

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

The **PRESIDENT (Hon. R.P. Wortley)** took the chair at 14:19 and read prayers.

The PRESIDENT: We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners of this country throughout Australia, and their connection to the land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the elders both past and present.

Ministerial Statement

ENERGY SECURITY TARGET

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:20): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to the consultation on energy security target regulations made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Treasurer.

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:21): I table a copy of a ministerial statement relating to the federal budget 2017-18 made earlier today in another place by my colleague the Treasurer.

Parliamentary Committees

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:21): I bring up the 44th report of the committee.

Report received.

Question Time

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ADVERTISING

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:22): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government in the upper house a question about ALP advertising.

Leave granted.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Recently, the ALP aired an ad fronted by their federal Labor Leader, Bill Shorten. Senior Labor member, Anthony Albanese, claimed the ad should never have been produced or shown, describing it as 'a shocker of an ad'. His condemnation went further, saying, 'It's not the sort of ad that I want my party to be promoting.' Labor shadow treasurer, Chris Bowen, also labelled the ad appalling. Mr Shorten even went on to say that he would speak to the ALP about the ad. My question to the minister is: does the minister share Mr Albanese's and Mr Bowen's criticisms of the ad?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:22): I thank the honourable member for his question. I haven't seen the ad.

The PRESIDENT: I do not think a political ad run by a party really has anything to do with the ministerial responsibilities of the minister, so I question whether that question is legitimate.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: I am just putting to you that, before you have too many supps, the purpose of question time is to scrutinise accountability for the ministerial responsibilities of a minister. To bring up an ad, which is a federal ad, has nothing to do with ministerial responsibilities.

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY: Does that mean the government here can't really bring up things about the federal Liberal government because it has no responsibility? You can't have it both ways, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: I have actually spoken in the past about their contribution. I am not ruling your question out of order. I am just putting a position. He has already answered a question. Depending on how many supplementary questions you are going to ask, just bear in mind that it does not have anything to do with his ministerial responsibilities.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY ADVERTISING

The Hon. D.W. RIDGWAY (Leader of the Opposition) (14:24): Supplementary question depending on his answer: does the minister not have a radio, mobile phone, television or any form of communication in his house or his office?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:24): I thank the honourable member for his question. I am pleased to be able to inform him that I have a mobile telephone. In my office, I have a radio. I can also, apparently, stream through the internet's radio, so they say. At home, I have a television. I want to thank the Hon. David Ridgway. The Leader of the Opposition for now, after a break of a few weeks, has the best questions to ask. He is holding the government to account, asking what sort of electronic equipment I have in my house. This is why they are where they are, and that's why he is regarded—

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lensink.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lensink has the floor.

NORTHERN ECONOMIC PLAN

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:25): Thank you, Mr President. I seek leave to make a brief explanation before directing a question to the Minister for Employment on the subject of northern Adelaide's economic statistics.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Recent labour market statistics show that unemployment in Adelaide's north—

The Hon. P. Malinauskas interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Ms Lensink has the floor. Will the honourable minister desist. It's only right that the Hon. Ms Lensink enjoys the respect of the council while asking a question. The Hon. Ms Lensink.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Will the Hon. Mr Ridgway and the honourable minister desist.

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK: Not everybody loves the police minister's voice as much as he does himself. Recent labour market statistics show that unemployment in Adelaide's north continues to be significantly higher than in the rest of the state. Throughout 2016, the unemployment rate in Elizabeth alone remained above 34 per cent, while in Smithfield it was over 24 per cent. My questions for the minister are:

1. Given these statistics illustrate that there has been next to no change in the unemployment rate in many areas of the north and that some areas have actually increased, does it show that the Northern Economic Plan is simply not delivering for people of the north?

2. When can the people in the northern suburbs expect to see the benefits of the Northern Economic Plan and the expected increase in economic activity and employment opportunities?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:27): I thank the honourable member for her question, which I think is in many ways almost identical to a question asked in the last sitting week, or the sitting week before, by the Hon. Jing Lee. I have to say, it was a better question when Jing Lee asked it a couple of weeks ago. It is good that they are reverting to a theme. The Hon. Jing Lee should be very proud that her colleagues are rewriting her questions and asking them again.

Over the year to March, the northern unemployment rate average was 8.2 per cent, which is above the state average. That is the reason that we are putting things like the Northern Economic Plan in place. I have spoken about some of the initiatives under the Northern Economic Plan. Only a few weeks ago, I spoke about the project to build buses, low-emission diesel buses and electric buses, in the north that is helping to make sure there are 50 jobs that would not be there but for our Northern Economic Plan. We will continue to do that, and we are happy to continue to do that, because we are a Labor government and that's what we do.

NORTHERN ECONOMIC PLAN

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:28): I have a supplementary question arising from the answer: can the minister outline the details of the elements of employment in the Northern Economic Plan, apart from the buses?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:28): I thank the honourable member for her question. There are quite a number of elements of the Northern Economic Plan. There is the small business grants area that minister Hamilton Smith—my good friend and a fantastic small business minister—is rolling out. He is a great egg and a great advocate for South Australia.

The Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins: He is swanning overseas.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I accept the Hon. John Dawkins' compliments about the great work the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith does engaging with our trade partners. As the Hon. John Dawkins compliments that good egg and great advocate for South Australia, the Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, he is at the moment in China, selling South Australia to the rest of the world. I thank the Hon. John Dawkins for reminding me of the fantastic work that the Minister for Small Business and Trade is doing. I will find out about those Job Accelerator Grants and bring back just how well they are going and the jobs that that element is creating.

NORTHERN ECONOMIC PLAN

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:29): Further supplementary: the minister mentioned that there were a range of things, but the only matter that he has raised further to the buses are small business grants. Are there any other projects that he can point to? He might need to take this on notice, but can he give us a quantum of the entire number of jobs that are being produced by the plan?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:29): Over the course of the running of this plan there will be lots.

APY LANDS, SPORT

The Hon. S.G. WADE (14:29): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking questions of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation in relation to sport on the APY lands.

Leave granted.

The Hon. S.G. WADE: Earlier this month, state cabinet held a country cabinet meeting on the APY lands. Cabinet's visit to the lands commenced on Sunday 1 May. On the previous day, Saturday 30 April, the first round of the SANFL's Far North West Sports League competition for 2017 was held on the APY lands. That first round of games was marred by violence. In response, the SANFL suspended the 2017 competition on the APY lands until it had obtained from each participating community a commitment 'to support and commit to eliminating violence on and off the field of play'. My questions to the minister are:

1. Was the minister briefed on the instances of violence that occurred in the APY communities on the day before the country cabinet commenced?
2. In which communities did these incidents of violence occur?
3. Which specific APY communities did he and his cabinet colleagues visit during their time on the APY lands?
4. What is the government doing to support communities on the APY lands to address violence on and off the field of play?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:31): I thank the honourable member for his very genuine questions and his ongoing interest in matters to do with the APY lands.

I can inform him that I was there a few days earlier. I was in Pipalyatjara on the Saturday and went to the season opener double-header. Pipalyatjara got up by a few goals over Murputja. I think there was a forfeit from the Pukatja Magpies, who were due to play the central Bombers. That game did not occur. I understand it might have been in Indulkana that there was another double-header game, which makes the eight teams that make up the Far North West SANFL league.

Certainly in the game that I was at in Pipalyatjara and had a great opportunity to spend most of the match talking to the newly elected chair and deputy chair of the APY executive, there was an argument amongst a few people at the end of the game. It was nothing more intense than I have seen at AFL or local SANFL matches. I suspect the Hon. Rob Lucas probably gets as animated when West Adelaide frequently lose SANFL matches.

I understand there was an incident at the other location where games occurred and that the games for this next round, which is this weekend, have been cancelled. I am informed that there are consultations that occurred yesterday and are ongoing today in a number of the communities to discuss making sure that when football occurs, it is done safely so that the whole community can enjoy games safely.

I have seen a number of games of football over quite a number of years in the APY lands, and I do know that it is one of the things that much of the community looks forward to. You see a huge turnout for football games on the APY lands. Certainly, the representative game that is played in Adelaide each year when APY play a combined NT team is something that is worked towards for the whole year. I applaud the work the SANFL does. They have people from the SANFL that are up there at each game and employ local people to manage the league. I think it is a good thing that they are making sure that games are conducted safely.

I think the next part of the question was what communities were visited by ministers. For myself, I visited Pipalyatjara and stayed in Kalka. I think that was the Friday night. I took part in the community patrol with a couple of locals in the community who are engaged in the community patrol in Pipalyatjara and Kalka. From memory, Umuwa, Kaltjiti, Pukatja and Kenmore Park were the communities I personally visited. I know other ministers split up into various groups to cover more

communities. I think Amata, Mimili and Indulkana were amongst other communities that were visited by ministers while they were up in the APY lands.

It was very pleasing to see that ministers went to many different communities while we were up in the APY lands. I know that safety is something we all need, no matter what community we are in, and I have to say that, every time I am in the APY lands, one thing I am exceptionally impressed with is the work that the police do. I am constantly amazed by the police who are based on the APY lands and the relationships they have with Anangu. I have witnessed it quite a number of times myself when a local will come up and talk to police and they will take pre-emptive action and diffuse things before incidents occur.

It has been about 15 years since I first visited the APY lands and in those 15 years I have certainly seen a change. With the advent of Opal fuel and the significant reduction and almost elimination of petrol sniffing, violence is much less than it used to be. It certainly has much improved over the 15 years that I have been travelling to the APY lands, but there is still more work that can and should be done.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The Hon. J.E. HANSON (14:36): My question is to the Minister for Automotive Transformation. Can the minister please advise whether last night's federal budget does enough to help the automotive manufacturing transition?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:36): I thank the honourable member for his question and his ongoing interest in this area. I know in his former life he represented workers that worked along the automotive supply chain, very ably. The simple question is: did it do enough for auto? No, not really, not really at all. I know we had a question yesterday from the Leader of the Opposition in this place. I have to say, the Hon. David Ridgway must be the only shadow minister in Australia who thinks it's a good idea for a liberal shadow to be talking about automotive in this country given what the Liberal Party has done.

The closure of Holden is rapidly approaching as a direct result, as this chamber heard yesterday, of the Liberal government chasing them out. Yesterday, I talked about the fact that Australia is currently only one of 13 countries in the world that have the capacity to make a car from start to finish. We have those high-level technical and advanced manufacturing capabilities to do that. In doing so we made them well. As I said yesterday, there is a myth that is perpetrated that it was too expensive to make them here or that we could not make them well. We know the form of the Libs. They wouldn't trust us to make a canoe, let alone something like a car. They don't believe we have the capabilities.

Here is a study that backs that up. In 2011, there was study that looked at the direct budgetary support for auto industries around the world. That study, in 2011, estimated the direct budgetary support in Australia to be \$US18 per capita per year. In the UK it was \$28; in Germany \$90; in Canada \$96; in France \$147; and over \$200 in the US. So, this notion that it was too expensive and that the federal government was in some way correct to withdraw their funding for the Australian auto industry is an absolute lie.

For South Australia, last night's budget was a complete and utter failure, not just for the automotive industry but in many other areas. Sure, the Hon. David Ridgway proudly got up and talked about \$100 million for an advanced manufacturing fund, none of which is necessarily earmarked specifically for South Australia. We still don't know the details—

Members interjecting:

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: We still have no idea of the details, absolutely no idea. With what the federal Liberal government thinks of South Australia, there is reason to be worried about what we will get. We talked yesterday about the money that should be available for South Australia and Victoria, the \$800 million in the Automotive Transformation Scheme that is going to be pocketed as a saving even though it should have gone to helping South Australia and Victoria transition from the

industry that the federal Liberals decided to close down. It is not just in the auto industry. We have been completely and utterly overlooked in South Australia by the federal government.

We have been completely overlooked. There was \$70 billion for new infrastructure projects, \$70 billion in new money for infrastructure projects, and how much did South Australia get? Nothing, not a new cent; not one cent of new money. Not one single cent of new money. Instead, we got some re-announcements. We got some re-announcements of already committed money, but not a single cent in South Australia from the \$70 billion, not a single cent.

The Hon. J.M.A. Lensink: You are such a whinger.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: The Hon. Michelle Lensink interjects that we are such a whinger.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: We are standing up for South Australia, and she is calling us a whinger.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Hon. Mr Malinauskas, desist. The honourable Leader of the Opposition, desist. First of all, do not bite, react, or answer interjections from the other side—or even on your own side. Just answer the question.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: Thank you, Mr President. I will be quick and finish up. There was not a single cent of new money for South Australian infrastructure in the federal budget, not a single cent. We look at what some other states got. Some of the examples from other states include \$5.3 billion to New South Wales for a new airport, \$1 billion for rail in Victoria, \$1.6 billion to WA for things they didn't even ask for or hadn't even put in a business case or plan for and almost \$1 billion for road projects in Queensland.

For South Australia there was zero—zero dollars of new money. In the media we are seeing questions like, 'Why does Malcolm Turnbull hate South Australia?' It's not just us saying it. It's not just us saying this today. We have seen the Civil Contractors Federation of South Australia saying things like:

Federal Treasurer Morrison has missed a golden opportunity to revive SA and set the state up for the future by investing in productive infrastructure...Less than a year out from a state election, last night's budget could well come back to haunt the SA Liberal Opposition.

'Could well come back to haunt the SA Liberal opposition': this is from the Civil Contractors Federation. And other groups are saying this. The Freight Council talked about the funding to other states for other projects and noted that there is not a single thing for South Australia, not a single bit of new money. We have seen the erstwhile Leader of the Opposition, the member for Dunstan, the Hon. Steven Marshall, today talking about this. He was asked about this today.

He was asked: did South Australia get its fair share? Do you know what he said? He said nothing. He could not answer that question. He was asked five or six times if South Australia got its fair share, and do you know how he responded? He would not answer it; he would not answer whether it got its fair share because he knows it didn't, but he doesn't want to upset the man in the top hat in Canberra.

It is a disgrace how the Liberal South Australian opposition doesn't stick up for South Australia. I will finish up with a quote. This was a direct quote from the member for Dunstan's press conference when he was asked what should be done about South Australia missing out so badly. This is the quote:

I tell you, the best guarantee for more money coming into South Australia is a hard-working Labor government which puts the interests of South Australia first.

Mr President, 'Vote Labor', as he once said.

FEDERAL BUDGET

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (14:43): The honourable members may regret my asking this, but can the minister provide a similar analysis on the education funding and the NDIS funding which will come to South Australia?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:43): I am happy to bring back a detailed answer on how much less the funding for education is under Malcolm Turnbull, than what Labor would have done. I am very happy to come back with an answer to detail exactly how much less the Prime Minister is going to put into education, compared to what Labor was doing. I am very happy to do that.

NOARLUNGA HOSPITAL

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY (14:43): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Leader of the Government, representing the Minister for Health, questions regarding Noarlunga Hospital.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.A. DARLEY: A public meeting regarding the Noarlunga Hospital was arranged for Monday 10 April. At that meeting, two resolutions were passed, and I have been asked by the organisers to put these on the public record. The first was:

We call on the Liberal Party Opposition to commit to expanding emergency hospital services at Noarlunga Hospital, should they win the next state election.

Resolution two was:

We call on the Liberal Party Opposition to commit to maintaining the Repat hospital given the ongoing need for this hospital's beds and outpatient services, should they win the next state election.

I understand that flyers advertising this public meeting were put up around the Noarlunga Hospital; however, they were removed by SA Health staff, who were not supportive of the meeting being held. I have also received information that staff were threatened against attending the meeting and were told that their social media accounts, including Facebook, would be monitored for material which indicated their support for retaining services at Noarlunga Hospital. My questions to the minister are as follows:

1. Can the minister advise if the personal social media accounts of staff have been or will be monitored by SA Health?
2. Can the minister advise why flyers for the public meeting were removed and staff discouraged from attending?
3. Notwithstanding the fact that a formal complaint is unlikely to be forthcoming for fear of retribution, will the minister investigate threats made against staff and provide a response to the chamber?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:45): I thank the honourable member for his questions; I will pass those questions on to the minister in another place and make sure a prompt reply is brought back.

POLICE WORKERS COMPENSATION

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (14:45): I seek leave to make a brief explanation prior to directing a question to the Minister for Police on the subject of workers compensation.

Leave granted.

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS: In response to a question from my colleague the Hon. Mr Dawkins in December of last year the Minister for Police said in this house, and I quote:

SAPOL provide a range of services that go beyond the ordinary entitlements that an employee would have in terms of return to work. For instance, SAPOL does have an employee assistance section, whose job it is to provide services to those employees who have had to deal with traumatic circumstances; for instance, those employees who have attended roadside crashes—something that has certainly been topical during the course of this week and today—or those SAPOL officers who had to endure and perform incredibly difficult tasks during the course of the event that unfolded throughout metropolitan Adelaide and concluded in Hindley Street early last week.

Those are examples of circumstances that police officers may have to face which would result in them potentially gaining access to the employee assistance section that exists within SAPOL to provide mental health services and other services to those employees who may be struggling. None of that is changing.

My question to the minister is: does he stand by that statement, and I quote, 'None of that is changing.'

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:47): Changing on the back of what? I have not received any briefing from SAPOL regarding changes to the employee assistance section, which does important work, that arise out of changes to workers compensation service provision—potential changes to external case managers. We are in active conversations with the Police Association of South Australia and indeed with SAPOL leadership, specifically the police commissioner, about things we can continue to improve upon regarding provision of services around potential psychological injuries or mental health issues for police officers. But I have not received any advice from SAPOL regarding a change to the employees assistance section that would arise from changes to workers compensation arrangements.

POLICE WORKERS COMPENSATION

The Hon. R.I. LUCAS (14:48): Supplementary question: given the minister has referred to ongoing discussions with the Police Association of South Australia, does the minister stand by the statement he made in December when he said:

...Nor have I received any representation from the Police Association of South Australia articulating a position that the change from self-insured status to ReturnToWorkSA having the responsibilities via their agents of managing injured workers' claims will result in a worse outcome for their employees.

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:48): I have spoken on a verbal basis with the Police Association about a range of issues on a regular basis.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: How else would you speak to them?

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS: Via correspondence, email, text message, any number of forms of communication.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS: Look, I appreciate that the Hon. Mr Lucas has been around a long time, but I am pretty sure he is au fait with more modern forms of technology.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS: The discussions I have had with the leadership of the Police Association of South Australia have conveyed to me that they do not have any particular concerns or reservations around the movement of case management for workers compensation away from SAPOL to an alternative case provider.

WEAR ORANGE WEDNESDAY

The Hon. T.T. NGO (14:49): My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Can the minister update the chamber about the importance of Wear Orange Wednesday?

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (14:50): I thank the Hon. Mr Ngo for his question and acknowledge his commitment and concern for the people who work within our emergency services sector. The Hon. Mr Ngo represented me at a function recently due to a clash,

but I know he has a genuine commitment to making sure that those people who serve on our front line get the respect they deserve from the government and from the community generally.

The Hon. Mr Ngo is right to refer to the fact that today is Wear Orange Wednesday. It is a day in which we say thank you to our extraordinary State Emergency Service volunteers for the outstanding work they do each and every day. The message is simple: we participate in this important day by wearing something orange and spreading the word through social media. I note the Hon. Mr Parnell has taken up that cause with gusto.

The Hon. R.I. Lucas: What about Tung Ngo?

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS: I don't want to look. If you search the hashtags 'Thank you SES' and 'WOW Day' you will see workplaces across the country celebrating WOW Day in their own way, whether it be by holding an orange-themed morning tea, as my ministerial office did this morning, or simply donning an orange tie. The value of Wear Orange Wednesday cannot be understated as it gives the opportunity for the broader community to show its recognition and appreciation of some of our most hardworking and selfless emergency services volunteers.

I have spoken on a number of occasions about the rather extraordinary year that was calendar 2016 for our State Emergency Service. We had an incredibly wet and wild year weatherwise and that resulted in 16,341 incidents being responded to by roughly 1,500 SES volunteers and, of course, they were ably assisted by CFS volunteers. The number of 16,000 sounds like an extraordinary number in its own right but I think, to give it some context, we need to appreciate the fact that normally, or in the year prior, we saw 5,500 incidents being responded to, so that is in excess of tripling the number of incidents responded to in the previous year. That is an extraordinary statistic and it is all done by hardworking volunteers.

While many of us were huddled up in the warmth of homes across the state, our SES volunteers, last winter (as I am sure they will do this winter), were out there in torrential conditions braving storms, saving families and their homes from flooding and falling trees, and other risks that arise out of a significant storm event. This government recognises the invaluable contribution of our SES volunteers and I have to say that the one thing that always strikes me is how humble and hardworking they are, which is all the more reason to celebrate their efforts.

They do incredible work, not out of a need for recognition or adulation but simply out of a genuine motivation to be able to serve and protect the communities they are part of. I know that our emergency services volunteers enjoy bipartisan support by way of recognition, but it is also important to note that this government is committed to making sure that we don't just support them through efforts like Wear Orange Wednesday but we also support them through making sure that they have all the resources they need in a technological sense and in a practical sense to be able to go out and do the incredible work they do. The emergency services levy provides the opportunity for us to continue to provide that support to our volunteers in an ongoing and sustainable way into the future.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE (14:54): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Automotive Transformation a question regarding jobs in the northern areas. Leave granted.

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHIRE: Last week, I heard what I could only describe as an untrue public statement by the minister, where he on, I think, ABC radio said that Holden was closing because of the Hon. Mr Turnbull and the Hon. Mr Abbott. Under the code of conduct of ministers of the Crown, I understood that they had to tell the truth and the facts.

Further to that, during that same week on the steps of Parliament House were some hardworking union officials, with the very good, hardworking member for Napier, with their fists up and their GMH uniforms on, getting ready to come in and see the Premier because they were disgusted with the lack of outcome through automotive transformation from not the federal government but from this state government. I was very interested to see the member for Napier there supporting them. My questions therefore to the minister are:

1. Given the statements by GMH executive, given the fact that we had the highest power costs for manufacturing in the Western world, indeed in the world, does the minister now apologise for misleading the South Australian community by saying that the Prime Minister and a former prime minister closed Holden? Does he apologise and admit that they did not close Holden?
2. How many jobs has the government, under this minister's leadership, created in automotive transformation?
3. How much state government money has been put in?
4. Does the minister agree with those union officials from GMH that they were very much within their rights, on behalf of the northern suburbs people needing jobs, to protest and come in and meet with the Premier to request more action?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for his questions. I know that if minister Hunter was here and received a similar question he would talk about the nonsensical nature of the question and the falsehoods in it. They are some of the more ridiculous statements from a former Liberal minister and a would-be failed senator about these sorts of things.

The first question was about the closure of Holden. People were negotiating before the last election to keep Holden's open. There is no doubt in anyone's mind, from those who were there at the time, that had Labor won that federal election Holden would still be going. It was a withdrawal of direct support by Malcolm Turnbull and Joe Hockey for the auto industry.

We discussed as recently as half an hour ago just how well, how efficiently and how effectively we made cars in South Australia. We competed on the world stage at a very modest cost. But, no, that wasn't good enough for the ideology of the Hon. Robert Brokenshire's former mates. His former party hates supporting industry, hates supporting workers, and they made a very deliberate decision to withdraw funding for the automotive industry around Australia. Even worse, they did not consider at all what they would put in place to support those jurisdictions.

I completely and utterly refute the nonsensical question from the Hon. Robert Brokenshire. Holden would still be going if Labor had anything to do with it. Holden would still be going. He asked about automotive workers. Both the Premier and myself regularly meet with automotive workers, regularly meet on the factory floors with supply chain workers and regularly meet with their representatives and management about what is happening—regularly meet.

The Hon. Rob Brokenshire wanted to know what money we were putting in. Righteo! As soon as Holden announced it was going, the state government announced a \$60 million jobs plan package. Last year, we put in more: we put another \$24 million into the Northern Economic Plan, and just last budget we announced a jobs accelerator program of \$109 million—a massive injection into the South Australian economy that will no doubt greatly support the north. I think there was a fourth question. I can't remember what it was, but if the Hon. Robert Brokenshire wants to ask me as a supplementary, I might answer it.

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

The Hon. R.L. BROKENSHERE (14:59): As a supplementary, sir, the fourth question was: does the minister support the calls and the cries by the union for more effort from the state government as per their delegation to the Premier last week? A further supplementary, based on the minister's answer, is: how many new businesses and how many new jobs have been created in the north as a result of the money the minister has put in through automotive transformation, and does he support the union for protesting, rightly, on behalf of workers and his lack of action?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:00): Again, Mr President, it is much better that the Hon. Robert Brokenshire doesn't ask questions and have everyone think he is exceptionally ignorant and a bit of a dill than get up and ask the question and have everyone know it. He had just—

The PRESIDENT: Minister, sit down.

Members interjecting:

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members should be able to ask a question that they think is important to their constituency without being accused of being a dill, so I would like you to withdraw that.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER: I withdraw that, Mr President, but I would note that this meeting was actually organised by the government and the union together to talk to many of those shop stewards who are representing workers at Holden and at the supply chain companies. This was organised with the state government and the union to talk about issues that are affecting workers. Many of these shop stewards do an exceptional job. In fact, all of them do an exceptional job, in my experience, and it is a difficult position many of them are in.

They are supporting workers who, as a result of the federal Liberal government, are looking to transition and look for other work, and we will continue to meet with management and, importantly, with workers and their representatives. We will give that commitment to continue doing it. Far from it being some sort of protest that was sprung up on the Premier, we helped organise that meeting. We invited people to Parliament House. It is the opposite of the misinformation the Hon. Robert Brokenshire has somehow got in his head about that particular meeting and the many other meetings we have.

In terms of new jobs, about two years ago when the Automotive Transformation Task Force went out and talked to, I think, 74 tier 1 and tier 2 supply chain companies, 80 per cent of them were intending just to close up shop once Holden finished producing cars and now well over half have already started diversifying. There is no doubt that the work of the government and the work of its automotive transformation team is making a difference and is helping companies diversify out of auto into areas like medical devices, food manufacturing and packaging, defence areas and other forms of transport.

INNOVATION VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN (15:02): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation and Automotive Transformation a question.

Leave granted.

The Hon. A.L. McLACHLAN: In answer to a question I asked of the minister on 11 April, the minister indicated that the Frost and Sullivan review had shown a number of the government's grant programs to be successful. I note that, on page 14, that report states:

Only nine out of 32 interviewees were able at this stage to attribute tangible benefits in revenue growth to participation in [manufacturing works], and only eight were able to attribute growth in overall employment.

I ask the minister to update the chamber and advise whether or not there has been an increase in companies attributing tangible benefits in revenue growth and attributing growth in overall employment.

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:03): I thank the honourable member for his question and, for his colleagues in the chamber, that's how you do it. It is a very sensible question on a very specific subject. In terms of the Frost and Sullivan review, I can't remember the exact date that that was undertaken. That was some time ago and I think it was at a reasonably early stage in terms of those business transformation vouchers and the innovation voucher programs that were put in place.

It probably makes sense that some of those companies, pleasingly, already had seen tangible benefits but I don't have the review in front of me and I certainly don't have page 14 of the review in front of me. I think it goes on to say what companies were expecting to occur as a result of those grants that were, at the stage of that initial review, in the very early stage of implementing what they were going to do as a result of those grants from the state government, in large part to help transform their companies, with a particular focus on manufacturing.

I know that we were assessing how our programs go, as you would expect us to do, and if there is a completed assessment, which I do not think there is yet, I will find out where that is up to. As soon as there is, I am very happy to bring the honourable member a reply to his very sensible question.

SA WATER RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation. Will the minister please update the chamber on how SA Water publicly is committing to reconciliation?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:05): I thank the honourable member for her very important question. I am pleased to be able to update the chamber on the important work that SA Water is undertaking with their Reconciliation Action Plan (known as the RAP). The RAP has been developed by SA Water to ensure the needs, expectations and aspirations of Aboriginal staff are understood. It seeks to deliver a better life for the communities they serve across the state and improve the way in which SA Water promotes reconciliation.

As a significant South Australian employer right across the state, SA Water is in a unique position to positively influence outcomes for South Australian Aboriginal people. SA Water's Reconciliation Action Plan builds on a number of achievements arising from its three predecessors. One is the Kauwi Interpretive Centre on the site of the Adelaide Desalination Plant. The interpretive centre was built to engage and inform visitors on the cultural significance of water for the Kurna people. Kauwi is the Kurna word for water. Out the front, a living bush tucker garden showcases plants that provide foods, medicines and tools. The centre is a living collection of stories and memories from the world's oldest living culture.

SA Water works closely with 18 remote Aboriginal communities across South Australia, providing important water and sewerage services. The new plan includes actions to find further opportunities to connect more people to safe, clean drinking water supplies. The Reconciliation Action Plan also includes a commitment to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders make up 2.5 per cent of SA Water's workforce. I am informed by SA Water that they will do this by:

- adopting an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and retention plan by June of this year;
- implementing a high school careers program; and
- opening up new employment pathway programs to entice Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying with scholarship and graduate placements.

The plan also commits to:

- ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags are flown outside SA Water House and at all major regional offices by the end of 2018;
- SA Water hosting two reconciliation week events each year;
- develop five commercial relationships per year with Aboriginal-owned businesses with an aim of a \$100,000 annual spend by 2020;
- provide targeted training to Aboriginal businesses to enhance their ability to work with the water industry;
- create a program for Aboriginal schools to improve water conservation activities in remote communities; and
- work with traditional owners to develop knowledge sharing sessions and posters to raise awareness of the importance of South Australia's water.

I congratulate SA Water for the work they are doing for this Reconciliation Action Plan and I look forward to seeing how it develops over the years.

SA WATER RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (15:08): Supplementary: given that SA Water has a goal to increase its Aboriginal employment to 2.5 per cent, if I heard correctly, how many employees are identified as Aboriginal now?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:08): I thank the honourable member for her question. I don't have an exact number of employees for SA Water. They are a significant employer and one of the biggest employers certainly that the state government has that does this sort of infrastructure work, so it will not be a small number. I will get an exact number and come back with an answer for the honourable member.

SA WATER RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:08): Supplementary: can the minister also update the council on any work that the parliament has done towards our RAP?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:09): I thank the honourable member for her question and I will ask that of the Joint Parliamentary Service Committee, who I think are looking at this, and bring back a reply to the parliament from that answer.

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:09): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before addressing a question to the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation on the topic of medicinal cannabis cultivation and manufacture.

Leave granted.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: As members are aware, the lead minister for medicinal cannabis in this parliament has been identified as the Hon. Kyam Maher. He recently announced that there is now a new industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis office within the Department of State Development (DSD), something I congratulate him and the Weatherill government for taking steps forward in.

The minister may also be aware that a local business, which I note has already operated in the medicinal cannabis field overseas, has identified to the state government office that the Hydroponics Industry Control Act 2009 is currently providing barriers to their ability to comply with the Office of Drug Control's federal requirements to access a licence under the federal scheme. My questions to the minister are:

1. What actions have been taken to address the concerns with regard to the Hydroponics Industry Control Act in prohibiting, or creating unnecessary barriers to, those seeking to enter the medicinal cannabis or indeed the industrial hemp industry in this state?
2. Given that he previously hosted a round table on these issues, will he also consider hosting a round table in the near future to not only identify further barriers but to allow this industry to flourish?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:11): I thank the honourable member for her questions and for her advocacy in this area, not just on matters to do with medicinal cannabis but also on matters to do with industrial hemp in South Australia. It was pleasing that only a few short weeks ago the other chamber passed the laws that the Hon. Tammy Franks introduced to parliament with the regulatory amendments that the government put in place for the growing of industrial hemp in South Australia.

As the honourable member has identified, we have set up an office for medicinal cannabis in South Australia to deal with all the complexities across not just medical cannabis but the possibility

of industrial hemp industries. There are a number of acts—and the honourable member has referred to one of them—that interplay with the regulatory regimes for these potential industries. I am not aware of the Hydroponics Industry Control Act and the problem that the honourable member has outlined, but I will certainly talk to the folks in DSD who are heading up that office now. I am sure that the company has talked to DSD about what they see are their concerns. I will receive a briefing on that to see if there is anything that we need to look at or do in relation to that particular area.

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS (15:12): Supplementary: will the minister also consider identifying further barriers by having another round table so that these issues can be brought to light earlier rather than having to be taken up individually by each person in the industry?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:12): I am happy to have a look to see if that is something that will be of value. I know that certainly the first round table, which both the Hon. Tammy Franks and the Hon. David Ridgway attended, was valuable. That provided a lot of help and advice for the government in terms of our thinking and where we have got to so far, so it is a suggestion I will take up and look to see if that is something that will be of value.

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The Hon. K.L. VINCENT (15:13): Supplementary: did the minister state when he was expecting to receive that briefing from DSD?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:13): I thank the honourable member for her supplementary question. My office will make inquiries this week about the specific issue to do with the Hydroponics Industry Control Act to see if the company has brought that to their attention. If not, I am sure the Hon. Tammy Franks will more than freely give me her advice and the benefit of her wisdom on this matter.

NORTHERN ENTREPRENEUR GROWTH SCHEME

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:13): I seek leave to make a brief explanation before asking the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation a question about the Northern Entrepreneur Scheme.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS: On 28 March this year, the minister announced to this chamber the Northern Entrepreneur Scheme, designed to 'accelerate the growth in entrepreneurs, businesses and jobs in the Gawler region'. This announcement came after I asked the minister a number of questions over several months regarding the exclusion of Gawler from the Northern Economic Plan despite the town having equal numbers of Holden workers to the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. My question to the minister is: why is the Northern Entrepreneur Scheme located at the Stretton Centre in Munno Para instead of within the Town of Gawler, which is where both council and the community were expecting it would be located?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:14): I thank the honourable member for his question and his interest in matters that are to do with this area and particularly the Northern Entrepreneurs Scheme. I know there was a lot of discussion that happened at a departmental-to-council level about this scheme. The Stretton Centre in Munno Para has programs that are already established that were able to be rolled out very quickly.

We want to make sure that we could get these started as quickly as possible. I know there is an intention to look to see if they can be physically located in or around Gawler, but to get them started, to get them started as quickly as possible, a location that was in reasonable proximity to Gawler was chosen for the initial programs to be started to benefit Gawler.

NORTHERN ENTREPRENEUR GROWTH SCHEME

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:15): Supplementary. Thank you, minister. Will the minister commit to his department having a meaningful discussion with both the Mayor of Gawler and her staff in relation to the potential for the scheme to be located in Gawler, given that my understanding is that did not happen prior to location at the Stretton Centre?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:15): I will absolutely undertake that the department will have discussions with the council, but, importantly as well, with other stakeholders, including the local member for Light, Tony Piccolo.

NORTHERN ENTREPRENEUR GROWTH SCHEME

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:16): Supplementary question: will the minister also recognise that the community of Gawler does not see Munno Para as part of Gawler, it's not part of the Town of Gawler, and also the fact that the member for Light has been totally silent on this issue?

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (15:16): I thank the honourable member for his question. I would acknowledge that the member for Light has been an exceptionally strong advocate on this. I know the member for Light has discussed with me and others on a number of occasions the need to make sure that the significant impact the closure of Holden will have on the northern areas of Adelaide, including the Gawler region, is taken into account.

That was a very big reason why the scheme was set up, thanks to the fierce advocacy from the member for Light, who, believe me, is an exceptional local member, and that is why he was elected in 2006 and that is why he's been there so long already, because he is an exceptional local member who sticks up for his community and advocates exceptionally strongly.

POLICE TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (15:17): My question is for the Minister for Police. Can the minister outline how the state government has, again, demonstrated its commitment to provide our police with the tools of the 21st century?

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (15:17): I thank the Hon. Mr Gazzola for his question around a very important subject. The safety and security of the men and women who work on the front line is something that this government takes incredibly seriously. On Sunday I had the great privilege to join South Australia Police as they began the statewide rollout of body-worn cameras for all front-line police officers, which will see SAPOL as a national leader when it comes to the deployment of this outstanding technology.

The rollout realises the commitment made by the state government in the 2014-15 state budget of \$5.9 million to introduce body-worn video technology. The body-worn cameras will enhance officers' security, further increase the public's confidence in the most professional police force in the nation, while also delivering faster, more accurate outcomes for the criminal justice sector. Following a thorough acquisition and trial process, Communications Design & Management Pty Ltd were awarded the tender for the body-worn camera technology.

The contract will see all uniformed police patrols wearing body-worn video as they perform their patrol duties within three years and 1,000 cameras in operation by the 2019-20 financial year. The staged response enables SAPOL to handle the downloading of any recordings. The body-worn cameras are a compact, light and thin camera unit that mounts easily onto the SAPOL uniform. This enables the camera to be visible to the public at all times.

The camera is an extremely versatile wide lens camera, which provides the capture of quality vision and also ensures that it can be used by SAPOL in all conditions across the state, including at night-time. The camera can record audio and visuals, but only records when activated. The activation

of the camera is a simple one-touch activation. When activated, two red lights at the base of the camera are illuminated.

The cameras are subject to a secure, encrypted and locked system, with any video recorded only able to be downloaded on the SAPOL system using SAPOL software. SAPOL is confident that the deployment of this technology will result in an increase in transparency, which will only serve to further strengthen public sentiment towards SAPOL through a number of measures, including improving the quality of evidence, resulting in a reduction of not guilty pleas and reduced time and cost for legal and court proceedings.

It will see a reduction in the need for the use of force by police. It will improve safety for police officers and reduce the number of complaints against officers. It will also provide officers with an invaluable opportunity to review and improve their practices on the beat. Members of the public would have already seen officers on the beat using these cameras in Hindley Street, and we will soon see the cameras deployed into the Traffic Support Branch before being rolled out to every front-line officer in the state.

The rollout of body-worn cameras is the latest in this state government's desire to pursue and ensure our police force is a 21st century police force and one of the most advanced in the nation and, indeed, the world. These cameras come on top of recent announcements, such as the mobile rugged tablets and also facial recognition technology that is used by SAPOL.

This government is committed to providing our police force with all the tools they need to reduce the time officers spend behind desks and increase the agility and responsiveness of police operations. This government, along with SAPOL, has a proven track record over the past 15 years of keeping South Australians safe, with a 30.5 per cent reduction in crime. With extra officers and a police force equipped with the tools of the 21st century, I am confident community safety in South Australia is in good hands.

It is really important to contemplate this technology in the context of everything else this government is doing in and around policing. I mentioned the substantial reduction we have seen in crime in South Australia. This isn't something we can take for granted, and it is certainly not something that has just happened. We have seen other jurisdictions that haven't experienced the same reductions in crime that South Australia has had. It is worth contemplating what has contributed to this in order to work out how we are going to ensure it continues into the future.

The first element is making sure that we have a well-resourced police force in the context of the most valuable resource that any police force can have, and that is, of course, sworn officers. This government has been committed, over a sustained period, to increasing the size of the police force. That commitment has resulted in this state having more police per capita than any other state in the nation. That is an extraordinary statistic. We are number one in the nation when it comes to the number of police per capita. I am not sure that is a statistic that other police ministers prior to me can espouse, including one in this chamber, but it is a statement of fact that we have more police officers in this state per capita than in any other state in the country.

However, we are not resting on our laurels in that respect. We are continuing to invest in more police officers coming in to this state's service, which is why by mid next year we will have honoured, in full, our commitment to increase the police force by in excess of another 300 sworn police officers. Once they are within the employ of SAPOL, that will give the police commissioner an additional degree of flexibility in deploying resources into front-line areas that need it most.

The nature of crime is changing. The same crimes that were committed in previous decades are not the same crimes being committed now. We have seen an extraordinary increase in the workload of our men and women in uniform in the area of domestic violence, amongst others, so it is important that we continue to improve SAPOL's level of resourcing when it comes to personnel.

But we can't just provide the police commissioner with extra sworn police officers, we also have to ensure that we are providing him with outstanding technology. And this government has delivered in spades. We have just announced the body-worn video, but that is on the back of other things as well—things like facial recognition technology, a technology that is now being utilised by SAPOL in an extraordinary way. I have no doubt that this technology will continue to improve and

result in offenders that we don't want on our streets instead being put before the courts to be held to account.

Another example is the mobile rugged tablets, which have already been rolled out in some patrol cars throughout the state. What this will do is give police officers the capacity to do functions out on the beat that would otherwise have to be done behind a desk. We want to support the police commissioner in the effort to take police out from behind the desk and instead put them out on the front line where they can fight crime where it is happening.

I note that this is a policy that doesn't seem to be shared by the opposition. It is becoming increasingly clear that the opposition is taking a policy to the next state election where they will be taking over operational police functions and taking that responsibility away from the police commissioner. This is something that I think all South Australians should be particularly alarmed about—having an opposition that wants to intervene in the police commissioner's job and telling him where and when he will have resources allocated, including human resources.

We don't agree with that policy position of the opposition. We will go to the next election backing our police commissioner to utilise the extraordinary resources that we have bestowed upon SAPOL in a way that best addresses fighting crime.

Matters of Interest

LEGACY

The Hon. T.J. STEPHENS (15:26): I rise to talk about the veterans community and some of the great work that is being done to support our veterans, both young and old. Since we last assembled in this place, I have attended a number of commemorations on behalf of the opposition. These events were the 66th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong held by 3RAR Association, the RSL ANZAC youth vigil, a dawn service at Payneham RSL, the unveiling of the Australian Army nursing memorial on the Pathway of Honour, the Legacy signature event and the Australian American Association's Coral Sea commemoration service. I thank those organisations for their invitations and the beautiful, moving services.

I would also like to put on the record that I have had the opportunity in recent months to meet with representatives from Veterans SA, including director Rob Manton, who I believe does an outstanding job, and bear witness to the good work they are doing as a conduit between government and veterans. One of the organisations I would like to expand on is Legacy. Legacy does great work with families of veterans, particularly war widows and their dependent children. An extract from their website best describes exactly what Legacy does and why they are such a vital and enduring part of our veterans community:

Legacy was founded in 1923 by a group of World War I veterans. Their ideals of mateship engendered by front line service led them to recognise the need for an organisation to help the widows and children of their comrades who did not survive.

Since then, Legacy has protected the basic needs of individuals and families by; advocating for entitlements, rights and benefits; assisting families coping with bereavement and helping people thrive despite their adversity and loss; providing care and support to the families (widows, widowers, children, and disabled dependants) of our incapacitated and deceased veterans.

Legacy provides a range of social activities and essential services and support such as education expenses and dental care for children and youth, holiday respite, home maintenance, assistance with utility bills, advice and assistance with claiming pensions, financial counselling, legal advice, and much more.

The youth support Legacy provides is often critical and can make a real difference in the chances a young person has of a successful career and in life in general, chances which are often diminished by the loss of a parent.

Legacy helps families, not just in the short term—Legacy is there for life; currently caring for around 70,000 widow(er)s, and 1,900 children and disabled dependants throughout Australia.

Since Federation, more than 102,000 Australian servicemen and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in theatres of operation around the world. Many others returned wounded—either physically or emotionally—from their exposure.

Over 72,000 Australians have served overseas since 1991 with the Australian Defence Forces involvement in conflicts such as East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of operational services, means that Legacy's task of supporting young families with children will be required well into the future.

Last Friday, I had the privilege of attending the new signature event at Legacy House, which was to launch Legacy's Boss Bootcamp fundraising program. Boss Bootcamp puts nominated bosses, in the form of CEOs, directors, managers, team leaders, supervisors, coaches, teachers or principals, to the test in either physical or mental challenges.

Presumably, their subordinates would pay good money to see their bosses under the pump, which I am sure we can all appreciate. The Bootcamp will be held on Friday 4 August between 10am and 2pm. I encourage anyone and everyone to sign up their bosses. I say this as I look towards the honourable Leader of the Opposition in this place, who I am sure will oblige the nomination of his party room, should it come to pass.

Further, I would like to acknowledge the work of Mark Reidy, whom I recently met. Mark is a service provider with The Road Home program, which is currently under the Repat Foundation but may no longer have a home. His great work for veterans promotes physical activity as a treatment for post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues which debilitate our veterans. Mark competed in last year's Invictus Games in Orlando and seeks to raise a strong South Australian contingent for the next Invictus Games in Sydney next year.

As a passionate advocate for sport in this place, I welcome the use of sport and physical activity as a contributing factor to the mental wellbeing of veterans. It is not just the physiological effects of sport and physical activity but also the sense of community that it can bring which is so beneficial to our veterans. I also commend the Soldier On organisation, which does good work in this space as well.

Finally, I want to make a comment on the federal budget delivered last night by the commonwealth Treasurer, the Hon. Scott Morrison. The Coalition government has delivered an extra \$350 million to Veterans Affairs, including \$43.3 million towards mental health treatment and suicide prevention. This is in stark contrast to the Weatherill government, which is closing the Repat, to the ire of our veterans.

AFL NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Hon. G.E. GAGO (15:32): The inaugural AFL women's competition ended with the Adelaide Crows beating the Brisbane Lions by only one goal in what was a fast-paced and very impressive game. Though not represented on the scorecard, the Crows actually dominated the game throughout. Co-captain Erin Phillips gathered 28 possessions and kicked two goals and was rewarded for her outstanding efforts with the best on ground award.

The Crows were originally expected to finish on the bottom of the ladder but proved the commentators wrong when they made history by winning the premiership. The Crows only went down in two minor round games and seem to have bonded well as a team, despite half the team being based in Adelaide and the other half in Darwin. The grand final, played at the Metricon Stadium, exceeded crowd predictions by hosting 16,000 football fans.

The inaugural season has proved to be a great success throughout, with crowds and home viewership surpassing expectations indeed. The first game of the season, played between Carlton and Collingwood at Princes Park, had a turnout of 24,500, with fans having to be turned away from a packed oval. The first week, Adelaide football lovers packed the grandstands of Thebarton Oval to see the opening game for the Crows. While there have been many naysayers along the way, the AFLW season has been a success by any measurement.

Sceptics predicted a lack of public support, a lack of player quality and a lack of appeal for the modified game. The disbelievers have ignored the long and rich history of women's Australian Rules football, which started over 100 years ago. The largest turnout for a women's football match was in fact at Adelaide Oval in 1929 when 21,000 people turned out to watch the match to raise money for charity.

The sceptics are also oblivious to the transformation in Australian sport that has seen a real move towards the building of women's sport. In horseracing, cricket, soccer and netball, women's sport is increasingly attracting more public support as well as financial backing through sponsorship and broadcasting deals.

The introduction of the super league netball competition has seen the minimum salary for female netballers more than double, with Channel 9, I am pleased to say, taking the broadcasting rights. Last month, the pay of Australia's best female international and domestic cricketers increased 125 per cent, as a five-year deal between Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricket Association was reached. At this year's inaugural Women in Sport mentoring event in Sydney, Australian Olympic swimmer Cate Campbell agreed that the path to success for female sports people has never been more possible. Campbell stated, 'Their dreams are becoming corporately viable and financially viable.' Of course, we certainly cannot pretend that we have reached equality in sport.

While in sports that have established women's competitions, women are starting to be recognised as legitimate employees, for the first season the AFLW players are only earning between \$8,500 and \$27,500, both of which are dramatically lower than their male counterparts and clearly it is unliveable as a sole wage. Most players now hold multiple jobs to make a living wage. We all need to watch this space to make sure that, as the expectations of players' time increases, so does their pay. Overall, however, players have viewed the first season of the AFLW as a great success, as they have had the opportunity to play a sport they love at the highest level, and they can be role models for future players.

Erin Phillips recounted the first game she played at Thebarton Oval when she ran onto the field with her three nieces. She said that she could see the excitement in their eyes and the excitement of young kids in the crowd, who she hoped that she could inspire to one day play the game at any level as well. Premierships Crows player, Talia Radan, recounted on the day of the first game that the six-year-old version of herself would have been excited to know that she would be able to play AFL at this new level, and she also hopes to inspire young girls and boys to do the same.

I congratulate the players and coaching staff on their fantastic success this season. You have been inspirational in your efforts and attitude towards the sport and its implication for future generations of sportspeople. I also congratulate those women who have influenced the creation of this league. The impact that this successful first season has had cannot be measured, and I look forward to the league's future achievements. I was very pleased to see that the concerns that Graham Cornes had for the breasts of female football players were unfounded.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (15:37): I rise today to talk about National Volunteer Week and the contribution that volunteers make to our society. On Monday, I attended the launch of National Volunteer Week at Government House, and I know other members of parliament were there as well, certainly the minister Zoe Bettison, the Hon. Michelle Lensink, Kelly Vincent and many others. If you were here in Parliament House on Monday, you would have noticed that the pipes and drums went past, leading the parade along King William Road.

Here are some facts and figures about volunteering in South Australia. More than 920,000 South Australians have declared that they volunteer to assist schools, sporting clubs, community events, arts and cultural activities or social services. No doubt much of that volunteering is individual and informal, but there are also thousands of groups involved as well. It is estimated that South Australians are contributing around 1.7 million volunteer hours each week, and this volunteering effort is valued at around \$5 billion each year.

Research has found that 95 per cent of volunteers relate their volunteering to feelings of wellbeing and greater health and happiness, hence the theme of National Volunteer Week—Give Happy, Live Happy. I am wearing my orange SES rescue tie today as part of Wear Orange Wednesday, and certainly our emergency services workers are a group of volunteers who we do acknowledge, and many have acknowledged their important work in this place over many years.

I have noticed that, when people start to drift into the area of naming volunteer groups, inevitably you leave out people, because you cannot have 920,000 South Australians volunteering and cover all the bases. As a result, the groups tend not to be mentioned and certainly that was the case at the launch of National Volunteer Week. Everyone, from the Governor down, declined to point out any particular groups or individuals because that would have meant leaving others out. No criticism at all—that is just the way it has to be when you have so many people, but I thought I might just take the opportunity to put on the record a couple of the groups in my local area that have touched

my life in recent times, and you can translate this list I have to just about any neighbourhood in South Australia.

When I catch the train, I always enjoy the garden that has been maintained by volunteers—a group of retired people who have been looking after it for many years. In fact, I will name one person: at Glenalta station, David Collins retired recently. He had been looking after that garden single-handedly, possibly for two decades—a very long time—and now there is a local community group seeing if they can find people to take over. Friends of Parks do a fantastic job in our bushland areas. I am a member of three or four different parks groups. My local group is the Friends of Shepherds Hill, but other ones are Friends of Sturt Gorge, Friends of Belair, every Saturday and Sunday you can find these groups pulling weeds, poisoning olives and replanting native vegetation.

When I go shopping at my local shopping strip, the Blackwood Action Group has been beautifying the street, planting flowers in the garden beds and doing small things that just add that extra touch to make the place more attractive for visitors and shoppers. On a Saturday morning, I am often up at the local Lions' club shed and in fact, having lived in the same area for over 20 years, often I see items that I have purchased there. When I have finished my use of them, I have donated them back. Someone else has bought them and they have gone back. I reckon I have seen one particular fish tank at least four times over the last 20 years being recycled through the Lions' shed.

Another group of volunteers that had a big impact on me recently were the hospital volunteers at Flinders Medical Centre, including in the intensive care unit. This is quite a remarkable team of men and women who look out for people in a practical way while they are waiting to see or hear news about their gravely ill family and friends. Institutions, as we know, can be soulless or even frightening at the best of times, so I am very grateful that there are people who choose to help others at a time in their lives when they are most anxious and afraid.

We also have a lot of self-help groups out there, such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, and there are also support groups for the friends and family of those people. We have groups helping people face bereavement, such as the Voice of Industrial Death, whose annual service many of us participated in last week, the Homicide Victim Support Group, Living Beyond Suicide, Compassionate Friends—in fact, dozens of groups operating in South Australia.

I am delighted to have been part of National Volunteer Week and I would like to thank all those hundreds and thousands of my fellow South Australians who freely give of their time, their energy and their passion to make our society better for all of us.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Hon. J.S.L. DAWKINS (15:42): I rise today to speak about the Suicide Prevention Network of Networks event, which was held under the title of Empowering Communities on 21 April at Pavilion on the Park in the Veale Gardens. I was pleased to see at that event representatives of the 24 suicide prevention groups that exist right around this state. In furthering the theme that members here have talked about concerning volunteers, certainly all these groups exist only through the efforts of hardworking, committed volunteers.

The groups that have a close link to local government included the Mount Gambier Suicide Prevention Network; Treasuring Life, which is the South-East Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Network; the Gawler Suicide Prevention Network, of which I am a member; Back2Basics, which is based in the Clare and Gilbert Valleys; the Murray Bridge Suicide Prevention Network; the Playford Suicide Prevention Network; the Whyalla Suicide Prevention Network; Naracoorte and Lucindale Community Suicide Prevention Network; SOS Yorke, which is in the area of the Yorke Peninsula council; Caring Connected Community, which is the Mid Murray Suicide Prevention Network; and Cleve and Districts Mental Health and Wellbeing Network.

There is the Riverland Suicide Prevention Network, which involves all three councils in the Riverland and is closely connected to the CORES Riverland organisation; the Kimba Suicide Prevention Network; the Coorong Suicide Prevention Network; the Salisbury Suicide Prevention Network, Every Life Matters; and SOS Copper Coast, which works in the District Council of The Copper Coast region. There is also the Out of the Blue Suicide Prevention Network, which is based in the City of Mitcham, and the Port Lincoln Suicide Prevention Network.

In addition to that there are a number of groups that have been initiated through federal funding that has come via the Wesley LifeForce organisation. Two of the earlier ones were the Strathalbyn Suicide Prevention Network and the SILPAG group, which is the Suicide Intervention and Life Promotion Action Group at Port Augusta. There is also the Port Adelaide Suicide Prevention Network, the Ceduna Suicide Prevention Network, the West Adelaide Suicide Prevention Network and the Aboriginal suicide prevention network, which runs in conjunction with Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services.

I commend all of the people who work within those groups around South Australia. They are people who have been prepared to do the work in the community of raising awareness about suicide in particular, about the services that are out there for people who are aggrieved by suicide but also in general about mental health issues. I commend them for that.

On that day I also had the opportunity to take part in the consultation process—in the same venue—that was conducted by Suicide Prevention Australia in relation to the development of a national suicide strategy. I have spoken many times in this place about suicide prevention, and I have always been reluctant to get anywhere near politicising the issue.

However, I must say that in the time that I have been working in this area I have been very disappointed by the leadership or the attention shown to this issue by a series of ministers. Particularly when minister Snelling was replaced as the mental health minister, I felt there would be an increased effort by minister Vlahos in this area, and I am sorry to say that that has not been the case.

I think all these suicide prevention groups are actually really, really hanging out for acknowledgement from the government for the great work they do. They get fabulous support from the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—I could not commend that group highly enough—but certainly, as a ministerial priority, suicide prevention has been at the bottom of the pile, and I am very unhappy about that. These groups mean a great deal to me, and I give them great credit for the work they do for South Australia.

ILLCIT DRUGS

The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD (15:48): I rise to make a contribution on a recent call for the decriminalisation of illicit substances. The notion of decriminalising illicit drugs has circulated for a number of years now but has been continually proven to be idealistic, dangerous and simply not the answer to the proliferation of drug use in our community. Last year, a handful of politicians and political commentators suggested illicit drugs, including methamphetamine, or ice, be decriminalised. Keep in mind that this is the same illicit substance that is presently destroying communities and contributing to increased violent assaults on hospital staff and emergency workers in particular, to name just a few.

Furthermore, the manufacture and distribution of ice is frequently linked to organised criminal enterprises. Decriminalising ice and other illicit drugs provides a benefit to criminal enterprises, particularly given the evidence supporting the increase of drug use post decriminalisation. In addition to the decriminalisation of ice, the same advocates are calling for the introduction of pill testing to supposedly allow drug users, especially young drug users, to safely pop these pills, as they put it. It is never safe to consume such substances. Policies such as these send the wrong message—a message which reads that it is okay and, of course, it is not okay.

It is important to continue to strongly uphold a tough community position on such illicit substances that are inherently dangerous and pill testing is not infallible, as we have seen in isolated incidents overseas. This needs to be reflected in legislation. Decriminalisation sends the completely wrong message to anyone, especially young people who are easily influenced and particularly vulnerable to the harm inflicted by these often insidious substances.

Nonetheless, advocates for decriminalisation often cite the apparent success of Portugal, a country which decriminalised drugs back in 2001 and allegedly decreased drug use. However, this is simply false when the statistics are examined closely. According to the national report to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction released in 2014, overall drug use in

Portugal's general population sharply increased shortly after decriminalisation, despite the argument that it would lead to a decrease.

In the six years following decriminalisation, there was a slight increase in the use of cannabis, but a doubling in the use of cocaine and a 40 per cent increase in amphetamine use. By 2012, the overall level of drug use remained greater than before decriminalisation, despite arguments to the contrary. This trend was also observed amongst the youth population (or those aged 15 to 34, it was deemed). According to reports, some 6 per cent of students in Portugal's third cycle of basic education (that is, typically students aged 13 to 15) had used illicit drugs in the previous month in 2001, but after decriminalisation, by 2011, that figure had risen to 6.2 per cent.

For secondary students in Portugal—where they have a different education system obviously, so students aged 16 to 18—12.1 per cent had used illicit drugs in 2001 prior to decriminalisation compared to 16.4 per cent in 2011, an increase of 36 per cent according to a comparison between the reports for 2008 and 2014.

By any measure, an increase in cocaine and amphetamine use amongst the youth population is a dangerous failure of policy and one we certainly do not want to see repeated in South Australia or, indeed, in our nation. What is often ignored and downplayed is the fact that drug-induced deaths, which decreased in Portugal from 369 in 1999 to 152 in 2003 (that is, before decriminalisation), actually climbed to 314 in 2007, a number significantly higher than the 280 deaths recorded when decriminalisation started.

All the statistics show that it does not work. Any policy resulting in increased drug use and drug-related deaths should not be adopted, but disregarded, in our view. The decriminalisation of illicit drugs has failed in Portugal and will likely fail wherever adopted. It is often amusing to me that Portugal is held up as an example by those who argue for decriminalisation as a success of the policy when, in fact, the statistics show quite the contrary, that is, that there is more drug use, particularly amongst the young, and all of the consequences that go with it, especially amongst some of what we would call the harder drugs, if you like. We should not take part in this dangerous social experiment, but unequivocally reject it, and that certainly is the policy of the Australian Conservatives.

MULTICULTURAL YOUTH SA INCORPORATED

The Hon. J.M. GAZZOLA (15:52): I recently had the privilege of touring the Croydon Multicultural Youth South Australia Incorporated Centre, kindly hosted by Hailey Lawrence, Robert Taylor and Daniel Shumbusha. Established in 1977, MYSA is a community-based, not-for-profit organisation offering a diverse and extensive range of programs and services to support young people and young families of different cultural backgrounds living in our state. MYSA caters to youth between the ages of 12 and 30 years. MYSA currently supports approximately 4,000 youth and families per year. At present, the majority of clients are aged between 15 and 19 years old, are of a refugee background and are within the first five years of resettlement.

MYSA is actively supporting some of the most vulnerable groups in society. The hurdles facing young refugees and their families can feel insurmountable, especially to young children or youth who have arrived here without any family and who may not speak English. MYSA is arguably the leading youth settlement agency for vulnerable and at-risk South Australians.

Their many services include: assistance with housing and independent living programs, parenting skills for young parents, dealing with problem behaviour and family conflicts, providing opportunities to experience music and the arts, homework and breakfast clubs, learner support programs, after school activities, volunteer placement programs and life skills development, to name but a few. As outlined by acting CEO, Dr Helena de Anstiss:

The overreaching goal of MYSA's settlement work is to help equip young people with the skills, knowledge and resources required for social and economic participation.

The Croydon centre supports the multicultural youth education and development centre, which houses facilities including casework rooms, a recording studio, a computer hub, recreation areas and a resource centre. MYSA has developed programs to promote multiculturalism and harmony, many of which focus on music and the arts.

Whilst at Croydon, I was fortunate enough to witness one of the newest programs, called 'Make your own beats'. Clients are enthusiastic and attendance rates surpass that of many other programs. The 'Make your own beats' program sees youth channelling their energy in positive ways. It can be particularly challenging to identify activities that engage at-risk youth. The upbeat interest and high attendance rates are a motivation to expand the program and use it as a facilitator to other self-help activities.

The program stems from a MYSA for Men program for young men who have been involved in the youth justice system. The 'Make your own beats' follow-on project is delivered by Robert 'Ragz' Taylor and supported by the help of social work student Daniel Shumbusha. It has been designed as an early intervention program aimed at engaging young men. The 10-week program is currently unfunded. MYSA is funded by both the state and federal governments to provide these specialist services and also supported by a large pool of volunteers.

The state government assists government and non-government agencies to become more culturally inclusive and responsive through training, providing information and support to a variety of South Australian community services. MYSA has 15 staff who work across the sites. The staff also provide an outreach service to youth who may not otherwise access the service. MYSA is currently working two featured projects: the Hub and the Settlement Grants Program.

The Department of Communities and Social Inclusion approached MYSA in 2011 to coordinate the West End Hub, which is part of the West End Safety Trial. The Hub was established to respond to the needs of unsupervised children and young people wandering the city streets late at night, placing themselves and others at risk. Every Friday and Saturday night, from 11pm until 6am the next day, the Hub coordinates policing and street services to ensure these children and young people are found and safely taken home.

MYSA is the only youth settlement provider in Australia to have received the Australian Service Excellence Standards accreditation, and has also received a host of awards for service. I hope that we will continue to expand our support for such an essential service, which also builds avenues for disengaged youth to choose more positive pathways. A special thank you to Hailey, Mariloly, Daniel and Ragz, as well as the other staff and volunteers at MYSA Croydon. I hope that the 'Make your own beats' program receives the acknowledgement and funding it so richly deserves.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

The Hon. S.G. WADE (15:57): I would like to address today some of the challenges that the South Australian community faces as the government continues its botched management of the rollout of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital. I would like to focus on two particular points: first of all, the government's claims that the new Royal Adelaide Hospital provides more beds, and secondly, the fact that the government is understating the challenge of the ramp-down that we face during this winter. Yesterday, on ABC radio 891, minister Snelling was asked by Matt Abraham:

How many beds will the new Royal Adelaide open with on 5 September?

He said:

Three hundred initially, but very, very quickly it will ramp up to its capacity of, we expect, probably around 650 beds, but of course depending on that is very much driven by demand.

Later on, he went on to say that:

The new capacity is 700 overnight beds, 100 day beds. A bit over 600 beds is how many beds we have at the existing Royal Adelaide and we expect a similar capacity at the new Royal Adelaide, or a similar usage should I say.

David Bevan asked:

How long after you open the hospital can you guarantee there will be 700 overnight beds and 100 day beds?

The minister responded:

We will have 700 beds available within weeks of us opening the new hospital. I'm not saying they will be all used, but if we need them we will have them available.

That statement, I believe, is fundamentally misleading. In March this year, in a series of presentations to front-line staff, the then interim chief executive of the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, Mr Len Richards, disclosed that the average staffed planned use at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will be 609 beds. That is 75 beds below the current capacity of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. As we speak, and for at least the 12 months that I can recall, the bed capacity of the Royal Adelaide Hospital has been 684 beds. So, the government is planning an average use of 609 beds in the new hospital. Mr Richards said that SA Health will be able to flex down to 549 overnight beds when demand is low and flex up to 656 beds at times of high demand.

Having mentioned that figure of the high demand peak of 656 beds, I would just like to point out to the council that, consistently this week, the total occupancy of the Royal Adelaide Hospital has been 750 beds. So, the government is planning to have a hospital with a maximum number of overnight beds available in the new hospital that is 21 fewer than the current capacity and also significantly below the current occupancy of the hospital.

The presentation by Mr Richards, which was delivered in the middle of March, actually said that the allocated physical capacity of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital will be 663 and that another 40 beds were designated as future growth. I presume that means that they are not equipped and staffed; it indicates future growth. In that context, I think it is fundamentally misleading for the government to say that they have 700 beds available.

In terms of the challenge of the ramp-down during this winter period, the government says in its SA Health online propaganda that the move to the new hospital will see a ramp-down from 600 beds to 300 beds. That, I believe, is a fundamental understatement of the challenge before us. Let's remember that, at 9am this morning, there were 790 patients at the RAH. That is 190 more patients than the claimed bed count at the RAH and that is 127 more patients than the maximum number of overnight beds that will be available at the new hospital in terms of planned use for high demand.

I am very concerned that the government is not being honest with the people of South Australia about what the new hospital will deliver. I am concerned that they are understating the challenge of the move that is before us, and I believe that they are breaching the commitments they made to the community of South Australia and particularly to the health professional organisations to not close beds until the demand for those beds had demonstrably been removed.

Parliamentary Committees

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATTERS RELATING TO ELDER ABUSE

The Hon. S.G. WADE (16:03): I move:

1. That it be an instruction to the Joint Committee on Matters Relating to Elder Abuse in South Australia that its terms of reference be amended by leaving out at the end of paragraph (j) the word 'and' and paragraph (k) and inserting the following new paragraphs—
 - (k) occurrences of elder abuse at the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service;
 - (l) the effectiveness and accountability of the management of the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service, including the management of Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, SA Health, parliamentary secretaries and ministers, in the prevention of and responding to elder abuse;
 - (m) the effectiveness of the Principal Community Visitor, the Chief Psychiatrist, the Public Advocate, the Coroner's Court, the Mental Health Commissioner and the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner in highlighting and responding to issues in relation to the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service and policy and practice of SA Health and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network in responding to concerns raised;
 - (n) the policy, practice and training on the reporting of elder abuse in the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network and SA Health and its relationship to the Safety Learning System, reporting of possible criminal acts to police and protocols of alerts to the minister;
 - (o) the policy, practice, training and reporting of elder abuse and the effectiveness of responses to elder abuse in the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service; and
 - (p) any other related matter.'

2. That a message be sent to the House of Assembly transmitting the foregoing and requesting its concurrence thereto.

The motion I am moving today seeks to add to the terms of reference of the Joint Committee on Matters Relating to Elder Abuse in South Australia. It follows a public call from the Hon. Kelly Vincent and myself for the committee on elder abuse to look at the situation in relation to the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service.

Let's remember that elder abuse is fundamentally defined as abuse of an older person where the person is in a position of trust. For example, it is most commonly seen in the context of perhaps a child or a partner and whether or not they have committed abuse in a position of trust. The other context of elder abuse, which was highlighted last year by the case of Noleen Hausler, was the abuse that can occur within residential aged care and had been seen to occur in the Mitcham residential aged-care facility.

The committee was established originally on the initiative of the Hon. Kelly Vincent making a referral to the Social Development Committee and then working in cooperation with the member for Fisher in the other place to develop terms of reference in relation to a joint committee. Since the committee was established, the Oakden situation has emerged and I believe it is appropriate that the committee look at issues in relation to Oakden.

If elder abuse is about abuse in the context of a trust relationship, that is exactly what we have when it comes to government-provided health care, government-provided aged care and, in this context, a facility that provides both. I acknowledge that both the member for Fisher, who is the chair of the committee, and the minister have indicated their openness to Oakden being considered by this committee. The member for Fisher has indicated that she will also move a motion in the other place to add to the terms of reference, so it may well be that we blend the elements of the two motions so that the committee can have clarity in its focus.

I indicate to members that, to facilitate this process in what is, after all, the final sitting year of this parliament, I propose that my motion be put to a vote next Wednesday. I look forward to discussions with the Hon. Nat Cook, the Hon. Kelly Vincent and any other member to see if we can blend the terms of reference to cover all the relevant points. In that context, I would like to highlight the relevance of some of the terms of reference that I am proposing. Element (k), which talks about the occurrences of elder abuse at the Oakden Older Persons Mental Health Service, gives an opportunity for families and other stakeholders to present evidence to the committee that they think is relevant in relation to Oakden.

The second element talks about the effectiveness and accountability of the management of the Oakden service, including the management by the local health network, SA Health, parliamentary secretaries and ministers in the prevention of, and response to, elder abuse. I am concerned that there has been too much focus on staff on the site and not enough focus on the wider responsibilities of management and ministers, whether that be at the local health network level, the SA Health network level or in the executive.

In that regard, I am mindful of the fact that the Principal Community Visitor's reports, which would have been submitted in relation to the Oakden facilities since 2011, go to the executive director of mental health—or whatever position title they have gone by, from time to time—within the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, which, of course, also had a different title from time to time. I think people are saying, 'Well, if we've got these oversight bodies, and the Principal Community Visitor is making monthly reports and raising concerns, what have management been doing about it?'

That leads me on to the next point, which is proposed term of reference (m), which talks about the effectiveness of the Principal Community Visitor and a whole series of what I would call oversight bodies in highlighting and responding to issues at Oakden and then goes on to state:

...and policy and practice of SA Health and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network in responding to concerns raised;

In that context I was interested in an interchange that occurred in the House of Assembly earlier today—in fact, a little over an hour ago. The Leader of the Opposition, the member for Dunstan, asked minister Vlahos, 'Did the minister act upon the very specific recommendation'—of the Principal

Community Visitor—'regarding Oakden?' The minister's response—and I appreciate that this is only draft *Hansard*—was, 'I would have to reread the community visitor's report before I answer that question.' I found that non-answer absolutely stunning.

Let's remember that it is four weeks since the government received the Chief Psychiatrist's report, it is three weeks since that report was made public—10 April—and I think anybody would agree that there has been intense scrutiny in relation to the Oakden matter, and yet a report that was given to the minister on 30 September, addressed to the Hon. Leesa Vlahos, signed by Morris Corcoran, dated 30 September 2016, tabled in the parliament, as I understand it, in December with a specific recommendation about Oakden, is not even on the minister's radar. Let me read an excerpt from the report:

The CVS holds significant concerns regarding Oakden Services for Older People which has arisen from both visit reports and a range of individual investigations that have been undertaken as a result of specific complaints that we have made on behalf of individuals and families.

Then the report goes on about the concerns that the Principal Community Visitor has in terms of the staffing. It states:

Staff at Oakden have explained they receive the most challenging clients of the acute wards, yet the mental health unit has lost a number of Allied Health roles, particularly the Social Worker role who was responsible to secure appropriate accommodation for clients and the psychologist who has worked on behavioural plans. This has placed pressure on the leadership to take on additional responsibilities to fulfil what these Allied Health roles offered.

Community Visitors and the CVS office have received concerns from three families regarding the treatment and care of their loved ones at Oakden. These have included reported frequent falls, observed bruising, medication errors, increased sleepiness, drowsiness, and reported decline of daily functioning. It was also commented that there are not enough staff available on wards, and it has been reported that Oakden use 1 staff member to 4 client ratio, whereas acute units may use 1 staff member to 3 client ratio. Staff and senior leaders within this unit are highly dedicated and strive to do the best they can with the limited resources available.

A specific recommendation from the Principal Community Visitor to the minister is:

That a review is undertaken of the clinical hours in contrast to patient acuity at Older Persons Mental Health Services at Oakden to ensure the provision of quality and safe care to patients residing in this facility.

What I think was fundamentally disturbing about the minister's response in the house today was that it was not even on her radar that the Principal Community Visitor had issued a report which indicated his concerns about care at Oakden and about the need to improve staffing. Coming back to my proposed terms of reference, term of reference (m) says not only do we need to ask how effective have the oversight bodies been but also how responsive has management and the minister been.

I could be corrected but my understanding is that the only oversight body where a government is required on a consistent basis to respond is in relation to coronial inquests into the deaths of Aboriginal people in custody. My understanding is that there was a report on progress requirement in relation to the Mullighan inquiries, both the first Mullighan inquiry and the APY Mullighan inquiry, which I think was a five-year progress report requirement, but now that, as I understand it, both of those five years have expired my understanding is that the requirement to report to coronial inquests is, if you like, the only mandated response.

It may not be feasible or appropriate for every recommendation from every oversight body to have a mandated response, but I do think it is appropriate that we ask, in the context of the Oakden situation. It is all well and good for parliament to put oversight bodies in place but, if we are not having a conversation between the parliament, the executive and the oversight bodies, what is the point? If oversight bodies can put up red flags and nobody is looking for the flags, are we actually doing anything effective to protect vulnerable people?

The next two terms of reference I am suggesting are what I would call sister provisions. The whole essence of my additional terms of reference is to try to make sure that we do not just look at the Oakden precinct, but that we look at Oakden in the context of its wider local health network, management, SA Health management and executive oversight.

Suggested terms of reference (n) and (o) relate to similar matters in terms of the reporting of elder abuse, but (n) puts it in the context of the policy, practice and training on the reporting of elder abuse in the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network and SA Health, and (o) talks about it in the

context of Oakden itself. It is very important that elder abuse is identified and reported. The Chief Psychiatrist highlights problems that his review identified, both in Oakden and beyond. He was particularly concerned, for example, with the failure to report elder abuse, which was contrary to SA Health policies.

In conclusion, as I said at the beginning, this committee was established very much at the instigation of the Hon. Kelly Vincent and the member for Fisher, and has been working very cooperatively and positively. We believe that the Oakden matter would have come within the original terms of reference in any event but, considering the limited time between now and the next election, we thought that it would be helpful for the parliament to put on the record some of the key issues that need to be considered.

In that context, as I said at the beginning, I am keen to talk to the Hon. Kelly Vincent, the member for Fisher and any other member about blending and refining the terms of reference and also, if you like, to be realistic about the assessment of the task. If in those discussions it is considered that a select committee might be a more expeditious way to progress these matters, that may well be the case.

After all, with all due respect, the reason the select committee has got it is that the Social Development Committee was overwhelmed. We do not want a leapfrogging of workloads. The issues are what is important and not which vehicle carries them. I commend my motion to the council and indicate that my door is open for any discussions on how we can best take steps to protect South Australians from elder abuse in future.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.A. Darley.

ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: BIODIVERSITY

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo:

That the report of the committee on biodiversity be noted.

(Continued from 29 March 2017.)

The Hon. J.M.A. LENSINK (16:19): I rise to support the motion to note the 78th report of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee on the subject of biodiversity. The Environment, Resources and Development Committee (ERDC) commenced this inquiry towards the end of 2014 and earlier this year was able to provide what I think is a reasonably comprehensive report. Its opening comment is that biodiversity is everyone's responsibility, which may come across as a little bit trite, but I think there are a number of themes in that that are worth exploring.

A lot of people assume that it is the responsibility of the environment department, national parks and wildlife or those various bodies, or the volunteer groups that have been referred to earlier by the Hon. Mr Parnell, to maintain biodiversity, but there is a great deal that everyone can undertake in a practical sense. It is a comprehensive report with a number of recommendations, which start on page 36.

One of the issues that has been of great interest to me in my former role as shadow minister for the environment is the concept of having a biodiversity and conservation act. That has been implemented by Liberal governments in Western Australia and New South Wales, and we have had a commitment to have a look at that over several elections. Part of the reasoning behind that is that we have a patchwork of pieces of legislation that have come into force several decades ago, including the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The penalties, and probably the concepts in them, reflect the times in which they were implemented, so they are quite inconsistent.

One of the things that I think is not well understood is that there is a great amount of biodiversity on private land, which is therefore covered by native vegetation and NRM legislation rather than parks and wildlife. I think it was, in fact, Mr David Speirs, as a citizen prior to his election to parliament, who took me down to one of the parks in his area where damage had been done by an adjoining landowner. It was probably not worth using the penalties in the parks and wildlife act. They would have been better off if it had been on private land because the native veg act would have had greater enforcement provisions.

There are a lot of inconsistencies that need to be looked at in a comprehensive sense. Because of my interest in these matters, I thought it logical to let the committee undertake a lot of this work. They did so willingly, and I thank the other members of the committee for participating in this. The terms of reference were drafted in consultation with minister Hunter's office, and I think he was quite supportive of the inquiry taking place.

Coming back to this concept of biodiversity being everyone's responsibility, I think a lot of people assume that national parks act as the wildlife reserves or refuges, if you like, for a lot of our biodiversity. There are also issues of abundance of certain native species, such as possums and magpies. When people see a lot of possums and magpies and all those sorts of species, they make assumptions about the health of their environment, when in fact the diversity of a range of species and what are often referred to as ecological communities are much better indicators of the health of biodiversity and, therefore, the environment.

For many years, we have had from this government what I think can best be described as a slogan of 'No species loss', which has had no genuine commitment to protecting biodiversity and reducing the loss of species. It has made no effort to actually address these issues. It likes to talk about the number of hectares that have been added to the national park system but, at the same time, we have had a massive loss from about 300 to about one-third of national parks' managers.

At one end of the spectrum, we often have attitudes from people in the community who say that properly managing the environment can be equated to turning back the clock to 1788. It is a sort of hands-off approach, if you like, which misunderstands that our modern landscapes are modified, particularly through land clearance. We have a lot of invasive species, which are not just in the more built-up areas and those cropped areas, they are also in the wilderness. We are in a situation in Australia where we need to have effective land management, and therefore the rangers are incredibly important in the system. There is a sentence in this executive summary that is very pertinent. It states:

...biodiversity conservation needs to occur across both public and private land with actions coordinated at a landscape scale.

What that is referring to is that national parks and private properties need to be looked at in a holistic sense, and that involves private landowners and any of the volunteer organisations that are able to provide assistance in reducing invasive species and so forth.

There are also important concepts about connectivity between various species, both flora and fauna. Some of us have been privileged to visit the arid land recovery project, which has been funded for many years by BHP, and originally by Western Mining. They have been able to fence off from species like cats and foxes and reintroduce a number of species like quolls and quokkas. You can see that the reintroduction of burrowing species has enabled seeds to be redistributed and so more plants have been able to take hold in those areas. Thanks to Nature Foundation, we have also seen in the Flinders Ranges the reintroduction of brush-tailed possums and quolls. Similarly, I expect there will be impacts by the quolls, which are predators. Carnivores will help to reduce some of the smaller pest species.

There are also issues with abundant native species. A number of members would be familiar with corellas, which strip any range of trees that they come into contact with. They are not particularly discriminatory, whether it is natives or introduced species. I congratulate Landcare South Australia on securing the Landcare funding in last night's federal budget. Some of their members have been forced to fence off areas from kangaroos because they are in such high numbers at the moment that they will feed on a lot of the endangered vegetation. There are also the fur seals, which eat every species that they can get their teeth into in the Coorong.

There are questions for the government and the community to ask what the priorities are. There are two areas that are really important to have some discussions about. The first one is preserving what we still have left—those areas of biodiversity that are most intact and are most able to continue to germinate themselves and remain in a healthy state—and also restoring degraded biodiversities. I think there can be a tendency to say that we have to put efforts into saving everything—and we do—but resources have to be prioritised.

One thing that has not been done well in South Australia—and this probably applies most to native vegetation—is where there is a lot of very similar native vegetation. That should not be as highly valued as the vegetation that is under threat of extinction or endangered in any way. We have seen this issue raised many times by Professor David Paton in relation to Adelaide Hills' birds. He is doing his utmost to try to alert the community that there are species that we have loved and enjoyed and taken for granted and some of them are likely to disappear without some urgent action.

If people actually understood some of the things that they might be able to do in their own gardens to assist Jacky Winters or Flame-breasted Robins, they would probably plant other species in addition to the ones they have at the moment. It is an area that does need a lot of work for the community to understand what the value of biodiversity is to us and how we can best preserve it into the future.

I actually do hold quite a lot of optimism about this subject and with educating people about how they can do it themselves. I think they would do so quite willingly, but I think those efforts have not gone particularly well so far. It has often been the people who are already interested who get involved, but I think it is certainly something in which South Australia could do a lot better.

In closing, I would like to particularly congratulate the consortium who were involved in the drafting of the report: Seed Consulting Services, Dr Mark Siebentritt, Dr Andy Chambers and Dr Jenni Garden, and environmental law consultant, Ms Megan Dyson, and commend the other members of the committee for their interest in this subject. I commend the report to the chamber.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. G.E. Gago.

Motions

LEGAL AID

Adjourned debate on motion of Hon. M.C. Parnell:

That this council—

1. Notes that the Law Council of Australia's biennial National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference was held in Adelaide on 23 and 24 March in conjunction with the Law Society of South Australia and the Australian Pro Bono Centre;
2. Notes the Productivity Commission's 2014 Access to Justice Arrangements Inquiry Report which called for a substantial increase in legal aid funding which it noted would help prevent legal problems from escalating and reduce costs to the justice system and to the community;
3. Notes that legal and consumer bodies from around Australia are supporting a national 'Legal Aid Matters' campaign to stem the legal aid funding crisis; and
4. Calls on the state and federal governments to urgently increase funding to the Legal Service Commission, community legal centres and other services that help South Australians in their dealings with both the criminal and civil justice systems.

(Continued from 29 March 2017.)

The Hon. M.C. PARNELL (16:32): When I introduced this motion back on 29 March, I sought leave to conclude my remarks because I was hopeful that there may be some new developments. I have put this back on the agenda today because there has been some movement in legal aid funding, which is encouraging, but there is still a lot more to do and a deal of uncertainty about what the latest federal budget means for the legal aid sector.

However, let me start with the good news and that is that the previously announced cut of \$34.8 million nationally to community legal centres has been reversed in the budget. Now, that is good news. It is not a matter for hearty congratulations because the cuts should never have been considered in the first place, but I do want to recognise that the government has seen the error of its ways and reversed these cuts.

Interestingly, the media release headlines of two of the key stakeholder groups yesterday are quite similar. For example, the Law Council of Australia's media release is headed, 'Budget shows government listening to legal profession, but more work needed to end justice funding crisis.' Similarly, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services' media release is headed,

'Budget 2017-18 recognises the need to restore funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, but there is still a long way to go.'

Probably the most generous of the media releases from yesterday's budget came from the National Council of Community Legal Centres, whose headline is simply, 'Budget lifeline for Community Legal Centres.' What I would like to do is put on the record some of the movements that have taken place in the debate over funding for legal services and offer some observations on the way forward. I might start with the media release of the Law Council of Australia after last night's budget. They say:

Vital new funding for the federal courts, along with the reversal of cuts to community legal centres (CLCs) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS), shows that the Government is heeding the concerns of the legal profession about Australia's justice funding.

The media release includes some quotes from Fiona McLeod, who is the President of the Law Council of Australia. She said that if the funding cuts had not been reversed, it would have been a disaster for access to justice. She is quoted as saying:

We are grateful the Government has listened to, and was moved by, the arguments and advocacy of the legal profession, including the Law Council's Legal Aid Matters campaign and the concerns voiced by the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

Yet the legal assistance sector still remains critically underfunded. The Productivity Commission has recommended an additional \$200 million in legal assistance funding, noting that without legal intervention the problems of individuals often spiral out of control, creating larger financial and social costs to the community. As with the federal courts, the Law Council will continue to advocate to end the underfunding of legal aid, a crisis that is causing untold damage to the lives of many Australians.

The release also goes on to talk about some new funding initiatives which, whilst strictly outside the scope of this motion, I think are important to note. One of them is \$33.4 million to establish a commonwealth redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse and another is \$3.4 million to expand the domestic violence unit pilot.

In relation to the redress scheme, media reports are still showing that South Australia is one of the few jurisdictions that is holding out and does not want to be part of that scheme. I think we need to pay attention to the attitude that our government has taken to that, and we need to bring them into the fold. The comments of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to the budget are similar. Basically, their release says:

The 2017-18 federal budget has acknowledged the need to reverse funding cuts that were set to impact on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services on 1 July 2017.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NATSILS) welcomes the Federal Government's decision to overturn \$16.7 million in cuts over the forward estimates to ATSILS; however, warns against Government action stopping there.

The Co-Chair of NATSILS Ms Cheryl Axelby—who, I am pretty sure, is from the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in South Australia—is quoted in the media release as saying:

The Government's decision to reverse funding cuts to ATSILS is one step toward ensuring our communities have access to justice and diversionary services. However, commitments to justice should not stop there. The Government must take further action aimed directly toward ensuring incarceration rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not continue to soar as they have done over the past years.

She goes on to say that:

[Their services] should not now, or in the coming years, be placed in a position where they are forced to turn away vulnerable clients, cut staff or withdraw from servicing remote and urban courts with no other legal assistance services available, as a consequence of insufficient and inconsistent funding.

The final commentary I want to refer to is from the National Association of Community Legal Centres. Again, as with the other services, they have welcomed the reversal in the 30 per cent cut in commonwealth funding to community legal centres that was due to take effect on 1 July. The Chief Executive Officer of NACLC, Nassim Arrage, said:

We have worked hard over a long period of time to emphasise the vital services that CLCs provide and the devastating impact cuts would have had—today the Government has recognised this. We also welcome an additional \$3.4 million for six new domestic violence units at CLCs and Legal Aid Commissions...This Budget addresses the immediate funding crisis for most CLCs but there is more work to do. There is more work to do in ensuring increased,

secure and long-term funding for the legal assistance sector. There is more work to do with government towards a fairer society where anyone can receive legal help when they need it, not just when they can afford it.

That brings me to the situation with the South Australian community legal centres. The ones that I spoke to this morning were buoyed and encouraged by the fact that the funding cuts have been reversed and their funding looked to be more certain; however, it was pointed out to me that all of the community legal centres were obliged to effectively reapply for funding at the end of last year. I understand that tenders closed in December of 2016, yet they still do not know which of the services are going to win the tenders and, therefore, which ones are likely to operate into the future.

The difficulty of that is that what the services are telling me is that they have not replaced any staff that have left, and you can understand why, because up until today you can imagine the job interview situation where you are saying to prospective new staff, 'We can't guarantee you work beyond 1 July.' What lawyer, paralegal or administrative person is going to accept that sort of uncertainty? You are not going to leave another job or take on a new job that might only have a couple of months longevity. So, I would urge the state government, now that these funding cuts have been reversed, to very quickly determine which services are going to be kept operating so that those services can plan for their future.

I did want to put those recent developments on the table. They do not detract from the substance of this motion, which calls on both state and federal governments to increase funding to not just the community legal centres or to the Aboriginal services that I have referred to, but also to state legal aid, to the Legal Services Commission of South Australia. There is no need, in light of these changes, to modify any part of the motion. I am not calling for it to come to a vote just yet, but I will do so at an appropriate time and I would urge all members to pay close attention to these services that are being provided in our community to some of the most vulnerable people in the community and to make sure that we do not exacerbate existing problems, whether they be criminal or civil, by denying people access to legal advice and representation.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.T. Ngo.

Bills

ANANGU PITJANTJATJARA YANKUNYTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS (SUSPENSION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (16:44): Obtained leave and introduced a bill for an act to amend the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981. Read a first time.

Second Reading

The Hon. K.J. MAHER (Minister for Employment, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for Science and Information Economy) (16:44): I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I rise to introduce the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights (Suspension of Executive Board) Amendment Bill 2017.

This bill amends the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 to continue my current power to suspend the APY Executive Board for any reason I see fit, for such period as I deem appropriate and for this power to be made ongoing.

The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2016 came into operation on 1 January 2017, with the exception of section 13, which is due to commence on 1 July 2017. This section will vary section 13O(1) of the APY act to restrict my power to suspend the APY Executive Board. I would only be able to suspend the board if it fails to comply

with certain ministerial directions, such as to prepare a report or take an action that prevents detriment to Anangu.

It is the government's view that a ministerial direction under section 13 of the APY amendment act would be too limited and unlikely to facilitate timely remedial action should the need arise. A broad and ongoing reserve ministerial power to suspend the board for any reason is a better safeguard against serious failings in APY governance.

On 5 April 2017, a new APY Executive Board was elected following changes to the electoral process, in particular requiring gender balance. The day was historic for APY, and particularly so given the inclusion of a legislative requirement for gender balance. Seven Anangu men and four Anangu women have now been elected to the board, with supplementary elections to be undertaken for women in three electorates. I am pleased to inform members that on election day the implementation of reforms to the electoral process went very smoothly, such as the use of a voters roll and computer voting instead of marbles.

Nonetheless, the task ahead for the new board is not without its challenges. I believe it is prudent and appropriate to continue the existing ministerial power in section 13O(1) of the APY act to be able to suspend the board for any reason. I emphasise that this is a reserve power, it is a safeguard, that has to date not been exercised and I hope remains unexercised.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the new members of the APY Executive Board, and I look forward to working constructively with them for the benefit of all Anangu over the next three years. I commend the bill to members and seek leave to have the explanation of clauses inserted without my reading it.

Leave granted.

Explanation of Clauses

Part 1—Preliminary

1—Short title

2—Commencement

3—Amendment provisions

These clauses are formal.

Part 2—Amendment of *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*

4—Amendment of section 13O—Minister may suspend Executive Board

This clause amends section 13O(1) of the principal Act to allow the Minister to suspend the Executive Board for any reason the Minister thinks fit.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. T.J. Stephens.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

Committee Stage

In committee.

Clause 1.

The Hon. T.A. FRANKS: I raised at least four questions in my second reading contribution and I was wondering when they would be answered.

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS: I thank the Hon. Tammy Franks, because on 9 May this year she asked a number of questions regarding this bill and I will attempt to come back with some detailed answers now. The Statutes Amendment (South Australian Employment Tribunal) Act 2016 is an act of significant length, with some 166 sections over 80 pages. Its object is also substantial: to transfer to the South Australian Employment Tribunal jurisdiction under around 13 different statutes, as well as common law and criminal jurisdiction.

Despite all due care being taken, some errors and omissions were made in its drafting. The bill seeks to resolve those oversights. This does not include the amendment to section 45 of the

South Australian Employment Tribunal Act 2014, which was an amendment sought by the tribunal itself, following passage of the amendment act. In the second reading contribution of the Hon. Tung Ngo, immediately after Ms Franks' speech, Mr Ngo advised the council how these oversights were detected. Both Mr Ngo and I, in my own contribution, outlined the serious consequences that would result if this bill were not passed, particularly in respect of the tribunal's proposed jurisdiction under the Education Act 1972 and the Technical and Further Education Act 1975.

The Hon. Ms Franks raised some issues in correspondence from the Australian Education Union. I am advised that the minister's office received the same correspondence and is due to meet with the AEU on 15 May to discuss their concerns. The AEU's concerns relate in part to their role in proceedings before the tribunal. Currently, under the Education Act and the TAFE Act, when the Teachers Appeal Board hears review proceedings brought by teachers and TAFE officers, the board must sit with a presiding member from the industrial court and two lay members.

One lay member is derived from a panel of employees of the relevant government department and one is derived from a panel of teachers or TAFE officers nominated by the AEU. The amendment act amends the Education Act and the TAFE Act to remove references to the Teachers Appeal Board and confers its jurisdiction on the tribunal. Aside from removing redundant procedural provisions, which are now to be found in the SAET Act 2014 itself, the amendment act largely retains the status quo in regard to the review jurisdiction under the Education Act and the TAFE Act.

The only departure from the status quo is in respect of the use of panel members in proceedings. These are now called supplementary panel members and will only be used in proceedings if the president of the SAET so determines. This change was made following feedback from the tribunal itself, which observed that having to list panel members for each proceeding was inefficient and cumbersome. In many cases, the issues that were the subject of the dispute would have been capable of being adequately handled by the judicial officer sitting alone, although in complex cases the assistance of panel members with specialised knowledge and expertise was an advantage.

Under the amendment act, it will be a question for the president to determine whether a matter is sufficiently complex to warrant the judicial member sitting with panel members. This change regarding panel members was not made only to proceedings under the Education Act and the TAFE Act, it applies for the same reasons also to proceedings under the Equal Opportunity Act 1994, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, the Public Sector Act 2009 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

In each of these jurisdictions, it is currently mandatory for panel members to sit in proceedings, but this will also be a matter for the president's direction when these jurisdictions are conferred upon the tribunal. The AEU was consulted on the amendment act prior to its passage and I am advised that discussions were held between the AEU leadership and the minister's office on these panel member changes.

The AEU's views at the time were taken into account during the drafting of the bill. However, the government's preference was that supplementary panel members should only sit in proceedings if the president judges that their knowledge and expertise is actually required. Where they are required, they will be sourced from a panel of employees of the relevant department and nominees of the AEU, as is presently the case.

The AEU's remaining comments in its correspondence are mainly observations about the draft Education Regulations recently circulated for comment to employer and employee representative groups. The proposed variation of the education regulations is consequential upon the amendments made to the Education Act by the amendment act. As with the amendment of the act, it is not necessary for the Education Regulations to make any provisions of a procedural nature as they will be contained in the tribunal's own act, regulations and rules.

The draft Education Regulations do not propose to remove reference to the AEU, only to remove reference to the redundant description of the AEU as the organisation formerly known as the institute of teachers, as referred to in section 45 of the act. The intention is that the AEU will continue to have its current role in nominating persons as panel members under the Education Act. Any

changes that the government may propose to the jurisdiction of the Teachers Registration Board will be the subject of consultation, including with the AEU, whose views on the matter will be taken into account at that time. I thank Ms Franks for her questions and I trust that my explanation fully answers those questions.

Clause passed.

Remaining clauses (2 to 4), schedule and title passed.

Bill reported without amendment.

Third Reading

The Hon. P. MALINAUSKAS (Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (16:58): I move:

That this bill be now read a third time.

Bill read a third time and passed.

At 16:59 the council adjourned until Thursday 11 May 2017 at 14:15.