includes the model legislative approach to passive smoking in enclosed public places, being developed for the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

**REGIONAL HOUSING**

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (11 July) and answered by letter on 15 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

The funding allocated to regional housing is used to maintain the public housing stock and fund the administration of the public housing stock to customers in need. The funding also supports the private rental assistance programs (rent relief and establishment expenses including bonds and rent) that are administered within each region. Table 1 details the allocation of the funding across the nine offices through which the regional housing services are delivered. The services provided within the programs are as follows:

Public Housing: maintaining existing tenancies, properties and allocating vacant stock. Customers in greatest need are given priority in allocating vacant properties as they arise. The following services are provided as part of the public rental housing program:

- Assessment of customer needs for determining allocation priority.
- Allocating vacant properties to customers based on priority of need.
- Visiting tenants at their homes to address issues affecting the tenancy and promote success.
- Assisting customers to manage their debt in relation to their tenancy.
- Managing disruptive tenancies.
- Providing advice regarding housing options.
- Identifying services from within the portfolio, wider Government and community that will assist with customers' individual needs, liaise and provide referrals.
- Assess the suitability of accommodation for the customers needs, and modify properties to promote successful tenancies.
- Provide an integrated Human Services response to the customers needs.
- Maintaining the public housing stock.

Assessment of customers eligibility for a rental rebate.

Private Rental Assistance Program:

- Administration of the rent relief scheme, which provides a rent subsidy to eligible customers renting in the private rental market. The scheme closed to new applicants on 26 May 2000; and
- Provision of bond guarantees and establishment costs for eligible customers to assist with establishing accommodation in the private rental market.

Table 1: SAHT Regional Funding to support the provision of public housing and private rental assistance programs.

	Funding 2000-01	Funding 1999-2000	Funding 1998-99	Funding 1997-98
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
Regional Office				
Elizabeth—Outer Northern				
Metro, Gawler, Barossa	13.0	11.3	11.5	11.7

	Funding 2000-01 \$m	Funding 1999-2000 \$m	Funding 1998-99 \$m	Funding 1997-98 \$m
Regional Office Noarlunga—Outer Southern Metro, Fleurieu Peninsula Murray & Berri (2 regions)	7.5	5.9	5.7	5.6
Pt Augusta	5.5	6.1	5.9	5.9
Pt Lincoln	2.9	3.2	3.4	3.4
Pt Pirie	2.7	2.1	2.3	2.3
Whyalla	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.1
South East	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.7
Total	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.1
	46.5	42.9	42.8	42.8

### PALLIATIVE CARE

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (4 July) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

1. Funding for home based palliative care services is provided to the Regional Health Service Board to allocate as appropriate to meet care needs. This includes the provision of respite care.

The matter is not only related to funding, it is the experience of many country regions that there are insufficient numbers of experienced palliative care nurses available to provide respite care in the home.

Currently there is a pool of unallocated brokerage funds for respite care held by the Anti Cancer Foundation. The Palliative Care Liaison Group which meets with the Department of Human Services is keen to improve the utilisation of these resources.

Palliative care funding will be provided to country regions at the current level during 2000-01.

2. Funding to the level of approximately \$200 000 has been made available to the Wakefield Regional Health Service for the provision of palliative care during 1999-2000.

It is proposed to provide a similar level of funding for home based and hospital based palliative care in the Wakefield region during 2000-01.

It is the responsibility of the Wakefield Regional Health Service Board to determine how the services are allocated and staffed.

### HEALTH, PATIENTS' RECORDS

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (5 July) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

The requirement for a unique identifier needs to be seen within the context of our strategic thrust to improve quality within the health system. The issues of access and privacy are critical but the fundamental driver is better outcomes and greater safety for all patients.

Work has already begun to develop strategies for the introduction of a unique patient identifier. Studies done to date, relating to data quality issues within and between public hospitals in the metropolitan area, have demonstrated the need for unique patient identification. This sort of initiative will significantly improve the accuracy and accessibility of patient data. It is therefore an essential building block for the electronic patient record.

South Australia is indeed working closely with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories. The Minister for Human Services raised the issue at the 1999 and 2000 Health Ministers' Conferences in order to gain support for a national identifier as opposed to a series of jurisdictional identifiers. Patient identification is an issue of mutual strategic interest. For example, the notion of patient data exchange across borders will have significant technical, privacy and confidentiality issues and as such the Commonwealth and States need to liaise closely to achieve such a goal.

The question of patient access is an important one. Hard copy health records are effectively inaccessible to patients. Even when physical access can be arranged, the sheer bulk and complexity of the case notes renders them meaningless to non-professionals. A much more proactive role for the consumer is at the heart of the deliberations of the Commonwealth's National Electronic Health Records Task Force, on which South Australia has been represented.

Subject to support by Health Ministers, the timeframe envisaged for New South Wales of implementation by 2010 or sooner appears

a realistic one but only if we can gain the support of all stakeholders and proceed within a privacy regime which protects the rights of the individual.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

In reply to **Hon. NICK XENOPHON** (13 July) and answered by letter on 21 September.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

The impact of environmental tobacco smoke in gaming machine venues in this state is currently being investigated as part of the long-term aim of further reducing the impact of environmental tobacco smoke in public places.

Research is being undertaken on the impact of smoking on patrons and smokers in gaming areas. Information from interstate and overseas is being gathered and includes monitoring the situation in New South Wales and Western Australia regarding smoking in Casinos.

A model of best practice will be developed and incorporated in the Anti-Tobacco Ministerial Advisory Taskforce State Strategy.

### BUILDING SIGNS

In reply to **Hon. J.F. STEFANI** (12 July).

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

The Minister for Local Government has advised that she has looked into the issues and questions raised by the honourable member, and on 17 August wrote to him regarding the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to rateable property and building signs. It is understood that the Adelaide City Council has sought legal advice on the matter.

### HEALTH CARE, SOUTH-EAST

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (11 July) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

The South Australian Government is committed to maintaining and improving the health and well-being of country South Australians. Key directions for the next five years underscore this commitment and include:

- Helping country health services to focus on preventative approaches to health care.
- Maintaining support for existing country hospitals.
- Improving the responsiveness of metropolitan services to the needs of country people.
- Improving access to specialist services.
- Increasing the number of multi-purpose services in country areas.
- Improving access to country-based aged care.
- Managing funding more efficiently.
- Strengthening approaches to recruitment and retention.

With regard to capital works programs, more than \$120 million has been invested in building works and equipment in country South Australia between 1992-93 and 1998-99. In the country, major new developments include:

- \$21 million for the new Gawler Hospital.
- New, privately financed hospitals were built at Mount Gambier and Port Augusta.
- \$4.6 million for a new health centre at Roxby Downs.
- \$4 million for new aircraft for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Major re-developments occurred at:

- Ceduna (\$928 000).
- Hills Mallee Aged Care (\$2.9 million).
- Kangaroo Island Hospital Stage 1 (\$2.4 million).
- Kangaroo Island Hospital Stage 2 (\$1.2 million).
- Mount Barker Community Health Centre and Day Surgery (\$1.7 million).
- Port Lincoln Hospital Stage 1 (\$2.7 million).
- Port Lincoln Hospital Stage 2 (\$6.2 million).
- Port Lincoln Hospital Stage 3 (\$7.3 million).
- South Coast District Hospital (\$5.3 million so far – total value \$6 million).
- Booleroo Centre Hospital (\$0.785 million).
- Coober Pedy Community Health Centre (\$0.490 million).
- Hawker Hospital (\$0.420 million).

In the 2000-01 budget the commonwealth government made funding of \$30.3 million available to the States and Territories to



address concerns over the viability of small rural private hospitals under the Bush Nursing, Small Community and Regional Private Hospitals Initiative. Facilities identified by the commonwealth in South Australia were:

- Ardrossan Community Hospital Inc.
- Hamley Bridge Memorial Hospital.
- Mallala Community Hospital.
- Moonta Health and Aged Care Service.
- Keith and District Hospital Inc.

The issue of access to doctors and length of waiting times is related more to the number of doctors in the community and/or the frequency of the specialists visits than to whether a person has private health insurance. There are various Commonwealth and State and Regional initiatives designed to attract general practitioners and specialists to country regions.

However, in some instances the demographic profile of a region does not support the provision of specialist services in that region because there is insufficient work at that level to sustain resident specialists or visiting specialists. In such cases people living in that region may need to access the specialist service in Adelaide. Tertiary level services for the State will continue to be provided in the major metropolitan hospitals.

Other considerations as to why certain services are not available in some country areas include:

- The cost/benefit/viability to the community as a whole of providing a particular service (rather than something else).
- The priorities as seen by the regional health services for the allocation of funds.
- The ongoing availability of qualified/skilled resources.
- The level of support (funding) provided by the community towards the establishment and maintenance of certain services/facilities.

The Federal Government's current initiatives to increase private health insurance levels are an attempt to ensure an appropriate balance between the public and private hospital systems. They were not intended to address issues relating to the relative levels of health services provided in metropolitan and country areas.

Country people also access metropolitan health services. A recent study of 1998/99 patient flows from country regions identified approximately 35 per cent of all regional residents seeking elective procedures chose to travel to the metropolitan area for their procedure.

Ultimately, each individual must weigh up the pros and cons of taking out private health insurance. Their health status, financial circumstances and the importance they place on choosing their own doctor are all important factors that they may take into account in arriving at their decision.

From the South Australian Government's perspective, in signing the Australian Health Care Agreement with the Commonwealth, we have made a commitment to our public hospital system. Under the principles included in that Agreement, all eligible people have the right to be treated free of charge as public patients and access to public hospital services by public patients must be on the basis of clinical need.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (12 April) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

As part of the Department of Human Services' response to the Brennan Review, arrangements are under way to provide a specific resource based at the Women's and Children's Hospital dedicated to adolescents who require detention under the Mental Health Act 1993. However the main concern is that young people are appropriately cared for in the setting that best meets their needs and it may be, even when there is a dedicated resource, that an under 18 year old receives the best care for them in Brentwood.

#### GLENSIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (2 May) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

1. Young people (aged 15-17 years) are closely 'specialled' or monitored on a one on one basis upon admission to Brentwood. Whenever practicable dedicated areas are set aside for a young

person or persons. Supervision and special nursing arrangements are always put in place when a young person is admitted to the ward.

The following statistical information has been supplied to the Minister for Human Services:

2. Between February and April 2000 the occupancy rate for Brentwood Ward at Glenside ranged from 89.8 – 91 per cent.

3. Between February and April 2000 there were 17 admissions of young people aged under 18 years to Brentwood Ward. Of these 17 admissions, nine were males and eight were females.

Of these admissions 46 were from the East (20 female and 26 male), 94 were from the North West (51 male and 43 female), 63 from the South (24 female and 39 male), and 29 from rural and remote areas (16 female and 13 male).

4. Between 1 July 1999 and 30 April 2000, 51 young people were admitted to Brentwood intensive care Ward at Glenside. The majority were discharged within three days or transferred to another facility such as the Women's and Children's Hospital.

All young people admitted to Brentwood Ward are specialised or closely monitored.

The number of young people detained at Brentwood has decreased by 10 per cent over the past year.

Arrangements are under way to provide a specific resource based at the Women's and Children's Hospital dedicated to adolescents who require detention under the Mental Health Act 1993 so that they will not have to be placed with adults. However, the main concern is that young people are appropriately cared for in the setting that best meets their needs and it may be, even when there is a dedicated resource, that an under 18 year old receives the best care for them in Brentwood.

5. Staffing for Brentwood North (10 beds) and Brentwood South (10 beds) is the same. The following staffing arrangements are in place for each ward, and have been for some time.

Between 0700 and 1941—5 Registered Nurses

Between 0835 and 2116—1 Registered Nurse

Between 0835 and 2116—1 Clinical Nurse Consultant

Between 1941 and 0700—3 Registered Nurses—night duty

In addition, 'special' nurses are provided and the Brentwood Assessment Nurse is additional to this staff complement for Brentwood North and South respectively.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Hon R.R. ROBERTS** (3 May) and answered by letter on 15 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information.

1. The Department of Human Services is striving to ensure children and young people's rights are being protected, and recognises the rights of children and young people to high standards of health care and appropriate facilities. Services are being remodelled to improve standards for children and young people.

2. The Mental Health Services Review by Dr Peter Brennan (May 2000) and the Department of Human Services Implementation Plan (June 2000) move on from previous reports and reviews and set the broad directions for mental health over the next five years. Future directions for Glenside and for Adolescent services are specifically mentioned.

#### MARINE DISCHARGE LICENCES

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (25 May) and answered by letter on 26 September.

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

1. Condition 400-212-2 of the environmental licence issued to Optima Energy, as operator of the Torrens Island Power Station, on 1 October 1998, refers to the temperature rise across steam condensers within the power station complex. This temperature rise is directly related to the temperature of the discharge water. Keeping the weekly average temperature rise across the condensers at or below 10.5° Centigrade ensures that the ambient temperature of the Port River does not rise by more than 2° at monitoring points agreed by the EPA.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage has been advised that no reports were received in the period 1996-97. In the period 1997-98 three reports were received where the temperature exceeded this level (with the temperature rise ranging between 0.13° and 1.74°).

2. Condition 400-223 of the licence requires Optima to advise the EPA of any change of circumstances that will significantly

impact on the implementation of the approved Environment Improvement Program. The Minister for Environment and Heritage understands that the EPA has received no such advice.

3. National Power South Australia Investments Limited, the licensee for the Pelican Point Power Station, has been issued a licence with a commencement date of 1 May 2000.

There will be no need to reassess the Optima Energy licence as a consequence of the future operation of the Pelican Point Power Station. The National Power licence has already been properly assessed and will not need early reconsideration.

The Minister for Environment and Heritage will take this opportunity to correct the honourable member's misunderstanding about the thermal discharge from the Pelican Point Power Station.

The nature of the river adjacent to Pelican Point makes it feasible to discharge via a diffuser at the end of a 100 metre pipe. National Power has used the natural features of the Pelican Point site to take advantage of the mixing zone provisions in the Environment Protection (Marine) Policy 1994. Mixing zones are a common feature of similar legislation in other parts of Australia and the world.

The discharge will comply with the 2° Centigrade maximum increase in temperature at the edge of a 50 metre diameter mixing zone around the discharge point specified in the Environment Protection (Marine) Policy. There will be no detectable increase in temperature a few tens of metres beyond the mixing zone.

4. Where a licensee has a good and consistent environmental record the Environment Protection Authority issues long term licences to minimise administrative costs and provide a stable economic position for the licensee. This is the case with the Optima Energy licence for the Torrens Island power station.

A copy of the Optima Energy licence for the period 1995 – 1998 has been forwarded to the honourable member. All environmental authorisations (licences and exemptions) are available, on application to the Environment Protection Agency, from the Environment Protection Authority Public Register.

#### GREYHOUND RACING

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

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing has provided the following information.

1. The South Australian Greyhound Racing Authority (SAGRA) has the statutory responsibility, pursuant to section 40V (1) (a) of the Racing Act 1976, to regulate and control the greyhound racing code and the conduct of greyhound race meetings and greyhound races within South Australia. Pursuant to the Racing Act, SAGRA is not subject to the control and direction of the Minister. However, the Minister has been informed that an incident occurred in the kennel block at Angle Park on 22 May 2000 which resulted in a substance being handed to the Chairman of Stewards.

2. The Gaming and Vice Section of the South Australian Police is conducting an investigation into this matter with the support of SAGRA Stewards.

3. Security protocols relating to all aspects of kennel security are under review. Notwithstanding the review, the SAGRA Board resolved at the June meeting as an essential interim measure to upgrade the current Angle Park security system incorporating the latest video surveillance technologies.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (1 June) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information:

1. The 24 hour emergency access, triage and services will be strengthened, not downgraded.

The Report on South Australia's Mental Health Services—'A New Millennium: A New Beginning,' prepared by Dr Peter Brennan and Associates, identified key system strategies to take services forward. In its response to the Review Report, the Department of Human Services is specifically committed to the provision of a co-ordinated State-wide 24 hour emergency triage and information service which meets the needs of the community and providers seeking information and/or immediate access to acute services. The Brennan Report has a particularly strong emphasis on enhancing and improving Rural Mental Health Services to better meet the local needs and support local communities. Hence a triage service for rural mental health consumers and workers will continue to be available

24 hours a day in a way which is responsive to, and understanding of, the rural constraints and limitations.

2. See answer to 1 above.

3. Consultation will occur with GPs, consumers, carers and other service providers. A feasibility study will be undertaken by December 2000. This initiative is not about making savings—it is about providing enhanced access to information, advice and assistance and better coordination.

#### TRUCKS, INTERSTATE

In reply to **Hon. R.R. ROBERTS** (4 July) and answered by letter on 24 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:**

1. I am aware of the New South Wales legislation. The legislation referred to is the NSW Industrial Relations Act 1996. With specific reference to the transport industry, I understand that under Chapter 6—Public vehicles and carriers, the forum of the New South Wales Industrial Relations Commission can be used to seek 'contract determinations'—award-style decisions—for industry sectors not already covered by other determinations such as Federal legislation or enterprise agreements.

Currently, issues about the economic viability and contract arrangements of the trucking industry are being raised in a variety of areas, both Federally and at a State level. As I indicated to the Council at the time, I was aware, through discussion with sub-contractors and organisations such as the South Australian Road Transport Association, of the difficulties being experienced due to the unexpected increases in the price of diesel and rising interest rates.

The honourable member may be aware that since he asked the question, the WorkCover Authority of New South Wales has established a Safety Inquiry into the Long Haul Trucking Industry. One of the terms of the NSW Inquiry refers to an examination of the impact of clients' and consigners' requirements on the drivers, including industry tendering practices and transport contracts between road transport companies.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is also currently investigating breaches of the Trade Practices Act in this sector. Sub-contractors are claiming that they are being forced to accept lower rates in order to pass through savings from the new tax system to customers—savings that the sub-contractors say have yet to flow to them and ignore cost increases such as fuel and registration.

The economic pressures (fuel, interest rates etc) in the long haul sector of the transport industry are also impacting on the intra-South Australia sector. Transport SA has recently agreed to establish a Working Party to examine the issues specifically affecting this sector. In this context the Working Party will be asked to look at the New South Wales legislation.

The honourable member asked if I would cooperate with the federal minister, Hon John Anderson MP, in looking at the provisions within the Federal Workplace Relations Act. As I understand the current situation, the Federal Government has indicated that it will not be legislating for enforceable minimum freight rates.

#### BUSES, PRIVATISATION

In reply to **Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES** (13 April) and answered by letter on 14 July.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** In undertaking its analysis the Department of Treasury and Finance considered a range of assumptions regarding TVSP take-up and redeployment characteristics, but the final estimate from which the average net savings of \$7 million per annum is derived, was 226 full-time positions associated with the bus business only.

#### VICTORIAN HEALTH SYSTEM

In reply to **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (11 July) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information:

1. Provision and access to health care within Australia for 'eligible' people are covered both under the Health Insurance Act 1973 and the Health Care Agreements between the Commonwealth of Australia and each Australian state. These Agreements specifically identify services provided to eligible people from one state by another state. The funding of services provided in one state to residents from another state is covered under Cross Border Adjustments

but the underpinning principle is access to comparable services for all Australians irrespective of their location.

2. In 1998-1999 1 088 South Australians received medical inpatient treatment in Victoria. The episode as described by the honourable member represents 0.092 per cent (1/1 088) of all activity provided in Victoria to South Australian residents. The fact that diagnosis and a treatment plan had commenced in South Australia may have been the dominant factor in the advice about the management of Mrs Lamerton. The Victorian Department of Human Services is examining the episode as described by the honourable member.

From the statistics of services provided to South Australians by Victorian health services it can reasonably be assumed that it is safe to admit oneself to a hospital in Victoria and over 1 000 South Australians demonstrated this in a very practical way in 1998-99.

3. 2 925 Victorians received medical inpatient treatments in South Australia during 1998-99. The standard of medical services provided to Victorians in South Australia is the same as that provided to residents of South Australia.

4. As a generalisation and endorsed under the principles of the Health Care Agreements, the standard of medical treatment provided within Australia is of a high standard. Due to the cost and complexity of production, some medical services are available only at certain locations within Australia. Access to these services is similarly independent of place of residence. As an example, several very young children each year travel to Victoria for very complicated cardiac surgery.

5. Hospitals. In relation to the South Australian population this represents approximately 0.074 per cent of the South Australian population. In the same period 2 925 Victorians separations occurred in South Australia. In relation to the Victoria population this represents 0.065 per cent of the Victoria population. Similarly for NSW 2 810 separations occurred in South Australia representing 0.046 per cent of the population of New South Wales. The figures indicate the principles of the Health Care Agreement are being realised in these three states.

#### MAGILL YOUTH TRAINING CENTRE

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (28 June) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information:

1. The Minister for Human Services is pleased to advise that negotiations with the Salisbury Council have now been successfully completed paving the way for the construction of a new centre to replace the Magill Youth Training Centre at Goldsborough Road, Cavan.

Funding is available this year to develop the project concept through to the stage where it is ready for presentation to Cabinet and the Public Works Committee.

2. Anticipating successful passage of the project concept through Cabinet and the Public Works Committee in 2000-01 it is expected the project will be fully designed and documented and then tendered in 2001-02. It is expected that the project will then be able to commence construction early in 2002-03 and be completed late in 2003-04.

Last year's Budget allocated \$24 million to the project. The final cost will be reviewed prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

Detailed development plans and evaluation in relation to expected revenue from the sale of the Magill land once it has been declared surplus have not yet been undertaken. However, preliminary assessment indicates that it is too early to accurately determine a disposal value for the present Magill site. This work will be more fully developed prior to submitting the project to cabinet for approval.

#### MENTAL HEALTH

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (4 July) and answered by letter on 24 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information:

1. Responsibility for nursing recruitment, whether it be agency or permanent staffing is managed by nursing management not administrative staff. The allocation of "specials" is also a nursing responsibility. Running ability is not an essential pre-requisite, however, all nurses require a degree of physical fitness to carry out the duties expected of them.

2. Absconding is a term used to identify detained patients who absent themselves from a hospital without the knowledge and permission of treating staff. These absences are recorded in a variety of ways. The circumstances under which a detained patient may be reported as having absconded ranges from patients failing to advise staff members that they are leaving the ward to go to the canteen through to more serious situations.

Whilst voluntary patients who are absent from hospital without the knowledge or permission of treating staff are not considered absconders, similar reporting procedures are sometimes used to identify them.

Against that background, service managers have identified 105 reported abscondings from the Glenside campus during the 1999-2000 financial year.

3. The department acknowledges that there have been significant pressures on closed acute beds over recent months. There is close communication with the mental health service managers and recent discussions with the ANF regarding this issue. Contingency strategies including opening secure beds have been put in place by service managers and use of private sector beds has also been supported by the department. Detention practices in this State are currently under review by the consultants who recently undertook the review of mental health services. The Department's Mental Health Implementation Plan released in June 2000 identified strategies which will be pursued this financial year and should reduce the pressure on secure beds.

#### MOUNT BARKER PRODUCTS

In reply to **Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT** (28 September 1999) and answered by letter on 13 August 2000.

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

1. Yes.

2. The foundry was approved on the basis that it was a relocation of an existing foundry which had been operating in Mount Barker for 30 years without complaint. Given that and the small size of operation, comprehensive testing by the EPA was not considered warranted at that time.

3. The initial complaints regarding Mount Barker Products related only to odour emissions. When the public began to report symptoms of health effects and once the foundry was identified as the most likely potential source, the EPA arranged to carry out the necessary testing program. The timing of the tests was influenced by the need to modify the chimney stack to ensure that accurate sampling could be undertaken and the availability of a suitable contractor accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

#### HOUSING TRUST, RENT

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (31 May) and answered by letter on 13 August.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The Minister for Human Services has provided the following information:

1. The Housing Trust is accepting applications from eligible applicants for all categories of its waiting list. No instruction has been given that housing applications are not to be accepted.

2. The then Department of Housing and Urban Development conducted a review into Private Rental Assistance Services in 1994, and the Housing Trust also conducted a review in 1997.

The 1998 review raised the possibilities of ceasing rent relief and of refocusing rent relief funds to those most in need of housing.

South Australia has been the only State running a comprehensive Rent Relief Program for some years. Rent Relief is funded by Commonwealth States Housing Agreement (CSHA) monies. Several other States provide specifically targeted schemes such as to people with disabilities.

Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) for private tenants has increased significantly since the introduction of the Rent Relief Scheme in 1982. Over that period CRA has risen from just \$5.00 per week, to a maximum of \$38 per week for single people or \$50.20 per week for singles and couples with children. The role of the Rent Relief Program has been considered in the context of diminishing funds from the Commonwealth Government under the CSHA, relatively lower private rental costs, and the substantial increases in CRA.

The Scheme has been poorly targeted in recent years. It is capped at an income level that excludes families and larger households.

Closure of the program will enable the reallocation of funds to priority areas of urgent housing need.

3. The Housing Trust is continuing to accept applications for Category 3 of the rental waiting list.

4. Over the past two financial years (1998-99 and 1999-2000), the pool of Rent Relief recipients has remained fairly static at around 12 000 households. Usually, the admission of new applicants is approximately balanced by the number whose assistance is terminated due to a change of circumstances during the course of the year. On this basis it is expected that the pool of recipients could decline by some 4 000 in 2000-01. However, the rate of decline may be lower than this in 2000-01 due to more recipients wishing to preserve their existing 'eligible' status.

It is estimated that change to the Rent Relief Program will generate savings of approximately \$3.1m in the next financial year to be applied to other CSHA programs.

### MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Transport questions about on-site motor vehicle inspections.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. T.G. CAMERON:** In early 1998, Transport SA (then the Department of Transport) commenced a trial period where vehicle identity inspectors visited used car yards to undertake on-site inspections of vehicles. It is necessary for car yards to have a minimum of 10 cars for inspectors to visit. In some cases, some car yards have up to 50 cars to be inspected in the one visit. As a result, the car yards save time not having to drive each car to Regency Park and, in some cases, the cost of employing a casual for this job. It is my understanding that a year later it was still on trial without any car yard being charged on-site inspection fees.

In 1999 some concerns were raised about this extended trial period and the minister promised an investigation. More than two years after the alleged trial period, car yards are still not being charged on-site inspection fees. Some research has been undertaken to determine what and how to charge for the additional costs of on-site inspections. I believe the figure of \$10 on top of the \$18 vehicle inspection fee has been banded about. Over 100 vehicles are inspected on-site each week, costing the taxpayers in excess of \$50 000 a year in subsidised fees. Some car yards must be laughing all the way to the bank, not to mention the extended waiting periods for those who take their vehicles to Regency Park for inspections.

On-site inspections often mean that one or two inspectors out of a total of five are out of the office at Regency Park for as long as it takes for the inspections to be carried out, leaving the office understaffed. Members of the public can be left waiting for up to an hour to have their vehicle inspected—an inconvenience. It is my understanding that some car yards have indicated that they would be prepared to pay the extra fee as the savings to them in time and costs of labour would far outweigh the inspection fee. My questions to the minister are:

1. Considering both the cost to the taxpayer and inconvenience caused to the general public, will the government introduce an on-site inspection fee?

2. Will the minister check to ensure that Regency Park is being adequately staffed to meet the requirements of the general public?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** It has always been my understanding that the inspections would be paid for and I will inquire if and why that is not the case at this time. In terms of inspections at Regency Park, I acknowledge that there have been delays but I understand that that occurred some time ago and that

those delays were no longer being experienced. Again, I will make inquiries and provide the honourable member with prompt advice.

### GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

In reply to Hon. CAROLYN PICKLES (11 July) and answered by letter on 24 August 2000.

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW:** The government established an independent GST Funding Review Panel to monitor and approve all expenditure by agencies on the preparations for the implementation of the GST. One of the key purposes of this panel was to manage the cost of these preparations and ensure, as far as possible, that costs were met by reallocating existing resources to the task or reprioritising activities and initiatives of agencies.

The Department of Transport, Urban Planning and the Arts prepared two submissions to this panel, one covering Arts SA and the 19 associated statutory authorities and other government controlled entities, and the other covering the remaining parts of the portfolio. It should be noted that the following costs are the estimates provided to the panel, as final costs and not expected to be known until October this year, once all entities have lodged their Business Activity Statements.

Agency	Re-allocated	Additional	Total
Arts SA	\$823,000	\$956,000	\$1,779,000
Department for Transport Urban Planning and the Arts	\$787,000	\$698,000	\$1,485,000
Total	\$1,610,000	\$1,654,000	\$3,264,000

I advise that those fees listed in the government *Gazette* were in fact increased based on an annual indexation factor of 2.8 per cent, then by 10 per cent GST if applicable. In relation to the fees and charges within my portfolio areas, which have increased because of the GST, I provide the following table.

Transport SA	Motor Vehicles Act 1959 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Ridesafe Motorcycle training courses</li> <li>· Motor vehicle accident lectures</li> <li>· Accident Towing Roster Scheme—               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>—authority to tow forms</li> <li>—direction to remove vehicle forms</li> <li>—quotation to repair forms</li> <li>—storage notice forms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Harbors and Navigation Act 1993 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Certificates of competency for recreational, trading and fishing vessels—examination fees</li> <li>· Recognition of certificate of competency—if required to sit an examination</li> <li>· Inspection of hire and drive houseboats, including fee for non-attendance by owner/agent at an inspection</li> <li>· Vessel surveys, including exemption from requirement for vessel to be surveyed and extension of certificate of survey period</li> <li>· Attendance of a surveyor at an inclining experiment</li> <li>· Exemption from requirement for load-line certificate to be issued</li> </ul>
	Road Traffic Act 1961 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Inspections of vehicles—in relation to granting or refusing an exemption from requirements in the Act or under the defect provisions of the Act</li> </ul>
	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Commercial motor cycle operators courses</li> <li>· Fees for legal inquiries into the status of traffic signals</li> </ul>
Planning SA	Development Act 1993 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Building rules consents</li> <li>· Certificates of occupancy</li> </ul> Note: These fees are charged by councils and private certifiers in most instances. They are, however, charged by the Development Assessment Commission in unincorporated areas of the state
	Other

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sales of various publications such as development plans, building standards, assessment reports</li> <li>· Plans/maps</li> <li>· Professional Services</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Interest</li> <li>· Hire of premises</li> <li>· Hire of costumes</li> </ul>
Passenger Transport Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sale of tickets for metropolitan bus, train and tram services</li> <li>· Inspection of passenger transport vehicles</li> </ul>	History Trust of SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Admission charges for National Motor Museum at Birdwood</li> <li>· Admission charges for SA Maritime Museum</li> <li>· Migration Museum Tours</li> </ul>
Enfield General Cemetery Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cremation fees</li> <li>· Burial grant fees</li> <li>· Other burial fees</li> <li>· Memorial fees</li> <li>· Charge for goods and services (e.g. sales of publications, attendance fees)</li> </ul>	State Theatre of SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Box office sales</li> <li>· Sponsorship</li> <li>· Club 26 membership fees</li> <li>· Company service fees</li> <li>· Hire of facilities</li> <li>· Sales of props</li> </ul>
South Australian Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Venue hire</li> <li>· Fees for service</li> <li>· Exhibitions—entry fees</li> <li>· Publications and other shop sales</li> <li>· Café</li> <li>· Photocopy charges</li> <li>· Photographic services</li> <li>· Design services</li> <li>· Taxidermy services</li> </ul>	Adelaide Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Sponsorship</li> <li>· Box office sales</li> <li>· Tour fees</li> <li>· Merchandising</li> <li>· Management fees</li> <li>· Sale of assets</li> </ul>
Carrick Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Admission Fees</li> <li>· Function hire charges (wedding ceremonies, receptions/functions, marquee)</li> <li>· Gift shop and coffee shop sales</li> </ul>	Carclew Youth Arts Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Theatre, facilities, building and equipment hire</li> <li>· Sale of advertising space in youth arts magazine</li> <li>· Subscriptions to youth arts magazine</li> <li>· Registration and workshop fees</li> <li>· Sponsorship and grants</li> </ul>
Art Gallery of South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Venue hire charges (Function rooms, auditorium, café, atrium, auditorium)</li> <li>· Photographic materials</li> <li>· Slides</li> <li>· Colour prints</li> </ul>	Disability Information Research Cncl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Hire of meeting rooms</li> <li>· Subscription to current awareness service</li> <li>· Sale of directory (Disability Information Directory SA) and other publications</li> <li>· Photocopying and clerical services provided to outside entities</li> <li>· Office rental</li> <li>· Consultancy (provide advice or be on a working party)</li> </ul>
Artlab Services SA Country Arts Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Charges for quotes and restoration work</li> <li>· Theatre and ballroom hire</li> <li>· Restaurant lease</li> <li>· Equipment hire</li> <li>· Box office income</li> <li>· 'Ticket handling income'</li> <li>· Sale of artworks</li> <li>· Commission from sales</li> <li>· Sponsorship</li> <li>· Sale of assets</li> <li>· Gift vouchers</li> <li>· 'Friends of the Theatre' subscriptions</li> <li>· Theatre bar sales</li> </ul>	National Aboriginal Cultural Institute—Tandanya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Admission fees</li> <li>· Membership fees</li> <li>· Retail and gallery sales</li> <li>· Commission sales</li> <li>· Box Office</li> <li>· Freight and packing</li> <li>· Venue hire rent</li> <li>· Photocopy fees</li> <li>· Book sales</li> <li>· Tours</li> <li>· Administration fees</li> </ul>
Adelaide Festival Centre Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Parking fees</li> <li>· Ticket and box office sales</li> <li>· Ticket sales service fee/booking fees</li> <li>· Resale of manufactured goods</li> <li>· Consultancy fees</li> <li>· Finance management fees</li> <li>· Design fees</li> <li>· Marketing/promotion fees</li> <li>· Maintenance fees</li> <li>· Project management fees</li> <li>· Sponsorship</li> <li>· Merchandise, goods and catering sales</li> <li>· Rental and hire</li> <li>· Commissions</li> <li>· Subscriptions</li> <li>· Vending rights</li> <li>· Tours</li> </ul>	SA Film Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Hire of facilities (studio, equipment, office)</li> <li>· Sale of goods (e.g. studio supplies)</li> <li>· Service fees</li> <li>· Executive producer fees</li> <li>· Overheads recovered</li> <li>· Administration fees</li> <li>· Sales of assets</li> <li>· Facilities Hire (lecture theatre, meeting room)</li> <li>· Equipment hire (slide projectors, objet projector, computer data projector, cassette recorder, CD player, VCR, sound equipment, urn)</li> <li>· Lockers</li> <li>· Special exhibition admission fees</li> <li>· Photocopying</li> <li>· Laminating, mounting, binding and photographic charges</li> <li>· Printing from computer, micrographic and microfiche reader</li> <li>· Reproduction fees</li> <li>· Interlibrary loans</li> <li>· Research services</li> <li>· Database searches</li> <li>· Special seminars</li> <li>· Tours</li> <li>· Consultancies</li> </ul>
Jam Factory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Retail, wholesale, gallery and production sales</li> <li>· Sponsorship</li> <li>· Hire of facilities</li> <li>· Rent</li> <li>· Commission</li> <li>· Special exhibition entry fees</li> <li>· Design services</li> <li>· Fax/photocopy charges</li> <li>· 'Friends' subscriptions</li> </ul>	State Library/Libraries Board of SA	
State Opera of SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Box office sales</li> <li>· Program and merchandising sales</li> <li>· Sponsorship and patron benefactors</li> </ul>		

## GAMBLING RESEARCH

**The Hon. NICK XENOPHON:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer a question about gambling impact research.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. NICK XENOPHON:** Late last month, the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority (VCGA) tabled a report prepared by KPMG Consulting of a community impact study of gambling in Victoria, including detailed profiles of six regions—both metropolitan and country. It involved a longitudinal study tracking these regions over a number of years and reported on the social and economic impact of gambling.

The report found that 11 per cent of adults admitted that either they or a family member had a problem with excessive gambling. The report also confirmed the growth of local gambling—particularly poker machines—had drained resources from other industries and that gambling did not provide any substantial boost to tourism. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. Will he or his office undertake to examine the findings of the report and consider a similar comprehensive study in South Australia for metropolitan and regional SA?

2. Does the Treasurer concede that there has been a lack of South Australian-based research on the impact of gambling, particularly in regional South Australia?

3. What steps does the government propose for such research on the impact of gambling in South Australia, and can the Treasurer provide a timeframe for the undertaking of such comprehensive research?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I have not seen the report but I am happy to endeavour to obtain a copy and provide any comment on that report in due course. I make two points in relation to the honourable member's other questions, and if I can add anything further upon reflection I will be happy to do so. The first point is that if I am given the choice of spending X dollars—whether it is hundreds of thousands, or whatever it might happen to be—on doing further research, or actually providing services to people with gambling problems, I will always choose the course of spending that money on providing additional services to people who are impacted.

This is a threshold question, I guess, for governments, parliaments and communities as to preference. I think I have put the view previously that if we have one person, or one family, impacted by gambling, then that is one too many and we ought to do what we can as governments, as non-government agencies working with government agencies, to try to provide that level of assistance.

It might end up showing that 1 per cent or 2 per cent are directly impacted, and then whatever figure you might like to look at where there have been various research studies which indicate how many other people might be impacted. It depends on what you mean by 'impacted'. How significant an impact are we talking about? Do we include those people who happen to be in a family where one member has become a problem gambler and, although there is no significant deleterious impact on them, they have nevertheless been impacted upon in some way?

I have a different view from some as to where the money ought to go. Should we spend hundreds of thousands or possibly millions of dollars across the community in further measuring whether it is exactly 1 per cent or 2 per cent, 9 per cent or 11 per cent; or should we spend that money on

assisting the families who need help? With due respect to the Hon. Mr Xenophon, I think he has too much of a bias—I do not want to put it too strongly—in terms of wanting to spend our scarce dollars collecting more and more information. I think that that money—

**The Hon. Nick Xenophon:** You're only getting \$4 million a week!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** It does not matter how much. If you have scarce dollars, why not direct it to the agency that is trying to assist these families? Why have this argument about whether it is 1 per cent, 1.5 per cent or 2 per cent? Whether it is whatever the Productivity Commission measured—and it had four or five separate measures of problem gambling and four or five different scores—why not let us go beyond that and free up whatever dollars are available and get on with the business of helping those problem gamblers?

I will be interested in finding out how much the Victorian government spent on the KPMG study. As a government, we have seen the costs levied by accounting bodies and they do not generally come cheaply. In fact, they are almost as expensive as legal firms in terms of their services.

**The Hon. K.T. Griffin:** But not as expensive as doctor's fees.

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Possibly not. However, they are right up there in terms of costs. That is the first point I would make. The second point I make relates to an issue that has been taken up at ministerial council level, and that is that each state and territory can go its own way in terms of spending and reproducing what might be expensive research studies. I think we all agree that a certain amount of research is obviously important. Would it not be better if we did something that was coordinated?

What we are looking at trying to do at the national level is whether or not we can have an agreed national program of research. Would that not be cheaper in terms of providing information for those who want information? Of course, I concede that my views on this are not shared by a number of the other jurisdictions that have views similar to the Hon. Mr Xenophon; that is, we ought to be collecting more information about these figures. Therefore, there is a strong view that there needs to be more research. I acknowledge that and support the view that we need comprehensive research on the extent of problem gambling. I have said that before and continue to adopt that position.

What I would like to see explored is whether or not we can cooperate through the ministerial council to see whether or not through that mechanism we might be able to conduct a one-off level of research which might minimise the cost of that research, and then each of the states will not have to, in an expensive way, either replicate or duplicate all of that research.

I was looking forward to trying to push on with the ministerial council meeting on gambling, and I am disappointed that the federal government, given the views that it has expressed, has cancelled the next meeting of the ministerial council on gambling.

There is to be a discussion at COAG, but at COAG petrol prices and a whole variety of other issues will be discussed, whereas we actually have a specific body that has been charged with the responsibility of doing this. I have to say that I am extraordinarily disappointed that the federal government has cancelled this meeting and it looks as though it might not reconvene this ministerial council until some time next year.

Next year we are running into the lead up to an election and I think that we are losing time, when a number of us are very keen on trying to see what we can do to work together to try to develop a sensible regulatory model for managing the issues of interactive gambling and a range of other issues regarding harm minimisation.

*Members interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I am not sure: the federal government has not given us any explanation other than—

*The Hon. Carmel Zollo interjecting:*

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** It might be. The moratorium itself will not solve the issues. As the Legislative Council select committee has found, there is no way of being able to effectively ban interactive home gambling and it is now time to get on. As two other inquiries, the Productivity Commission and the Federal Senate Commission, have found, it is time to get on with the business of how you regulate and try to reduce the extent of harm for problem gamblers and their families as the key focus.

The ministerial council is meant to be the body to try to achieve that. A number of us are committed to trying to do that and I (although I cannot speak on behalf of the others) am extraordinarily disappointed that the federal government should have chosen to cancel the next meeting and that 'some time next year' is the only indication that we have. Given some statements that federal ministers have made about the importance of the ministerial council, whilst there are many other things I would like to say I can only say publicly that I am disappointed that the federal government has chosen to delay it.

One of the issues that we are trying to work on at officer level is some form of agreement on a national framework for research, which is the import of the honourable member's question. I will see whether I can have a look at the KPMG study from Victoria, but I must say that, rather than screaming into a very expensive South Australian based study, if we can do something just as effective at the national level and can actually spend more of our dollars on providing services and help to problem gamblers and their families, that would be my personal preference for how we spend the money.

**The Hon. T. CROTHERS:** As a supplementary question, does the Treasurer believe that a statewide study would be rendered ineffective by the fact that gambling is now a national, indeed an international, pastime?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** I do not know whether I would go as far as to say that it would be rendered ineffective, but I would certainly indicate, as I think I probably implied in my response to the Hon. Mr Xenophon's earlier question, that it makes more sense in my view to see whether we can coordinate some sort of national study into whatever issues we feel we still require information on. Hopefully, in that way we can throw up any further information that might be required in terms of the South Australian circumstance.

When we have done that, there may well be the need to provide further information by way of research on the peculiar circumstances that might apply to South Australia. I am certainly open to that sort of discussion and debate: I would not rule it out. If there is a gap in our information base in South Australia, I am certainly open to the view that some of the money we are providing to the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund and elsewhere could be used to provide further information in those areas.

## ELECTRICITY, SECURITY DEPOSITS

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** I seek leave to make an explanation before asking the leader of the government a question about security deposits for electricity consumers.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. R.R. ROBERTS:** Recently, I was contacted by a constituent from Ridgehaven who had received his electricity account from AGL. On going through it, he saw that he had a credit of some 5¢. Obviously, he was interested as to what it meant. He read on to find that a security deposit interest of 5¢ had previously been credited to his account. Somewhat bemused as to what that meant he read further, to find that on his account there was a statement that read, 'We are holding a security deposit of \$85 which will be returned to you when you complete 12 months of paying accounts on time.'

This consumer had previously been with ETSA for 25 years. He was a little more than intrigued, and he made a telephone call to the appropriate number. He did not receive much satisfaction until he spoke to a Mr Bonnici who, I understand, is a supervisor. Mr Bonnici explained to my constituent that these deposits were collected to ensure that there was some prospect of ETSA been paid. He assured my constituent that he had received interest payments for some years. My constituent is a fairly assiduous record-keeper. He checked his records and found that he did actually receive \$6.80 credit on 25 August 1992, but he could find no further record.

My constituent was advised by the supervisor of AGL to discount his account. It was also explained to him that the \$85 was not supposed to show up on his bill. That intrigued my constituent even more. He was then advised to deduct \$85 from the account and pay the difference. Having received a formal account from AGL, he was not satisfied with that. My constituent received in writing an explanation from Mr Bonnici, as follows:

As per your recent telephone conversation, we would like to confirm the above security deposit has been deducted from your current electricity account.

The letter states the current amount outstanding. This letter prompted a number of questions for my constituent and me. I understand that the minister would not have a brief of every personal account in South Australia, but I would be pleased if he could take up these matters and bring back a reply. My questions are:

1. How many constituents are in the same boat as my constituent from Ridgehaven?
2. How much of constituents' money was held by ETSA at the time of sale/lease and how was it being used?
3. If it was invested, how was it invested and at what rate?
4. Was AGL given any instructions as to what was to be done with these monies at the point of lease?
5. When can constituents in the same position as my constituent from Ridgehaven expect to be advised of their current status and/or receive a cheque or a credit?

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (Treasurer):** I am not sure whether some of those questions are capable of being answered by me through the parliamentary process. AGL is a private operator of the system. If the honourable member is prepared to provide copies of the correspondence, I am prepared to take up these issues with AGL and seek its assistance in obtaining any information that it might have.

In terms of the total number of people with security deposits at the time of transfer from ETSA Power to AGL,

I suspect that I will not be in a position to provide that sort of information to the honourable member. Regarding the general principles applying to the operation of security deposits, having been a customer who had to pay a security deposit some years ago, this is not a new experience.

*The Hon. L.H. Davis interjecting:*

**The PRESIDENT:** Order!

**The Hon. R.I. LUCAS:** Let me speak from personal experience—and the Hon. Mr Davis can attest to his personal experience. This is not something that is being introduced as a result of the private sector operators of the market in AGL. ETSA Power, as a government operator, has always had security deposits. I can tell the honourable member some stories about university friends of mine and people who have newly arrived in their homes about the practices of ETSA relating to security deposits.

So, let us not be deluded into thinking that the issue of security deposits and how they are managed is a new issue. Nevertheless, there may well be some problems or issues that need to be resolved relating to this particular account and how AGL has handled it. We have in the Independent Regulator and the Industry Ombudsman independent officers who can investigate these matters. I am not sure whether the honourable member's constituent has approached these independent statutory officers, but they have the capacity independently, first, to seek to resolve particular issues and then establish or provide further information to individual constituents who might have a problem.

This is a new feature of the system. Under the old system, to which the Hon. Mr Davis has referred, when John Klunder was the minister, all you got to do was complain to John Klunder about it and nothing would happen. At least under the new arrangements this government has established an independent statutory office—not a politician—to independently look at these issues and, if there is a problem, take it up and seek to resolve it on behalf of constituents. If the Hon. Mr Roberts is prepared to provide information to me about the problem, I am happy to take it up and endeavour to get some sort of response.

### HIV PROGRAMS

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Urban Planning, representing the Minister for Human Services, a question about the rate of HIV infection and associated education programs in South Australia.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. SANDRA KANCK:** While Australia boasts a relatively low incidence of HIV/AIDS, new figures show that there has been a marked increase in diagnosed cases in Victoria and New South Wales in the first six months of this year. When HIV/AIDS first appeared in the early 1980s, many public awareness education campaigns were implemented and funded by both the state and federal governments. These were very successful campaigns which raised awareness and helped to modify the behaviour of people most at risk.

Twenty years later there have been a lot of advances, with pharmaceutical treatments available for HIV and AIDS, although there is no known cure. It is believed that the new generation of sexually active youth, particularly young gay men, is not being as vigilant in safe sex practices, perhaps due to a lack of education programs. These men have not had to see their friends, partners and lovers fade away from AIDS.

It has been suggested to me that we need additional funding for a fresh approach or new specifically targeted programs. My questions are:

1. What is the current HIV infection rate in South Australia?
2. Has there been an increase in the infection rate in the past 12 months?
3. What audience specific programs is the government presently funding to educate young gay men about HIV/AIDS and prevention through safe sex practices?
4. Does the minister consider that there is good reason to increase the number of programs and the funding available?

**The Hon. DIANA LAIDLAW (Minister for Transport and Urban Planning):** I will refer the honourable member's questions to the minister and bring back a reply.

### WELFARE SERVICES

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Disability Services a question about the delivery of welfare services to the aged Italo-Australian community.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO:** October this year has been designated—as it is every year—Celebrate Seniors 2000, when we again celebrate seniors and the contribution they make to the community. The Italo-Australian community is ageing at an even greater rate than the rest of the population, with almost one-third of Italian-born people (27 000-odd) aged over 65 years of age. This compares with 14.1 per cent of the total population and 11.7 per cent of those Australian-born.

I am aware that services are provided through a number of agencies such as Multicultural Aged Care, the Carers Association, Ethnic Link Services and the Multi-cultural Home Support Program. Three of the direct delivery services or agencies that come to mind in the Italo-Australian community are ANFE, CIC and pensioner groups such as APAIA. I ask the minister: for the 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 financial years, what was the total amount of funding provided to the aged Italo-Australian community from all government sources? What proportion of that funding is ethno-specific, that is, made available to the Italo-Australian community because of their special needs?

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON (Minister for Disability Services):** I thank the honourable member for her question and acknowledge, as she mentioned, that the month of October is Celebrate Seniors month in South Australia, and that will be formally launched by the Premier later this week.

The honourable member said that the Italian community is ageing at a rate faster than the balance of the South Australian community. That is not quite correct, but it is true to say that a large number of those Italians and other western European migrants who came to Australia after the Second World War are now reaching mature age and, in many cases, they require services and support. I am glad to say that, through the Home and Community Care program, the special needs of ageing people from non-English speaking backgrounds have been recognised and, once again in this current funding round, will be recognised.

The honourable member mentioned a number of organisations that provide exceptional support and assistance to members of the Australian-Italian community. Each of those organisations has received and is receiving funding to support various programs for older people. I do not have readily to



hand the specific figures that the honourable member seeks in respect of the last three years. I will certainly obtain that information and provide it to the Council.

I should commend the Multicultural Aged Care organisation, which was established to address not only the special needs of some of the larger communities from non-English speaking backgrounds but also some of those which are not as numerous in our community. In the past, a number of communities, because they have smaller communities and are less well resourced not only in financial terms but also in human terms, have been missing out on opportunities to provide not only residential aged care services but also community support. Multicultural Aged Care has been well supported and funded through the Home and Community Care program, but the information relating to that organisation will be included in the information which I provide to the honourable member in response to her question.

#### NORTH WESTERN ADELAIDE HEALTH SERVICE

In reply to **Hon. SANDRA KANCK** (23 November 1999).

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON:** In addition to the answer given on 23 November 1999, the following information has been furnished by the Minister for Human Services:

1. The tender invitation referred to by the Member was only one of a number of advertisements for medical equipment in the hospital system. Purchases occur across the year and the timing of invitations will depend on a number of factors including development of the detailed equipment specification once the funding is approved.

The department provides a specific allocation of funds each year for medical equipment items with a value > \$100 000. These approvals are based on funds available through the capital program and the priorities put forward by each hospital.

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has approval for seven anaesthetic machines and a Transoesophageal Echocardiography Unit for 1999-2000. This equipment was one of the high priority items listed by the hospital and is assumed to be the equipment referred to by the Member.

2. Invitations to tender for the echocardiography unit for the North Western Adelaide Health Service were called.

A recommendation on the choice of a supplier has been made and the equipment has been received at the hospital.

3. MRI funding is reliant on Commonwealth approval of the individual MRI. The Commonwealth restricts funding to MRIs in situ or ordered prior to May 1998. These changes were introduced in the 1997-98 year. Unfortunately, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Lyell McEwin Health Service did not have pre-existing MRIs and are therefore ineligible for the Commonwealth funding. An MRI is only financially viable if the recurrent funding through the MBS fees is available. Preliminary discussions with private sector providers have been held, in relation to possible services at the Lyell McEwin Health Service.

4. No. Funding of medical diagnostic equipment is on the basis of prioritised need and the funds available. The Government does not plan to reduce access to these funds for the North Western Adelaide Health Service.

#### GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Treasurer, representing the Premier, a question about the Premier's use of government information for party political purposes.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. M.J. ELLIOTT:** My question relates to the Premier's apparent use of WorkCover database information and public resources for party political purposes. I have been contacted by a constituent who, in August this year, received a letter that was sent to employers who had been involved with WorkCover. The letter explained that the state government's WorkCover levy rebate policy had provided \$25 million to about 50 000 South Australian employers since July

2000. It also pointed out that further rebates will provide bigger savings to business in the future. Further, the letter argued that, at a time when New South Wales and Victoria are facing funding shortages and premium increases, the South Australian state government has saved WorkCover. That is the general thrust of the letter, but it went on.

Interestingly, this letter was sent out on the Premier's letterhead and was signed by the Premier and the Minister for Government Enterprises. My constituent's concerns in approaching me were not about whether or not savings were being made, as claimed in the document, but rather that, in his view, the letter was entirely political in nature. In the circumstances, my constituent wanted to know how it was that the Premier came to have his address and who paid for the mail-out. I remind the Treasurer that this question is not about the particular contents of the letter but about the political nature of the contents. My questions to the Treasurer are:

1. What was the cost of producing and posting these letters?
2. Who paid for these letters to be produced and sent?
3. Who provided to the Premier the addresses of employers who had been involved with WorkCover?
4. How does the Premier of the state justify using the confidential data of government agencies for party political propaganda?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** On behalf of the Treasurer, I will refer the questions, and I am sure he will bring back replies.

#### GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (5 April).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

States have agreed that the legislation of genetically modified organisms is best managed nationally rather than on a state by state basis. At present the commonwealth parliament is considering the comprehensive Gene Technology Bill 2000, which will put into place the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, together with an appropriate framework to provide Ministerial policy and oversight, community consultation and technical input. Until that legislation is passed and put into place, interim arrangements for the control of genetically modified organisms, ie. the Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator, have been established within the Department of Health and Aged Care.

The number of companies that have requested approval, together with their prerequisites, the number that have been denied approval, and the number currently experimenting in South Australia is not information held by this government. It is recommended that the Honourable member direct this question, together with information on how many sites in SA are presently used for experimental GM crops, to the Interim Office of the Gene Technology Regulator within the Department of Health and Aged Care. No seeds containing the 'terminator gene' have been approved for field sowing in Australia.

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (6 April).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

The claim that current trials of GM Canola could 'savagely' Australia's exports' is extreme and inflammatory. Certainly there is now a segregated world market for GM and non-GM Canola, although a price margin for non-GM oilseed that Australia previously enjoyed may not be sustained in the currently over-supplied world market for vegetable oils.

Given that there is a segregated market for GM and non-GM, and that there will be a clear national statutory Standard requiring labelling of GM materials in food, there will need to be systems in place that allow the GM status of any Canola batch to be known. This will also include measures to ensure that non-GM growers are

not commercially disadvantaged through adventitious pollen movement.

A significant proportion of current experimental sowings are conducted over summer. These are counter-seasonal to normal, commercial rain-fed Canola production, and represent little if any threat of adventitious pollen contamination to non-GM crops.

There is no threat to the wheat industry in this context.

### FISHERIES ACT

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (6 April).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

1. Section 59 exemptions under the Fisheries Act 1982 are used for a variety of issues to effect good management of fisheries and aquaculture in South Australia. Section 59 exemptions are used to facilitate industry development opportunities, where the issue of a licence implying longer tenure would be inappropriate. For example, development of the sea urchin fishery, scallop fishery, seaweed harvest and pilchard fishery were achieved using this legislation as an enabling tool. Other such uses for section 59 exemptions include school aquariums (where some under-size fish are taken); to allow research activities by scientific institutions outside of government, and to change management arrangements as an interim measure until regulation can be promulgated. As such, I do not see that the use of Section 59 undermines the rule of law in this state.

2. The main tools for the management of wild fisheries in South Australia are the fisheries management plans. These plans are developed by the Fishery Management Committees and released for public comment prior to being approved by the Minister. The management plans outline the objectives and strategies for the management of the fisheries and associated bycatch species. Each management plan is supported by schemes of management under regulation. As indicated, section 59 of the Fisheries Act 1982 is used to facilitate industry development, new management arrangements or for research programs where these activities would be in contravention of the Act, unless a specific licence were issued. The issue of section 59 exemptions is a far better tool than issuing licences for a range of legal and administrative reasons.

3. To make application for a section 59 exemption, a person is required to lodge an administrative fee of \$60. To suggest that the government has foregone significant revenue since 1984 is not correct. Those holders of exemptions who develop a fishery and subsequently receive the grant of a licence pay for the servicing of that fishery. Those people granted exemptions for the purposes of research or education should not be required to pay fees, as these activities are considered to be of benefit to the community as a whole. However, the wide ranging nature and use of section 59 has been recognised as an issue for PIRSA Fisheries to review under the review of the Fisheries Act 1982.

### AQUACULTURE

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (11 April).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development has provided the following information:

This government initiated the development of a marine and estuarine strategy in May 1996 and released the document *Our Seas and Coasts* in August 1998. *Our Seas and Coasts* laid the foundations of the government's framework for the management, conservation and ecologically sustainable development of South Australia's marine and estuarine environment. In that document the government stated its commitment to the principles of ecologically sustainable development including the precautionary principle.

*Our Seas and Coasts* builds on South Australia's existing commitments under the Inter-governmental Agreement on the Environment which promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development. In order to progress the strategies identified in *Our Seas and Coasts* the government has established the Marine Managers Forum. The Forum has a clear responsibility for implementing the strategies identified in *Our Seas and Coasts* and includes representation from all agencies with marine management responsibilities.

The government clearly recognises the risks to the health and quality of farmed fish and shellfish presented by toxic phytoplankton. In order to manage this risk the government undertakes

routine monitoring of phytoplankton in South Australian waters and has done so for a number of years. This monitoring is in no way restricted to the tuna farming industry.

With particular reference to the tuna industry, the government undertakes industry specific phytoplankton monitoring through the Tuna Environmental Monitoring Program. This program is funded by industry and includes monitoring of phytoplankton density and species composition for the presence of potentially toxic species. It should be noted that the industry also undertakes phytoplankton monitoring as part of its farm and risk management practices.

### GEPPS CROSS CATTLEYARDS

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (24 May).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

1. Why is the government so stingy to the cattle industry in comparison with its treatment of the private property developers of Holdfast Shores and private convention and wine industries?

The government has made available to the livestock industry a \$1 million facility for a significant portion of the estimated development cost of the cattle saleyard facility at Dublin.

2. In relation to saleyards, has the government ever provided any funds to the T&R Murray Bridge works or Pace Trading Works at Port Pirie?

The government has not provided funds to T&R Pastoral or Pace Trading for saleyards.

3. Does the government accept that a viable cattle yard at Dublin is a prerequisite for the success of the livestock industry in this state; and, if not, why not?

The government supports livestock marketing facilities where they are appropriate and viable. There are a range of marketing options for livestock and in recent years there has been a move, by industry, away from saleyards. For instance, 45 per cent of lamb sales are now over the hooks compared to 10 per cent five years ago. What we would like to see is a commitment by industry to the future use of saleyards before either a private company or the government puts many into this facility.

4. Would the government prefer to see the cattle industry sale collapse and disappear interstate?

The government does not believe the 'cattle industry sale will collapse and disappear interstate'. It is essential for the operation of saleyards to be viable. It is private individuals who are seeking funding for the facilities. If involvement from agents, buyers or the livestock producers is not forthcoming it appears they are the ones judging it to have a limited future. The government stands by its offer of a \$1 million loan to assist with the development.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

In reply to **Hon. CARMEL ZOLLO** (25 May).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has provided the following information:

A \$40 concession under the emergency services levy on the principal place of residence is offered to a range of groups who are in receipt of a commonwealth government benefit or are who a holder of a Seniors Card. The state government has recently expanded the eligibility criteria to include recipients of Austudy, Abstudy, Special Benefit and EDA Gold Repatriation Health Card and to couples where one maybe the holder of a State Seniors Card and the other spouse a retiree working less than 20 hours paid employment per week.

A total of 20 149 applications for a concession under the levy were made in the 1999-2000 financial year. The total cost of concessions for the 1999-2000 financial year was approximately \$5 474 000.

Any person who was entitled to claim a concession for the 1999-2000 year, but who did not do so, will be entitled to claim that concession in the event that they lodge an application in a subsequent year. An amount of \$6.6 million has been provided for as part of the overall remissions granted by the government for the 2000-2001 year.

## LOCUSTS

In reply to **Hon. CAROLINE SCHAEFER** (30 May).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

Metarhizium will undergo further field evaluation this coming spring. This will be conducted by the Australian Plague Locust Commission, who currently hold a permit to import this product for limited field trials under Australian conditions. As for all new insecticides Metarhizium will have to undergo field evaluation before its use can be recommended. This is to ensure that, not only is it effective, but that it does not produce unintended side effects.

The Australian Plague Locust Commission will be the only body granted a permit to import the product until it is fully evaluated in field trials.

## FIRE BLIGHT

In reply to **Hon. T. CROTHERS** (30 May).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

In relation to the current proposal for the possible future importation of apple fruit from New Zealand, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is currently undertaking a formal Import Risk Analysis (IRA) process. This is in line with Australia's requirements as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and a signatory to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) whereby AQIS is required to undertake careful technical assessment of all new applications for the potential import of agricultural products into Australia.

The IRA process involves a very careful and comprehensive technical assessment of the pest and disease risks associated with each proposed import. AQIS conduct the IRA process using procedures based on international standards and routinely seek input from, and consult with, stakeholders and technical experts as appropriate. A draft IRA document is subsequently prepared which covers the technical issues on pest and disease risks, risk management options and a preliminary view on which option(s) would achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection. Following release of the draft IRA, stakeholders have a total of 60 days for comment.

It is important to point out to council that AQIS will not be making a decision on the import request until after they have assessed the stakeholder responses to the draft IRA document. At this point in time AQIS have not yet released the draft document for comment.

The New Zealand government has previously made application to AQIS for permission to export apples to Australia. The previous applications (1989 and 1995) were rejected on technical grounds, with the principle concern being the presence of the bacterial disease fire blight in New Zealand and concerns over the potential for the disease to be introduced into Australia via imported apple fruits.

In 1999 the New Zealand government again made application to AQIS in relation to NZ apples. This approach sought consideration by AQIS for a review of all available risk management options for fire blight in line with Australia's appropriate level of protection. The New Zealand government had designated this application as their top priority in relation to current bi-lateral negotiations and AQIS has afforded it the appropriate status.

In its current considerations, AQIS has established a panel of independent Australian fire blight experts to provide advice in its deliberations and has contacted a number of international experts for specific comment. AQIS have also met with the Board of the Australian Apple and Pear Growers Association on several occasions and has formed an industry focus group to ensure that industry consultation processes are optimised during the IRA process.

The SA Apple and Pear Growers Association together with PIRSA have established a technical working group to examine the draft IRA document. This pooling of resources is aimed at ensuring that a thorough technical assessment can be undertaken of the document and of any proposed risk management options.

The Australian Apple and Pear Growers Association, together with the State Associations have again initiated a national program to highlight their concerns over the possible introduction of fire blight via any future New Zealand apple imports.

It is important to note that until the draft IRA document is released, it is not possible to comment on the technical veracity of the AQIS considerations. It is also important that any consideration of the current NZ proposal be undertaken on sound technical grounds

and as such be able to stand up to scrutiny to challenge under the WTO grievance process. Failure to do so leaves Australia potentially vulnerable to future sanctions by trading partners.

On the basis that the draft IRA has not yet been released for comment the minister does not intend to communicate with his federal counterpart at this point in time but will assess the need to do so during the 60 day consultation phase.

## POLICE, TRAUMA COUNSELLING

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (27 June).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has been advised by the Commissioner of Police of the following information—

SAPOL has maintained an extensive 24-hour, trauma management program for some two decades. It maintains an Employee Assistance Service staffed by three psychologists, three social workers and a Police Chaplain. The program has three main components, prevention, employee assistance planning during operations and post trauma debriefing. The responsibility for managers and employees is documented in General Order 8540.

Whilst the infrastructure to provide debriefing and every encouragement is given to employees to participate in it, their right to refuse is respected. Refusal is very rare and debriefing has long been a normal part of police operational management.

## PRAWN FISHERY

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (4 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

1. The government has been negotiating a resolution to the Gulf St Vincent buyback debt for the past three years. During this time the management strategy implemented for the Gulf prawn fishery has resulted in improved catches for the boats remaining in the fishery. However, good catches in the fishery have only been a recent success. Since 1991, when the fishery was closed for two years, the recovery of the fishery had been slow. Those fishers who persevered through many lean seasons to allow the prawn fishery to recover are now looking at improved returns for the future. The government recognised that catches were improving, but this was not at a level to warrant changing the option to reduce the buyback debt. Discussions with Treasury and the Crown Solicitor identified that a reduction in the remaining debt to the government would facilitate a speedy resolution of the debt, reduce the likelihood of litigation and reduce costs to the government in managing the debt.

2. I do not agree that the five fishers who accepted the buy-out offer in 1987, which is 14 years ago, have a right to feel hard done by. These fishers made a financial decision at a time, when the prognosis for the fishery was fairly bleak. History shows us that the recovery took 11 years. We all make financial decisions in our lives on the information available to us. Because the fishery has recovered to a level where the remaining fishers are now making a profit, this does not mean that somehow the fishers who left the fishery were misled.

## ABORIGINAL PRISONERS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (5 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Minister for Police, Correctional Services and Emergency Services has been advised by the Department for Correctional Services of the following information—

- In response to the two questions raised by the Hon. T.G. Roberts, it must be noted that both of them relate specifically to the Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services program (APOSS).
- APOSS initially formed part of the Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Service (OARS) which provides a range of support services for offenders and families of offenders.
- APOSS is a Statewide Aboriginal service organisation that became an incorporated body and was established as a response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Recommendations.
- APOSS manages a range of programs aimed at ensuring that Indigenous prisoners, offenders and their families have access to high quality, culturally appropriate resources, services and support. It attracted commonwealth funds to establish its service, and it continues to receive commonwealth funding to maintain its services and programs.

Although APOSS does receive financial support in the form of donations from the community, it is principally funded by ATSIC. The Department for Correctional Services does not provide any funding to this organisation.

#### GEPPS CROSS CATTLEYARDS

In reply to supplementary question from **Hon. A.J. REDFORD** (5 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

Will the Attorney also seek an answer from the minister as to whether it is the case that agents, in promulgating avoidable auction contracts, have clearly and significantly undermined the process of the establishment of saleyards at Dublin or some other place close to the metropolitan area?

The minister has no information that agents 'have promulgated avoidable auction contracts' thus undermining the establishment of the saleyards.

In reply to **Hon. IAN GILFILLAN** (5 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

Given that the government received \$4.8 million in 1997 from the sale of the Gepps Cross real estate, and given that it received about \$1 million a year in yard fees for decades, why is it now refusing to return any of that money to the industry to build new cattle yards at Dublin?

In the year prior to the sale of SAMCOR the government provided \$15 million of tax payers' money to prop up the abattoir for SA's livestock producers and processors. \$4.8 million from the sale was insufficient to repay this amount. With respect to yard fees of \$1 million being received annually there were significant costs of cleaning, water, power, etc to be taken from this amount. The government provided significant funding to the total operations at Gepps Cross in response to industry requests for support of the yards and abattoir.

#### CRIMINAL TRIALS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. CAMERON** (12 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I have been advised of the following information:

The honourable member has sought further information regarding comparisons of higher court delay between South Australia and other States. Information on higher court timeliness is published in the Report on Government Services and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report *Higher Criminal Courts: Australia*. Information presented in the ABS report has combined data from Supreme and Intermediate Courts in order to maximise the validity of comparisons and has been compiled according to national standards. Information presented in the Report on Government Services separates Intermediate and Supreme Court data. It is important to note that there are significant differences in the nature of matters dealt with in Supreme and Intermediate Courts across States owing to legislative and procedural disparity. This data must therefore be interpreted with care.

Report on Government Services

With regard to timeliness, data comparing Australian jurisdictions is published in the Report on Government Services. In this publication, timeliness refers to the duration between lodgement and finalisation of a matter and does not only relate to trial matters.

In the District Court, South Australia is the most timely jurisdiction with 72 per cent of matters finalised within six months. This compares favourably with the average of other reporting jurisdictions of 62 per cent with a range from 38 per cent to 72 per cent.

With regard to the Supreme Court, 66 per cent of non-appeal matters are finalised within six months in South Australia. This percentage is slightly higher than the average of reporting jurisdictions of 64 per cent. The range of other reporting jurisdictions was 7 per cent to 87 per cent.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

On 24 July 2000, the Australian Bureau of Statistics released *Higher Criminal Courts: Australia*, which where possible provides comparative data for higher criminal courts across States and Territories. The following is a summary of data that relates to timeliness in the reporting period 1998-1999.

Of the 1393 defendants with charges active in higher courts in South Australia during 1998-99, 936 or 67.2 per cent were finalised. This compares favourably with other reporting jurisdictions, being second only to Tasmania in terms of efficiency (data not available for Queensland).

At the beginning of 1997-98, there were 492 matters pending in higher courts in South Australia, reducing to 469 at the beginning of 1998-99 and 457 at the beginning of 1999-2000. The majority of this reduction related to a decline in matters pending in the Supreme Courts with totals of 65, 47 and 32 respectively at the beginning of 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000. These reductions coincided with a decline in the number of matters initiated in the Supreme Court.

For the combined higher courts, of all defendants initiated in South Australia, 869 (94 per cent) were committed (83.1 per cent for trial, and 10.9 per cent for sentence), with the remainder initiated ex officio, or via an executed bench warrant.

With regard to defendants finalised for all methods of finalisation in higher courts there was a mean of 24.5 weeks and a median of 21.0 weeks between initiation and finalisation in South Australia. This compares with a range of 20.2 to 49.1 weeks (mean) in other jurisdictions and a range in median from 13.0 to 35.3 weeks.

With regard to defendants finalised by way of a guilty verdict, the mean duration between initiation and verdict in South Australia is the lowest of reporting jurisdictions at 27.7 weeks. The range across reporting jurisdictions was 27.7 weeks to 70.9 weeks. The mean duration between verdict and finalisation in South Australia was 6.2 weeks. The range in reporting jurisdictions was .9 weeks to 10.1 weeks.

Factors Affecting Timeliness

The Chief Justice in 1998 Courts Administration Authority (CAA) Annual Report, noted that "For courts, efficiency is a complex issue, because we depend so much upon the practices and attitudes of the legal profession and litigants and of various government agencies. Improved efficiency depends upon an effective partnership. Real improvement depends to a large degree on the attitudes of those who deal with the courts.

The Courts are concerned with the fact that standard timelines are not being met more often. At this stage the Courts are primarily interested in developing a better understanding of the reasons (and the impact of various reasons) for standards not being met. Until this understanding is developed changes to the standards will not be made as the Courts would prefer to have the underlying reasons addressed.

The reasons for matters not meeting key performance measures are complex and varied. Of particular importance to this equation are the number of trials listed in the criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme and District Criminal Courts which are subsequently taken out of the list (ie deferred to a later date) on application of either the Director for Public Prosecution (DPP), or defence counsel. It appears that many of these applications occur on or shortly before the trial date meaning that it is not possible to bring forward or list other matters in place of the withdrawn matter.

Applications for removal of trials from the list (ie deferral) are made by DPP and defence counsel for a wide range of reasons, including:

- unavailability of Crown witnesses;
- investigations not complete;
- unavailability of counsel;
- lack of funding for defence;
- changing of representation;
- non-appearance of accused;
- laying of fresh information.

#### EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS

In reply to **Hon. T.G. ROBERTS** (13 July).

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** The Deputy Premier, Minister for Primary Industries and Resources, and Minister for Regional Development, has provided the following information:

The Regional Development Task Force reported to Government in April 1999, on a broad range of regional issues, including Education and Training. During extensive consultation, there were questions raised about the quality of educational services and the relevance of courses and training offered.

Specifically in relation to Education and Training issues, the Task Force recommended that Government '... ensure that the education

and training services it provides are relevant and accessible ... ' and that ' ... where there is market failure in job training to support growth industries government should investigate delivery proposals ... '.

The State Government supports a broad range of measures aimed at meeting industry needs with appropriately trained staff. Such initiatives include:

- Addressing skills shortages in regional SA
- The State Government has provided \$1.98m to support the Regional Employment Strategy which provides regions with the flexibility and autonomy to tailor initiatives to meet their unique regional employment needs. Funds are made available to Regional Development Boards in accordance with their strategic priorities. Boards have the capacity to identify local industry skills requirements and tailor appropriate projects to meet those needs.
- A total of \$110 000 has been provided to Regional Development Boards to undertake Regional Skills Audits in eleven regional locations across South Australia. Strategic projects were developed to reflect the specific needs identified, which varied from an audit of training resources through to an examination of current and future short term needs within a myriad of industry types.
- The State Government expended \$300 000 in seed funding to assist with the establishment of a number of Regional Labour Exchanges in key areas throughout the state as a means of addressing seasonal labour shortages in rural areas. For example, as a result of the past program, the wine industry in the Riverland is now serviced by an exchange that provides trained staff at key production times.
- Addressing skills shortages for growth industries
- The Vocational Education, Employment and Training Board undertakes a comprehensive annual planning program which seeks to identify needs and priorities from a range of vocational education and training stakeholders, including Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs), Regional Development Boards (RDBs), other government departments and training providers. Their work, which includes consideration of skills audits, skilled shortages and State strategic priorities, results in planned shifts in training provision (communicated through the *State Strategic Plan for Vocational Education and Training*).
- The State Government provides ongoing training support for the wine industry. Three large training agreements are currently in force, in the Barossa, the South-East and the Southern metropolitan regions.
- Addressing the shortage of trade skills
- The State Government currently provides support to apprentice training through programs including the Government Apprenticeship Scheme (which recruits and places apprentices and trade trainees) and Upskill SA (which requires a ten percent apprentice and trainee labour component by private providers of major government contracts). The Commonwealth also provides subsidies to employers taking on apprentices/trainees.
- Addressing skills shortages for major projects
- The State Government has prepared a package of information detailing the employment, education and training requirements arising from the Adelaide to Darwin Rail Link Project. This information will be used to assist the Project partners to fulfil the local content component (70 per cent of local industry content from SA and NT of goods, services and labour required under the contract) and to assist the creation of a 'rail ready labour force' for South Australia. The core objective in producing the package of information is to maximise South Australian employment in the project, particularly emphasising the upper Spencer Gulf region.

In consideration of the above, I do not feel that an urgent meeting 'of Ministers responsible for education and training' is warranted.

#### HINDMARSH STADIUM

**The Hon. NICK XENOPHON:** I direct the following question to the Attorney-General, representing the Treasurer. Following the report in yesterday's *Advertiser* by Greg Kelton headed 'Journey into the Unknown' which reported that Queen's Counsel were appearing for witnesses before the Auditor-General's inquiry into the Hindmarsh Soccer Stadium, will the Treasurer advise whether the government

is paying for the legal costs associated with such representation and, if so, what are the costs? Who has been represented and who formally authorised any such representation and payment of costs?

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I will take the question on notice, and we will arrange for replies to be brought back.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I move:  
That Standing Order 14 be suspended.

This procedure has been adopted in recent times to allow consideration of other business before the Address in Reply has been adopted.

Motion carried.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS CONCERNS OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL RE ELECTRICITY BUSINESSES DISPOSAL PROCESS

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I move:  
That members of this Council appointed to the joint committee have power to act on this joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

#### JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT SAFETY

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I move:  
That members of this Council appointed to the joint committee have power to act on the joint committee during the present session.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON OUTSOURCING OF STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICES

**The Hon. R.D. LAWSON (Minister for Disability Services):** I move:

That the select committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended to Wednesday 29 November 2000.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON WILD DOG ISSUES IN THE STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**The Hon. A.J. REDFORD:** I move:  
That the select committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 November 2000.

Motion carried.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNET AND INTERACTIVE HOME GAMBLING AND GAMBLING BY OTHER MEANS OF TELECOMMUNICATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** On behalf of the Treasurer, I move:

That the select committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 November 2000.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. J.F. STEFANI:** I move:

That the select committee have power to sit during the present session and that the time for bringing up the report be extended until Wednesday 29 November 2000.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNET AND  
INTERACTIVE HOME GAMBLING AND  
GAMBLING BY OTHER MEANS OF  
TELECOMMUNICATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I move:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move for the substitution by motion of a member on the select committee.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I move:

That the Hon. Carmel Zollo be substituted in place of the Hon. George Weatherill, resigned.

Motion carried.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL**

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I move:

That Standing Orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move for the substitution by motion of a member on the select committee.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I move:

That the Hon. R.K. Sneath be substituted in place of the Hon. George Weatherill, resigned.

Motion carried.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITIES REVIEW  
COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the appointment of a replacement member to the committee.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I move:

That pursuant to section 21(3) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 1991, the Hon. R.K. Sneath be appointed to the committee in place of the Hon. Carmel Zollo, resigned.

Motion carried.

**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE  
COMMITTEE**

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN (Attorney-General):** I seek leave to move a motion without notice concerning the appointment of a replacement member to the committee, as well as an alternate member.

Leave granted.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I move:

That pursuant to section 5 of the Parliament (Joint Services) Act 1985, the Hon. Carmel Zollo be appointed to the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee in place of the Hon. George Weatherill, resigned, and the Hon. R.R. Roberts be appointed as the alternate member to the Hon. Carmel Zollo.

Motion carried.

**The Hon. K.T. GRIFFIN:** I move:

That a message be sent to the House of Assembly transmitting the foregoing resolution.

Motion carried.

**SESSIONAL COMMITTEES**

Sessional committees were appointed as follows:

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

Library: For this session, a committee not appointed.

Printing: The Hons J.S.L. Dawkins, A.J. Redford, T.G. Roberts, J.F. Stefani and Carmel Zollo.

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The President, having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's opening speech, the Hon. K.T. Griffin (Attorney-General) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons L.H. Davis, R.I. Lucas, Caroline Schaefer, R.K. Sneath and Carmel Zollo be appointed to prepare a draft address in reply to the speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6.21 p.m. the Council adjourned until Thursday 5 October at 2.15 p.m.